Andhra Pradesh
Mystic Buddhist trails, never ending coastlines, luxury of Nawabs, breathtaking architecture, home to many Gods and the centre of many crafts... All this is just a window to what Andhra Pradesh is.

Postcard perfect pictures of Charminar, yatras to Tirupati, the expressions of a Kuchipudi Dancer and fine Khadi - all of us have had a brush with the beautiful state of Andhra Pradesh at some point or the other. Apart from the pilgrims who visit the temples in Tirupati in large numbers, Andhra Pradesh is visited by few people who are strictly tourists. Don't mistake this for a lack of offerings, for AP (as it is fondly called) has its own mystic charms. Be it Ramoji Film City, Falaknuma Palace, Nagarjunakonda Island or Pulicat Wildlife Sanctuary, Araku Valley, Amaravati Caves, this one state offers something to please all.

Tirupati (Thirupathi) boasts of being the location of one of the most affluent temples of India, the Venkateswara Swamy Temple dedicated to Lord Venkateshwara. Located on Tirumala Hills seventh peak, Venkatachala, this magnificent temple of Lord Venkateshwara or ‘the Lord of The Seven Hills’ is sheltered. This temple is a major pilgrimage site of India. For Vaishnavites, there is no place in the universe equal to Tirumala in Tirupati (Thirupathi), the place Lord Vishnu chose as an alternative to Vaikuntha, his heavenly home. According to a Puranic legend, an angry Lakshmi once left Vishnu. Unable to find her, the grief-struck lord withdrew to an anthill in this hill. He later married her incarnation but ‘Lakshmi’ having left him, had no money for the wedding and had to borrow from Kuber. Devotees making offerings at Tirumala in this holy city of Tirupati believe that they are helping the lord repay it. This holy city of Tirupati is home to many other temples and monuments with architectural brilliance that attracts tourists from in and around. Other temples in Tirupati (Thirupathi) such as...
Varahaswami Temple located on the banks of Swami Pushkarni and Anjaneyaswami temple, which is a majestic temple built by the Mahant dynasty are also a must visit. Other than the temples, the beautiful city of Tirupati has much more to offer. Do visit the famous Sri Venkateswara National Park, which is a biosphere reserve and a national park.

All the major Hindu festivals like Ugadi, Sankranti, Ganesh Chaturthi, Deepawali and Kartik Purnima are celebrated with great splendour in this holy city of Tirupati. If visiting this city during the months of September and October, do not forget to take part in the nine day festival - Sri Venkateswara Brahmotsavams, which is celebrated every year. Those with a sweet tooth must try the mouth-watering Tirupati Laddu, which is the speciality of this region.

3 Nellore

Known as "Vikrama Simhapuri" till the 13th century and later renamed as Nellore, today the city has a prominent position in Andhra Pradesh. This city, located on the banks of Penna River, is known for its agricultural prosperity. Recently it has also developed with regard to its educational institutions and trade and commerce. The place is home to the famous Ranganatha Temple that draws devotees from far and wide into Nellore.

4 Surendrapuri

Surendrapuri, Near Yadagirigutta, Nalgonda District, Telangana, Hyderabad 508115, India

If you have ever wondered about the innumerable Hindu Gods and Goddesses, you should check out this Surendrapuri, Hyderabad. Located about 60 km away from Hyderabad city, not many tourist make it up to this place. But once you reach here, you'd realize how cool this place is. Also called the Mythological Awareness Centre, the museum was established to create knowledge about Hindu mythology.

5 Charminar

Charminar in Hyderabad is a monument synonymous with the city itself, the four spires rising in the sky seem to proclaim to the world of the rich heritage of this ancient city. The breathtaking structure, which is at the heart of the city will mesmerise you more as you come closer. The four storied minars are ornamented with ring formations in the shape of delicate flower petals. Since there are no official documents or inscriptions about Charminar, not much is known about the date of its foundation or the reason behind it. However, there are a number of theories abound.

An excellent example of Islamic architecture, the structure is made up of pulverized marbles, granites, mortar and limestone. There are 45 praying spaces but the best one is the rooftop mosque at the western end of the structure. As the sound of the city dwindles down, as serenity starts surrounding you, you will feel like heaven itself is blessing you. There are 149 winding steps that lead up to the rooftop. Take a break and stand on the balcony of the first floor and feast your eyes on the hustle and
bustle of the busy Laad Bazaar down below. Don’t miss out on this one. A visit to Hyderabad doesn’t count if you haven’t seen the Charminar.

Where To Eat
5 Places

1 City View, Paradigm Sarovar Portico

Subhash Road, Kakinada - 533001,
+91-884 2302-333,51

City View is a multi cuisine restaurant in the 3-star Paradigm Sarovar Portico hotel, Kakinada. It serves multi-cuisine specialities and also offers panoramic view to the guests. They also lay buffets or guests can order a-la-carte and go with their own preferences.

2 E2 Multicuisine Restaurant

+91-9248722779, 9441710286

The Multi cuisine restaurant serves you with the best quality Indian and Chinese cuisine along with Pizzas, Cakes, Pastries, Natural fruit juices & soft drinks to go along with. The staff is very friendly and the service is quick. The large television LCD screen lets you enjoy your favourite match or serial along with delicious food!

3 Shree Shyam Nivas

2-2-57/4 , Pan - Bazar | Near Gujrati Jain Temple, M.G. Road, Secunderabad, Andhra Pradesh, India
+91-92463-77785

A great place for vegetarians, Shree Shyam Nivas is the perfect place for a nice, relaxed evening. The restaurant takes pride in its quick and efficient service, gracious staff and not to forget, the lip-smacking vegetarian spread! The soothing ambience and clean environs are the cherry on top! The restaurant is famous for its 5 different kinds of rotis--Misi, Jowar, Khoba, Bajra and Phulka. The speciality of this place lies in its home-style food, served with warm smiles! Top off your meal with a sweet treat of shrikhand and rasgulla. So if you are craving some nice, home-style Marwari/Gujarati cuisine in the city, you know where to head!

4 Southern Spice

40-6-22/2, Hotel Fortune Muralipark Road, Opp. Revenue Colony Park, Beside BSNL Office, Acharya Ranga Nagar, Benz Circle Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh 520010, India
+91-866-665555

The menu at Southern Spice boasts of lip-smacking dishes like Hyderabad Biryani, Chicken Tikka, Gongura Mutton among others.

5 Reddy Dhaba

NH 7, Bangalore Hyderabad Highway, Old Town, Near Meghana Bar, Kurnool, Andhra Pradesh 518003, India
+91-73869-08886