



ANDHRA PRADESH

South India



Welcome to Andhra Pradesh
In the lap of nature

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Luxury Destination Management Company

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THIS IS THE TIME
THIS IS THE PLACE
THIS IS ANDHRA

ANDHRA PRADESH

IT ALL STARTS WITH NAMASKARAM

Andhra Pradesh is home to the second longest stretch of coastline in India and several cultural landmarks. In the holy temple town of Tirumala you will find the mighty Tirumala Venkateswara Temple a very important Hindu shrine to Vishnu, firmly on the pilgrim trail.

Lepakshi is a small rural village founded in the 16th century during the reign of the Vijayanagara King and is also considered an important heritage and pilgrimage site.

Cheerful and serene, Andhra Pradesh is a land bristling with many heritage sites; the forts; citadels, mind boggling array of beautiful cliffs; stunning stretches of coast; magnificent ruins; pristine water lapping against golden powder and lip-smacking regional cuisines. Situated at the foot of Tirumala hills, Tirupati Balaji or the lord Venkatesa temple is said to be the home of one of the richest temples in the country.

Call it an exquisite stopover for those seeking bliss and tranquillity. At heart, Andhra Pradesh is nothing but a glorious representation of India's ancient past.



GENERAL INFORMATION

Welcome to Andhra Pradesh

The state lies on the southeastern side of the Indian peninsula. An enticing blend of tradition and modernity would bowl you over as your tour the land of Andhra Pradesh. The capital city Amravati is a treasure house of the legendary wealth and cultural richness where old world Nawabi ambience goes hand in hand with the glitz of a techno-civilization.

Apart from Amravati, visit the places like Vishakhapatnam, Tirupati, Vijayawada, Golconda in your Andhra Pradesh Tour. The cultural heritage of the land manifests in its literature as well as performing arts. Do not forget to attend a show of Kuchipudi dance, which has accomplished global acclaim as a classical Indian dance form.

Weather

The weather of Andhra Pradesh is suitable for traveling. It may be a little hot and humid during the day but the temperature is not unbearable. The topography of Andhra Pradesh is extensive and quite diverse. The landscape includes hills, two rivers, Godavari and Krishna as well as other rivers like Tungabhadra and Pennar.

The three main regions of Andhra Pradesh are Kosta, Telangana and Rayalaseema. The coastal region receives more rainfall than the other regions. Apart from those areas lying close to the coast, other regions often suffer droughts.

Best Time to Visit

October to February is considered the best time to visit the place as the temperature remains somewhere around 16°C. It is an ideal time for sightseeing around the different destinations of the state.

Folk Dance & Music

The folk dances in Andhra Pradesh are rich traditional art forms, which offer immense entertainment along with drama for a certain period in history. In addition, there are two major types of folk dance forms - one is based on pure rhythmic forms (contains an instrument), and the other is couples dance depicting a story with narration. To find out more, read below about the famous dance forms in Andhra Pradesh.

Language

In general, the state's various communities are identified more readily by a combination of language, religion, and social class or caste than they are by specific ethnic affiliation. Telugu is the official and most widely spoken language in the state. A small minority speaks Urdu, a language primarily of northern India and Pakistan. Most of the remaining groups speak border-area languages, including Hindi, Tamil, Kannada, Marathi, and Oriya.

LUXURY STAYS



Novotel Vijayawada

Novotel Vijayawada Varun offers an ultimate stay experience among business, leisure travellers and families alike. The hotel is the first and only International 5 star deluxe hotel in the city. It adorns 227 exclusive categories of guest rooms which feature a range of in-room facilities promising a hassle-free stay. Being centrally located in the city and very well connected to the airport, it makes an ideal place for business meetings, leisure activities and religious tourism.

Novotel Vijayawada Varun is situated in the city of Vijayawada, which lies on the banks of River Krishna in Andhra Pradesh, providing varied categorization of guest rooms furnished with contemporary design and bright & spacious interiors.



The Gateway Hotel, Vijayawada

Close to the city's business district and not too far from some of the best sights and sounds, The Gateway Hotel MG Road Vijayawada is perfect for both business travellers and holiday-makers.

With breathtaking views of the Krishna River and the surrounding hills, our 5 star hotel in Vijayawada is the perfect venue to relax and unwind, whether you're on a holiday or a business trip.

Welcomhotel by ITC, Vishakapatnam

Nestled into a hilltop, a bare 100 metres from the sea, Welcomhotel Devee Grand Bay – Visakhapatnam is built around an atrium, offering panoramic views of both the Bay of Bengal and city. Close to beautiful beaches, lush hills, vast valleys, dense jungles, ancient caves, temples and more, this historic city attracts visitors for both business and leisure, many of whom choose Welcomhotel Devee Grand Bay for its picturesque view, immense comfort, luxurious style and warm service.





Taj Tirupati

Central to all things that matter in Tirupati and within easy proximity to Tirumala hills, Taj Tirupati augurs well for business or leisure.

The conveniently located our 5 star hotel in Tirupati has a distinctive design and unmissable views of the hills. Luxurious and fluid, it is inspired by the Dravidian style of architecture, evident in its solid lines, open spaces and characteristic curves. Lit gopurams, visible from the hills, show you the way and a Pushkarni (inspired by the temple tanks) elegantly awaits your arrival. Experience the movement of elements as you witness the interplay of earth, light, and water.

Marasa Sarovar Premiere, Tirupati

Located at the foothills of Tirumala Hills, Marasa Sarovar Premiere is a 5-star hotel in the temple town of Tirupati. The hotel is designed with a unique theme in accordance with the ten avatars of Lord Vishnu to offer guests a pleasant experience.

Venkateswara Temple, also known as the Tirupati Temple and other temples are easily accessible from our hotel. Beautiful interiors, warm hospitality, and personalised services make us one of the best Tirumala hotels. All the 121 rooms & suites are designed in rich temple tones and offer spectacular views of Tirumala Hills.



Holiday Inn, Tirupati

Providing accommodation in Tirupati, Hotel Holiday Inn provides free internet access to its patrons. Arranged in three floors, there are in total 35 well-appointed rooms that are equipped with essential requisites.

Amenities in the rooms include wardrobe, bottled drinking water, television set and attached bathroom with hot/cold water supply. Apart from good accommodation in Tirupati, the property has a travel desk that assists in sightseeing and vehicle arrangement.



The Park, Vishakapatnam

The Park Visakhapatnam offers 5-star beachfront accommodation and features rooms with beautiful sea views. The hotel has an outdoor pool, tennis court, fitness centre and restaurant.

Rooms at Visakhapatnam The Park feature modern décor and furnishings. Amenities include a flat-screen cable TV, DVD player and personal safe.

The hotel's spa features a range of massage therapies and beauty treatments. Guests can pamper themselves at the beauty salon or rent a car to explore the surrounding areas.



Fairfield by Marriott, Vishakapatnam

Treat yourself to an exceptional stay at Fairfield by Marriott Visakhapatnam. Located in the heart of the city, our hotel is near NAD Junction, beautiful beaches, famous temples, numerous shops, and 3.8 Kms to the airport, making it the perfect choice for every traveler.

Recharge in upscale rooms and suites which feature allergy-friendly flooring, indulgent bedding, mini-refrigerators, complimentary Wi-Fi and floor-to-ceiling windows. Suites offer generous living rooms, marble bathrooms and grocery services, perfect for traveling families.

Vana Vihari Eco Resorts - Maredumilli

For excellent reasons, we cannot stop going back to Maredumilli. Tucked in East Godavari, this village is home to waterfalls, jungles, and delicious bamboo chicken. If you're planning a quick trip, we recommend putting yourself up at Vana Vihari Eco Resorts. This resort features budget rooms and it's smacked right in the center of the jungle so you can expect monkeys and doggos knocking at your door. Plus, it's quite close to all the touristy destinations like Jalatarangini, Amruthadhara, and Swarnandhra.





Jungle Bells - Araku Valley

Well, if you're planning a trip to Andhra Pradesh, it's sort of impossible to plan one without visiting Araku Valley. While you are at it, plan your stay at Jungle Bells — a resort that features cottages. From campfires and trekking trails to bird watching trails and pool, this resort scores high on rustic vibes and facilities. A perfect getaway from families, this one is managed by the forest department. This eco-friendly resort is located inside a forest and it's quite close to all destinations. For an awesome experience, you can take a train from Vizag or drive down the ghat roads, if that's what you prefer!

The Bheemli Resort - Vizag

Of all the beaches in Vizag, we have the fondest memories with Bheemli because going to Bheemli meant an elaborate picnic. In the 90s, of course. Thank god, there's a resort now — The Bheemli Resort. And the best part? Everything about it is opulent. From infinity pools and beach-view rooms, if you're planning a getaway with your SO, this one fits the bill. The rooms are mood ambient and there's an in-house restaurant that makes delicious PAN Asian dishes that we cannot stop drooling about. That said, the resort is literally two minutes away from the beach so we're sure you need nothing else.



Aranya Eco Resorts - Rampachodavaram

Just a little further from Maredumilli, you'll discover Rampachodavaram — yet another stunning village popular for its farms and waterfalls. Check into Aranya Eco Resorts which offers you riverside camping and great local cuisine. If you're looking for a holiday where all you intend to do is play river volleyball, chill with resident doggos and eat meaty delicacies, this is the place for you. As the river flows through the resort, you can also ask for a campfire right next to it and spend a night under the stars.

Novotel Vishakapatnam

Spoil yourself in 5-star seafront luxury at Novotel Visakhapatnam Varun Beach hotel. Spare contemporary design makes your room a calm haven, and picture windows offer you dazzling Bay of Bengal views. Rise and shine with a dip in the infinity pool and breakfast with an ocean backdrop at the lavish Indian and Western buffet at Novotel.

The hotel shares a close proximity with the city railway station, Rushikonda Beach, Vizag Port and major hospitals. The popular Submarine Museum is just a walk away.



The Gateway Hotel, Vishakapatnam

The Gateway Hotel Beach Road, Visakhapatnam is an ideal 5 star hotel in Visakhapatnam for both business travellers and leisure seekers.

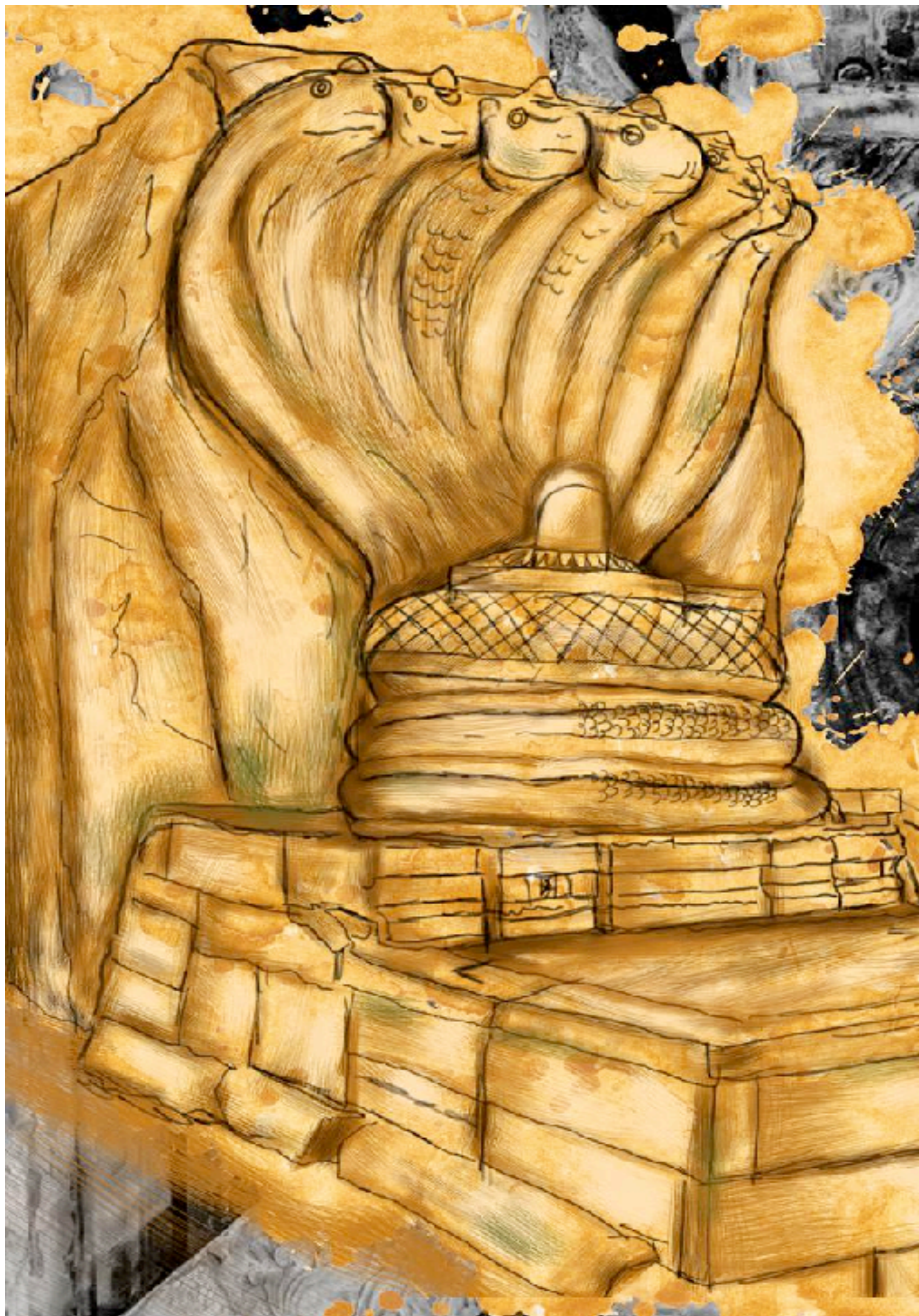
Close to the industrial hub, our luxury hotel in Visakhapatnam is also the perfect seaside retreat to unwind. Smart spacious rooms with modern amenities and panoramic views of the spectacular Bay of Bengal make The Gateway Hotel Visakhapatnam a sought-after business hotel in the city.

