

[FINAL] TEAM [] - A journey across Andhra Pradesh

This document can be accessed at <https://countrystudy.vercel.app>

Compèring

Join team [] on an exhilarating adventure through the enchanting landscapes and rich cultural heritage of Andhra Pradesh in a carefully crafted five-day journey. The team promises an unforgettable experience at every turn.

Day 1: Discovering vibrant Visakhapatnam

12:00 Noon

It's noon and we have arrived at the **Visakhapatnam International Airport** from Coimbatore. Upon landing in the heart of Andhra Pradesh, let's devour an extravagant lunch at the **Horizon Restaurant**.

2:00 PM

We are at the **Simhachalam Temple**, which stands as a sacred abode dedicated to Lord Narasimha, which showcases Kalingan architecture and has a history spanning over 1000 years. It's a revered sanctuary of spiritual significance.

3:30 PM

Our next stop is **Kailasagiri**, which offers stunning views of the Bay of Bengal and the Eastern Ghats, with impressive statues of Lord Shiva and Goddess Parvati. The park provides tranquil spaces for meditation, along with recreational activities.

5:30 PM

We are exploring the **TU 142 Aircraft Museum**, an aircraft which served for 29 years with the Indian Navy, with 30,000 hours of flying time at the time of its retirement on 29 March 2017.

6:00 PM

Similar to the aircraft museum, let's step aboard a real submarine at the **Indian Navy Ship Kursura Submarine Museum**. The INS Kursura, India's fourth submarine, built by the Russians in 1969, served the Indian Navy for 31 years, before being converted into a museum in 2001.

7:30 PM

As dusk settles in, let's relax by taking a leisurely stroll along the sands of the **Ramakrishna Beach**, where we can witness a stunning sunset over the Bay of Bengal.

8:30 PM

As night falls, it's time to check-in at a nearby hotel, ideally the beach-side **Novotel Hotels**, and savour delicious Andhra Pradesh cuisine to round off the day.

[DAY 2 - SCRAPPED; NOT PRESENTED!]

Day 2: Journey to the Enchanting Araku Valley

By 8:30 AM, let's check-out, bid goodbye to Vizag and embark on a scenic drive to the picturesque **Araku Valley**, nestled amidst the Eastern Ghats. We shall savour a delightful meal, like the famous Bamboo Chicken, en route to Araku Valley.

It is 1:30 PM and we are at **Borra Caves**. Here we can discover this mystical underground world, adorned with magnificent stalactite and stalagmite formations and delve into legends and folklore surrounding these ancient caverns.

At 4:00 PM, we're at **Padmapuram Gardens**, where serene ambiance, lush greenery, gushing streams, and quaint cottages invite us to escape into nature's embrace and unwind in this tranquil oasis.

At 6:00 PM, we explore **Araku Valley's Tribal Museum**, discovering indigenous art, crafts, and traditions. In the **Coffee Museum** we take a sensory journey through its famed plantations. Let's savour a cup of freshly brewed Araku Valley coffee, celebrated for its flavour and aroma.

By 8:00 PM, let's retreat to the comforts of a hotel, with our suggestion being the **Haritha Hill Resort**, nestled amidst verdant hills and valleys.

Day 3: Discovering Rajahmundry

7:00 AM

By dawn, let's check-out and depart to **Rajahmundry**, embarking on a 6-hour drive. Let's savour local cuisine, at eateries along the way, as we journey through remarkable landscapes.

3:00 PM

We have now arrived at **Dowleswaram Barrage**, an engineering marvel spanning the Godavari River. Built by British engineer Sir Arthur Thomas Cotton, it serves crucial roles in irrigation, water regulation and distribution, flood prevention, and hydroelectric power generation and many other agricultural purposes.

5:00 PM

Next, we are heading to the sacred precincts of **Sri Umakoti Lingeswara Swamy Sri Sitarama Swamy Temple**, a revered Hindu shrine dedicated to Lord Shiva. This temple, built in the 10th century by the Chalukyas, features traditional South Indian architecture with intricate carvings and detailed sculptures showcasing the region's cultural heritage.

7:00 PM

Let's indulge in an authentic culinary delight at a nearby restaurant, with our suggestion being **SriKanya Inn**.

