CHAPTER - V

NATURAL HERITAGE OF ANDHRA PRADESH

“We live in a wonderful world that is full of beauty, charm and adventure. There is no end to the adventures we can have if only we seek them with our eyes open”.

- Jawaharlal Nehru

Nature Tourism, often referred to as Eco-tourism, or Natural Heritage was introduced to tourism in India on a large scale since the early 1980s. Ecotourism was initially connected with outdoor travel to remote, unique, and/or scenic areas. Though early Ecotourism involved an educational aspect, this was not the crucial or required element to the consumer. However, as the demand for Ecotourism has increased, the inclusion of educational elements has become increasingly important.

Expressing ideals of the pluralistic heritage of India, Jawaharlal Nehru pronounced as follows:

“Every flower has the right to grow according to its own laws of growth; .....
... to spread its own fragrance, to make up the cumulative beauty and splendour of the garden. I would not like to change my roses into lilies nor
my lilies into roses. Nor do I want to sacrifice my lovely orchids for
rhododendrons of the hills”.1

Ecotourism in Andhra Pradesh is a niche concept that has mainly developed in the past few years. Ecotourism is largely based on the concept of sustained tourism. It has often been the case with the tourist destinations in Andhra Pradesh where the ecological balance of a fragile area has degraded drastically due to the pressure of tourism. Hence, the State is trying to promote tourism in a manner in which it generates considerable revenue without disturbing the delicate ecosystem in the region.2
Forms of Nature Based Tourism

There are various forms of ecotourism in Andhra Pradesh that attract an increasing number of tourists each year. Some of the most prominent forms include Wildlife tourism, Agro tourism, and Village tourism. Of these, wildlife tourism is emerging as one of the most popular forms of ecotourism. The nature-based tourism is one of the fastest growing sectors within the Tourism.

3S Tourism

Three S (3S) tourism - (SUN, SAND and SEA) - is the largest, most conventional and in some quarters perceived as the most controversial manifestation of nature-based tourism. Largely a phenomenon of the latter half of the twentieth century, 3S tourism is closely associated with the emergence of a leisure-dominated 'pleasure periphery' occupying a significant portion of world tourism.

Health Tourism

Nature-based health tourism, as a discrete sub-sector, is most closely associated with spas and other facilities that rely on a supply of purportedly therapeutic and rejuvenating Ayurvedic/yoga treatment. Such forms of health tourism enjoyed a prominent status in global tourism prior to the Second World War, but declined in importance with the emergence of relatively inexpensive 3S alternatives. Ironically, 3S tourism itself originated as a salt-water oriented variation of the spa phenomenon.

Adventure Tourism

The talk of different seasons for tourism just cannot afford to overlook the need for promoting adventure—be it inbound or outbound. Adventure tourism has its own niche and is the fastest growing sector of Tourism slowly becoming a trend worldwide.
Three elements distinguish adventure tourism from other types of nature-based tourism. First, adventure tourism, as implied by the name, contains an element of risk. Second, a certain amount of skill is generally required to carry out the activity in a way that does not endanger the life and safety of the participant. Third, adventure tourism often involves higher levels of physical exertion. Adventure tourism is usually, although not exclusively, associated with natural environments. Related activities include white-water rafting, skydiving, wilderness hiking, sea-kayaking, and mountain climbing, diving, caving, camping and mountaineering. In all of these pursuits, the natural environment offers a venue that provides a suitable level of challenge to the participants, thus allowing them to achieve the desired level of thrill or excitement. Thus, the relationship with the natural environment can range from incidental to dependent, depending on the type of activity pursued. One common way of classifying adventure tourism, aside from the specific activities pursued, is along a continuum from 'soft' to 'hard' adventure, wherein the levels of risk, skill and exertion increase from minimum to maximum levels.

Eco-Tourism

Ecotourism is “Responsible travel to natural areas that conserves the environment and improves the well-being of local people”. In the literature of the 1980s and early 1990s, there was a tendency to equate ecotourism with 'nature-based tourism' and even 'adventure tourism'. While there is still no consensus on the precise definition of ecotourism, a review of the relevant literature revealed three core characteristics that are usually associated with this type of tourism. These are relation to the natural environment, educational/appreciative motives and sustainability.

Relation to the Natural Environment

The primary attraction in ecotourism is founded on the natural environment, or some constituent element thereof - hence the strong affiliation with nature-based tourism, and with the nature-dependent component in particular. Some definitions of ecotourism
associated cultural attributes as a secondary basis of attraction, and this is a logical addition given to most so-called 'natural' landscapes have been impacted to a greater or lesser extent by human activity e.g., Andaman Tribes and Bonda tribes. A corollary to the nature-based link is that ecotourism is commonly associated in the literature with protected areas and other relatively undisturbed 'natural environments'. These, without doubt, offer a high-quality venue for accessing wildlife and other natural attractions. The implications of this observation are not merely academic, since the ability to extend the range of ecotourism into significantly modified environments could help to ease the pressure that this rapidly growing sector is placing upon the declining pool of relatively undisturbed space.ū

Andhra Pradesh is endowed with a rich and varied Bio-diversity distributed over a mosaic of different habitats spread over the Eastern Ghats, the Deccan Plateau Region, the Coastal Mangroves, the Fresh Water bodies like Kolleru and Brackish water bodies like the Pulicat and the grasslands of Rollapadu. These varied habitats have been supporting a variety of animal and plant species ranging from the Tiger, Gaur, Elephant, Black Buck and a variety of Deer and Antelopes, besides a variety of birds, including the Great Indian Bustard, the Spot bill Pelican, the Lesser Florican and the near extinct Jerdon’s Courser. In addition to the above faunal species, the forests of Andhra Pradesh support about 5000 plant species consisting of species like Teak, Rosewood, Sandalwood, and the endemic Red Sanders and Cycas beddomeii, etc. Nature based Tourism is ideally ensures-“A responsible travel to natural areas, which conserves the environment and improve the welfare of the local people”. The primary objective of the Nature based Tourism is to showcase the natural resource to different segments of the society, for viewing the nature and the natural processes for educational, recreational values and to propagate the message of environmental conservation.

To attract both domestic and foreign tourist’s adequate infrastructure for accommodation, food and transport facilities in the Forest areas, Sanctuary areas, Botanical and zoological gardens were created. The main activities involved in Nature-based Tourism are non-consumptive like Bird watching, Trekking, Nature trails, River
rafting and more importantly mere watching of the scenic beauty of the Hills, Valleys, Meadows, Water bodies and the natural processes and learn to live in Nature. Eco-tourism also preaches the understanding and respecting various cultures and customs of people living in the area.9

**Eastern Ghats**

Eastern Ghats are discontinuous mountain ranges located along the eastern coastline of Indian Peninsula bordering the Bay of Bengal. These mountain ranges extend from the deltaic parts of the Mahanadi River in Orissa right down to Tamil Nadu in the south and also partially in Karnataka, running through a total distance is 1448 km.11 The average elevation of the Eastern Ghats is around 2,000 feet. (Plate 56) Another steeper mountain system runs along the western coastline, which is known the Western Ghats. The Deccan Plateau lying at the centre of the peninsula separates the two ranges.12 The Eastern Ghats have their own local names, like the Palakonda Range in Andhra Pradesh. The Eastern Ghats cover an area of 75,000 square kilometers. The Eastern Ghats have rich soil but the hydropower generation here is not as noteworthy as that in the Western Ghats.

