



Telangana & Andhra Pradesh

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Best Places to Eat

- Southern Spice (p238)
- Hotel Shadab (p238)
- SO (p238)
- Shah Ghouse Cafe (p238)
- Sea Inn (p249)

Best Off the Beaten Track

- Guntupalli (p249)
- Sankaram (p251)
- Moula Ali Dargah (p233)
- Bhongir Fort (p244)

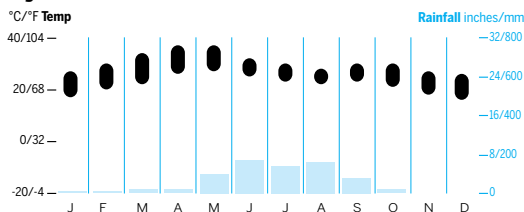
Why Go?

Hyderabad, the fascinating capital of Telangana, is reason enough on its own to visit this region. Its old quarter of colourful markets, teahouses, biryani restaurants and narrow lanes is studded with the monuments and palaces of bygone dynasties. On the city's fringes rise the fabled Golconda fort and magnificent tombs of departed royalty. Meanwhile Hyderabad's newer districts are lit up by the classy restaurants, hotels, boutiques and bars of IT-fuelled economic advance.

The other attractions of these two states (which were one state until they split in 2014) are less brazen, but dig around and you will unearth gems – like the wonderful medieval temple sculptures of Palampet, the beauty of ancient Buddhist sites such as Sankaram and Guntupalli hidden in deep countryside, the cheery coastal holiday vibe of Visakhapatnam, and the positive vibrations emanating from the vast pilgrim crowds at Tirumala Temple.

When to Go

Hyderabad



May–Jun Join locals digging into *haleem*, a Ramadan (Ramzan) favourite.

Nov–Feb Explore Hyderabad's sights in perfect 20–25°C weather.

Dec–Apr Best time to enjoy Vizag's coastal attractions – little rain, not too hot.



Telangana & Andhra Pradesh Highlights

1 Exploring the markets, feasting on the food and gazing on the architectural marvels of historical and contemporary **Hyderabad** (p228)

2 Absorbing the meditative vibrations of monks past at beautiful **Sankaram** (p251), **Bavikonda** (p251),

Thotlakonda (p251), and **Guntupalli** (p249), destinations on a 2300-year-old monastic trail

3 Enjoying the genius of Kakatiya sculptors at **Palampet** (p245) and **Warangal** (p244)

4 Finding devotion you didn't know you had alongside thousands of Hindu pilgrims at **Tirumala** (p252)

5 Enjoying the lush green forests and wide green valleys as your train chugs through the spectacular Eastern Ghats up to **Araku** (p251)