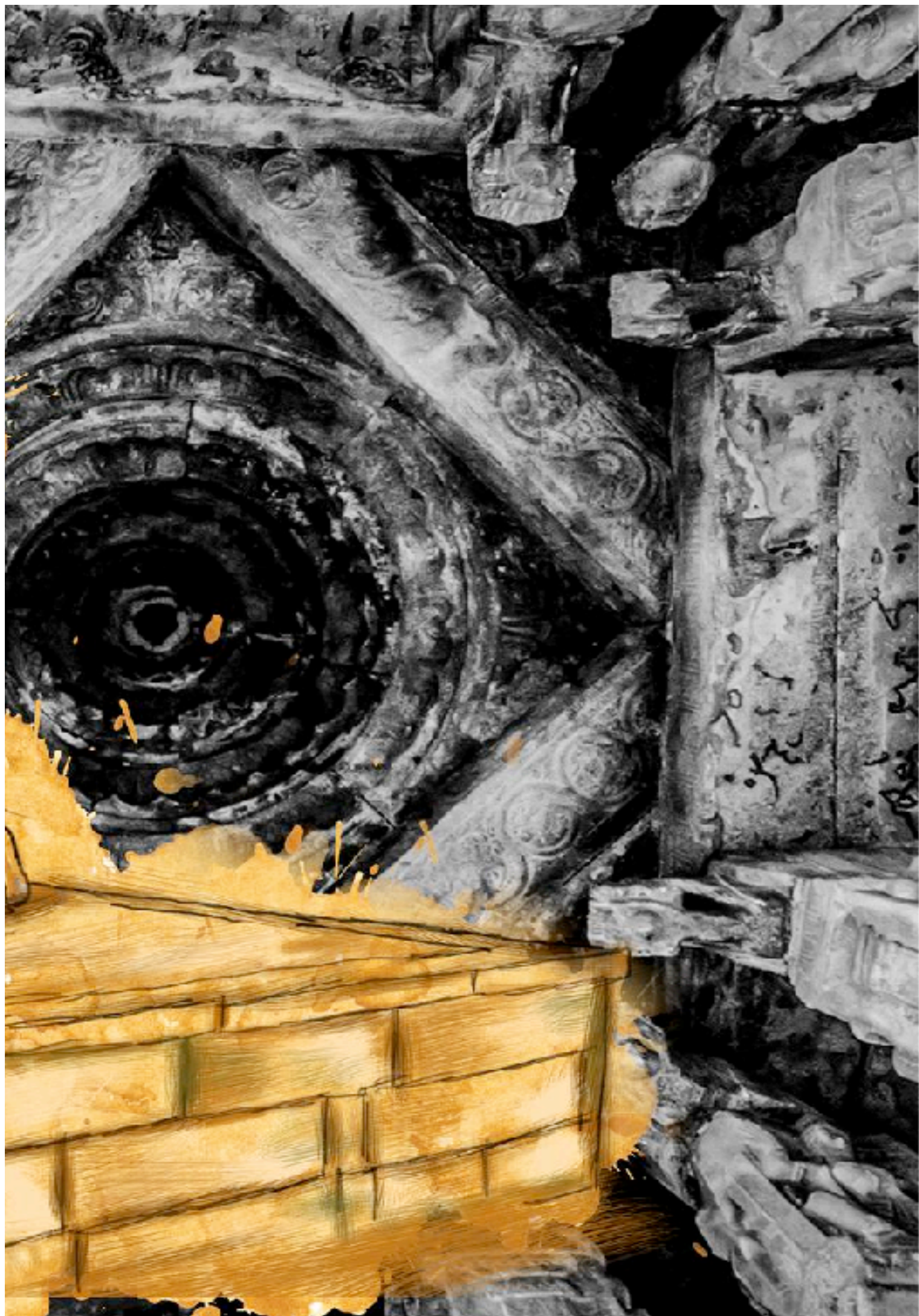
Four Points by Sheraton, Vishakapatnam

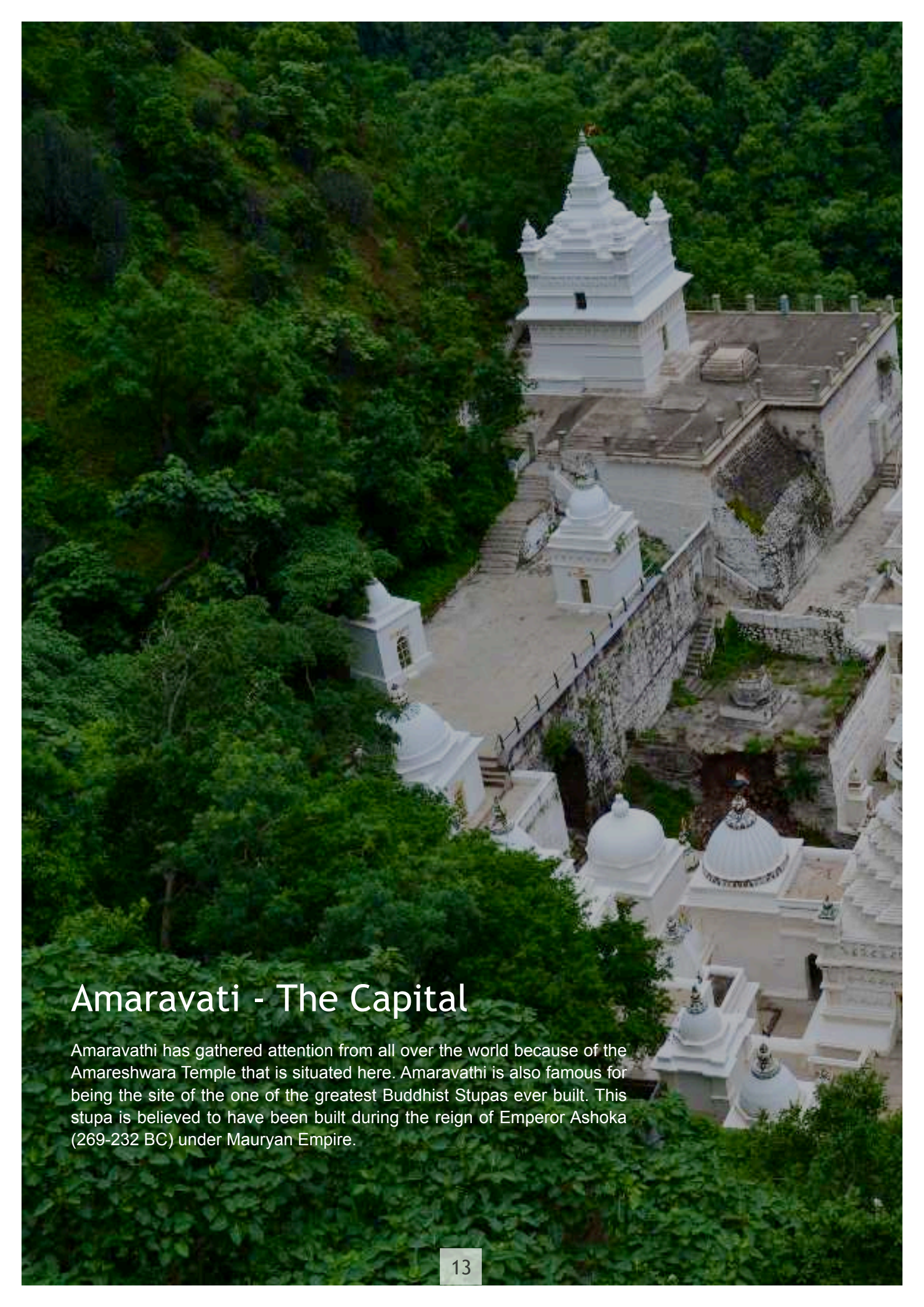
Discover a combination of modern comfort and urban convenience at Four Points by Sheraton Visakhapatnam. Ideally situated near RK Beach in Vizag, India, our hotel places you moments from major corporate offices and local area attractions.

After exploring your surroundings, go for a swim in the city's only ozonized pool, work out in our fully equipped, 24-hour fitness center or relax with a book in our Library.



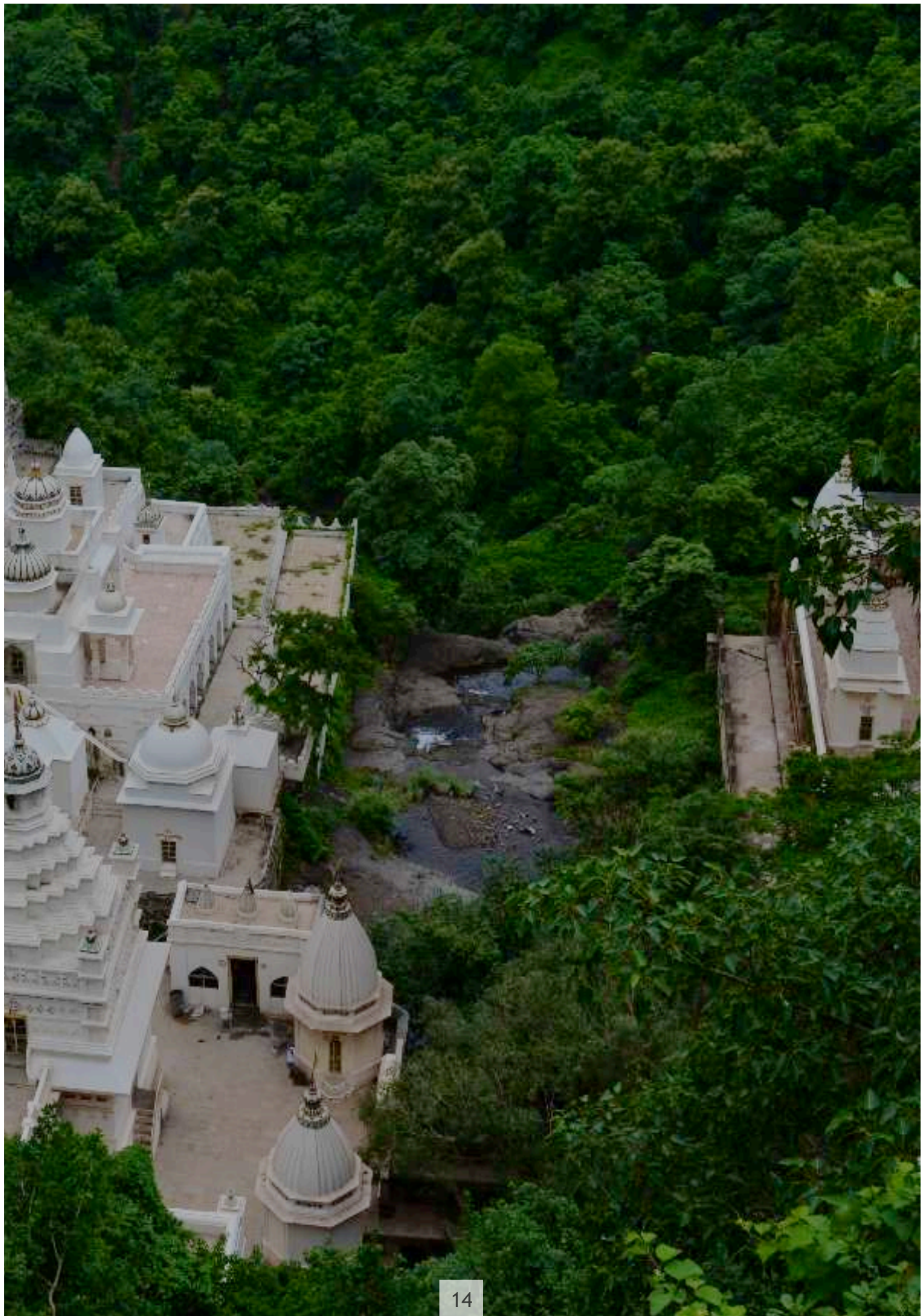






Amaravati - The Capital

Amaravathi has gathered attention from all over the world because of the Amareshwara Temple that is situated here. Amaravathi is also famous for being the site of the one of the greatest Buddhist Stupas ever built. This stupa is believed to have been built during the reign of Emperor Ashoka (269-232 BC) under Mauryan Empire.



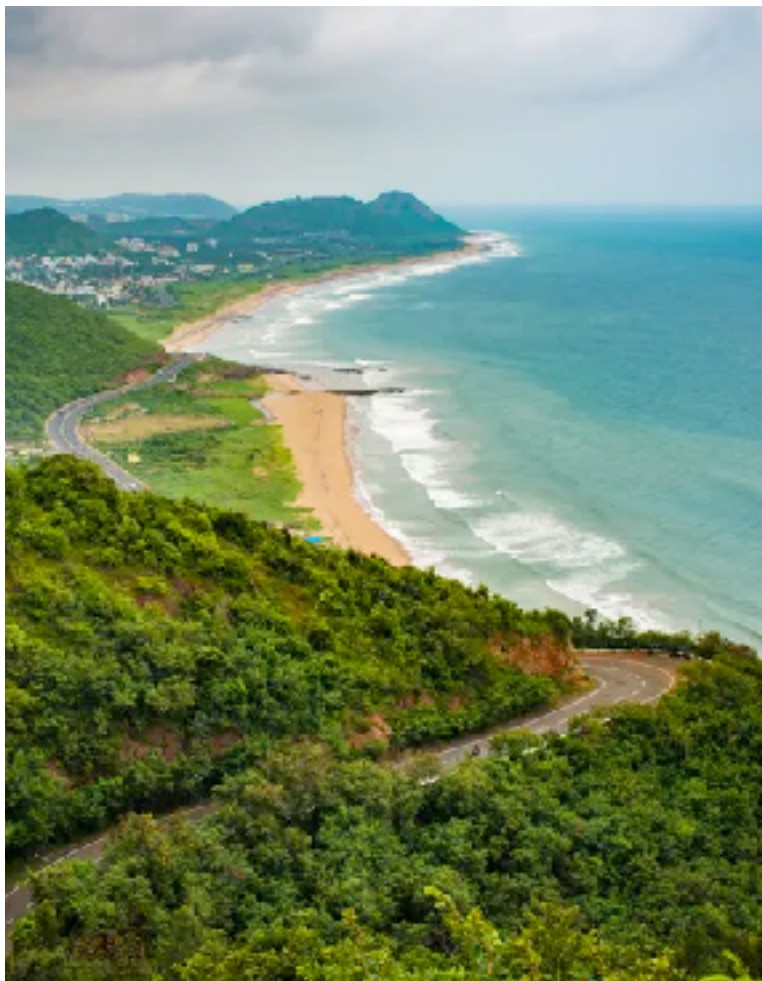
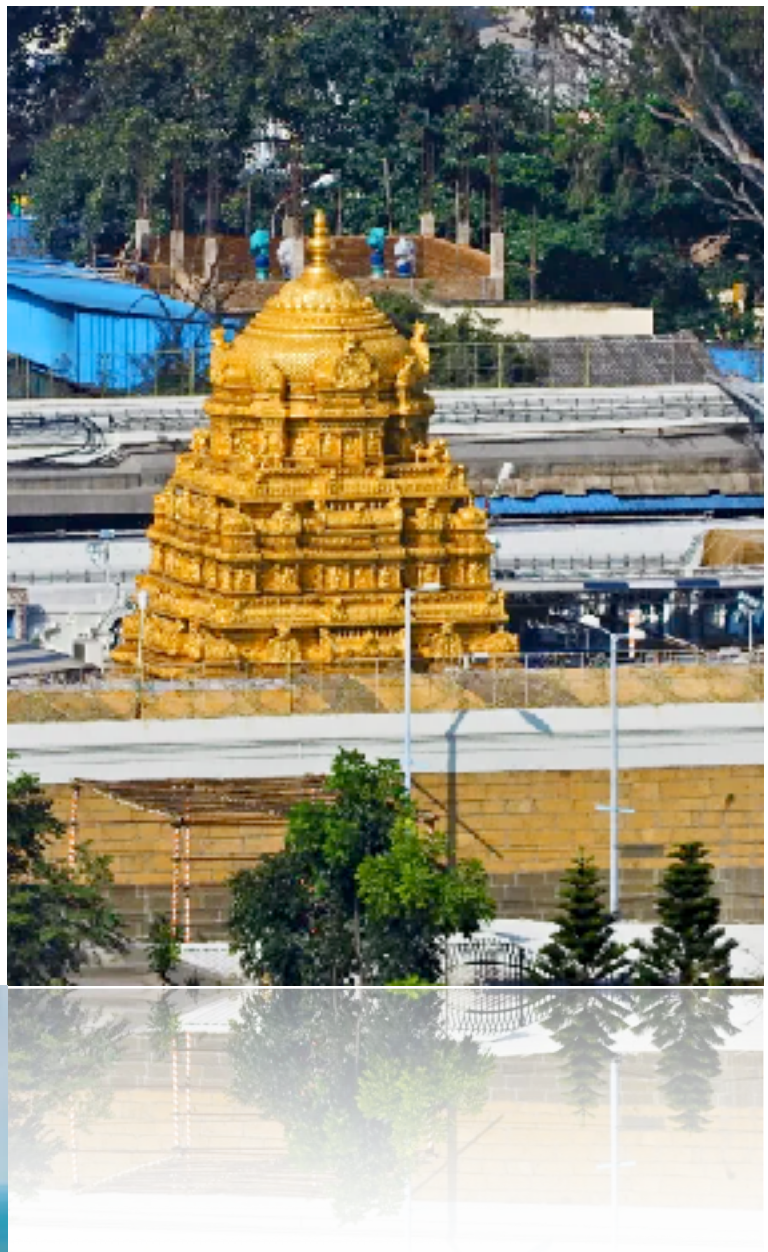
EXPLORE



