HOW TO REACH TIRUPATI

Tirupati (Telugu: తిరుపతి) is a major pilgrimage city located in the Chittoor district of Andhra

Pradesh, India. It is located at the foothills of Eastern Ghats at a distance of 550 kms south of Hyderabad, the capital of the state and 100 kms north of Chennai.

Tirupati is located in the southern part of Andhra Pradesh. It has an average elevation of 162 metres (531 feet)

The Tirumala hill is 3,200 ft (980 m) above sea level, and is about 10.33 square miles (26.8 km²) in area.

Climate

Tirupati has an extreme type of climate. Monsoon remains moderate and summer experiences temperatures ranging from 42 to 45 degrees Celsius (107.6 F & 113 F). In winter the minimum temperatures will be between 10 and 18 degrees Celsius (50 F to 64.4 F). Usually summer lasts from March to June, with the advent of rainy season in July, followed by winter which lasts till the end of February.

By Rail

Tirupati has a major railway station which is well equipped and has ten platforms;. Renigunta junction which lies on the busy Chennai and Mumbai rail route is just 10 minutes drive from Tirupati town. There are many trains travelling across the country with Tirupati as the starting point^[]. Tirupati is well connected to major cities across India, esp. Chennai, Bangalore and Hyderabad. The Andhra Pradesh Sampark Kranti Express is the only train from Tirupati that connects to



<u>Bhopal</u>, <u>Gwalior</u> and <u>New Delhi</u>. It is connected by Chennai sub-urban railways in Northwestern line.

Tirupati Railway Station is connected by trains from Bangalore, Chennai, Visakhapatnam, Madurai and Mumbai. **A major railhead nearby is Renigunta, which is 15 km away**. Renigunta is located in Trivandrum – Delhi route, which is connected to all cities in India by rail.

- <u>Bangalore (SBC)</u>: <u>Seshadri Expres</u>
- Chennai (MAS): Sapthagiri Exp (6057), Tirupathi Exp(6053)
- Delhi (NDLS): Kerala Express (2626)
- Hyderabad (SC): Narayanadri Exp (2734), Padmavati Exp (2764)
- Mumbai (CSTM): Nagarcoil Exp (6351), Kanyakumari Exp (6381)

Tirupati By Bus

APSRTC buses connect all towns in Andhra Pradesh with Tirupati. Tamil Nadu public transport corporation buses connect many cities in the state with Tirupati. KSRTC buses connect many cities in Karnataka with this holy city. Many tourist service providers arrange package tours to Tirupati from Bangalore, Chennai and Hyderabad. The charge is about Rs 3 - Rs 4 per km per person.

From	Type of Bus	Fare (Rs)*	Bus Provider
10 more buses	Express Service	102	APSRTC
	Luxury	115	APSRTC
	Karnataka Sarige	119	KSRTC
Chennai (Tamil Nadu)	Luxury	56	APSRTC
Hyderabad (Andhra Pradesh)	Express Service	208	APSRTC
	Luxury	248	APSRTC
	Hi Tech Luxury	293	APSRTC



Tirupati By Air

<u>Tirupati Airport</u> is a domestic airport that has direct flights to <u>Hyderabad</u>, <u>Vizag</u>, <u>Chennai</u>, <u>New Delhi</u> and <u>Bangalore</u>. The airport is located 15 km from the city centre. Closest international airport is located in Chennai, (<u>Chennai International Airport</u>) which is 130 km from Tirupati. The Tirupati airport has been upgraded to an International Airport and the upgrade process is underway.

Tirupati airport is located at Renigunta, which is about

15 km away from the city. Regular flights are available from Chennai, Hyderabad and Bangalore to Tirupati. Taxi services are available from the airport to the city centre and it charges about Rs 300. Nearest International airport is Chennai, which is connected to all major cities in India and many cities abroad.

Tirupati is famous for the <u>Venkateswara Swamy</u> temple dedicated to <u>Lord Venkateswara</u>, located about 10 km North West of Tirupati in the hallowed <u>Tirumala</u> hills at an elevation of 853 m. One of the most important pilgrimage centers in India, the temple draws millions of pilgrims and is one of the



busiest pilgrimage centres in the world. Tirupati town itself has several temples and is famous for

^{*}Likely to revise

its red wooden toys, copper and brass idols. Also, the town is a major economical and educational hub in the southern region of the state.

