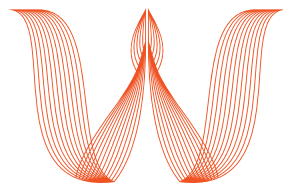


SERVICE DIRECTORY

About Guntur



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GUNTUR

ABOUT GUNTUR

LOCATION

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| Latitude | : 16°30'N |
| Longitude | : 80°43'E |
| Altitude | : 31.89 meter/ 104.6 feet above mean sea level |
| Population | : 7.43 Lakhs (In 2011) |
| Weather | : Tropical Climate, Average Annual Temperature is 28.5°C |

Inhabited since at least the 10th Century, Guntur, earlier referred to as Garthapuri or Guntlapuri, is well known for being the third-largest city in Andhra Pradesh. Once ruled by the French, Nizams of Hyderabad, and the British, Guntur is famous for many ancient temples and historical Buddhist sites.

For centuries, Guntur has captured the imagination of millions for its historical significance and clusters of temples like Amararama, Kakani Malleswara Temple, Lakshmi Narasimha Temple, etc. Scores of ancient Buddhist Stupas have been excavated in the villages in the Guntur region, unearthing its rich historical past.

This is the place where Gautam Buddha preached and performed Kalachakra ceremonies, where the famous battle of Palanadu took place in the southwestern region of Guntur in 1180CE.

Famously known for its 'Guntur Chilli', the city hosts the largest chili yard in Asia. Today the city is a major trading hub for the abundant agricultural produce in the surrounding region.

LOCAL ATTRACTIONS

Uppalapada Bird Sanctuary

Location: Uppalapada, Guntur District

Distance from Hotel: 12 km

Timing: 9:30 AM to 6:00 PM

Catch a glimpse of the Painted Storks, Spot-billed Pelicans, and other birds that migrate to Guntur from various countries such as Serbia and Austria between the months of September and February. There are around 40 species of migratory birds at the sanctuary like the White Ibis, Black Headed Ibis, Common Teal, Pintail Duck & Jungle Crow.

Kondaveedu Fort

Location: Chiakaluripet, Guntur District

Distance from Hotel: 29 km

Timing: 6:00 AM to 5:30 PM

The ancient fort is said to have been established in 1115 CE and had been the ruling ground of many including Emperor Krishnadevaraya, Golkonda Nizams, French, and the British. The fort has been constructed on a high ridge with an average elevation of 1500 feet in Hindu and Muslim Architectural styles.

Mangalagiri

Location: Mangalagiri, Guntur District

Distance from Hotel: 27 km

Timing:

Sri Pankala Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy Temple (Up Hill) 7:00 AM to 3:30 PM

Sri Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy Temple (Down Hill) 5:00 AM to 8:30 PM

Mangalagiri—which literally translates to 'Auspicious Hill' in Sanskrit—has been standing tall since 225 B.C. Derived from its ancient name Thotadrilt, it is synonymous with gorgeous cotton sari and dress material. Here's where lie three Narasimha Swamy temples - Panakala Naraswamy Temple (on the hill), Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy Temple at the foot of the Hill, and the Gandala Narasimha Swamy temple at the top of the hill.

Pedakakani Malleswara Swamy Temple

Location: Pedakakani, Guntur District

Distance from hotel: 12 km

Timing: 6:00 AM to 1:00 PM and 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM

Installed first by Adi Shankaracharya, Pedakakani Sri Bramarambha Malleswara Swamy Temple is one of the most notable Shiva Temples. Having stood the test of time for almost 1000 years, the temple was later renovated during the rule of Vijayanagara King Krishnadevaraya. The temple is famous among devotees for Rahu Ketu Pujas that are performed every day during the Rahukalam period. The Temple has a well on the eastern side and it is believed that Rishi Bharadhwaja brought water from all the holy rivers and poured it into this well.

Undavalli Caves

Location: Undavalli, Guntur District

Distance from hotel: 38 km

Timing: 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM

The pillared halls in the caves carry Buddhist and Jain stories with sculptures dedicated to the Hindu Trinity of Brahma, Vishnu, and Maheshwara, a prime testimony of rock-cut Gupta architecture. It concentrates on primitive rock-cut monastery cells carved out of Sandstone from the Northern slope of a hill and has three levels. The earliest caves on this cave complex date back to around the 6th century CE. Amongst the many caves, the largest is the one that is popular for a huge monolith idol of the principal deity 'Anantasayana Vishnu'—Vishnu in a reclining position.

Suryalanka Beach

Location: Suryalanka, Bapatla, Guntur District

Distance from hotel: 66 km

Timing: 5:00 AM to 5:00 PM

Here's a beach that looks at the Bay of Bengal in the Guntur district of Andhra Pradesh. The Suryalanka Beach is the perfect getaway beach for friends and families. The natural beauty of the beach invites anyone looking to refresh and rejuvenate themselves. The beach is wide and spacious with the clear water of the Bay of Bengal, making it a perfect location for swimming and sunbathing, without feeling squeezed.

Amaravathi

Location: Amaravathi, Guntur District

Distance from Hotel: 34 km

Timing:

Amaralingaeswara Swami Temple: 6:00 AM to 12:00 PM and 4:00 PM to 8:00 PM

Mahachaitya Amamaravathi: 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM

Archeological Museum: 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM (Friday Closed)

Amaravathi is synonymous with the Amaravathi Amaralingaeswara Swami temple, which is also known locally as Amaralingeswara Swamy or Amaraeswara or Amararama. Dedicated to Lord Shiva, the temple is one of the Panchakarma Kshetras located on a hammock 'Krouncha Shaila'. It is believed to have been installed by Lord Indra himself. The Temple has Chamundeswari Devi the consort of Lord Shiva and is one of the Shakti -Peethas.