Tirupati

The city of Tirupati is famous for its legendary Venkateshwara temple located on the Tirumala hills. This temple in Tirupati is one of the most important shrines of the Hindus, making it a renowned place in Andhra Pradesh. The temple and the city get millions of devotees and travelers each year to seek blessings and witness this awe-inducing spirituality.

The city also has a national park where one can spot a lion and other wild animals. For the history buffs, there is also the Chandragiri Fort, built by the Vijayanagar emperors in the 11th century. Also, there are some cottages in Tirupati which are spectacular and attracts a lot of tourists who visit here.



Vizag

Also called by the name, 'Vishakapatnam', this is a coastal town also the industrial center of the state.

It has been acclaimed to be one of the best places in Andhra Pradesh for its striking infrastructure and clean coast. Ramakrishna Beach is one of the most renowned sights in the city. It is also the spot where the preserved submarine, INS Kursura is located.

The submarine now functions as a museum that highlights the life of the navy. One can also visit the Varaha Lakshi temple, indulge in some fantastic coastal food, and take a stroll on the

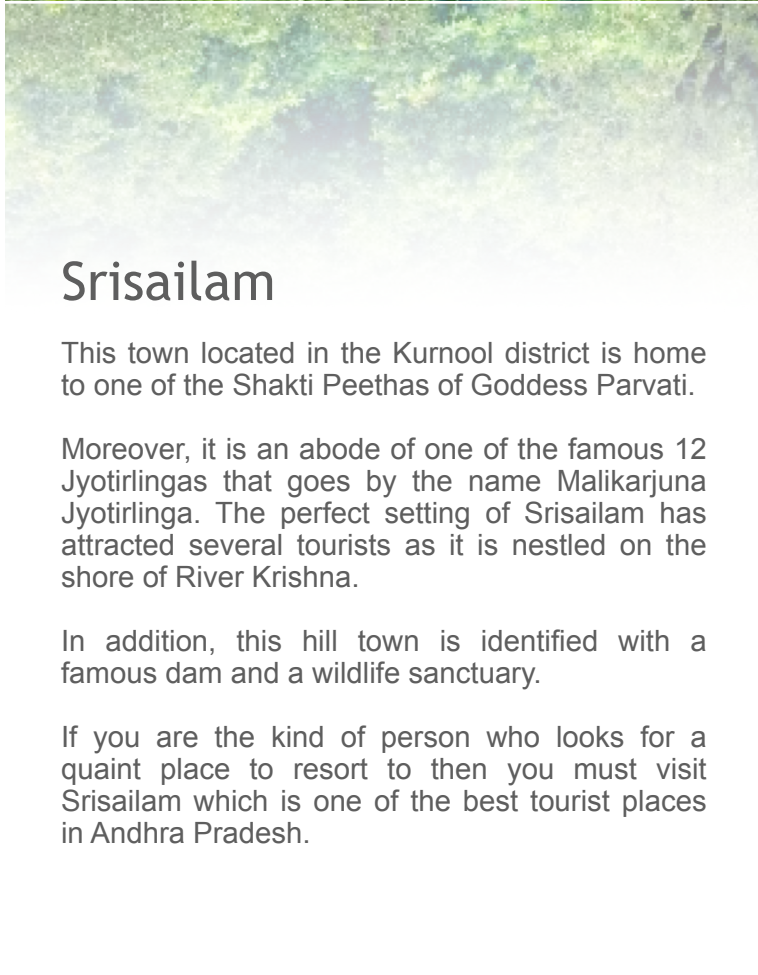


Araku Valley

Located in the abundant greenery of the Eastern Ghats, Araku Valley is a paradise for travelers who love nature.

The forest is home to some of the unique tribes seen in India and the government has taken extraordinary measures to preserve their indigenous ways of life.

There is a Padmapuram Garden atop the hill with a toy train, making this destination ideal for families with kids. This place is also home to a coffee museum, which is one of the highlights here.



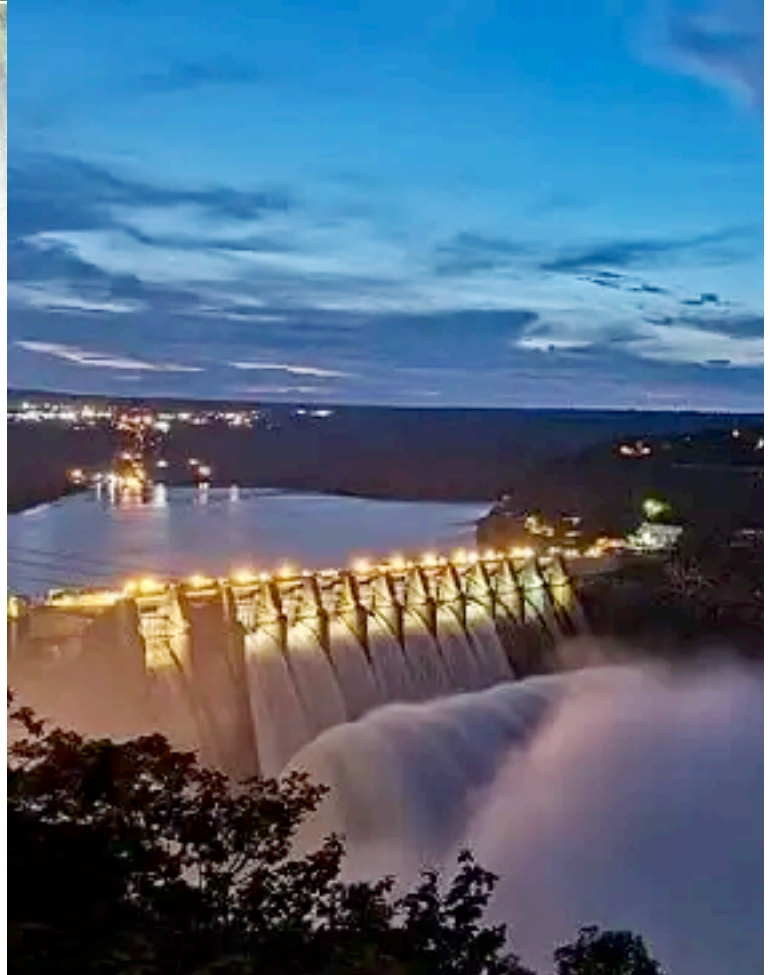
Srisailem

This town located in the Kurnool district is home to one of the Shakti Peethas of Goddess Parvati.

Moreover, it is an abode of one of the famous 12 Jyotirlingas that goes by the name Malikarjuna Jyotirlinga. The perfect setting of Srisailem has attracted several tourists as it is nestled on the shore of River Krishna.

In addition, this hill town is identified with a famous dam and a wildlife sanctuary.

If you are the kind of person who looks for a quaint place to resort to then you must visit Srisailem which is one of the best tourist places in Andhra Pradesh.



Papikondalu

Papi Kondalu is a breathtakingly beautiful hill range bounded by River Godavari in the state of Andhra Pradesh. Papi hills are a set of three hills which form a beautiful gorge on the Godavari River spread across East Godavari and West Godavari districts.

Entire area of Papi Kondalu is covered by tropical rain forests and it was recently declared as a protected National Park and is one of the top places to experience the Tourism in Andhra Pradesh.

The original name for this hill range was 'Papidi Kondalu'. Papidi is a rough translation for partition in Telugu. It is believed that the place was visited by Lord Rama and goddess Sita during their exile.



Ahobilam

Located at a distance of 340 kilometers from the city of Hyderabad, this is a lush-green spot, popular for hiking and a famous pilgrimage center.

The town has nine different temples where each form of Lord Narasimha is worshiped. This is the reason why the city is also called Nava Narasimha Kshetra.

Most of these temples are easy to walk up to but some of them are challenging hikes, which make it a place of interest for young travelers.





Vijayawada

The city of Vijayawada is one of the famous places in Andhra Pradesh. The city is a perfect blend of modernity and historicity, as reflected by the fast-paced city life and iconic monuments, respectively.

The Undavalli Caves are one of the most visited spots for travelers. The rock-cut cave temple is part of a sandstone hill with fascinating statues and carvings.

The Prakasam Barrage is synonymous with the city, a long bridge that stretches over the Krishna River.



Mantralayam

If you want to visit a holy place for a weekend getaway then Mantralayam is one of the places to visit in Andhra Pradesh for you which is 250 km away from Hyderabad. Mantralayam city is known for Sri Guru Raghavendra Swami, a saint acknowledged as the reincarnation of Prahlada.

The primary fascinations for the people here are the temples, Mutt, temple elephants and the chariots which are responsible for carrying the deity across the temple.



Srikalahasti

You might have heard of the famous temple which goes by the name Srikalahasti Temple.

This place is known for that temple which is why it receives a heavy footfall every year and has been listed in the best tourist places in Andhra Pradesh.

You will get to witness architectural marvels here and intricate carvings that add to the beauty of the extravagant shrines here. Apart from this, you will find several other places to visit like temples and waterfalls.



Nellore

Nestled on the banks of River Penna, Nellore derived its name from Nelluru. In Tamil, Nel means paddy and Ooru translates into place.

Nellore always had an upper hand in the agriculture sector as it is an exporter of rice, shrimp, prawns, and sugar cane.

Once you visit Nellore, you will realize that it is not a place that would disappoint anyone as there are several tourist places in Nellore like Ranganatha Temple, Mypadu Beach, Pulicat Lake, and Nelapattu Bird Sanctuary.



Chittoor

Heading to the next tourist attraction in Andhra Pradesh which is a package destination which not only offers some of the most religious places in India but also beautiful sceneries to relish.

Chittoor is a place that is dipped fully in religion but is also blessed with panoramic views and cascading waterfalls. You might not be aware of the fact that this place is also known as the Mango City due to a variety of mangoes available here.



Anantapur

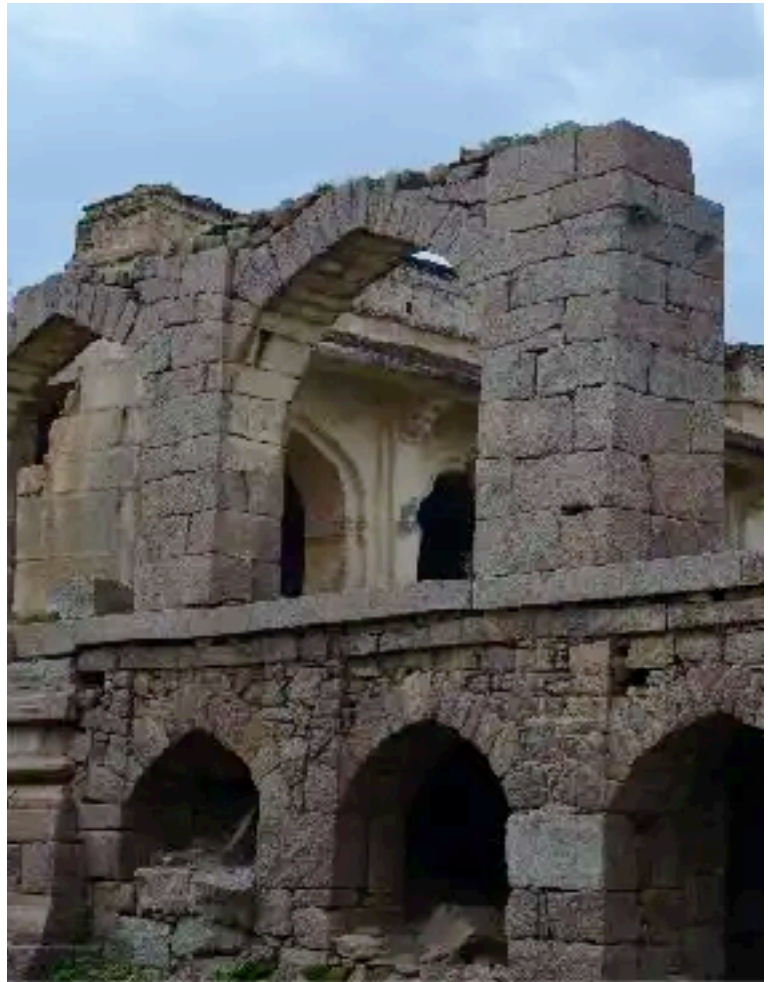
If you are looking for a quaint place to resort then there cannot be a better option than Anantapura that is neither a city or a village. It is a town in transition which is why it is the perfect place to witness both the past and the future. Although the town is growing at a rapid pace, Anantapur holds to its traditions and glorious history.



Kurnool

Kurnool is also known as the “Gateway to Rayalaseema”, has many spots with historical importance. The biggest attraction is the Konda Reddy Fort, which is located at the heart of the city. The fort is only two kilometers away from the railway station and is a massive stone structure.

The town is famous for its unique spicy food that one can enjoy at any small-sized eatery across the city. The Sri Lakshmi Narasimha temple and the Dakshin Sai Baba temple are considered to be the most prominent pilgrimage sights here.



Kadapa

Kadapa literally means a ‘Gateway’. This name owes to its special location which acts as a gateway to the pilgrim spot of the Tirumala Hills.

