

Places of Tourist attraction on the Division

Guntur is an ancient city dating back to Mauryan Empire of Ashoka, 3rd Century BC. The region has been historically known for Buddhism. It has also been a major commercial and educational centre since Moghal and British era. The region was also ruled by the Satavahanas of Amaravati (2nd Century BC to 4th Century AD) as well as Pallava kings of modern Kanchipuram during 5th& 6th Century AD. Important places of Tourist interest are:

- ❖ SRISAILAM, the shrine of Lord Mallikharjuna picturesquely located on a flat top of Nallamala Hills, SriSailam at 90 km from Markapuram Railway Station. It is on the right bank of river Krishna in Kurnool District. Deity Lord Mallikharjuna Swamy is one of the 12 Jyothirlingas and Goddess Bramaramba Devi is one of the 18 Mahasakthis and both are self manifested and exist from time immemorial. Specialty of this Kshethra is anybody can touch the deity and perform Abhishekham and Archana irrespective of any caste and religion. Srisailam Hydel power project is located at a distance of 5 km from the temple on the bank of Krishna River.



- ❖ MAHANANDI is a beautiful temple town close to Nandyal at the foothill of Nallamala forest ranges. The ancient temple here dates back to over 1500 years. There is a holy tank of sixty square feet near the temple. Inlet and outlet of the tank are so arranged that water is constantly kept at 5 feet depth for comfortable bathing. Source of water to this is not traceable even now. Water in this tank is pure and crystalline.



- ❖ AMARAVATHI About 30 km from Guntur, on the banks of River Krishna, stands the ancient Buddhist Centre Amaravathi, the former capital of Sathavahans. Here is famous ancient Amaralingeshwara Temple that houses the Swayam Bhu Linga of Lord Shiva, which is one of the famous Saiva Pancha Aramas. Here one can see 2000 year old Stupa with its intricately carved pillars and marble surfaced dome which is richly carved. During the time of Acharya Nargarjuna, the Buddhist philosopher, Amaravathi was a renowned seat of learning where a Buddhist University flourished.



- ❖ MANGALAGIRI is a well known Shrine of Lord Narasimha where Panakam (solution of jaggery in water) is offered to Lord. It is believed that half the offering is regurgitated by the deity. Interestingly, despite the liberal use of jaggery, there are no ants or flies in the temple premises. Mangalagiri is well known for its handloom sarees and other woven materials.



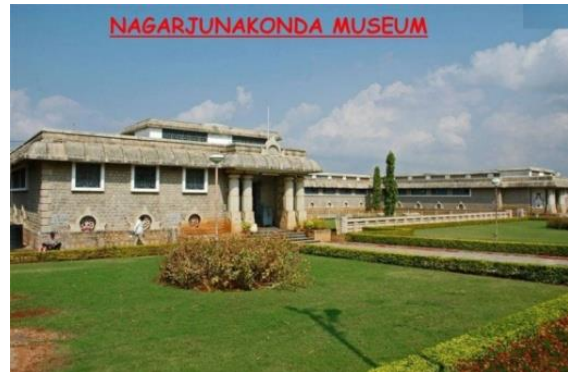
- ❖ KOTAPPAKONDA, the temple abode of Trikoteswara Swamy is 13 km South West of Narasaraopet Railway Station. The name is derived from Trikota Parvatham i.e., 3 peaked hills nearby. The 3 peaks are named after Brahma, Vishnu and Maheswara.



- ❖ UPPALAPADU located 10 km from Guntur, is a bird sanctuary, home to 60 species of resident migratory birds. The number of birds touches 20,000 during the peak season – between September and February. Some of the attractive species include spotted Pelican, painted Stork, Ibis, hornbill and cormorant. Migratory birds like Rosy Pastor travel hundreds of kilometers to come to this place. The unique aspect of this place is that the birds can be spotted here throughout the year.



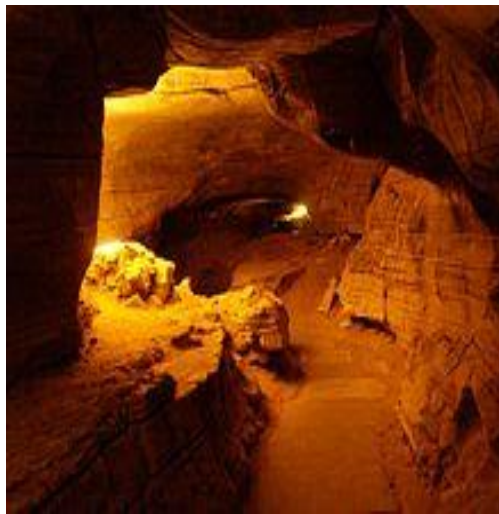
- ❖ NAGARJUNA SAGAR is a massive irrigation project on River Krishna about 30 km from Macherla station. This was a valley in the Nallamala range of Eastern Ghats. Today this is a home for the world's tallest masonry dam that irrigates over 10 lac acres of land. It was during building of this dam, that ruins of ancient Buddhist Civilizations were excavated here. Some of the unearthed relics have been preserved on a picturesque island called Nagarjuna Konda located in the center of a manmade lake.



- ❖ Ethipotala Falls is a 70 feet (21 m) high river cascade, situated in Guntur district, Andhra Pradesh, India. Located on the Chandravanka river, which is a tributary of River Krishna joining on its right bank. The waterfall is a combination of three streams namely Chandravanka Vagu, Nakkala Vagu and Tummala Vagu. It is situated about 11 kilometres (6.8 mi) from Nagarjuna Sagar Dam. The river then joins the Krishna river after the dam after travelling about 3 kilometres (1.9 mi) from the falls. A strategic view point was created by the Andhra Pradesh Tourism Department from the adjacent hillock



- ❖ The Belum Caves is the largest and longest cave system open to the public on the Indian subcontinent, known for its speleothems, such as stalactites and stalagmite formations. The Belum Caves have long passages, galleries, spacious caverns with fresh water and siphons. This natural cave system was formed over the course of tens of thousands of years by the constant flow of underground water. The cave system reaches its deepest point (46 m (151 ft) from entrance level) at the point known as Pataalaganga. In Telugu language, it is called Belum Guhalu. Belum Caves have a length of 3,229 m (10,593.8 ft), making them the second largest natural caves on the Indian Subcontinent after the Krem Liat Prah caves in Meghalaya. It is one of the centrally protected Monuments of National Importance.



- ❖ Ahobilam is located in Kurnool district of Andhra Pradesh in the hills of the Eastern Ghats, about 400 KM northwest of Chennai. The temple consists of nine shrines to Lord Nrisimha located around a 5 KM circle. In addition to the nine shrines, there is a temple for Prahaladavarada Varadhan in the foothills of the mountain. Due to security reasons and the difficulty in performing daily worship, many of the utsava vigrahas of the nine shrines are kept in this temple.



- ❖ Phirangipuram Mary Matha Church can be categorised under Religious places and is a popular tourist place in Phirangipuram. This Phirangipuram Mary Matha Church draws huge crowds from the neighbouring places of Hyderabad, Vizag, Vijayawada, Tirupathi, Srisailem, Karimnagar, Nellore, Warangal, Basara, Kadapa. Some of the other tourist places in the city of Phirangipuram - Phirangipuram Mary Matha Church.

