



From left:
A business
meeting in
progress; the
boardroom
at Novotel
Visakhapatnam
Varun Beach.

OFFICIAL MATTERS

Andhra Pradesh has chic hotels that are equipped with modern facilities to take your business to new heights.



VISAKHAPATNAM

Vizag, with two ports, an international airport and a well laid-out railway network, is the largest commercial hub of Sunrise Andhra Pradesh. Heralded as the 'city of the future', it has the potential to become a complete finance, business, cinema and tourism hotspot. Realising this potential, many hotel companies have set up properties that cater to business travellers.

Novotel Visakhapatnam Varun Beach, The Park, Four Points by Sheraton, the Gateway Hotel Beach Hotel, Welcomhotel Grand Bay, and Sunray Village Resort have luxuriously done-up properties with modern facilities for a smooth day of work. These hotels are well-located, have plush rooms and suites with ergonomic work areas and internet access, and

big conference rooms. You may go to their restaurants for meetings over delectable food. Stay at The Park for its modern facilities and attractions like a jogging track, a tennis court, an outdoor chessboard and a luxury spa.

You can begin your day at the East Point Golf Club, Mudasarlova, or go for a walk on the serene beaches with golden sands. Perfect for an offsite, Haritha Valley Resort, Araku, has a conference hall, a swimming pool, gym, indoor game facilities and a restaurant. Go for advance booking, as it is one of the best-selling resorts of Andhra Pradesh Tourism Development Corporation (APTDC).

VIJAYAWADA

Located near the state capital of Amaravati, Vijayawada is an important

centre of state administration and political action in Andhra Pradesh. The city has a range of commercial hotels, homestays, and APTDC resorts to serve all sections of business travellers.

The Gateway Hotel on MG Road has 108 luxe rooms and a conference room. High-speed internet and wi-fi are available throughout the hotel. The Metropolitan, a budget hotel, also offers free internet access, and breakfast service to its patrons. APTDC's resorts, Berm Park and Bhavani Island, have dedicated conference halls, restaurants and bars, in addition to a boating facility for you to unwind after an action-packed day.

KAKINADA

The district headquarters of East Godavari, Kakinada is another

SHUTTERSTOCK

Clockwise: Food at Marasa Sarovar Premiere; the outdoor chess board at The Park, Visakhapatnam; the gym at Minerva Grand Tirupati; The Gateway Hotel, Visakhapatnam.



important centre of Andhra Pradesh. It has modern hotels close to the central business district that cater to upscale business and leisure travellers.

GRT Kakinada has five room categories suited to each traveller's needs, two dining outlets, two banquet halls, a fully equipped gym, outdoor pool on level four, and a spa.

Paradigm Sarovar Portico, an eight-minute walk from Kakinada Port railway station and 15 kilometres from the beautiful birds and mangroves of Coringa Wildlife Sanctuary, has rooms with free wi-fi, flat-screen TVs and safes, minibars and tea and coffeemaking facilities. There are plush suites with facilities that will ensure you are well taken care of to crack that all-important business deal.

The prime APTDC resort in the area, Haritha Beach Resort, Kakinada,

has a conference hall to accommodate 30 people and a restaurant.

TIRUPATI

The temple city brings Chittoor the distinction of drawing the maximum tourist footfalls in Andhra Pradesh. Tirupati is where tourism meets business, and so has hotels that serve both needs. A laid-back modern hotel, Fortune Select Grand Ridge is 27 kilometres from the Lord Venkateswara Temple. Offering views of the countryside and mountains, it has contemporary rooms with free wi-fi, safes, and minibars. There's a vegetarian restaurant, a coffee shop and a bar, in addition to an exercise room, an outdoor pool and a spa with a sauna.

Marasa Sarovar Premiere has 121 aesthetically designed rooms that pamper you with a host of services.

A meal in its central open courtyard with the lotus restaurant will help you cool off after a hectic day at the business centre. Another centrally located business hotel in the temple city is Minerva Grand Tirupati.

APTDC's Haritha Hotel at Sri Kalahasti also hosts business travellers. It has a restaurant and a conference hall, and room facilities to make sure you're prepped for meetings. The Haritha Hill Resort at Horsley Hills has a conference hall, a swimming pool, a restaurant and a bar. It is probably one of the few government properties in the country that offers accommodation which gives the private sector a run for its money. ■

—Jyoti Verma





**MARASA SAROVAR
PREMIERE
₹14,499
LEISURE PACKAGE**

**2-Day
TOUR**

The daily tour covers Tirumala and Tiruchanur. It begins at 9 p.m. and culminates at 7 p.m. the next day. It includes non-air-conditioned stay, Seegra Darshan, and an air-conditioned coach. On Sundays to Thursdays, it costs ₹1,800 for adults and ₹1,500 for children. On Fridays and Saturdays, the rates are ₹2,225 and ₹1,925, respectively.

MARASA SAROVAR PREMIERE, TIRUPATI

**2-Night
TOUR**

The Leisure Package of the hotel is for ₹14,499 (single/double occupancy). It includes breakfast and dinner at Lotus Café, airport transfer from/to Renigunta or to railway station, half-day tour to Padmavaty and Apalagunta temples, a welcome drink, 20 percent discount on food and soft beverages, 15 percent discount at the spa and all applicable taxes. The package is till June 30, 2018. sarovarhotels.com ■

Contact Andhra Pradesh Tourism at aptourism.gov.in, aptdc.gov.in, 180042545454 (toll free number)



**APTDC RESORT
₹2,450
MADURAI-TIRUMALA**



Facing page: The road journey to Tirumala.
Clockwise: Marasa Sarovar Premiere, Tirupati; the idol of Lord Venkateswara; Haritha Resort, Sri Kalahasti.

SUMMER PACKAGES FOR PILGRIMS

Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation Limited is running Bharat Darshan tour packages for pilgrims these summer holidays. The special tours, Nava Jyotirlinga (12 days), Ganga Yamuna (12 days) and Dakshina Bharat (nine days) *yatras*, will run between April 3 and May 4. Among the many religious places covered are Andhra Pradesh's Tirupati and Sri Kalahasti temples. Devotees will be provided accommodation on multi-sharing basis, refreshments, breakfast, lunch, dinner, water, a tour escort and complete security on the train. The packages, in sleeper class and AC coach, are from ₹8,505 to ₹15,540. irctctourism.com.

SHUTTERSTOCK: CLETUS REBILLO