Some of the peaks of the Eastern Ghats13 are: Deomali Parvat, Mahendragiri, Malayagiri, Devagiri, Chandragiri, Turiakonda, Dharakonda, Hatimali, Sambari Konda, Nallamala, Mettur, Shevaroy, Kalrayan, Pachamalai hills and others. At the centre of the Ghats, there lie two parallel ranges, namely, the lower Velikonda Range to the east and the higher Palikonda-Lankamalla-Nallamala Ranges to the west. The Velikonda Range ultimately descends to the coastal plain in northern Nellore district, while the Nallamala Range continues further towards the River Krishna. A range of low hills lie between the Krishna and Godavari, while to the north of the Godavari the Eastern Ghats rise again, forming the boundary between Andhra Pradesh and Orissa.14

The Eastern Ghats,15 which are older than the Western Ghats, had their origin related to the assembly of the ancient Gondwana super continent. The Eastern Ghats are
lesser in height in comparison to the Western Ghats. The Eastern Ghats are watershed of many rivers and get more rainfall, which makes the soil cover here to be fertile to ensure higher crop yields. They also provide excellent fishing opportunities. Eastern Ghats is home to a great variety of animals including Asiatic elephants, leopards, Nilgiri tahr, sambar, gaur and tigers.\textsuperscript{16}

**Tribal inhabitants of the Eastern Ghats\textsuperscript{17}**

A number of tribes like the Savara, Jatapu, Konda Dora, Gadaba, Khond, Manne Dora and Mukha Dora live in the Eastern Ghats areas who live in their habitat would express the diversity of living in Andhra Pradesh.\textsuperscript{18} This diverse life in curious and interesting to learn is a curiosity of tourists.

**Rock Heritage of Andhra Pradesh**

Andhra Pradesh is endowed with spectacular rocky formations, which at many places, are simply awe-inspiring. They are indeed a natural wonder of stony ridges and hillocks shaped into picturesque balancing forms through millions of years of weathering and wearing. The Deccan Plateau,\textsuperscript{19} that is the vast expanse of peninsular India, south of the Vindhyas and composed mostly of grey granite, is among the oldest and hardest rock formations in the world.\textsuperscript{20}

Geologists date these rocks to a period 2,500 million years ago.\textsuperscript{21} That is the time when the earth’s crust solidified. Molten magma then pushed upwards from the interior and hardened under the crust into domes and sheets of granite. Then horizontal and vertical cracks developed and slowly the top layers of the crust eroded and these very hard granites were exposed. They weathered over millions of years into their present forms - resulting in the bizarre, awe-inspiring, wonder-striking and almost man-made-kind-of formations (Plate 57).
Natural Arch in Tirumala hills, Chittoor District

Natural Arch in Tirumala hills, Chittoor District, Andhra Pradesh is one such unique geological marvel in the country measuring 8 meters in width and 3 meters in height. This *Silathoranam* is located near the Chakratheertham. It has been carved out of quartzite of Cuddapah Super group of Middle to Upper Proterozoic (1,600 to 570 million years) by collective action of weathering agents like water and wind over a long period of several thousands of years. (Plate 58) Eparchaean Unconformity, Tirumala hills, Andhra Pradesh separates the Proterozoic Nagari Quartzite from the oldest Archaean granite representing a time gap of over 800 million years. The unconformity is supposed to be a period of remarkable quiescence without much structural disturbance and igneous activity in the history of earth.

Armoor Rock Formation

There is a stretch of 10 km with rocks, more rocks and some more rocks all stacked together on the way back to Nizamabad from Pochampad. The rocks are known to have formed over a million years, weathering vagaries of nature. There is nothing much to explore here, but for a keepsake picture. The locals believe that the sages do penance deep inside the caverns and the water, a few kilometers into the rocky terrain, has curative properties.23

Natural Rocks in and around Hyderabad

‘Bear’s Nose’, ‘Mushroom Rock’, ‘Cliff Rock’, ‘Monster Rock’, ‘Tortoise Rock’, ‘Obelisk’, etc., are names that have been given to these natural beauties. These formations can be found in various pockets of the Hyderabad city and beyond, like the Central University Campus, in and around Hi-Tech City and Gachibowli, (Plate 59) Old Bombay Road, near Nandi Hills and Mahindra Hills, close to Durgama Cheruvu, Jubilee Hills and Banjara Hills.24
Geo-tourism is the provision of interpretive and service facilities to enable tourists to acquire knowledge and understanding of the geology and geomorphology of a site beyond the level of mere aesthetic appreciation. An NGO by the name The Society to Save Rocks works to preserve and protect the spectacular ancient granite formations of the Deccan Plateau, India - a natural wonder of stony ridges and hillocks shaped into picturesque balancing forms.

**Nature-based tourism places**

**Papikondalu**

The beauty of the visit to Papikondalu area, the pleasant experience of a traveller in his words-There was a nasty nip in the air and, to add to it, the early winter morning fog hesitated to budge even an inch, not until the sharp sunrays filtered in and did the needful. An all-white template transformed into a slideshow of breathtaking scenery. The rickety auto now caught pace and soon lanky coconut trees, acres of green fields, occasional toddy-toppers, smiling villagers glided past briskly.

Papi Kondalu and the surroundings located near Rajahmundry was a visual treat to the spectators. Even from the launch point at Pattiseema, the river appeared to be narrowing and the hills begin to show. Many tribal communities infuse life in the hills, which are their homes and the source of their livelihood is living of the land by agriculture, fishing and handicraft (Plate 60). The journey from Pattiseema to Papikondalu is dotted with temples and scenic points. There are some tribal areas around Papikondalu. The boat ride takes the visitors to their destination via Polavaram, Devipatnam, Singanapalle, Tekuluru and Koruturu. The Ramakrishna Paramahamsa dhyana mandir and a Siva temple at Perantalapalli, can be visited too. All year round it is a cruising season.

**Nallamala – Farahabad**

This place is located about 26 kms from Mannanur in the deep forest area on the Highway from Hyderabad to Srisailam. Picturesque Nallamala Hills are spread in this
district also. This place comes under Rajiv Gandhi Wildlife Sanctuary which is spread in 3,500 sq. kms and it is a tiger reserve. This area is famous for innumerable flora and fauna and covered with rare medicinal plants. The range of Nallamaila Hills, deep valleys, thick forests, Small Streams, and sacred River Krishna are the main attractions here. One can go trekking and bird watching in the forest. To show all these pleasant spots the Forest Department has established a viewpoint called Farahabad. A special attraction has been created to show the forest from the top edge of a hill. If you see from that point the natural beauty of the forest will give one a lot of pleasure. To attract the Tourists huts have been constructed.

**Thimmamma Marrimanu**

Located about 35 kms from Kadiri, and 100 kms from Anantapur, this is famous as it has a banyan tree, which is locally called “Thimmamma Marrimanu”. It is regarded as the biggest of its kind in South India. Its branches spread over nearly 5 acres. To the pride of India, the "Marrimanu" was recorded as the biggest tree in the Guinness Book of World Records in 1989 (Plate 61).

**Pillalamarri – the Banyan Tree**

The most interesting place to see in Mahaboobnagar town is the famous banyan tree called Pillalamarri, which is about 4 km away. There is a tomb of a Muslim saint under the tree. The tree presents the appearance of a small hillock with green foliage from a distance but on reaching closer, it looks like a large green umbrella under which about a thousand people can easily take shelter. It is a 700 year old banyan tree and its branches extend over an area of 3 acres In Telugu, "Pillalu" means children and “marri” means a banyan tree. There is also an aquarium, a small zoo and an archaeological museum here. There is boating facility in the premises of Pillalamarri available only during the rainy season. Another interesting thing near Pillalamarri is District Archaeological Museum. It consists of numerous historical idols & articles of ancient people, to depict their culture and civilization.
Maredumilli Eco-Tourism

The Maredumilli Eco Tourism Area is situated on Maredumilli - Bhadrachalam road, nearly 4 km from Maredumilli village (Plate 62). Maredumilli Forest Rest House was constructed in the year 1914 the Forest Rest House is in Maredumilli Village with all facilities. The name of the rest house is Abhayaranya Forest Rest House.