The town was a part of the various ancient kingdoms of the South and it's famous for its various temples and forts that exemplify a marvelous Dravidian style architecture and prowess of the artisans when it comes to stone carving.

The Bellum Caves are few of the longest caves in the Indian subcontinent and a spot that one shouldn't miss. The town got its economic boom when the large deposits of natural Uranium were discovered here and is one of the world's top 20 reserves of the nuclear fuel.

The Shree Venkateswara Wildlife Sanctuary located here is also a great spot worth visiting and is rich with flora, fauna and some breathtaking views.



Puttaparthi

The significance of Puttaparthi rose to fame due to it being one of the major religious centers of 'Sathya Sai Baba'. The various temples and socio cultural centers in the town attracted a majority of the tourist population and pilgrims. The town houses a no. of religious sites and temples popularized by Satya Sai.

The Chitravathi River is also referred as being the new Ganges and was used a cleansing spot for the pilgrims who visit here. One of the most distinctive places to visit here would be the Chaitanya Jyoti Museum which is a modern architectural marvel.

The museum combines a mix of Chinese, Thai, Japanese and Gothic style architecture into a single monument. The Sathya Sai Space Theater and planetarium is also worth visiting.

Rajahmundry

The city is known to be the cultural capital of Andhra Pradesh and is notable for its ancient Vedic culture. The city was said to have been founded by the Chalukyas in the 11th century.

However it has been disputed by many historians and archeologists who claim that the town existed before the rule of the Chalukyas. Rajahmundry is also known to be the birthplace of the Telugu language.

The river Godavari is the major attraction in this town and various parks and ghats are located by its banks. The boat cruises on the river are also an activity that shouldn't be missed.

The town being an ancient one is also famous for its ancient Dravidian Hindu temples that are frequented by tourists from all around.



Amalapuram

A small town which is mainly known for its agricultural produce of coconuts and rice, Amalapuram has a rich Vedic culture and is known for its various temples.

While there isn't much to see in this town the main places to visit are the Appanapalli Temple, Ainavilli Siddhi Vinayaka Temple and Sree Veereswara Swamy Temple.

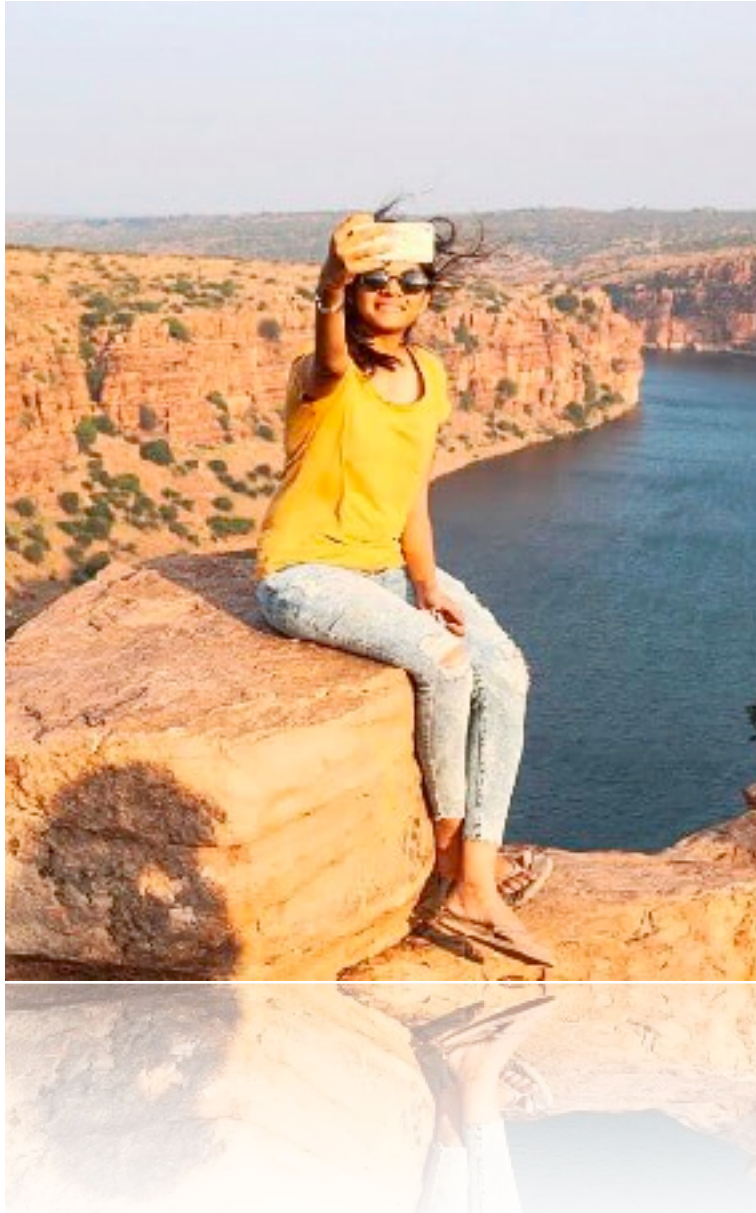
The town also lies at the head of the Konaseema Delta which is formed by the Godavari River. The town is also a hub of financial and education institutes in the Konaseema region.



Srikakulam

The town of Srikakulam is located at the banks of the Krishna River and is placed on the northeast corner of Andhra Pradesh. This town came under the kalinga region of ancient India and is known for its various ancient temples.

The town has one of the longest coastlines in the state of Andhra Pradesh and its various beaches are also worth visiting. Srikakulam is also a major producer of Khadi products. The various historic temples, monuments and beaches are deserving of a definitive visit.



Gandikota

Gandikota is a small village spread in and around the historical Gandikota Fort. According to history, Gandikota area was first identified and made Sand fort in 1123 CE by Kapa Raja of nearby Bommanapalle village and a subordinate of Ahavamalla Someswara I, the Western Chalukyan king of Kalyana.

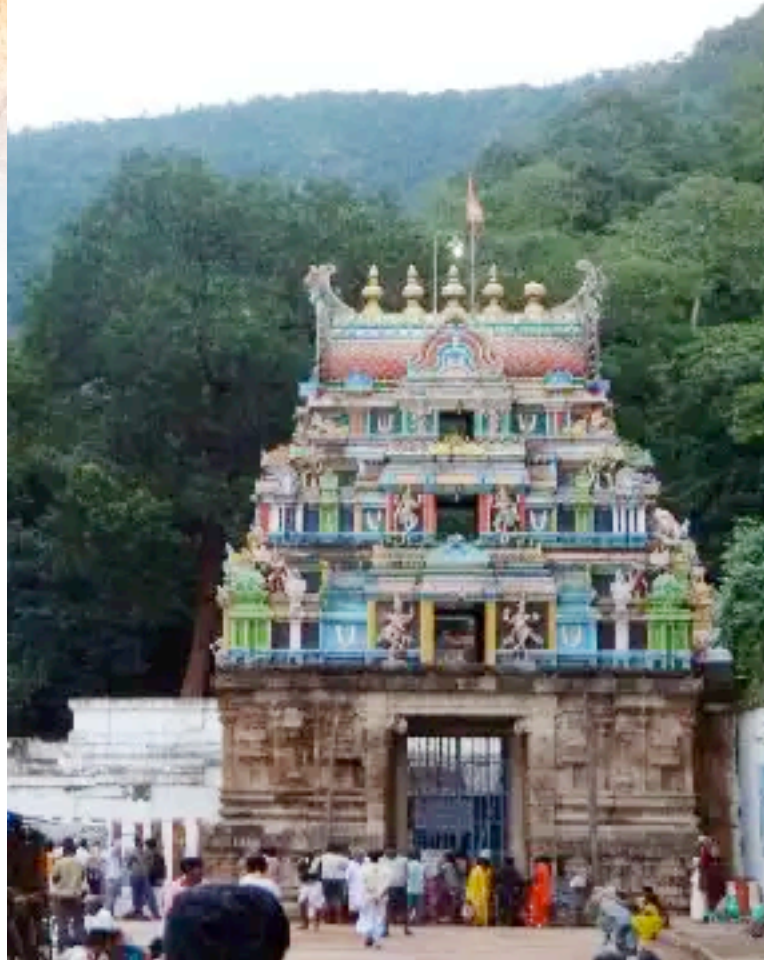
The village transformed into major fort after the emergence of the Kamma kings, who ruled Gandikota more than 200 years. The fort fell into hands of Qutub Shahis of Golconda in 1650 CE. The medieval fort of Gandikota is named after the adjoining gorge which means gandi in Telugu. It is also believed that Vemana, the Telugu poet lived in Gandikota area for a short period.

Known to few ardent travelers, Gandikota is not the usual tourist hub as it is neither a world heritage site, nor is it marketed well by state tourism agencies.

Ahobilam

Located at a distance of 340 kilometers from the city of Hyderabad, this is a lush-green spot, popular for hiking and a famous pilgrimage center.

The town has nine different temples where each form of Lord Narasimha is worshiped. This is the reason why the city is also called Nava Narasimha Kshetra. Most of these temples are easy to walk up to but some of them are challenging hikes, which make it a place of interest for young travelers.



Lepakshi

One of the well-known tourist places in Andhra Pradesh, this site, however, gets more tourists from Karnataka than any other part of India because of its proximity to the state. This is a 15th Century town that was created by the Vijayanagar Kings. The temple of Veerabhadra at Lepakshi is known for its peculiar designs. The ceilings and walls have eccentric paintings and stunning pilers, which are sure to mesmerize you.



Nallamala Hills

Characterized as one of the most peaceful natural tourist spots in Andhra Pradesh, this hill station is an excellent place for a single-day trip or a weekend away from the bustling city. It is home to the Nallamala Forest, which is located on the beautiful Eastern Ghats. The weather here is very unpredictable but a visit to these hills will always be worthwhile.



Kakinada

Another one on the list of places to see in Andhra Pradesh is Kakinada which is a perfect amalgamation of the traditional world and modern lifestyle. You will be surprised to see how the place is growing with architectural gardens but is deeply rooted in its cultures. The city is packed with entertainment options like nightclubs and shopping malls. Moreover, adventure fanatics can also indulge in some water activities and explore the hidden treasures in the sea.



Machilipatnam

Counted among the top tourist places in South India, Machilipatnam is a port town nestled on the shores of River Krishna. The town is deeply rooted into its historical past along with which you can also witness the reminiscence of the time when britishers invaded the country. The town also offers some beautiful beaches to relax.



Konaseema

Wrapped by the tributaries of River Godavari, Konaseema is one of the best places to visit in Andhra Pradesh. While exploring this region, you might recall the backwaters of Kerala that are shadowed with palm trees which is why it is named 'God's Own Creation'. The villages here catch quite an attention from tourists due to the serene environment and lush greenery. After visiting this place once, you might want to come back here again and again for its tranquility.



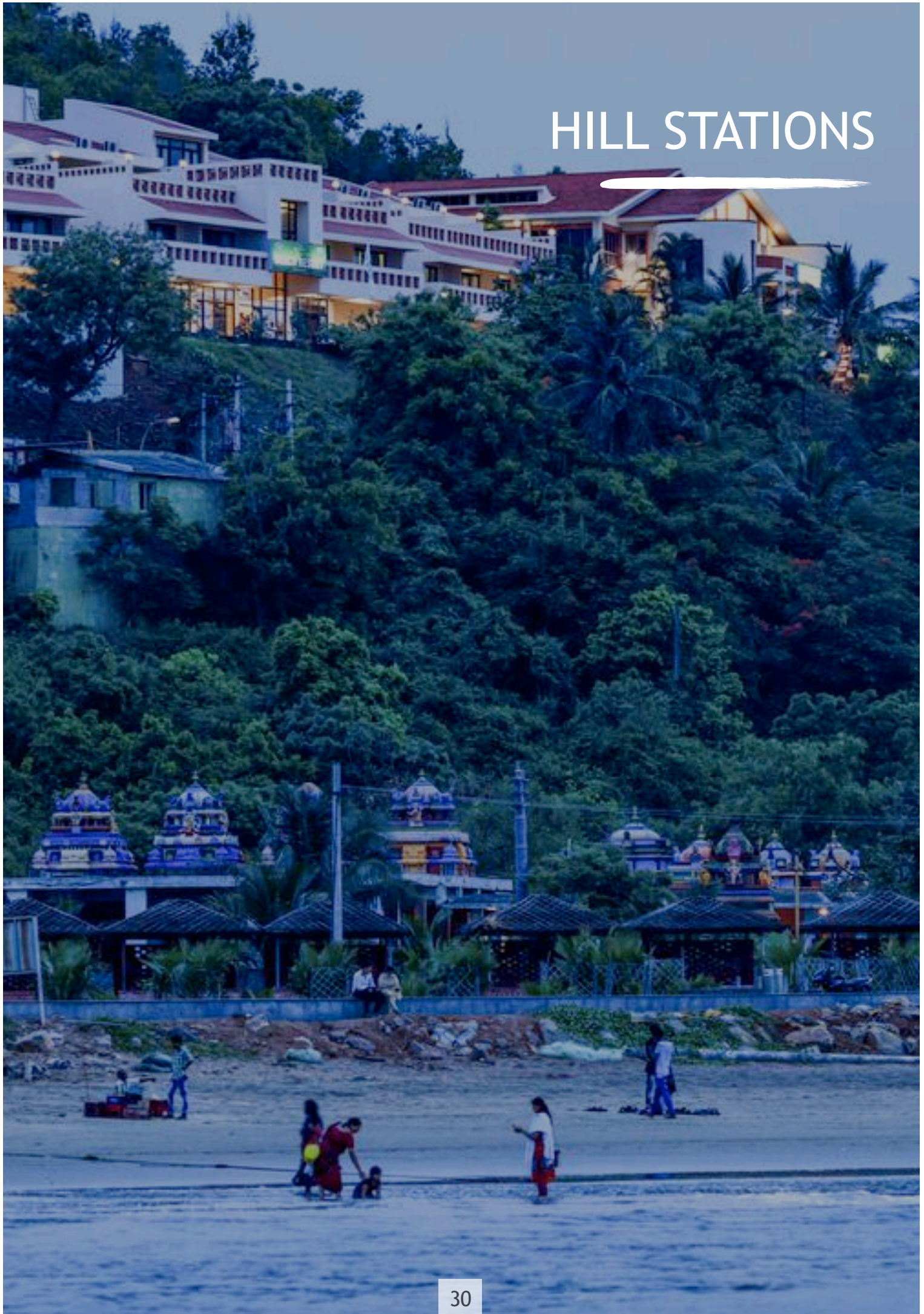
Nagarjunakonda

Nagarjunakonda is one of the famous places to visit in Andhra Pradesh that has stupas, statues, scriptures and monasteries of Buddhists. The city is situated 150 km away from Hyderabad and is as old as 1800 years with excavations of ancient artefacts. Travellers can visit the city from October to March which is considered as the best time to visit Nagarjunakonda. Andhra tourist places consider this as best for weekend getaways.

