

Telangana & Andhra Pradesh

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Best Places to Eat

- Sea Inn (p250)
- Shah Ghouse Cafe (p237)
- SO – The Sky Kitchen (p238)
- Hotel Mayura (p253)
- Dhaba By Claridges (p239)
- TFL (p247)

Best Off the Beaten Track

- Ramappa Temple (p244)
- Sankaram (p251)
- Moula Ali Dargah (p233)
- Guntupalli (p247)

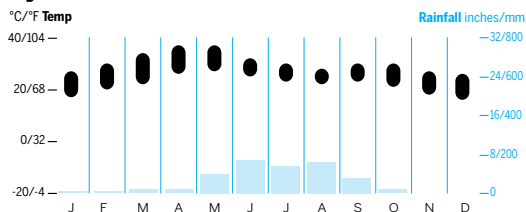
Why Go?

Hyderabad, one of Islamic India's greatest cities, is reason enough on its own to visit this region. Its skyline is a sight to behold, defined by the great domes and minarets of ancient mosques, mausoleums and palaces of once-mighty dynasties. Delve inside the city's fabled old quarter for fascinating street markets, teahouses and biryani restaurants, then journey to the city's fringes to the majestic Golconda fort. Meanwhile, Hyderabad's newer districts are awash with the classy restaurants and boutiques of IT-fuelled economic advancement.

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 Ramappa, 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's temple.

When to Go

Hyderabad



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

Nov–Feb Explore Hyderabad's sights in balmy 22–28°C weather.

Dec–Apr The best time to enjoy Vizag's coastal attractions – there's little rain and it's not too hot.



Telangana & Andhra Pradesh Highlights

1 Hyderabad (p227)

Exploring the Old City and its unique markets, architectural marvels and restaurants.

2 Monastic trail (p251)

Absorbing the meditative ambience at beautiful Sankaram, as well as Bhevikonda, Thotlakonda and

Guntupalli, all destinations on this 2300-year-old trail.

3 Palampet (p244)

Reveling in the genius of Kakatiya sculptors at the temple near this village.

4 Tirumala (p252)

Going with the crowd and finding a spiritual calling with Hindu pilgrims.

5 Araku (p252)

Enjoying the delightful train ride here through the lush forests and wide green valleys of the Eastern Ghats.