Trek Routes:

1. Valamuru to Amrutha Dhara 2 km trek deep upto the waterfall
2. Cross Country Trek - From Tiger camp to Vijjuluru 8 km
3. Adventure Trek - From Valamuru to Nelluru 10 km

The Maredumilli Forests of East Godavari District have rich biodiversity and the area has semi evergreen forests with undulating terrain, which forms part of the Eastern Ghats. The area has many streams flowing over the undulating rocks in the deep woods and any visitor is sure to enjoy a thrilling experience of Nature.

The jungle star camp site is located adjoining the Valamuru river with the stream flowing on 3 sides overlooking the Vali-Sugriva Konda which is believed to be the battleground of the Vali-Sugriva during the Ramayana period. The remarkable variation of the battleground with the presence of grass land, encircled by forests on the other hillocks makes the visitor recall the legendary story.

Massanithippa

Government of Andhra Pradesh started the Eco Tourism Project at Maredumilli, Rampa Agency areas and at Massanithippa coastal area with an intension of letting the people know about the development and protection of forest area. For the development of the Tourism project two fiber boats were made ready by the forest department. For the sake of fishermen living around the coastal area of Massanithippa, the department started
shopping complex for selling dry fish and other catch brought from sea by the fishermen. The department also started road transport facility using mini-vans for the transportation of the sea yield via the road transport.

**Rampa Chodavaram**

The semi-evergreen forests of agency track in East Godavari are blessed with many picturesque spots with perennial waterfalls is full of dense high forests, landscape areas. The forest laws imposed by the British had infringed the rights of the tribal from time to time and they had to fight for their rights on their own, with little or no help from outside. Most of the tribal uprisings were armed uprisings against the British. The Rampa 1922-24 Rebellion under Alluri Sita Rama Raju was fought by the tribal as a protest against the oppressive Madras Forest Act of 1882 and British atrocities on tribals and became a part of the National struggle for freedom by the tribals.

**Kadiapulanka Eco-Garden**

Kadiapulanka Eco-garden is located on the National Highway-5 and 20 km from Rajahmundry in East Godavari District. It is the hub of nurseries of myriad varieties of flowers and fruits. Of late flower festivals are being organized; Kadiam nurseries are spread over a radius of about 10 km comprising the villages of Kadiam, Kadiapulanka, Burrilanka, Veeravaram, Pottilanka, Venkatayammapeta and Damireddipalli. The nurseries in Kadiam are as old as 100 years and at present there are more than 600 nurseries, the extent of each ranging from just 0.5 cents to 200 acres. Nursery products from Kadiapaulanka are exported to every nook and corner of the country. But vast export potential to foreign countries remains largely untapped.

**Sanctuaries**

Wildlife in Andhra Pradesh is the simplest yet the most enticing part of Andhra Pradesh Tourism. Taking a safari through the wildlife sanctuaries, and closely observing
the wildlife in its own habitat gives you a feeling of awe and amazement. Watching the king of the jungle-tiger, and many other endangered species will prove to be once in a lifetime experience and constitute unforgettable dream holiday”. The mission of sanctuaries is generally to provide safe havens, where the animals receive the best care that the sanctuaries can provide. Animals are not bought, sold, or traded, nor are they used for animal testing. The resident animals are given the opportunity to behave as naturally as possible in a protective environment. What distinguishes a sanctuary from other institutions is the philosophy that the residents come first. In a sanctuary, every action is scrutinized for any trace of human benefit at the expense of non-human residents. Sanctuaries act on behalf of the animals, and the caregivers work under the notion that all animals in the sanctuary, human and non-human, are of equal importance.

The Rajiv Gandhi Wildlife Sanctuary

The Nagarjunasagar-Srisailam Sanctuary was notified in 1978 and declared a Tiger Reserve in 1983. The Reserve was renamed as Rajiv Gandhi Wildlife Sanctuary in 1992. The largest of India's Tiger Reserves, Rajiv Reserve (the Nagarjunasagar - Srisailam) Sanctuary lies in Andhra Pradesh. The major attractions of this sanctuary are tiger, leopard, sloth bear and hyena. Rajiv Gandhi Wild life Sanctuary is located in Kurnool, Mahaboobnagar, Guntur, Prakasam, and Nalgonda districts, at a distance of 29-km from Macherla and about 150-km from Hyderabad. It spans about 3568 sq-kms in area. One can land at Hyderabad airport to visit the sanctuary which is 150 km from there Macherla railway station is only 2 km distant from the place. This sanctuary is also well connected by road. The sanctuary is surrounded by the Nallamalai hills on the southern and eastern sides, while the Krishna River forms the boundary on the other side. The sanctuary is named after the Nagarjunasagar reservoir, formed by a large dam in the northeastern part. The central and western parts of the sanctuary consist of a plateau, representing one of the oldest geological formations, known as "Archaean" and dating back to some 2,000 million years.
This Sanctuary spreads over five districts, Nalgonda, Mahaboobnagar, Kurnool, Prakasam and Guntur. The Krishna river flows through the Reserve over a distance of 130 km. The multipurpose projects, the reservoirs and temples of Srisailam are major attraction for a number of tourists and pilgrims from all over the country and abroad. Efforts were made to improve the fodder resources by raising grass plots in the vicinity of tribal villages, to meet their needs and to reduce the grazing pressure in the forest areas.

**The Rollapadu Bird Sanctuary**

Andhra Pradesh is endowed with a rich wildlife as the deciduous forests along the Eastern Ghats are the home to a wide variety of animals and birds. The Rollapadu Bird sanctuary is a renowned bird sanctuary of Andhra Pradesh, especially because of the diverse flora and birds found there. It is located at a distance of about 60 kilometers from Kurnool near Nandikotkuru. It covers an area of about 614 sq.kms.

**The Kolleru Bird Sanctuary**

In November 1999, Kolleru Lake was declared a wildlife sanctuary under the India's Wildlife Protection Act, and selected a wetland of international importance in the November 2002 under the International Ramsar Convention.

Kolleru Lake is a big freshwater lake in Andhra Pradesh. It is situated between the deltas of the rivers Krishna and Godavari, in Krishna and West Godavari districts. This lake plays an important role in the ecological system. It is a natural reservoir that controls floods. This lake is connected to the Krishna and Godavari systems by 30 inflowing drains and channels. In fact the two seasonal rivers like the Budameru and Tammileru give water to this lake directly. Not only this, Kolleru Lake is also an important habitat for over 50,000 resident and migratory birds, including the Grey or Spot-billed Pelican. Extending over 673 sq. km of area, Kolleru Lake which is now more famous as Kolleru Lake Bird Sanctuary abounds in various flora and fauna. Kolleru Lake Bird Sanctuary (Plate 63) is vented numerous migratory birds from Australia, Siberia, Egypt and the
Philippines. It is in the months of October and March that the lake area remains full with migratory birds like Open Bill Storks, Painted Storks, Glossy Ibises, White Ibises, Teals, Pintails, Shovellers, Red-Crested Pochards, Black winged Stilts, Avocets, Common Redshanks, Widgeons, Gadwalls and Cormorants, among others. It is reckoned that about 2,00,000 of such birds perch around the lake area. Of the various wildlife sanctuaries in Andhra Pradesh, this bird sanctuary is an exclusive one where for bird watching tourist facilities are introduced. The details of sanctuaries in Andhra Pradesh are provided in Table-1.