OTHERS INFORMATION:

Education

Tirupati is a major educational hub in south eastern region of Andhra Pradesh. It is home to several universities, including

- Sri Venkateswara University
- Sri Padmavati Mahila Viswavidyalayam (SPMVV) (one among two women universities in India)
- Rashtriya Sanskrit Vidyapeeth
- Rashtriya Sanskrit Vidyapeeth Directorate of Distance Education
- Sri Venkateswara Vedic University
- Sri Venkateswara Veterinary University (SVVU)
- Sri Venkateswara Institute of Medical Sciences university (SVIMS)

Apart from these universities, it has <u>state government</u> and <u>Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanam</u> sponsored medical, pharmacy, agricultural colleges and also engineering colleges.

Around 22 engineering colleges and 5 pharmacy colleges exist in and around Tirupathi, including:

- Sri Venkateswara University College of Engineering (SVUCE)
- Chadalawada Ramanamma Engg College
- Sree Vidyaniketan Engineering College
- Sri Padmavathi School of Pharmacy (SPSP), Thiruchanoor
- Vaishnavi Institute of Technology (VITT)
- Vaishnavi Institute of Technology for Women(VITW)

Tirupati also has several academic institutions offering degree programmes in Science, Arts, Commerce and Agricultural Sciences. Some of these colleges have been established more than 50 years ago. Some of them are:

- Sri Venkateswara Arts College
- Sri Govindarajaswamy Arts College
- Sri Padmavathi Women's College
- Sri Padmavathi Women's polytechnic
- Sri Venkateswara Government Polytechnic
- Sri Venkateswara Oriental College
- Sri Venkateswara Agriculture College

The Dairy Technology Programme under SV Veterinary University offering B. Tech (Dairy Technology) degree since 1983 has been elevated during the year 2009 to College of Dairy Technology, first of its kind in Andhra Pradesh.

There are many temples in Tirupati and Tirumala. Some of them are:

- <u>Tirumala Venkateswara Temple</u>, dedicated to Lord <u>Vishnu</u> as <u>Venkateswara</u> (also known as Balaji and Srinivasa) attracts followers from a wide range of Hindu traditions.
- Alamelu Mangamma Shrine in Alamelumangapuram also called <u>Thiruchanoor</u>
- Padmavati Temple
- Govindaraja Swamy Temple
- **Kodanda Rama Swamy Temple**: Lord Rama, <u>Sita</u> and <u>Lakshmana</u> are the presiding deities of the temple. Lord Anjaneya Swamy is seen near the foot of Lord Rama. The temple is in the heart of the city. There is also another temple dedicated to Lord Anjaneya Swamy opposite to Kodhanda Rama Swamy Temple. Prasadams are offered daily to pilgrims.
- Srinivasa Mangapuram
- <u>Kapila Theertham</u>: This temple is dedicated to <u>Lord Shiva</u> and <u>Parvati</u>. There is a beautiful waterfall near the temple.
- ISKCON Lord Krishna Temple The temple has its own style of architecture with the towers coloured in gold and white. The carvings of Lord Narasimha Swamy, Lord Varaha Swamy and Krishna Leela are marvelous. Glass painting works on the windows depicting Lord Krishna's playful acts and the ceilings decorated like Tanjore art reveals the colourful masterpiece in art work. Each pillar is decorated with ten *avatars* of Lord Vishnu. The temple inside the sanctum has Lord Krishna with beautifully dressed Gopikas. There is a beautiful park surrounded with lot of flowers, ponds, fountains and with Krishna Leela idols. The temple is on the way to Tirumala Hills.
- Lord Shiva temple at Yogimallavaram, near to Tirupati is very old and is very famous.
- Hanuman temple at Tirumala is where Hanuman's mother Anjana did penance.
- **Avanakshamma temple** 42 km from Tirupati
- Sri Venugopala Swamy Temple in Karvetinagaram, 40 km from Tirupati
- Sri Kalyana Venkateswara Swamy Temple Narayanavanam, 48 km from Tirupati
- Sri Prasanna Venkateswara Swamy Temple Appalayagunta, 20 km from Tirupati

There is also another small temple for Lord Vishnu. The place is on the foothills of Tirumala. Giant Nandikeshwara statue is seen at the entrance of the temple. There is a rock garden in Tirumala called as Shilatoranam.