8:00 PM

At nightfall, let's **depart to Vijayawada**, embarking on a 3 hour drive. Around midnight, let's relax in the luxurious comforts of a hotel, with our suggestion again, being the **Novotel hotels** at Vijayawada.

Day 4: Exploring the bustling city of Vijayawada

11:00 AM

We're on our way to the **Undavalli Cave Temple** to explore its ancient rock-cut marvels, and its intricate carvings and sculptures dedicated to Lord Vishnu. These caves showcase a blend of Hindu and Buddhist architectural styles, highlighting the religious harmony and cultural diversity of the era.

1:00 PM

After exploring the caves, we'll be ravenous! Time to treat our taste buds to a delight, at a nearby restaurant like the **Rusted Spoon restaurant**.

1:45 PM

We have now arrived at the **Moghalrajpuram Caves**, an ancient rock-cut cave temple complex dedicated to Lord Shiva. Dating back to the 7th century, these caves feature remarkable carvings and sculptures, depicting various Hindu deities and mythological scenes.

3:00 PM

Let's go back to exploring the surface, heading to **Bhavani Island**, one of the largest river islands, situated amidst the Krishna River. Let's relax amidst the scenic beauty of this island, which offers an array of recreational activities like boating, water sports, etc. amidst nature's embrace.

4:30 PM

After enjoying the caves of Vijayawada, let's embark on an epic 7-hour journey on road **to Sriharikota**, the space port of India. Enjoy the scenic views of the Eastern Ghats, savouring a delectable dinner on route to Sriharikota.

We shall check-in at a hotel around midnight, with our pick being **Smart City park Inn**.

Day 5: Exploring Sriharikota

8:00 AM

Around morning, let's start the day with a hearty breakfast, fueling up for a day filled with exploration and adventure.

9:30 AM

Let's head to the first place of the day, the **ISRO Launch View Gallery**, witnessing a rocket launch. After witnessing a rocket launch, let's immerse ourselves in the fascinating world of space exploration at the **ISRO Space Museum**, which features interactive exhibits, models of satellites, and artefacts highlighting India's achievements in space science.

12:30 PM

Let's birdwatch at the serene environment of the **Pulicat Bird Sanctuary**, a haven for avian enthusiasts. In this 750 sq.km of land, you can find birds like greater flamingos, pelicans, storks, herons, terns, etc. in their natural habitat, surrounded by the tranquil beauty of the region.

Around afternoon, let's relish an appetising **lunch** at the hotel before bidding bye to Sriharikota after check-out, and setting off to Tirupati. At Tirupati, let's check-in at a nearby hotel, like **Taj Tirupati**.

Day 6: Divine Encounters in Tirupati

6:00 AM

Let's start our day with a traditional South Indian breakfast at the hotel, energising ourselves for a day of spiritual exploration.

6:30 AM

Let's embark on a spiritual sojourn to the sacred precincts of **Sri Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams**, seeking the blessings of Lord Venkateswara and partake in the divine darshan to receive the patented Tirupati Laddu as a token of divine grace.

Let's relish a scrumptious lunch, before continuing our exploration of Tirupati's cultural treasures. We suggest tasting the famous Tirupati Pulihora.

2:00 PM

Post lunch, let's delve into the rich history and mythology of Tirumala at the **SRI VENKATESWARA MUSEUM**, showcasing artefacts, sculptures, and relics associated with the temple's legacy.

4:00 PM

Let's conclude our journey with a visit to the last stop of this itinerary, the **Kapila Theertham Waterfalls and temple**, a tranquil oasis nestled amidst the verdant hills of Tirupati. Let's seek solace in the rhythmic cascade of water and offer prayers at this ancient temple.

Some famous or popular foods in Andhra Pradesh include the Hyderabadi Biryani, Gongura Pickle, Pesarattu, Ulavacharu, Pootharekulu, and many other rich, flavourful dishes that you must taste!

If you all wish to get access to the scripts, itinerary, the Google Maps route and the presentation slides, you can access this website ([point to the presentation](#)). You can also access ISRO's recently launched virtual space museum called SPARK using this link.

Thank you!