Table – 1
LIST OF SANCTUARIES IN ANDHRA PRADESH

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of Sanctuary</th>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Nature of sanctuary</th>
<th>Its Uniqueness</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kambalakonda</td>
<td>Visakhapatnam.</td>
<td>Bird sanctuary</td>
<td>1. bird watching of migrated bird from Central Asia</td>
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<td>2. arboreal and shore birds</td>
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<tr>
<td>Telineelapuram</td>
<td>Tekkali, Srikakulam</td>
<td>Bird sanctuary</td>
<td>Pelicans from Siberia</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nelapattu</td>
<td>Nellore</td>
<td>Bird sanctuary</td>
<td>Largest Pelicanary in South East Asia</td>
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<td>Shivaram</td>
<td>Adliabad</td>
<td>Wildlife Sanctuary</td>
<td>Fresh water crocodiles</td>
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<td>Kawal</td>
<td>Adilabad</td>
<td>Wildlife Sanctuary</td>
<td>Safeguarding the endangered species</td>
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<td>Manjira</td>
<td>Medak</td>
<td>Wildlife Sanctuary</td>
<td>There are nine small islands which together form this small sanctuary between</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>the Manjira and Singur barrages.</td>
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<td>Papikonda</td>
<td>East Godavari and Khammam</td>
<td>Wildlife Sanctuary</td>
<td>Tiger homeland and varieties of species of wild animals</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kinnerasani</td>
<td>Khammam</td>
<td>Wildlife Sanctuary</td>
<td>Homeland for varieties of species of wild animals.</td>
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**Kaundinya YSR Kadapa Wildlife Sanctuary**

- Cheetal, Antelopes, Sanbhar, Mouse Deer, Hare, Porcupine, Wild Boar, Jungle Cat, Sloth Bear, Panther, Elephants and Jackal.

**Eturnagaram Warngal Wild Life**

- The land is an undulating one. About $\frac{3}{4}$ of the entire land can be characterized as plain land while the remaining is hilly with a plethora of streams and springs. Sanctuary has a perennial water source called "Dayyam Vagu", which separates the sanctuary into almost two halves.

**Pranahita Adilabad Wild Life**

- Variety of species

**Mahaveer Harina Vanasthali Hyderabad Deer Park**

- Deer Park is established to conserve the invaluable heritage and rehabilitate. Previously used as the hunting ground of Nizam

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**Waterfalls of Andhra Pradesh**

A waterfall is a place where water flows over a vertical drop in the course of a stream or river. Waterfalls are commonly formed when a river is young.

**Mallelatheertham Waterfalls**

One of the most pleasant places in the Mahaboobnagar is Mallelatheertham. It is a wonderful waterfall located in the
Nallamala forest region on the way to Srisailam. This place is located about 9 kms from Vatuvarlapalli village on the highway from Hyderabad to Srisailam. Mallelatheertham is the natural waterfall in Nallamala Forests. The water falls from a height of approximately 50 feet and it is beautiful and attractive. High Mountains and thick forests around add beauty to the nature.

**Kuntala Waterfalls**

It is located near Kuntala village in Adilabad District. It is 11 km from Nirmal and 22 km south of Adilabad on NH-7 and is on the Adilabad-Nagpur road. Kuntala is the highest waterfalls in the state and it is ideal to visit the falls during winter, when the river is in its full flow. There is an idol of Lord Shiva near the waterfalls known as Someswara Swami. (Plate 65) The Kadam River which is a tributary of the Godavari River falls from a height of 45 m and rushes into deep jungles. Amidst dense forests and the Sahayadri mountain range, the District of Adilabad is bestowed with nature's beauty at its best.37

**Pochera Waterfalls**

It is in Adilabad District. It is situated 35 kms from Nirmal, on National Highway 7, and is on the way to Adilabad. It is 15 kms from Kuntala waterfalls. The water that flows in separate and narrow streams unite and with gushing speed fall from a height of 20 mts. The water collects on a platform resembling a small lake. The water then slides down. Sizzling winds, hillocks covered with dense and variant canopy. The Sahayadri Mountain range houses many waterfalls that are mostly monsoon fed and flow from this mountain range towards the plains. But some rivers running through these forests at some places transform themselves into waterfalls falling from a height. Pochera waterfall is unique and is different from other waterfalls. Only one of its kinds in Andhra Pradesh and rarely found in India.
**Talakona Waterfall**

The water of the Talakona is enriched with herbs and people believe that it has healing properties. Talakona was declared a Bio-Sphere Reserve because of the rare species. A long and treacherous trekking route leads to the top of the hill, which can be reached by multiple paths. Talakona is a place in Yerravaripalem Mandal of Chittoor District near Tirupati about 49 kms from Tirupathith. It is a resort endowed with waterfalls, dense forests and wildlife. There is a beautiful waterfall falling deep into the valley from a solid rock cliff on the upper reaches. According to the local residents, it is said that the origin of the water is difficult to be traced out since an underground stream suddenly surfaces here and this water has healing properties because it passes through lot of herbs of medicinal values.

**Ethipothala Falls**

Ethipothala Falls is a high river cascade, situated on the Chandravanka river, a tributary of the River Krishna in Guntur District. The waterfall is a combination of three streams namely Chandravanka Vagu, Nakkala Vagu and Tummala Vagu. It is situated about 11 kilometres from Nagarjuna Sagar Dam. The river then joins the main river after the dam travelling about 3 kilometers from the falls. A strategic view point was created by Andhra Pradesh Tourism Department from the adjacent hillock. There are Ranganatha and Dattatreya temples in the vicinity. The stream flowing from (Plate 66) Chandravankas Hill merges into a local lagoon. The river Chandra Vanka mounts along the Muthukuru along the eastern side of the Nallamala hills. Chandra Vanka stream cascades from a greater height and unites with the Tumurukota reserve forest, from where it derives its name Ethipothala Waterfalls which ultimately joins with the Krishna River.

**Pulusumamidi Waterfalls**

Pulusumamidi waterfalls are located near Kanudulapalem village of Paderu Mandal, 21kms from Paderu on Paderu-Vaadadi-Chodavaram-Vizag road. The waterfalls
are perennial and continue to flow even in the summer. The waterfalls are at two different places; one is half-a-kilometer from Kanudulapalem village and the other one is a kilometer from this waterfall of which the earlier one is open to the tourists and the latter one is suitable for establishing a mini-hydel project. There is a kachha road upto the waterfall. The 9 kms drive to reach the Waterfalls is adventurous with deep curves of ghat road amidst a thick forest. Picturesque views of green fields, plantations and the valley are really thrilling and pleasant.

**Beaches of Andhra Pradesh**

A beach is a crescent shaped geological landform along the shoreline of an ocean, sea, or lake. It usually consists of loose particles which are often composed of rock, like sand, gravel, shingles, pebbles, waves or cobblestones. Andhra Pradesh is the home to some of the most scenic beaches in India. Boasting with a long stretch of 974 kms of naturally enriched coastline, nine of the 23 districts have direct access to the sea with breathtaking beauty of blue waters. These beaches are pure and unspoiled form an ideal destination for a beach holiday. The sands soaked in golden sunshine are ideal if one is seeking a healthy tan in the most natural surroundings. The beaches of Andhra Pradesh are mesmerizing, with silver sand and golden sunshine. They are an ideal getaway from the hustle and bustle of the cities. Here, tourists can spend calm and serene holidays.

**The Manginapudi Beach, Machilipatnam**

This beach is located at a distance of 11 km. from Machilipatnam town in Krishna District. Manginapudi acquires importance partly from its scenic beauty and partly from being a historic port city. Machilipatnam flourished as an important trading centre and served as the gateway to India. A tour of Manginapudi Beach takes the tourists to one of the enigmatic golden sea shores of Andhra Pradesh. Located about 65 km from Vijayawada, Manginapudi Beach was a thriving place in the ancient times. Enriched with a rich historical heritage, the Manginapudi Beach are characterized by shallow waters.
The waves of the sea touching the shores are the irresistible attraction and Manginapudi Beach is certainly a big treat to the aesthetic imagination of the visitors.

**The Motupalle Beach, Ongole**

This beach is also unexplored and may be virgin beach located on the shores of the Bay of Bengal near a small village Chinaganjam in Prakasam district. Calm, clean and pristine Motupalle beach is famous for luxuriant green surroundings and Casuarina Plantations. Visitors can also go to the nearby fabulously fascinating and amazing scenic Kottapatnam and Rampuram beaches. Lush green vegetation around, whispering sea breeze, blue sky, calm sea water and soft sand are the charms of Motupalle beach. Experience of sun bathing and highly delicious fresh sea food are tempting for yet another visit to this beach.