Amaravathi, earlier called Dhanyakataka/Dharanikota, records history dating back to the Mauryan Empire, as

mentioned in Emperor Ashoka's thirteenth rock edict which speaks about this particular Mahachaitya's existence. One doesn't have to try too hard to spot the Dhyana Buddha statue in Amaravathi that stands tall at 125 feet high and rests on eight pillars, representing the eight-fold path of Buddhism.

One can also quench their thirst for the region's history at the Amaravati Archeological Museum that has many archeological and historical artifacts collected from various sites like the model of Amaravathi Mahachaitya, numerous other Idols, Buddhist artifacts, stone carvings, tools, and crockery & cutlery.

Chebrole

Location: Chebrolu, Guntur District

Distance from Hotel: 19 km

Timing:

Nageswara Swamy Temple: 7:00 AM to 3:30 PM

Chaturmukha Brahma Lingeswara Temple: 7:00 AM to 5:00 PM

The folklore at Chebrole tells us stories of many temples which once studded the area. Even now, one can see temples in almost every direction. There are many popular temples here—like Nageswara Alayam which is dedicated to Lord Shiva, surrounded by other temples dedicated to Lord Hanuman, Puttaparthi Sai Baba, and Ranganatha Swamy.

Another notable site at Chebrole is the Brahmeswara Alayam or Chaturmukha Brahma Devalayam, which is one of India's rarest temples dedicated to Lord Brahma and is located in the middle of a pond. The Temple was built on the Kakatiyan style of Architecture, rare in this region of Andhra Pradesh.

Nagarjunasagar Dam

Location: Nagarjunakonda, Vijayapuri South, Guntur District

Distance from Hotel: 148 km

Timing: 9:00 AM to 9:00 PM

When constructed, the Nagarjuna Sagar Dam was the largest masonry dam in the world. It still is one of the largest reservoirs in India and the largest dam in India in terms of length (1,550 meters). Built across the Krishna River at Nagarjuna Sagar, the dam is on either side of two adjacent states—Guntur district, Andhra Pradesh, and Nalgonda District, Telangana. The dam takes its name from Buddhist Saint and scholar Acharya Nagarjuna who is said to have set up a center of learning.

Ettipothala Waterfalls

Location: Nagarjuna Falls

Distance from Hotel: 136 km

Timing: 6:00 AM to 11:45 AM and 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM

In Telugu 'Eththi' and 'Potha' which means Lift & Pour and is believed to be derived from the Sanskrit word 'Etitaposthal', meaning the place of Penance. Ethipothala is formed by three mountain streams that combine to form this waterfall streams which falls from a height of approximately 70 feet into a lagoon and later joins Krishna River. There is a Crocodile breeding center at the pond formed by a waterfall. There are two temples at the foot of the waterfall, dedicated to Ranganadha Swami and Dattatreya Swami. Visitors have to get down a few steps to visit these temples. Adjacent to the waterfall, there is a group of caves that are believed to extend till Srisailam. Ethipothala is also popular for mild trekking and camping.

Macherla

Location: Macherla, Guntur District

Distance from Hotel: 125 km

Timing: 6:00 AM to 8:00 PM

Previously known as Mahadeva Cherla, Macherla is a popular picnic spot. The Chennakesava Swamy temple, also known as Lakshmi Chennakesava Swamy temple was built here during the reign of the Haihaya Kings.

Durgi

Location: Durgi Village, Guntur District

Distance from Hotel: 104 km

The stonecraft in the village dates back to 15th century. The ancient skill which produced masterpieces of art and sculpture seen at Nagarjunakonda museum continues to be practiced and taught at Durgi.

The artisans were moved down to this place when Nagarjunasagar Irrigation Project Reservoir inundated their traditional dwellings. Today, these artisans continue to follow the traditional methods and styles passing the knowledge and craft to the next generations and thus helping in keeping the art form alive.

Karempudi

Location: Karempudi Village, Guntur District

Distance from Hotel: 84 km

Here's a place that reminisces the battle of Palanadu or Palnati Yudham, fought between factions of the Kalachuris or Haihayas, that was immortalized in Telugu literature by the poet Srinatha in his 'Palnati Vira Charita'. You can see the weapons used during the Palnadu war that have been carefully preserved here. An annual festival to commemorate the memories of the heroes of that war attracts visitors from all over the region.

Bapatla

Location: Bapatla, Guntur District

Distance from Hotel: 56 km

Formerly known as Bhavapattana, Bhavapuri, Bhavapattu, and Bhavapatta, this town has boasted names of various names derived from the Bhavanarayana Swami Temple situated here. With time all these names got to the present name 'Bapatla.' This temple here was constructed in 1465 by a Chola king named Krimikantha Chola. It also has the Edward Coronation Memorial Town Hall, which was built in 1905 for the Coronation of Edward VII, Emperor of colonial India. The Centenary Baptist Zion Church is also situated here.

CUISINE

The staple in the region, as in the rest of the state is rice eaten with seasonal and locally grown vegetables accompanied with Pappu (lentils) or otherwise enjoyed with the various Podis (coarse spice powder) topped with generous helpings of ghee. The locals also enjoy Biryanis, Pulusu, and Koorra (spicy curries), both with meat and vegetables. The local pickles are a must-have for all to carry back memories of the region.

FESTIVALS

Guntur celebrates many festivals, out of which the important ones are Diwali, Sankranthi, and Shiva Ratri along with Christmas and Eid.