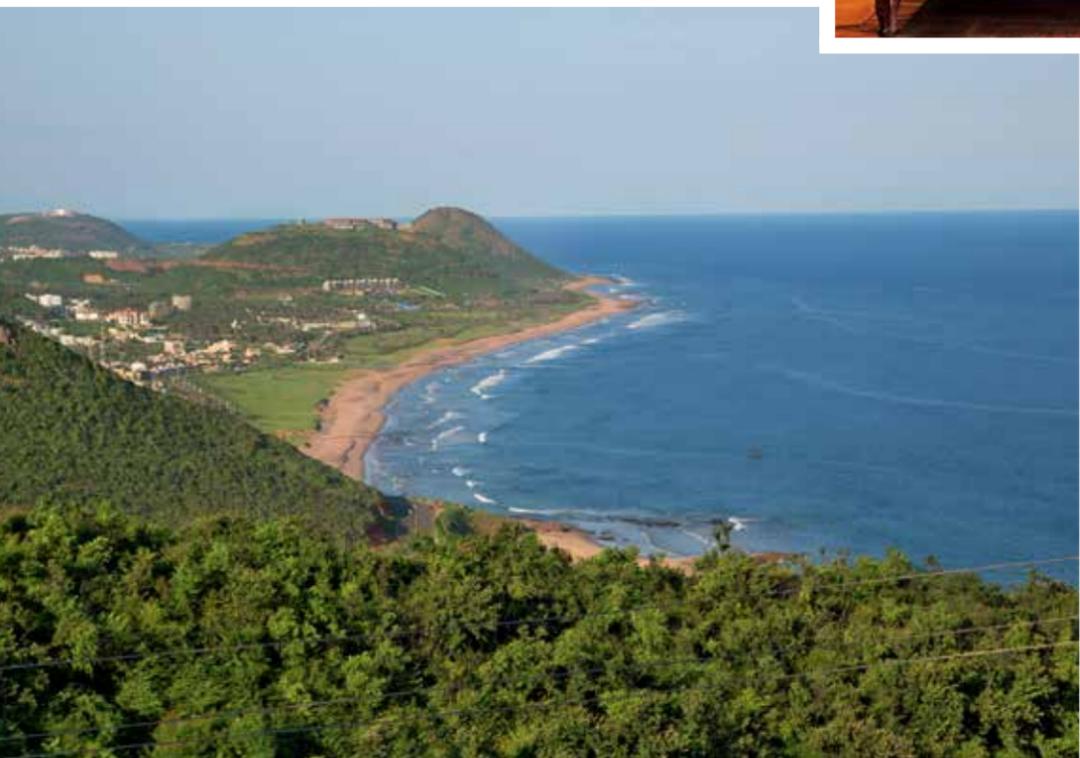


# FIVE GOOD REASONS, MULTIPLE STAY OPTIONS

CHECK INTO THESE HOTELS FOR THE MOST LUXURIOUS BEACH STAYS, NATURE WALKS AND ONCE-IN-A-LIFETIME FAMILY HOLIDAYS IN ANDHRA PRADESH.



Clockwise from above: A room in The Park, Visakhapatnam; authentic Andhra thali at Marasa Sarovar Premiere, Tirupati; Rushikonda Beach.



**A** land of unexplored beaches, verdant valleys and lesser known mangrove wetlands, Andhra Pradesh is a state that packs in enough to keep you busy and on your toes. Home to the famous Tirupati temple and scenic Borra Caves, Andhra Pradesh is an adrenaline junkie's dream with adventure sports like riding in a hot air balloon, paragliding and scuba diving, all on offer. If you like things a little more serene and are a bit of a culture vulture, then Andhra is a state with a rich history to explore. Best of all, there are very varied

accommodation options for travellers, whether you're a backpacker, devotee, travelling as a family, Andhra has many solutions. Here's five good reasons for you to visit Andhra Pradesh for a vacation this year and also some great stay options.

### SEAFRONT LUXURY

There is a plethora of luxury hotels and beach resorts that dot the gorgeous beaches of Andhra Pradesh. These hotels have a perfect blend of opulence, comfort and view. So, why not pamper yourself at luxury properties facing the Bay of Bengal?

Stay at The Park, Visakhapatnam for sandy beaches complete with a lighthouse, breath-taking sunrises and manicured tropical gardens. Take a stroll through the gardens with its tiled pavilions and a giant chessboard. Another good luxury stay option in the City of Destiny is Novotel Visakhapatnam, Varun Beach. This 5-star hotel has an infinity pool, a sea-facing restaurant (serving lavish Indian and a Western buffet), a fitness centre and golf lessons for guests.

**PILGRIM'S PROGRESS**  
It is always advisable to book your trip

to Tirupati temple darshan a month in advance as about 1,00,000 devotees visit it daily. The volume of visitors renders a visit to the temple rather hectic, so one deserves a comfortable stay after waiting in the long queues for darshanam. A comfortable stay option is Marasa Sarovar Premiere, an ultra-modern property closest to the temple. The hotel is based on the ten avatars of Lord Vishnu, presenting a perfect case of divinity-inspired aesthetics. The hotel has two speciality restaurants, a bar serving fine international cuisine and drinks, and the Buddha spa to help you relax and rejuvenate.

### IN THE LAP OF NATURE

For those looking into eco-tourism, Tyda Jungle Bells Nature Camp, tucked away in the foothills of the Eastern Ghats, is highly recommended. Featuring 18 cottages surrounded by wilderness, the place is about 75 kilometres from Vizag. This eco-resort of Andhra Pradesh Tourism Development Corporation (APTDC) offers a range of activities, including trekking, bird watching, a bonfire on weekends, and tribal dance performances on request. Another APTDC resort, set upon a beautiful hilltop, is Anantagiri Hill Resort at Araku Valley. With AC and non-AC cottages and well-maintained lawns, this property is a quiet retreat surrounded by nature and where the only noise to disturb your tranquility is the sweet sound of birds and water crashing down the stream.

### KONASEEMA CALLING

The Konaseema delta is one of the most fertile, lush and beautiful regions of Andhra Pradesh. The area boasts splendid landscapes, pleasant orchards, dense coconut groves and endless paddy fields. A landscape immortalised by many Telugu films, Konaseema is an ideal option if you are looking for rural tourism, backwaters and houseboats. If you want to explore the region, stay at Dindi Coconut Country Resort. Set amidst beautiful backwaters, the

resort is where APTDC provides an outstanding houseboat experience. You can go for a walk or drive in the area for quaint outings.

### STAY AT AN ISLAND

Besides beaches and villages, Andhra Pradesh's coast is also dotted with tropical islands. These islands are not just cool getaways from

fast-paced city life, but also fertile lands suitable for cultivating crops. One such spot is Bhavani Island, famous for its boat rides, adventure zone and lazy slow pace of life. A good place to stay and roam in and around Vijayawada is Haritha Berm Park. This APTDC resort is within half a kilometre of Bhavani Island and has great river views.—JYOTI VERMA



Clockwise from top: Buddha spa at Marasa Sarovar Premiere, Tirupati; Anantagiri Hill Resort; APTDC Bhavani Island Resort; Novotel Visakhapatnam Varun Beach.