**The Mypad Beach, Nellore**

Picturesque Mypad beach in Nellore district is ideal seashore for the sea lovers. Silky sand, golden sunrays, blue sky, lush green environment and friendly waters are converting Mypad beach into a treat for the visitors. For the Mypad beach water sports is the jewel of the crown. Mypad is one of the fine sandy beaches of Andhra Pradesh. This beach with Golden sand is also known for the facial massages. Nellapattu Sanctuary [one of the largest Pelican habitats in Southeast Asia] near this place is an added attraction of Mypad beach.

**The Perupalem Beach, Narsapur**

This beach is located 20 km from Narasapur in the West Godavari district. Perupalem is yet another mesmerizing virgin beach on the map of Andhra Pradesh beach tourism. This is also popular for religious importance and historic heritage. It is the most fascinating picturesque fusion of sea, sun and sand and ideal for sunbathing and surfing. Being a natural bay, Perupalem beach is shallow and the sea water is safe for swimming.
It offers fascinating blue waters of the Bay of Bengal in a most attractive way to attract the tourist to come here again.

**The Suryalanka Beach, Bapatla**

This beach located about 40 km from Guntur city is among the top beach resorts of Andhra Pradesh. Natural glory of seashore beauty is very distinctly visible and attracts the tourists. Wide and spacious shores covered with crystal clear and clean water invite the tourists to plunge, or opt to play a beach game like volleyball. This gorgeous shore of the Bay of Bengal is gaining popularity as the weekend beach holiday. November is the month dolphin come close to shores and make a star attraction of Suryalanka beach. Andhra Pradesh preparations of fresh fish, prawns, crabs etc are the added attractions. with true chilled beer or enjoy customary cuisines like hot sambar, rasam and traditional curry rice.

**The Vodarevu Beach, Chirala**

This beach is located just 6 km from Chirala town Prakasam district, which is accessible from Vijaywada. Renowned for weekend hangouts and picture perfect ocean beauty, this beach is the popular and most visited beach on the coastal line of Andhra Pradesh. Vodarevu is full of spectacular pristine beauty created from the fusion of sandy seashore, warming sun rays and marine aqueous liquid, which always prompt the visitors for relaxation and rejuvenation. Vodarevu beach is a favorite of weekend of tourists, who find this calm cool seashore a memorable experience. Fishing boat expeditions are charming and popular attractions for those who want to remain away humdrum lazing on warm sand or doing something more than swimming.

**The Ramakrishna Beach, Visakhapatnam**

This beach is located at Visakhapatnam. This lovely beach provides some scenic sites, with long and calm water stretches. It offers a respite from the busy life of the city
dwellers. Apart form this, there are other beaches here, called the Lawson's Bay, Yarada and Gangavaram, The Rishikonda beach (Plate 67) is located 8 km from Visakhapatnam. This virgin beach along with sun kissed sand and clear blue sea water, attracts tourists from all over the world. This is an ideal place for water sports lovers, especially swimmers, water skiers, and wind surfers.

The Kalingapatnam Beach, Srikakulam

This beach is located at a distance of 30 km from Sirkakulam town at Kalingapatnam village. A light-house and the Buddhist Stupa are the main attractions of this beach. Many European merchants even resided here during the regime of the East India Company. Previously, ships from Malaysia and Singapore used to come here. Perfumes, textiles and other goods were exported from this port before it was closed during the British rule in India. Since the roads here end in the bed of the seashore so the Kalingapatnam Beach is also referred to as the Open Road Sea. This is the place where river Vamsadhara meets the Bay of Bengal. The view created by sand, sea and the sky is charming and beautiful. The scenic beauty of the beach attracts international tourists also. This Beach has been recognized by the State Government as an important site for promoting tourism in Andhra Pradesh. Concessions and incentives have been announced for these entrepreneurs to encourage the development of beach resorts here.

Hill Stations of Andhra Pradesh

Hill Stations furnish the idea of tranquil and unruffled places, far from the buzz and din cities. Perhaps everyone dreams of such a haven, where everything appears calm and peaceful drenched in pastoral beauty. Untouched by the commotion of metropolitan lifestyle, the hill stations of India also offer peace and solitude to those who want to relax. Andhra Pradesh is known for a variety of reasons and one of them is its hill stations.

Enveloped with lush greenery, these hill stations are known for their salubrious atmosphere, clean air, cool water and pleasant weather. Moreover, they provide a
wonderful respite to the people from the hot and sultry weather. Green woods, incredible landscape and cascading gorges are the inseparable part of these hill resorts.

**Anantagiri Hills, Araku**

Anantagiri is located at the top of the Elysian Hills approximately 17 km from Araku valley, which is 112 kms from Visakhapatnam. Among the ranges of the Eastern Ghats Anantagiri is located at a distance of 40 km from Visakhapatnam. Anantagiri is a charming hill resort Andhra Pradesh. Unchallenged beauty of this place attracts everyone including nature lovers, tourists, pilgrims etc. The beautiful hill resort of Anantagiri is a perfect retreat during the blistering summer months. Walk across the meadows with wild flowers and apple orchards in full bloom, seeing the rushing streams cascade down the mountainside, and enjoy exquisite views of sunrise and sunset here. These hills attract tourists by their gorgeous sights and smells. Anantagiri is wrapped by many mango groves and orchards. Anantagiri hills experiences a similar moderate weather throughout the year. The season for tourist is all the year round. The beauty of the hills is doubled because of the cool weather and calm environs. The Bhavanasi Lake Anantagiri is referred to as the Badrinath of the South.

**Araku Valley**

The Valley is a soothing hill station in the expanse of Andhra Pradesh. Enveloped in pastoral environs, this beautiful valley is at an elevation of 1,300 meters. Imagine a deep valley, where lush greenery is accompanied by shimmering waters of gorges Araku Valley is a famous hill station of Andhra Pradesh. The locals are mostly tribal and quite friendly and their villages around green valleys offer an excellent opportunity for trekkers and holiday seekers. It is located at a distance of 120 kms from Visakhapatnam and is famous for its scenic beauty (Plate 68). Located on the Eastern Ghats, it has valley, waterfalls and streams flowing by the side of the train track and roads. The journey to Araku Valley is most enjoyable both by road as well as rail.
To Araku valley by train journey

One of the best ways to visit the Araku valley is going by train. This train line is built specially to carry iron ore to Visakhapatnam port from the mineral reserves of the neighbouring state of Chattisgarh in the north. Iron ore is transported from mines at Bailadilla by this train line to (Plate 69) Visakhapatnam port for export and for consumption by Steel Plants. In India most of the hill trains run on a meter gauge or narrow gauge lines but this is a broad gauge line passing through Shimiliguda station which is the highest broad gauge station of South India at 996.32 mt above MSL.

This railway line passes through 84 bridges and 58 tunnels. This broad gauge electrified line starts from Kottavalasa, a small station located between Vizianagaram and Visakhapatnam stations. From Kottavalasa the line takes a left turn and connects Kirandul station at the other end. So this line is popularly known as Kottavalasa Kirandul line or KK train line.

After crossing two small stations, the train starts climbing up the hills through tunnels and along bridges. Most of the time the valley appears on the right side of the train while going towards Araku from Vizag and waterfalls remain on the left. On the way small and big waterfalls can be seen from the train. The green valley and river combination form a spectacular a view. After Chimidipalli station the waterfall comes on the left side just after a tunnel. The longest tunnel is 520 meters long.