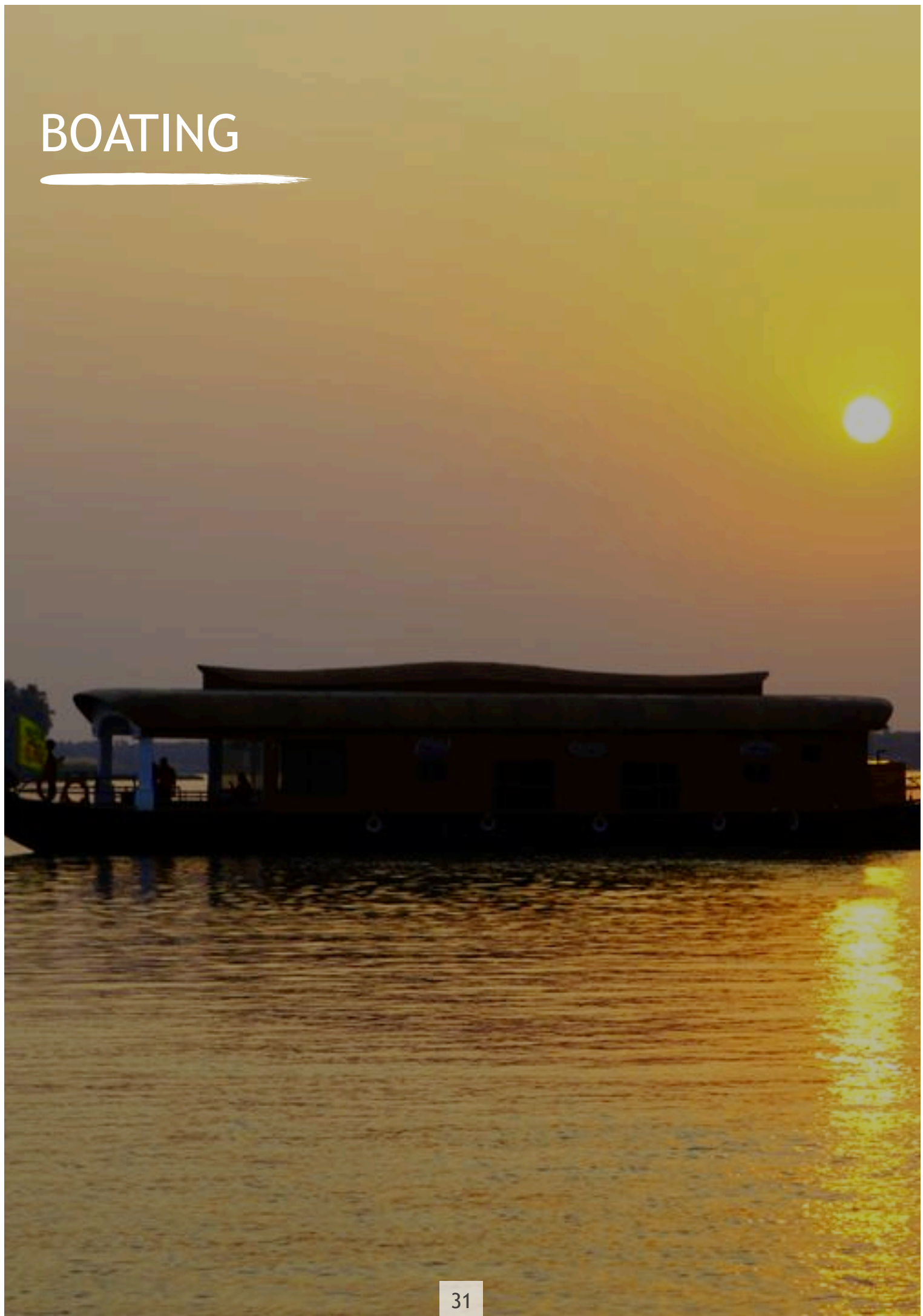
EXPERIENCES



HILL STATIONS



BOATING



CUISINES

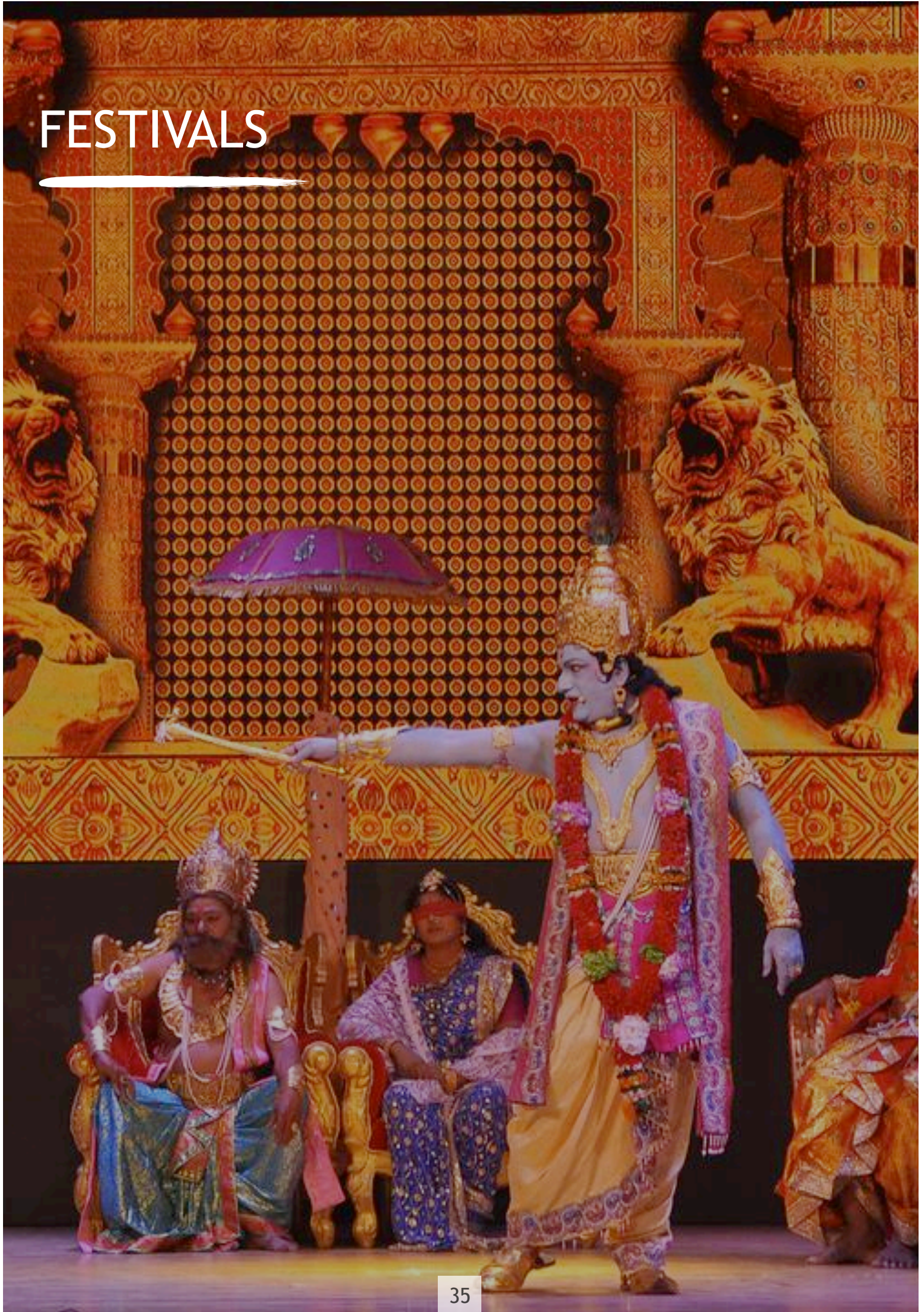


ADVENTURE

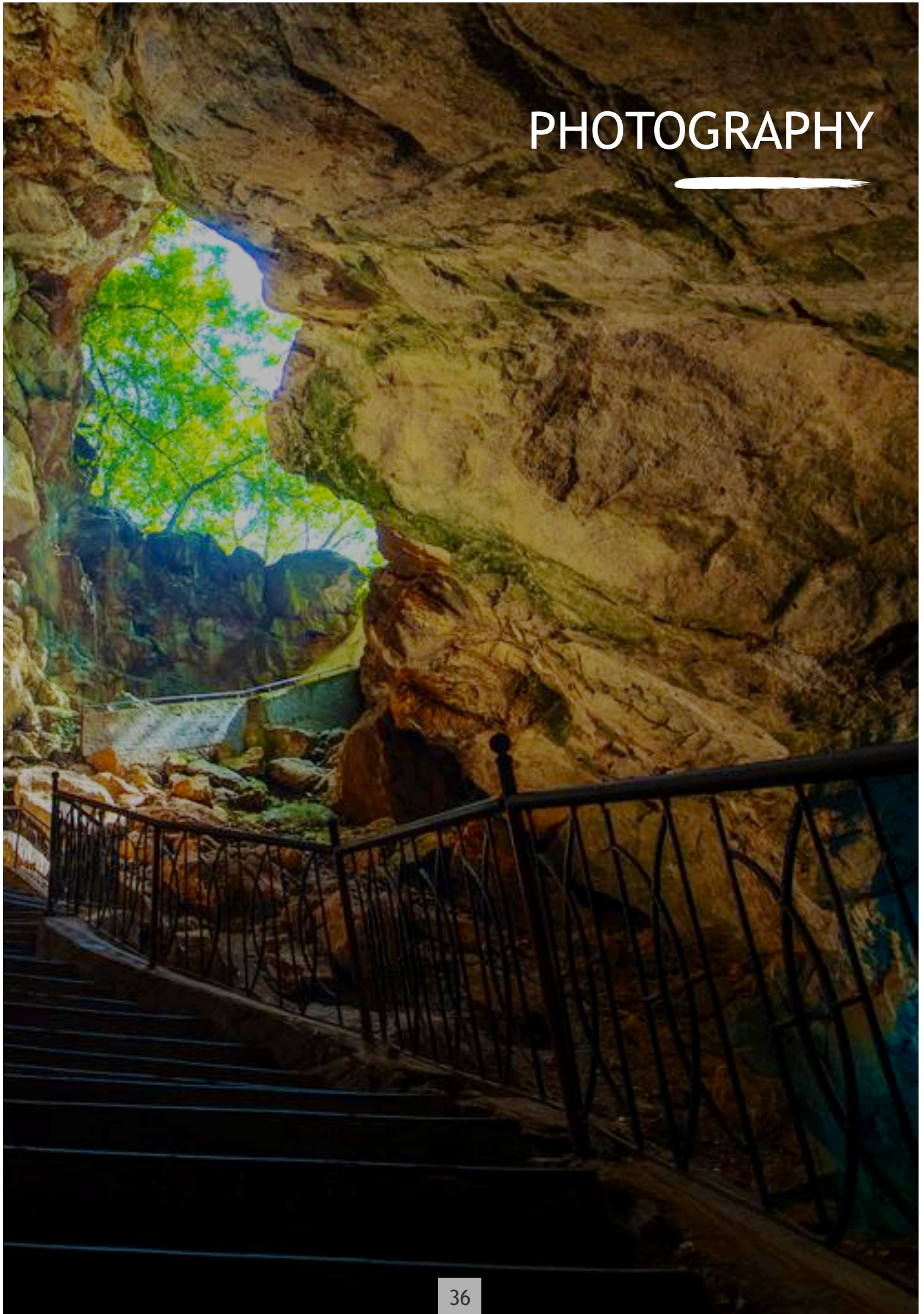
BEACHES



FESTIVALS



PHOTOGRAPHY

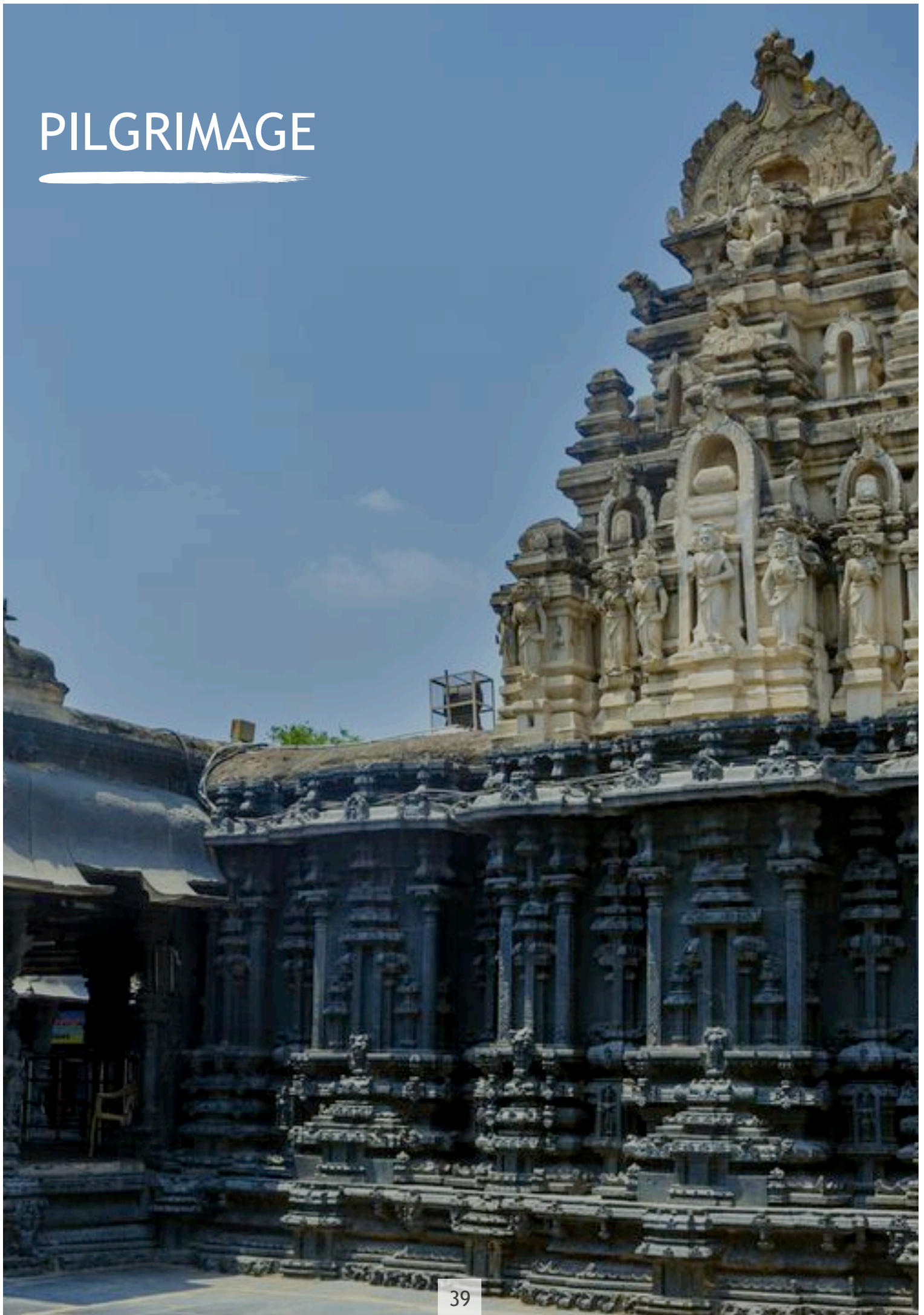


WILDLIFE



HERITAGE

PILGRIMAGE



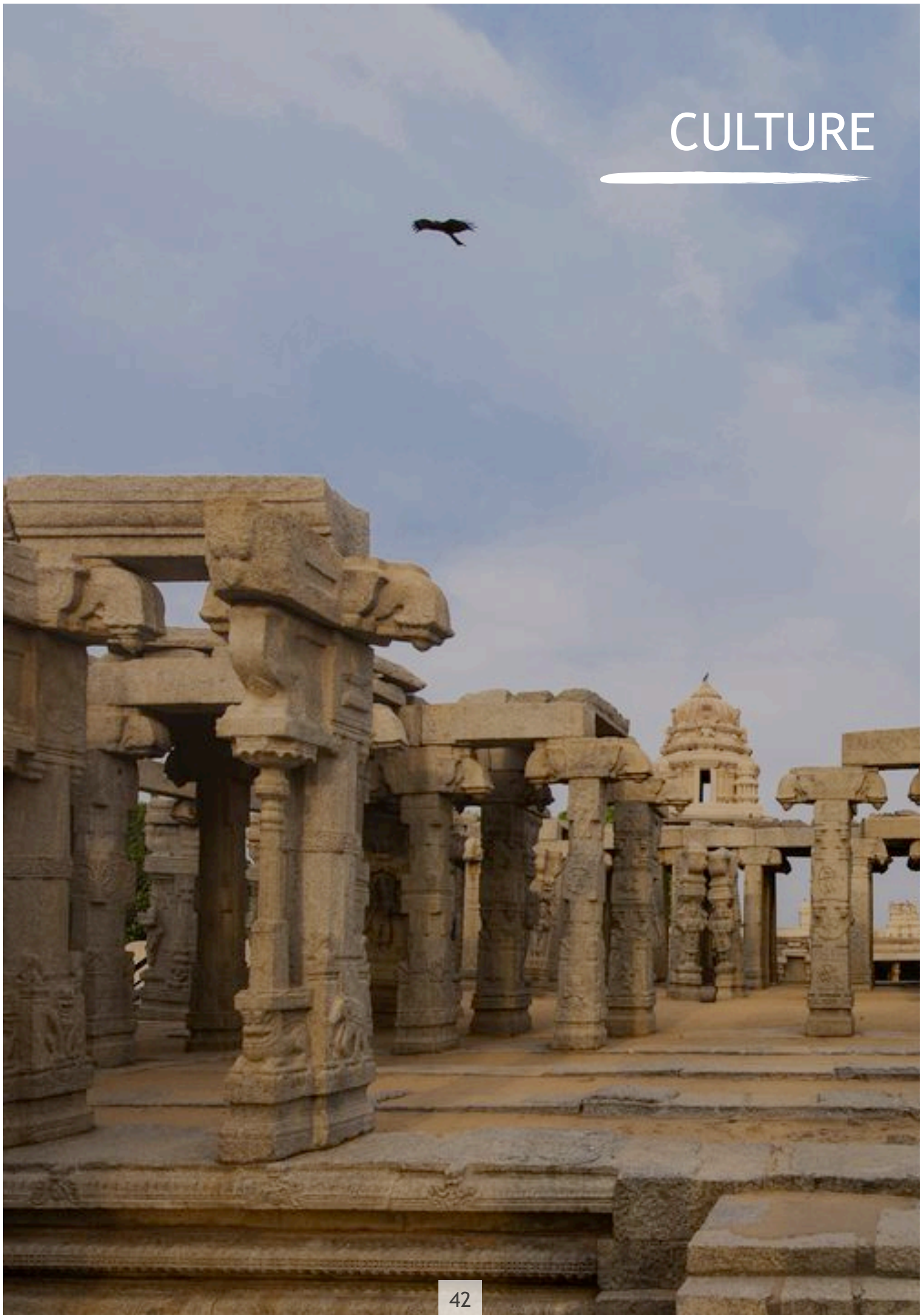


ARTS & CRAFTS

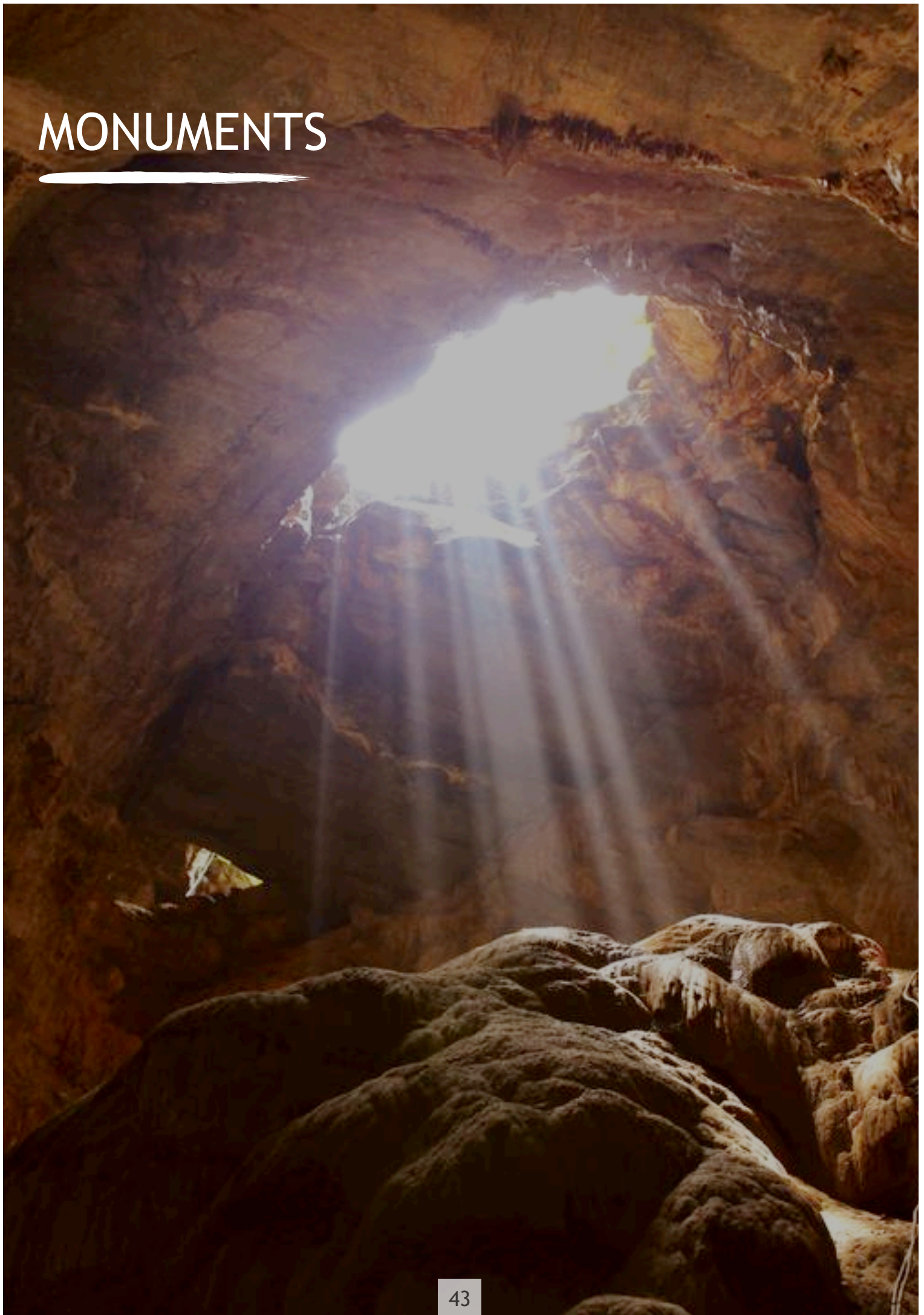
HISTORY

A photograph of a historical building, likely a mosque or palace, featuring a tall, ornate minaret with a bulbous dome and a series of arched windows. The building is constructed from light-colored stone or plaster, showing signs of age and wear. The minaret is topped with a small flag. The building is surrounded by a low wall with a decorative balustrade. The sky is a clear, pale blue.

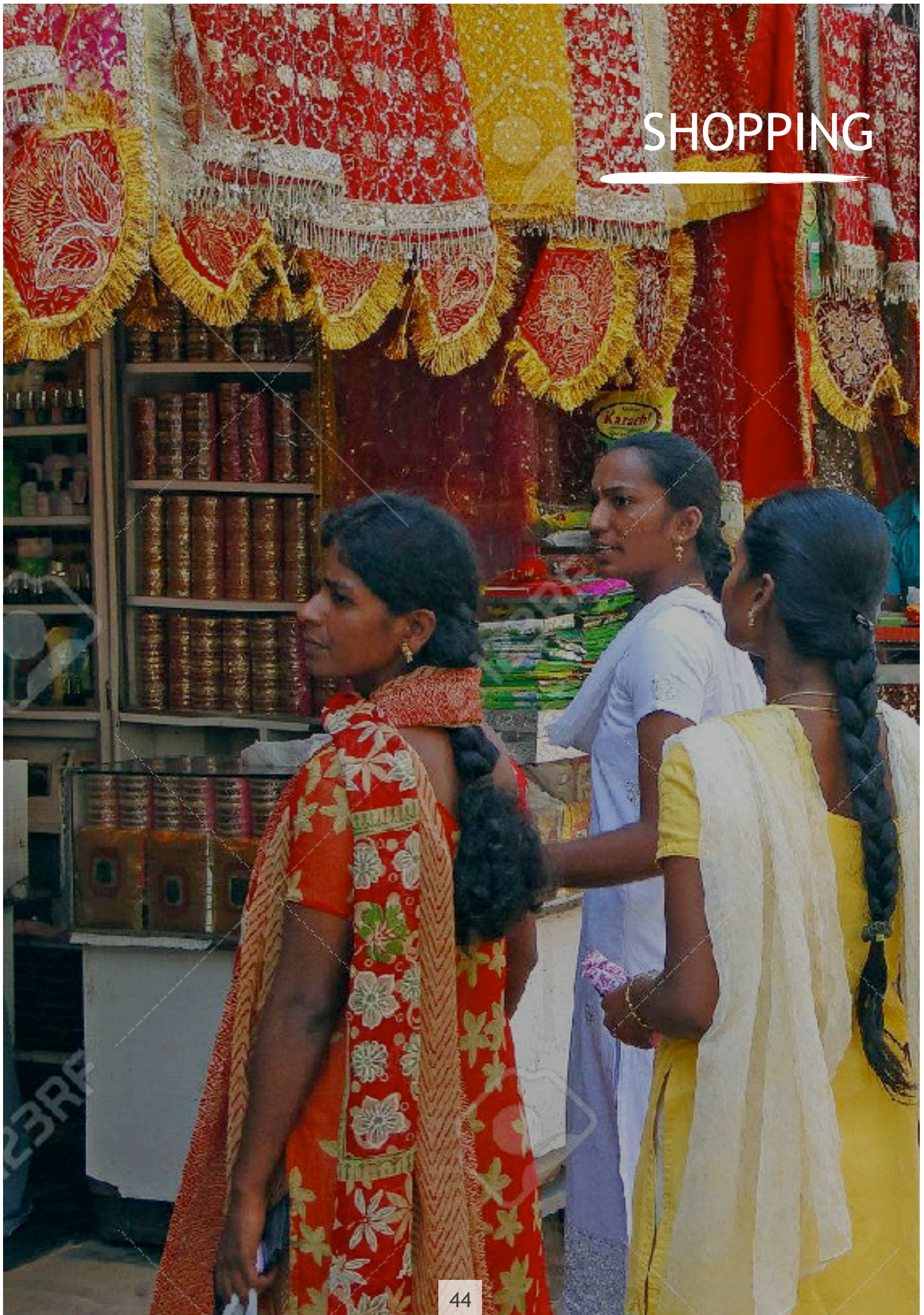
CULTURE



MONUMENTS



SHOPPING



TIRUPATI BALAJI



Tirupati, an ancient town at the southern end of Andhra Pradesh, is a pilgrim's paradise. The place is famous for its many Hindu shrines; the most revered being Sri Venkateswara Swamy or Tirupati Balaji temple.

Devotees from different parts of India and abroad visit this temple town, to seek the blessings of the Almighty. Other than religious centers, there are plenty of other places to visit in Tirupati for nature lovers, adventure seekers and historians. A visit to Tirupati is incomplete till you explore the other side of this divine town: calm, unspoiled and breathtakingly beautiful!

Sri Venkateswara Swamy Temple

A landmark Vaishnavite temple near Tirupati, Sri Venkateswara Swamy Temple is one of the most revered Hindu shrines and richest pilgrimage centers in the world. It is also the world's most-visited place of worship, receiving 50,000 to 100,000 devotees daily and up to 500,000 on special occasions.

Famed as Tirupati Balaji or Tirumala temple, this Dravidian-style shrine is dedicated to Lord Venkateswara. It is believed that Lord Venkateswara is an incarnation of Lord Vishnu who appeared on earth to save mankind from the trials of Kali Yuga.