Places of Interest at Araku Valley

Kantamma View Point is located at half-a-kilometer from the local popular Goddess Sri Sri Sri Modakondamma Ammavari Padalu, Modapalli that is a prominent visiting place of the tourists visiting the area. A View Point Pagoda already exists which was constructed for tourists. It is a very good spot located at the height of 3300 feet above the sea level and gives a picturesque view of the Valley and the lush green rally and thick
jungles and small tribal habitations amidst the hills. **Modapalli Coffee Plantation**

**Ammavari Padalu** Modapalli is a centrally-located place to cover Pulusumamidi, Rajapuram waterfalls, view point, Ammavari Padalu, coffee gardens and Gurra Garuvu view point with trekking facility. **Aruku Coffee Plantation Track** is predominantly known for world class organic coffee plantations with pepper as intercrop. Spending some time amidst the coffee plantations would definitely be a thrilling experience for the tourists.

**Gurra Garuvu** a hilltop habitation is near to Modapalli, 4 kms by trekking from Ammavari Padalu. The habitants are primitive tribal group and interacting with them would give an opportunity to know about their socio-cultural conditions in addition to their rich customs and heritage. **Matsyagundam**, which is located at a distance of 13 km from Paderu. Matysalingeswara Temple of ancient days built near a very big perennial stream locally known as Mastsyagedda. This place also draws considerable number of tourists in all the seasons. But owing to non-maintenance and poor management they are not in good shape. It is a highly potential area for tribal tourism and eco-resort construction and needs to be improved. **Chaaparai** is 15 kms from (Plate 70) Araku valley on the way to Paderu. Chaaparai is a well known picnic spot in the Araku valley. A scenic place with waterfalls and surrounding forest area makes people relax and spend their holiday joyfully. Usually, people who visit this valley won't miss this place as it is very near main valley. During the rainy season as the water current is high and dangerous. During the winter season the water flow is less and people can enjoy their stay here. Landscapes and gardens are located surrounding this place. One can experience the beauty of water gushing through natural rocks.

**The Horsley Hills, Chittoor**

It is a famous summer hill resort in Andhra Pradesh and South India. Horsley Hills are a mesmerizing place where lofty peaks appear to be conversing with the blue skies. Perched at an elevation of 1,265 meters, this hill station attracts the tourists with its beguiling beauty (Plate 71) situated in Chittoor district, Horsley Hills is the one of the
three hill-stations in Andhra Pradesh. It offers relief from the humdrum of daily lives to the visitors by its rare and exquisite beauty. The magnificent scene of the Horsley hills is soothing to the eye and relaxing to the mind. The name Horsley comes from the renowned district collector named W.D. Horsley who used to stay in this region. The verdant eucalyptus trees line up the way to the Horsley Hills; the natural beauty of this Hill Station is beyond compare. The sweet fragrances of the Sampagni Flower entertain visitors all along their way to the hill. This region is mostly inhabited by the Chenchu Tribes. They rear Pungannur Cows for their milk, the cows are famous for their high protein content.

Caves

A cave or cavern is a natural underground space large enough for a human to enter. Speleology is the science of exploration and study of all aspects of caves and the environment which surrounds the caves. Exploring a cave for recreation may be called caving or potholing. The largest and most abundant solution caves are located in limestone. Limestone dissolves under the action of rainwater and groundwater charged with $\text{H}_2\text{CO}_3$ and naturally occurring organic acids. The dissolution process produces a distinctive landform known as Karst landforms characterized by sink hole and underground drainage. Limestone caves are often adorned with calcium carbonate formations produced through slow precipitation. These include Flowstones, Stalactites, Stalagmites and columns.

The Borra Caves, Araku

In 1807, William King George of the Geological Survey of India discovered the caves. The caves are located in the Araku Valley of the Ananthagiri hill range. The caves are well-connected by road, rail and air services. Visakhapatnam, the nearest airport and the district headquarters, is 90 km by road, which is mostly a hill road and the journey takes about 3 hours. Train services operate on the Kothavalasa-Kirandul railway line. The train journey over a distance of 100 km from the Visakhapatnam
Railway station passes through the Eastern Ghats (Plate 72) section, which has 30 tunnels en-route. The journey by train takes about 5 hours to the Railway Station near the caves called the 'Borra Guhalu Railway station'.

On the discovery of the caves, there are several legends, which the tribals (Jatapu, Porja, Kondadora, Nookadora, valmiki and others who inhabit the villages around the caves) narrate. The popular legend is that a cow, grazing on the top of the caves, dropped 60 m through a hole, called BORRA in local language in the roof. The name ‘Borra Caves’ is thus derived. The cowherd while searching for the cow came across the caves. He found a stone inside the cave that resembled a Lingam, which he understood as the Lord Shiva who protected the cow. The village folk who heard the story believed it and they have built a small temple for Lord Shiva outside the cave. People flock to the temple for worship and the cave to get a glimpse of the Lingam. The caves are located in the Araku Valley of the Ananthagiri hill range and are drained by the Gosthani River. At the entry, the cave measures up to 100 m horizontally and 75 m vertically. Stalagmite and Stalactite formations are found in the caves. The average temperature of Araku hills, where the caves are situated, is about 25 °C. The average annual rainfall reported is 950 mm. Breathtaking hilly terrain, beautiful landscape, semi-evergreen moist deciduous forests, and wild fauna of the area are a visual feast.

The Belum Caves, Kurnool

Originally discovered in 1854 by H.B. Foote, these subterranean passages were explored by the Department of Archaeology and Museums, followed by a team of European speleologists led by Mr Gebaner, Belum Caves are the second largest natural caves in Indian subcontinent after Meghalaya Caves. These underground caves are located on a flat agricultural field, (Plate 73) have 3 well-like cavities with the central one being the main entrance to the caves. After a descent of 20 meters at the entrance, the cave takes a horizontal path with a length of 3229 meters. Longer than Borra Caves in Vishakapatnam district Belum Caves have long passages, spacious chambers, fresh water galleries and siphons. All this makes Belum Caves a geological and archaeological
attraction worldwide. Belum is located 106 kms from Kurnool. It is well connected by road. A thrilling experience indeed, the tourist while visiting the out-of-the-world Belum Caves, can cherish the splendid beauty of the surrounding ambience which is accompanied by an air of serenity.

The Akkamahadevi Caves, Srisailam

The Nallamalai Hill ranges are studded with innumerable natural caves and caverns which were known to human beings since the prehistoric times, some of them became more famous and played a role in the significance of Srisailam. One such among them is the Akkamahadevi Caves. This naturally formed cave just above the flow of the river Krishna upstream is at a distance of 10 km from Srisailam.

This cave is endowed with a geological marvel of natural Rock Arch measuring nearly 200 x 16 x 4 feet it stands majestically without any support. The wind weathered rock in and around the cave keeps the visitor spellbound.

The surrounding of the cave and its journey through the river Krishna from Srisailam provides a wonderful experience to one and all. Exploring the meandering cave to 150 meters deep is also very adventurous. This cave was the seat of many violent and secret Saiva sects such as the Kapalikas. During 12th Century A.D. this cave appears to have got its present name Akkamahadevi caves after the famous ascetic, lyricist and philosopher, Akkamahadevi who did penance in this cave and worshipped the Sivalinga that naturally existed in the deep and dark end of the cave.

The Yaganti Caves, Kurnool

This is a holy place in Kurnool district. There are several caves naturally made which add upto the scenic beauty of the place Yaganti. Famous caves among all yaganti caves are Rokalla caves, Venkateswara cave, Sanka cave and Veera Brahmam caves. The traditional fables of Yaganti shows that the Caves were the place where Kalagnanam –
the famous literary wonder scripted by Potuluri Veera Brahmam has took a practical shape. Known as one of the great figures of Telugu literature Potuluri chose the quaint and calm place of Yaganti Caves to work on one of his fabulous scripts. A major place of tourist appeal, Yaganti Caves receive a large number of visitors every year. The place has well-developed infrastructure of roads. The railway station is located at Kurnool which is 100 km away. Banaganapalle, an adjoining town, is at a distance of only 13 km. The historical past of the Yaganti Caves truly depict an all-encompassing heritage of Yaganti.

**Bhairavakona, Prakasam District**

This is located in Ambavaram Kothapalli village, Chandrashekara Puram mandal of Prakasam district, 120 km from Ongole. It borders Nellore and Kadapa districts. Ancient temples carved in a hill at Bhairavakona attract thousands of people on Karthika Pournami and Shivarathri. Bhairava Kona draws thousands of people from far and near for a bath on the occasion of Shivaratri, Karthika Pournami. An interesting feature that attracts devotees to Bhairavakona is that moonlight falls on the idol of Goddess Durgadevi on the day of Karthika Pournami. Set amidst a vast expanse of lush greenery surrounded by hills and waterfalls, the holy place of Bhairava Kona is a perfect getaway for the discerning traveller. The water from the falls flows down from 200 ft above and flows about 3 ft. below through the Durga Devi temple. The moonlight that falls on the water reflects on Durga Devi on Karthika Pournami day.

**Dorabavi Viaduct**

It is situated on the Nandyal - Giddalur Section, the Dorabavi Viaduct is yet another engineering monument in the South Central Railway. The serene forest location of this bridge on the Nallamala Hills of the Rayalseema region of Andhra Pradesh adds its own exotic aura to make this a picnic spot. This Viaduct was opened for metre gauge traffic in the year 1887 as the Bogada Tunnel attracts large number of tourists.
Lakes

A lake is a body of relatively still, fresh or salt water of considerable size, localized in a basin that is surrounded by land. Lakes are inland and not part of the ocean and are larger and deeper than ponds. Lakes can be contrasted with rivers or streams which are usually flowing. However, most lakes are fed and drained by rivers and streams. Natural lakes are generally found in mountainous areas, rift zones and areas with ongoing glaciations. Other lakes are found in endotheic basins or along the courses of mature rivers. Apart from the historical monuments found in Hyderabad, there are also several lakes that are considered must-visits for tourists. Some of these lakes also have historical values attached to them, while most are just beautiful bodies of water where people can unwind away from the hustle and stressful day at work, during weekends; the lakes are a favourite spot for families to enjoy their picnics and outdoor activities. The lakes are man-made, built primarily for the function of storing water when it is required. It has become more than that, however, as they have also become nesting grounds for the migratory birds that fly part by Hyderabad every winter. This natural event has become a common treat to everyone who frequently hangs out by there. The lakes are also frequently used for recreational purposes such as parasailing and boating, although these activities need to be approved by the Government authorities.

The most famous lakes in and Around Hyderabad

Hussain Sagar is arguably Hyderabad’s most famous and historic lake. It was built in 1562 by the revered sufi saint Hazrat Hussain Shah Wali to meet the water and irrigation needs of Hyderabad. In 1992, a large monolithic statue of Gautama Buddha was erected in the middle of the lake, and is widely considered to be one of the largest statues in the world. The lake holds the distinction of connecting the twin cities of Hyderabad and Secunderabad, by the Tank Bund. Many stalwarts are installed at tank bunds that are tourist attraction today in Hyderabad. Osman Sagar Lake is popularly known as Gandipet, the Osman Sagar Lake is located about 20 kilometers from Hyderabad. It was created in 1920 by damming the Musi River, both to provide water for
the twin cities as well as to save them from floods. The lake was named after the last Nizram of Hyderabad, Osman Ali Khan, who also had it built. It is a popular tourist destination due to its wonderful and scenic view, especially after the rainy season, when the reservoir is full. Visitors who decide to stay overnight can also stay in the Sagar Mahal, a princely guest house that used to be last Nizram’s summer resort. Other attractions within the lake include Treasure Island, Elless World, and the Ocean Park.

Shamirpet Lake is located 24 kilometers north of Hyderabad. Apart from being known for its beautiful rocky terrain and grand sunsets, there is also a deer park where visitors can see different deer species in their natural habitat. The lake is one of the better ones for picnics as the shady groves around it keep the area cool and pleasant, and the distance from the city means that the hustle and bustle of city life will never be a disturbance. Bird watchers will also get a treat as Shamirpet Lake attracts many species of birds. Durgam Cheruvu is also known as Secret Lake; Durgam Cheruvu is located close to two other tourist attractions of Hyderabad, namely HITEC City and Shilparamam village. They say that the reason for the name was because for many years, there were no roads leading to the lake, making the visit to the lake difficult, and, the visitors were kept away, thus keeping it secret. Secret or not, the lake is endowed with a scenic beauty that is captured amidst hillocks that rise on every side. The lake has been developed as a major tourist attraction by the Andhra Pradesh Tourism Department. Activities one can indulge in at include boating, camping, and trekking in the hills that surround it.

Lakhnavaram Lake, Warangal

This Lake is located in Govindaraopet Mandal about 70 kms from Warangal. To reach here one has to take a right turn before Chalvai village on metal road passing through Bussapur village. Lakhnavaram perennial Lake is (Plate 75) famous for its scenic beauty. It was formed by closing three narrow streams each with a short bund, this lake with hills being its natural barrier. Constructed by the Kakatiyas in 13th Century A.D, is worth a visit.
Pakhal Lake, Warangal

Pakhal is situated about 50 kms east of Warangal and it is well-connected by road from Narsampet which about 12 kms away. One can visit this place from Warangal also. Pakhal Lake, situated amidst undulating forest land and dales is a popular retreat for the tourists. The lake, constructed around 1213 A.D. by the Kakatiyas king, Ganapathidev and spread over an area of 30 Sq.kms., provides a beautiful backdrop. Set around the shores of this lake is the Pakhal Wild Life Sanctuary with an area of 839 sq.kms. It is a dense forest shelter for a variety of fauna. If, one is lucky, one can spot a tiger or a leopard or a bear and one can find a herd of deer’s roaming about freely in the wild. The sanctuary is also harbouring mammals like the panther, hyena, wolf, wild dog, jackal, sloth bear, nilgal, porcupine, languor; reptiles like python, cobra, common krait, monitor lizard and crocodiles can also be seen. Pakhal Lake is improved recently. Direct bus facilities are provided up to the Lake.

Ramappa Lake, Warangal

Ramappa Lake is situated about 1 kilometer Km from Ramappa temple near Palampet in Venkatapur Mandal. It is well-connected by road with frequent bus service from Warangal City, which is about 70 kms. Ramappa Lake is a magnificent example of irrigation work of Kakatiya Rulers constructed in 13- Century A.D. during Ganapathi Deva’s time. Its water is spread over an area of more than 82 sq. kms with lush greenery all around. The lake is over looked by beautiful hill ranges in the background providing a spectacular view especially at sunset. It is an excellent place for lovers of picnic and one can simply come here and relax under the shade of sprawling trees or walk around appreciating the beauty of nature or have a fascinating boat ride on the lovely blue water.

There are excellent huts, eight in number and a good restaurant cum dining hall around Ramappa Lake.
Pulicate Lake, Sriharikota

This lake is connected to the NH-5 and is only 80 km. from Chennai. It is also very near the Satish Dhavan Space Centre at Sriharikota. Pulicat Lake is the second largest brackish water lagoon in India spread over the two States of Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu adjacent to the Bay of Bengal. It extends over six hundred square kilometers in Andhra Pradesh covering the five Mandals of Tada, Sullurupet, Doravari satram, Chittamur, Dugarajupatnam of Nellore District. It is a bird watchers paradise. Water birds and other birds like Flamingoes, Painted storks, Egrets, Grey Pelican, Grey herons, pintails, Black winged stilts, Shovelers, Terns etc., visit this lake. These migratory birds visit during winter as the lake offers food and protection from predators. The lake was notified as a Bird Sanctuary in 1976.