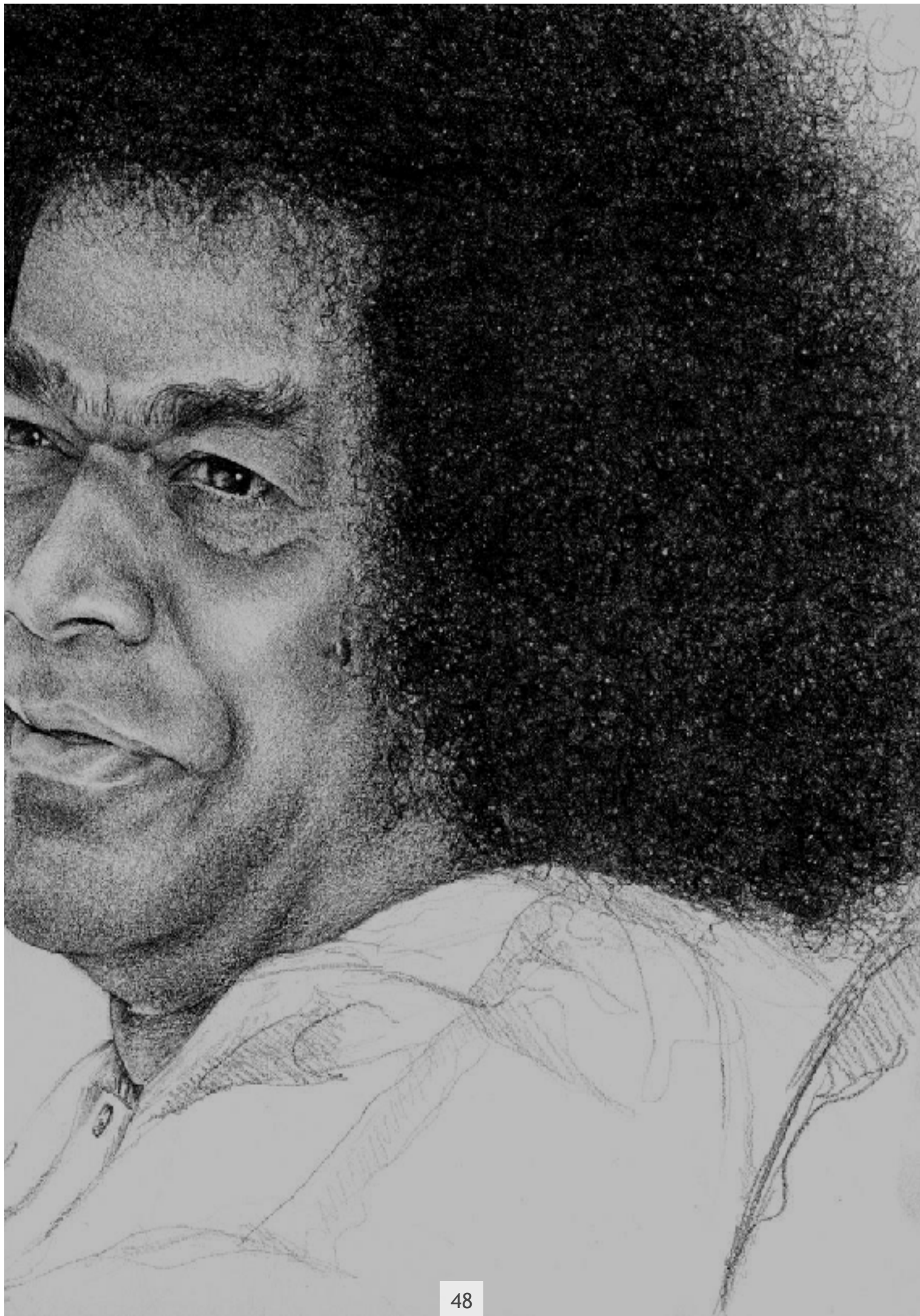
PUTTAPARTHI SAI BABA

A mortal with a life of ascetic but powers shrouded in mystery, Sai Baba of Shirdi is still a figure of reverence with a huge number of devotees. Shri Sathya Sai, (real name Sathyanarayana Raju) belonging to the holy town of Puttaparthi is believed to be reincarnation of Sai Baba by many of his followers. This makes the town holy and reverential for them.

Located in the Anantpur District of state of Andhra Pradesh, the town has Prasanthi Nilayam Ashram, attracting pilgrims and tourists alike. Being associated with the birth of Sri Sathya Sai, the place came in to highlight only after the various institution were established here for the well being of humanity, like specialty and charity hospitals, educational institutions, etc.

The story of the Sathya Sai Baba remains the main crowd puller which tells about a child, mother of whom told about miraculous conceiving of the baby. He then born with unusual intellect, realized fully when aged 14 and then proclaiming himself as the reincarnation of Sai Baba of Shirdi. After contributing in the ways and manners possible, Sathya Sai Baba died on 24 Apr' 2011, his Samadhi is located in Prasanthi Nilayam Ashrama.





MALLIKARJUNA TEMPLE

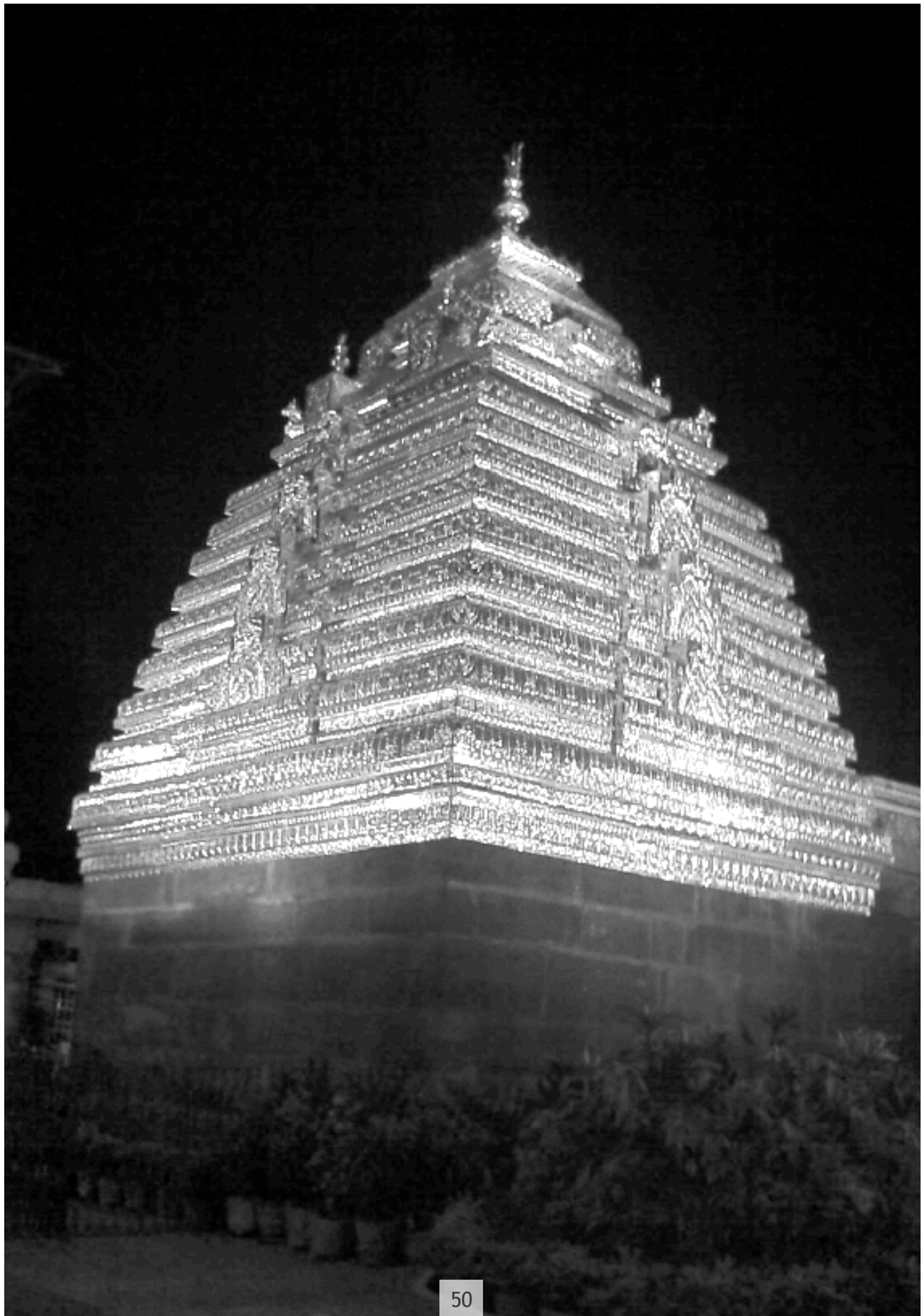


One of the 12 jyotirlingas, Mallikarjuna Jyotirlinga is in Mallikarjuna Swamy Temple and is dedicated to both Lord Shiva and his consort Goddess Parvati.

The second jyotirlinga is in Sri Bhramaramba Mallikarjuna Temple or Srisailem Temple in Andhra Pradesh. This temple is situated on a hilltop by the Krishna river.

Mallikarjuna Jyotirlinga is special in that it is both a jyotirlinga and a Shakti Peetha (special shrine to Shakti Devi - there are 18 of them) – there are only three such temples in India. It is believed that Lord Shiva appeared as Arjuna on Amavasya (No moon day) and Goddess Parvati as Mallika on Poornima (full moon day), and hence the name Mallikarjuna.

The temple is a work of architecture with its tall towers and beautiful carvings. It is also enclosed within tall walls that fortify it. Devotees believe that visiting this temple brings them wealth and fame. It is believed that Goddess Parvati fought the demon Mahishasura by transforming herself into a bee. Devotees believe they can still hear a bee buzzing through a hole in the Bhramaramba temple!







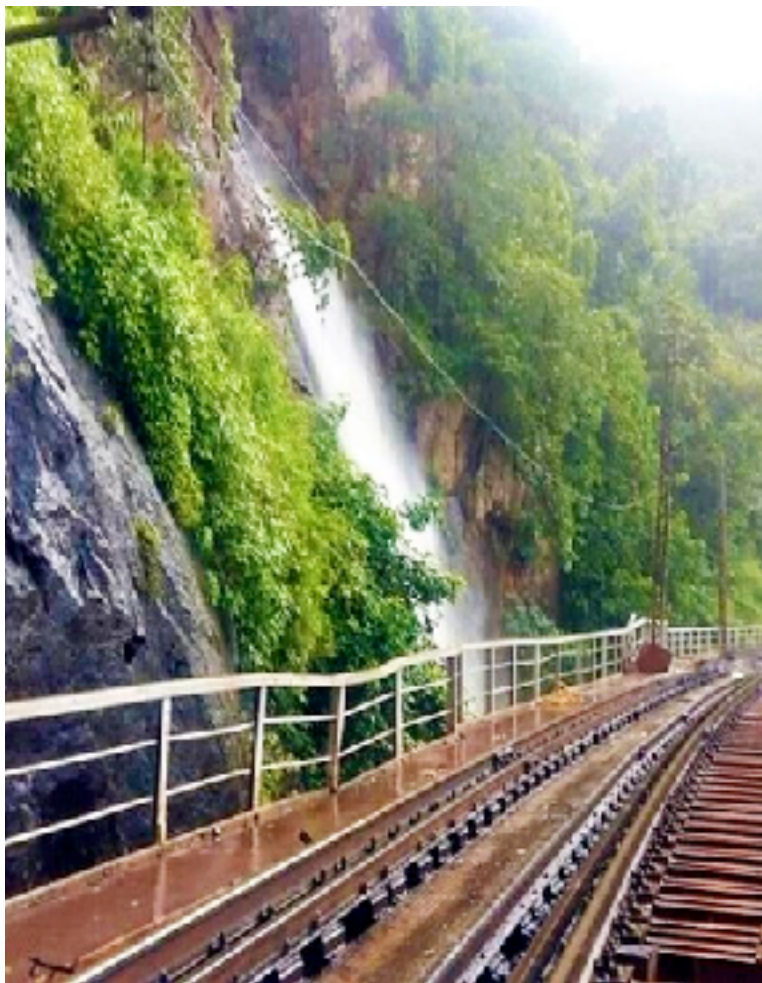
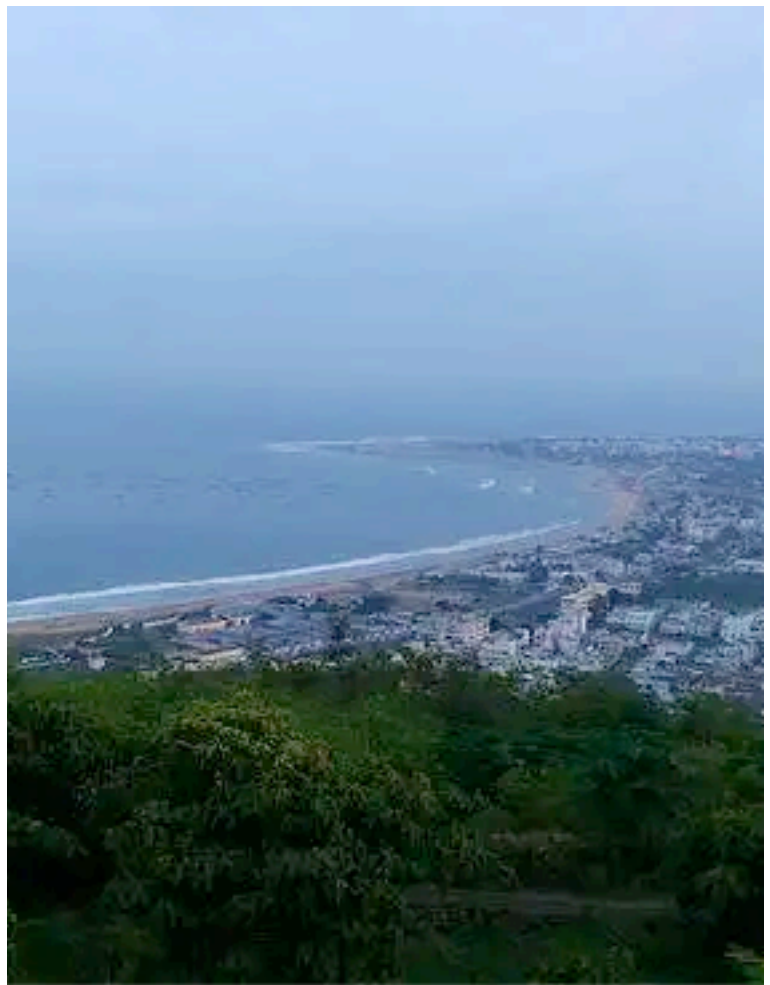
ACTIVITIES



Go On Vizag City Tour

The tour covers the ocean museum, war museum, submarines and other top attractions of Vizag. The tour will start from the Simhachalam temple which is dedicated to Lord Narasimha (An incarnation of Lord Vishnu) and will guide through the submarine museum which includes a weapon package which hauls from sea to land. Then we visit the Vishaka Museum, which is a house of historical artifacts from the Kalingandhra region.