Tribal Tourism

Tribal tourism, in Andhra Pradesh is one of the most fascinating tourist destinations known for its exceptional scenic beauty and unique and rich cultural heritage. Andhra Pradesh has always been synonymous with tribes and tribal culture. The thickly forested areas of the famous Eastern Ghats and Nallamalai region are the inhabiting areas of the tribal’s. The tribes of Andhra Pradesh are unique in their lifestyles and have beautifully retained their own culture and traditions for centuries. The State has pre-historic to modern hi-tech culture. If you are the one who is looking to discover the unique tribal culture of India, then Andhra Pradesh offers a perfect destination.

Andhra Pradesh has the highest tribal population in south India and it occupies the 7th place in terms of absolute numbers in India so far as tribal population is concerned. The Maximum tribal areas in Andhra Pradesh are spread in the districts of Srikakulam, Vizianagaram, Visakhapatnam, East Godavari, West Godavari, Khammam, Warangal, Adilabad, Kurnool and Nellore. The tribal groups in Andhra Pradesh are at different stages of cultural mobility. There are certain groups who are at primitive stage of living
conditions and they are seen adopting the customs, traditions, values, and regulations etc., of dominant neighbouring tribal groups.

The 'hill Savaras' who does not have any clans or surnames is adopting clan and surnames of Jatapus in Srikakulam district. The Savaras traditionally follow only the principle of village exogamy in the matrimonial alliances, but in modern times, they are also following clan exogamy. Kolams, Pardhans and Thotis have adopted clan names of Gonds and modified this nomenclature to fit into their cultural configuration. The process of adopting the basic principle governing the social structure, associated customs, traditions and other cultural ethos, values from other dominant tribal community can be termed as 'elitist tribalism'.

Andhra Pradesh is the traditional home of 33 tribal groups. Most of these tribals are found living on the hills in valleys and forests, except a few tribes like Yanadi, Yerukula, who are exclusively confined to the plain areas, and Lambadas who found both in the plains and hilly areas.

Of these 33 Scheduled Tribes of Andhra Pradesh, eight groups have been recognized as Primitive Tribal Groups by the Government of India based on criteria like Pre-agricultural stage of economy, low level of literacy and stagnant or declining population. The Chenchu tribe was first recognized as Primitive Tribal Groups in the year 1975. The other Primitive Tribal Groups are Kolam, Konda Reddy, Konda Savara, Gadaba, Khond, Porja and Thoti. Andhra Pradesh is one of the most fascinating tourist destinations known for its exceptional scenic beauty and unique and rich cultural heritage. The thickly forested areas of the famous Eastern Ghats and Nallamalai region are the inhabiting areas of the tribals.

The tribes of Andhra Pradesh are unique in their lifestyles and have beautifully retained their own culture and traditions for centuries. Perfect part of the tribal tourism is Rural Tourism. Rural tourism encompasses rural society, culture and beliefs in their original form. It covers all those aspects of travel whereby people learn about each other's
ways of life and thought. It signifies the tourists' interest in the customs of the indigenous and exotic people.

Rural tourism development is community-based, participatory and designed to improve the economic and social well-being of local villagers in addition to the concerned institutional and physical environment. The tribes of Andhra Pradesh are known for their unique and distinctive tribal culture and each tribal group has its own distinct culture and enjoys its own unique traditional living styles. They differ from each other in their costume, eating habits, customs, and traditions and even worship different forms of Gods and Goddesses. Undoubtedly, Andhra Pradesh is the most important tribal destination in India and the region has a great potential for tribal tourism.

The tribes of Andhra Pradesh region are also known for their passion for dances, crafts, and music, which are the most important amusements (Plate 76) and a part and parcel of their day-to-day life\textsuperscript{39}. Dancing is the most popular diversion in the agency areas in particular. There is a variety of folk dances among the tribes. The Khonds and Savaras take pride in their skill at dancing. The men and women dance in separate groups and a party commences at night-fall and usually lasts till daylight appears. The traditional music, which directs and controls the rhythm of the dance is played on conventional musical instruments called ‘Mori’, ‘Kiridi Tudumu’ and ‘Dappu’. Another horn-shaped traditional instrument called ‘Jodu Kommu’ is also played occasionally. Drinking parties are frequent and hilarious. Many of the men are fond of music.\textsuperscript{60} The tribal women of the Andhra Pradesh region love to adorn themselves with plenty of ornaments made of cowries, beads, shells, bones, feathers, mixed metals, copper and bronze. The Andhra Pradesh tribes are also known for their beautiful arts and crafts.

The Tribal destinations in Andhra Pradesh are having abundant rich heritage and traditions and which were being protected from the time immoral. And efforts have been continuously made by the local tribal communities and local NGO’s with the help of government taking all the care to carry on the heritage, traditions, and customs through
the ages. The tourists have to follow the basic procedures and rules to safeguard the habitat and the local destinations which have been a heritage hub through the centuries.

The following precautions are to be maintained by the tourist who visits the tribal destinations of tourism:

* Care of the holistic places.
* They need to follow the tribal traditional rules and regulations.
* They should not consume or carry Alcohol, Weapons and drugs.
* They must respect the privacy of the traditional tribal communities.
* They are advised to ask before photographing or recording any individual, an event or activity
* They must refrain from disturbing the tribal artifacts/handicrafts/natural objects.
* They are well-advised not to interrupt in the tribal rituals and religious performance.

Tribals are proud of their culture and heritage. These have been passed onto them by their ancestors, and represent thousands of years of their individual histories. Tourist empathy, patience and understanding of tribal traditions and culture is necessary.

The tribal destinations of Andhra Pradesh, invites tourist for the glance of great glory rich heritage and memorable experiences of the age old villages of tribal, local museums and cultural performances of the tribal. The magnificent landscapes and breathtaking mountain ranges and amazing forests will invite us to explore a unique world of its own.

**Sriharikota Ancient tribal residence**

Sriharikota is an island, situated on the NH 5 Chennai, Kolkata and a forest -like area to the east of Sullurupet between the Pulicat Lake and the Bay of Bengal. The
ancient residents of this island were Toorpu Reddis and Challa Yanadis. They led a primitive way of life. Their staple diet was what Nature gave them Veduru biyyam, honey and different varieties of fruit and their homes were nest-like huts.62

This is the portrait of people who lived here centuries ago. In order to facilitate the construction of Sriharikota Rocket landing station (SHAR), the native tribes had been rehabilitated in a far away place and given special facilities Sulurupet area in the district has seen great development in the last 40 years after the advent of Satish Dhawan Space Center.

**Adilabad dinosaur**63

A Geological Survey of India team excavating in the Yamanapalli region of Adilabad district two and half decades ago stumbled upon the remains of a dinosaur which lived here some 165 million years ago, the Lower Jurassic period. The GSI team worked to piece together the scattered remains. At the Birla Science Centre Hyderabad, they mounted a dinosaur skeleton measuring more than 44 feet in length and 16 feet in height. Aply called, ‘Dinosaurium’, the mounted skeleton opened for the public. More than 840 skeletal parts belonging to Sauropod dinosaurs were collected from the Yamanapalli excavation site between 1974 and 1980. The parts belonged to 12 individual dinosaurs from a single species and were named Kotasaurus Yamanpalliensis.64 The Adilabad specimen presents a different picture as to when the Indian peninsula separated from the Gondwanaland. The presence of these skeletal remains here is a proof of overland connections between peninsular India and the other continents even till the early Jurassic times that is up to 165 million years ago, and not merely till 200 million years ago.

Finally, general tourism regards the economics of tourism development without necessarily considering community or environmental impacts. General tourism companies often value volume and quantity without regard to the local culture. Examples of general tourism businesses include resorts, lodges, and hotels, gift shops with non-
local retail, theme parks and large cruises. Ecotourism considers inter alia the environmental and community impact of Tribal tourism development. Examples of ecotourism businesses include bike rentals, hiking tours, wildlife viewing tours, cultural interpretation, rafting, eco-adventure, small lodges, and community-based businesses. Ecotourism can include a wide spectrum of opportunities for the visitor. Advertising as an ecotourism business will attract a specific type of environmentally conscious clientele.
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