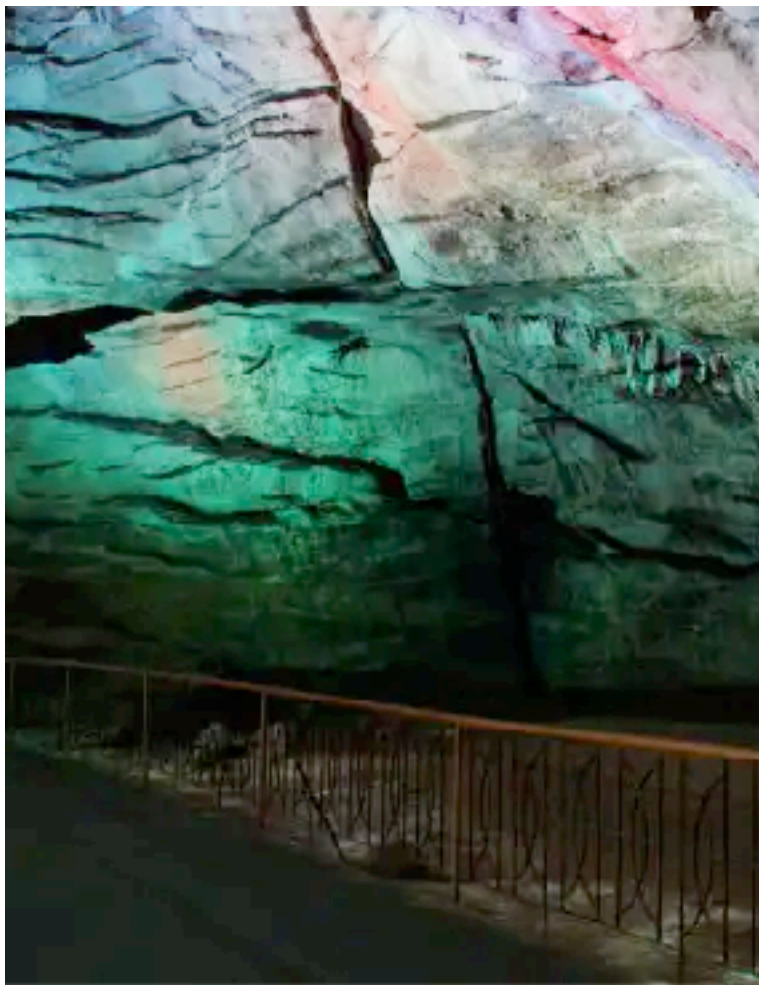
After completing the tour to Visakha Museum, you visit Tanneti Park and then explore Ramakrishna beach. This is a long and lovely beach that stretches across the sea and sands and houses a Kali Temple and a Ramakrishna Ashram. Also, you can visit here the War Memorial which was built in the memory of soldiers during the 1971 war.



Visit Araku Valley

Araku Valley is also known as Andhra's Ooty and shelters various tribal communities. The valley is spread in an area of 36 sq. km and is blessed with the best of climate and lush green lands, with natural streams and waterfalls which makes this place a mecca for any nature lovers.

Araku Valley also has a tribal museum that showcases the lifestyle of the locals of this region and how it has evolved. After Araku Valley, the tour shall extend to Borra Caves, which are illuminated limestone caves at a height of 1400 meters above sea level. The caves are filled with fascinating stalagmites and stalactite formations.



Mayavi Caves

Mayavi Caves are technical caves located in Kurnool in Andhra Pradesh.

These beautiful caves are full of stalactites, stalagmites, flowstones and lots of shining minerals flowing through the caves. The caves are called technical caves because of few vertical sections present in the cave which require one to do rappelling for around 20 feet. The elevation of these caves is around 200 feet and involves around 1 km of hiking.

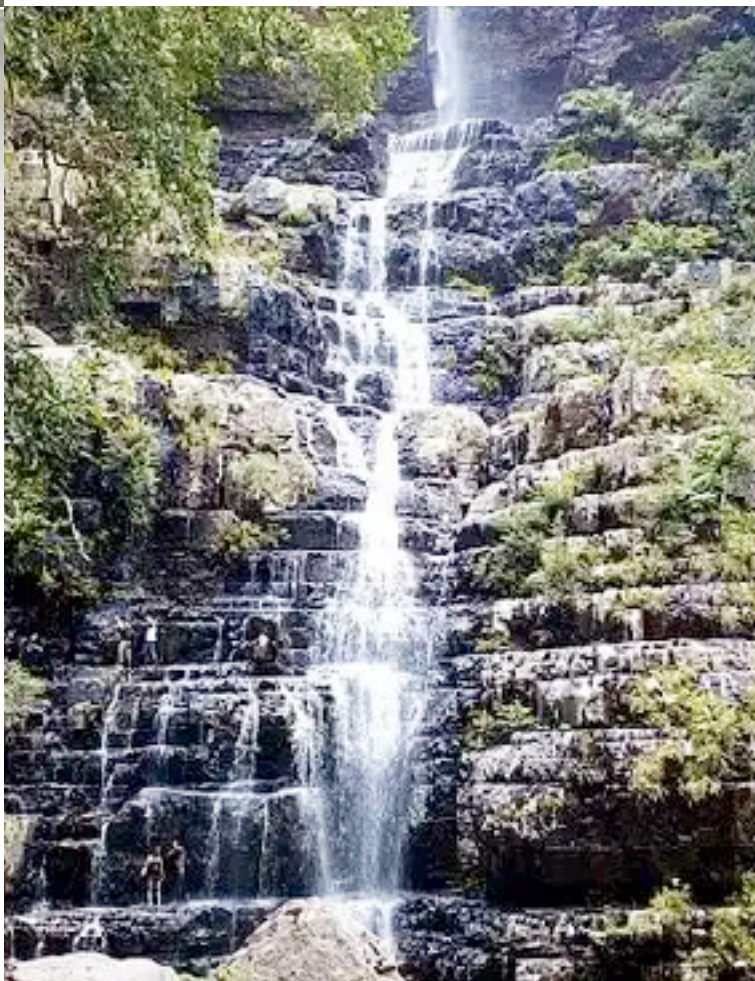
The entrance of the cave is small and might give you claustrophobic vibes. You need to climb down around 15 feet from the entrance to reach the first horizontal surface. Then two more obstacles require you to ascend and then descend using ropes. Once you reach on the other side of the first obstacle people often feel uneasy and breathless because the air there is almost stationary.

Trek To Talakona Waterfalls

This would be one of the most adventurous treks you would have had in recent times. The path is adorned with amazing flora and fauna. As you trek through the difficult terrain to the falls, the chirping birds and praying insects tend to keep your brain busy and you do not get the essence of tiredness.

The trek is in the Sri Venkateswara National Park in Chittoor district and fall is around 270 feet tall. The water falling from such a height leaves you speechless and gives you the worth of the trek to reach this location. The surroundings are covered in dense forests and lush green trees.

Other things to do around the fall are to watch the endangered species which live in this forest-like squirrels, panthers, sambar, cheetah, and porcupines. There is also a facility to experience 240 meters of canopy rope walk.

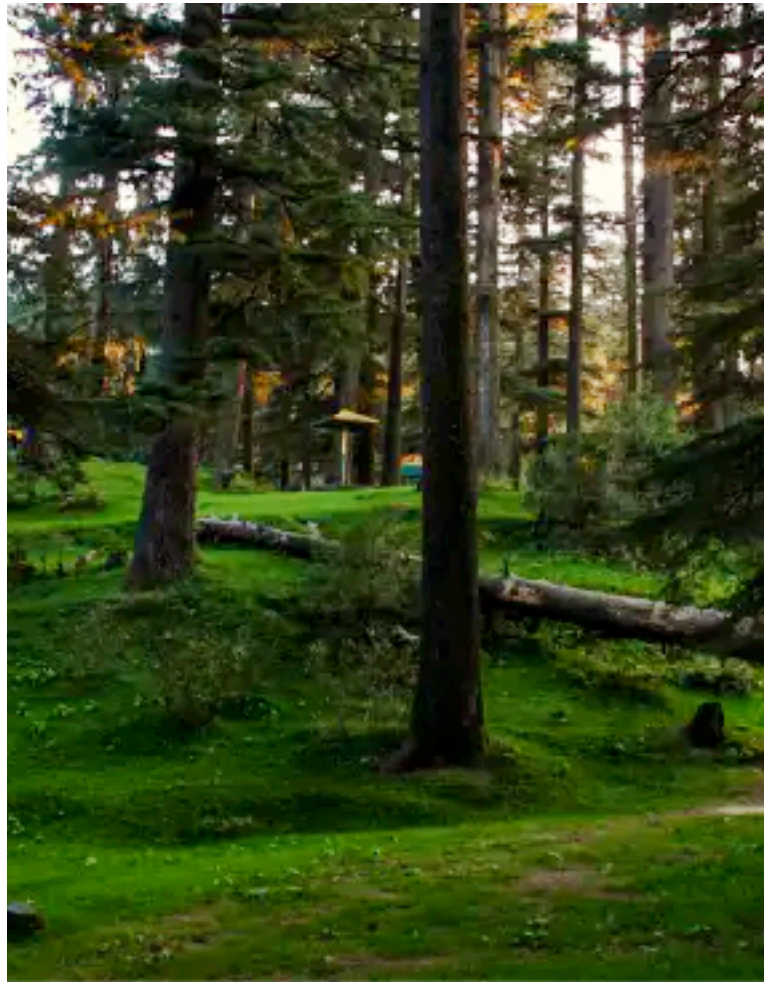


Experience The Freezing Point In Lambasingi

Yes, you heard it right. Andhra Pradesh where the nominal temperature is always around 40-degree centigrade, there is located a small village called Lambasingi and the temperature of this place never rises above 10-degree centigrade.

This is the only place in South India, where you may even experience snowfall during winters. Though it's not alike the snowfall you have in other hill stations, it's just dew getting frost and appears to be like snow hovering around freezing point.

This event is what made this place so famous. Though it is still not that much crowded when you reach this place, you will experience the winters in all its glory. The place is perched at a height of 1000 meters above sea level and coffee and tea plantations are one of the main jobs of the locals.



Hanging Pillar In Lepakshi Temple

Temple is dedicated to the Goddess Veerabhadra and is in a small village in Anantapur district in Andhra Pradesh. The temple was constructed during the reign of Vijayanagar Kings in the 16th century. The temple has a total of three shrines each dedicated to Lord Shiva, Vishnu, and Veerabhadra respectively. The unique thing about the architecture of this temple is its 70 pillars which support the temple. The main attraction of this temple is the largest sculpture of Veerabhadra and a hanging pillar called Aakasa Sthambha.

The pillar rather than resting on the ground is hanging from the ceiling and is always raised at a height of around one inch from the ground. People often like experimenting with this unique pillar by passing through their handkerchief through the base of this pillar. The whole temple stands on a rocky hill called 'Kurmasailam' or tortoise hill.



Wildlife Safari In Srisailam Wildlife Sanctuary

Srisailam wildlife sanctuary is India's one of the largest Tiger Reserves which is spread over five districts that are Nalgonda, Mahaboobnagar, Kurnool, Prakasam, and Guntur. The place was declared as a tiger reserve in the year 1983 and has river Krishna flowing through it over 130 km.

The terrain of this reserve is breathtaking and rugged and winds around the Mallamali hills. The dry deciduous forests with plenty of scrubs and bamboo thickets often provide shelter to the animals like tigers and leopard to sit and thrive for their food in a shape of deer, sloth bear, etc.

The place is also a house for multiple varieties of flora and fauna. There are around 20 rare species that are found only at this place. The fauna includes animals like tigers, leopard's sloth bears, etc.

Admire The Serene Beaches

Andhra Pradesh is a land of serene beaches and the best way to spend a day in summers in Andhra Pradesh is to go explore one of them.

Some of the best beaches that must not miss visiting in Andhra Pradesh are Baruva Beach in Srikakulam, Bheemunipatnam or Bheemili and Yarada Beach near Vizag.

Also, you must visit Suryalanka beach in Guntur, Vodarevu beach in Chirala and Ramakrishna beach in Vizag. You can visit any depending on your location at that time.

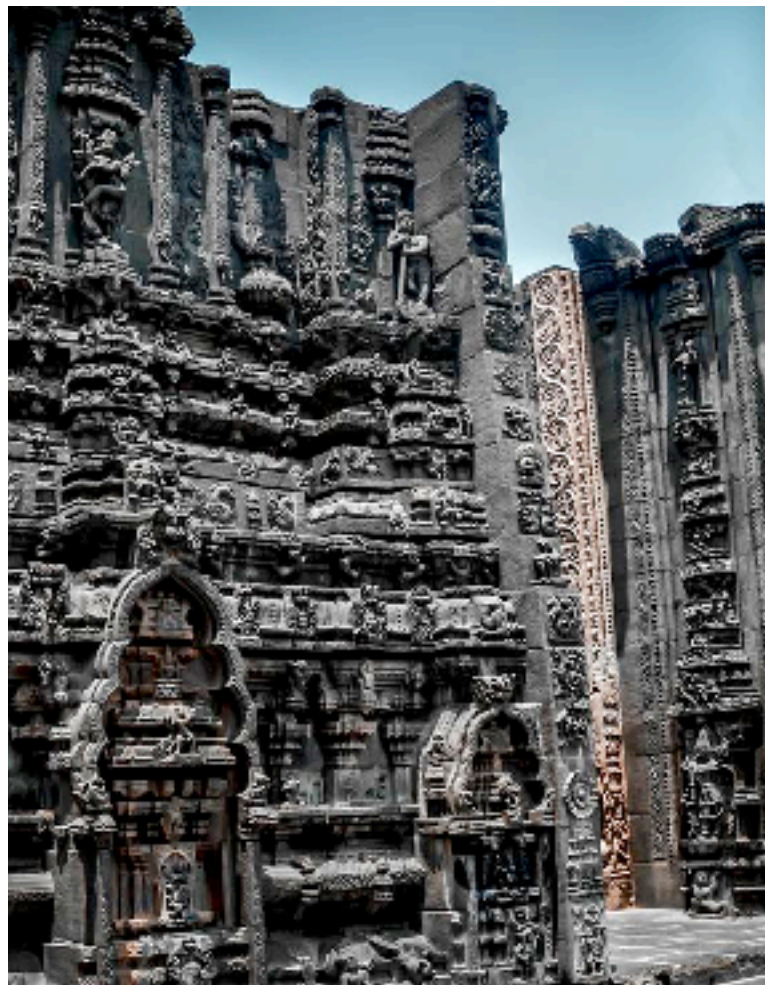


Bugga Ramalingeswara Swamy Temple

Located on the banks of the Penna River, about a kilometer away, has an equally impressive abundance of sculptures.

The gopurams to the north and south of the temple, although incomplete are regarded as one of the finest architectural legacies of the Vijayanagara Empire because of the precision and finesse with which sculptures have been etched on them.

Legend has it that the temples were built by two brothers in a single day. However, while the former was completed in the short span, Bugga Ramalingeswara Swamy Temple was only half-built. Photography and videography are allowed in both of the temples, though not inside the sanctum.



Simhachalam

About 16km from the city centre lies a small, densely wooded hill known as Simhachalam. The top of this hill is home to the temple of Varaha Laxmi Narasimha Swamy (the temple's main deity), built in the Kalinga style of architecture.

Other inscriptions suggest the temple belongs to the period of the Eastern Ganga Dynasty (somewhere between 1137-1306 CE). The statue of the presiding deity in the inner sanctum of the temple is covered with a layer of sandalwood paste for most of the year (the paste is removed from the statue only for 12 hours in a year, before Akshaya Tritiya). This temple is one of the 18 Narasimha kshetras in the country. It houses a beautifully carved 96-pillared kalyana mantapa and a natya mandapa amongst other structures.

Legend has it that the temple was constructed on the exact spot where Vishnu stood to protect Prahalada, as he killed the demon king and Prahalada's father Hiranyakashyapu, in the Narasimha (half-lion, half-man) avatar.





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