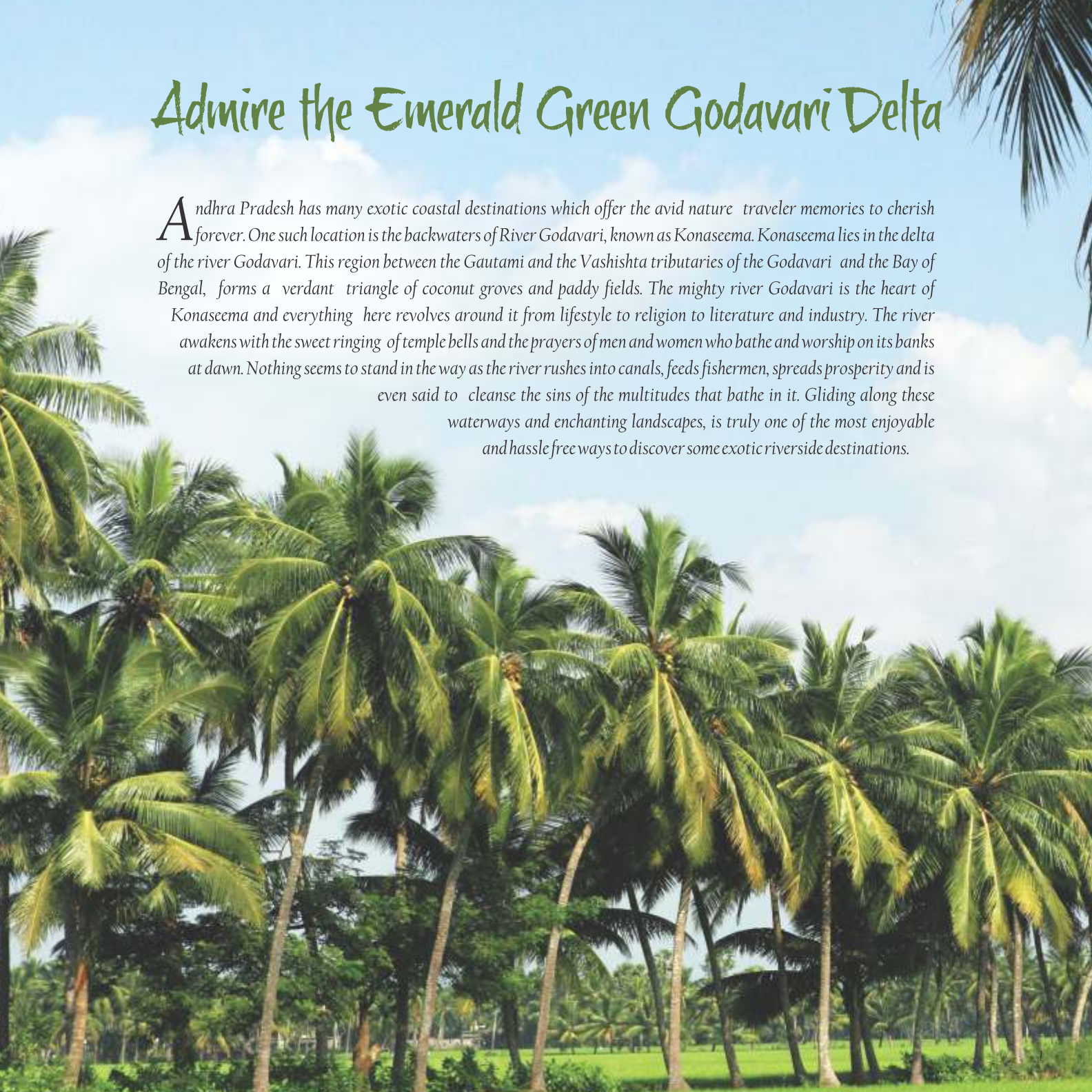


Konaseema
The New Backwaters Destination of
Incredible!ndia

Admire the Emerald Green Godavari Delta

Andhra Pradesh has many exotic coastal destinations which offer the avid nature traveler memories to cherish forever. One such location is the backwaters of River Godavari, known as Konaseema. Konaseema lies in the delta of the river Godavari. This region between the Gautami and the Vashishta tributaries of the Godavari and the Bay of Bengal, forms a verdant triangle of coconut groves and paddy fields. The mighty river Godavari is the heart of Konaseema and everything here revolves around it from lifestyle to religion to literature and industry. The river awakens with the sweet ringing of temple bells and the prayers of men and women who bathe and worship on its banks at dawn. Nothing seems to stand in the way as the river rushes into canals, feeds fishermen, spreads prosperity and is even said to cleanse the sins of the multitudes that bathe in it. Gliding along these waterways and enchanting landscapes, is truly one of the most enjoyable and hassle free ways to discover some exotic riverside destinations.





Cruise the backwaters of Charming Konaseema

Konaseema brings to the mind the canvas of a master painter. It is a memorable experience to cruise down the river and discover the excitement of riverside life, gliding past temple towns and charming rural habitats.

Cruises include night stay, delicious meals, and trained attendants to look after your every need. Andhra Pradesh Tourism offers luxury launches, with 2 bedrooms that accommodate 2 adults and 2 children, and are well furnished with catering and service aboard.



Getting there: Air: Nearest Airport Rajahmundry (69km).

Rail: Nearest Railway Station is Narasapur.

Road: Amalapuram bus depot is a major hub in Konaseema region/Buses and Taxis are available.



Confluence of Godavari with Sea



Antarvedi

Antarvedi, located in the lush and lovely East Godavari District, is the sacred confluence where the Vashishta Godavari, a tributary of the Godavari merges into the Bay of Bengal. There is a famous and much revered temple of Lord Lakshminarasimha Swamy at Antarvedi facing the Vashishta Godavari. It is an incredibly beautiful natural spot and a launch pad allows visitors to land on the small island at the other side of the Godavari River-from where, one can reach the convergence point of the river and the ocean. The picturesque Antarvedi Lighthouse stands on the serene beach and from atop the lighthouse, you are treated to a breathtaking view of the surroundings and this is where the sighing Godavari finally reaches the sea.



Sri Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy Temple Antarvedi

The temple town of Antarvedi is a short drive from Dindi, in the East Godavari District. It is at the point where the tributary of river Godavari, the Vashista, enters the Bay of Bengal. Nestled amidst lush greenery, the legend goes that Antarvedi is the spot where Sage Vashista consecrated the shrine in honour of Lord Narasimha. The first temple is said to have been built in the 15th or 16th centuries. The current edifice was completed in 1923. The temple is designed so, that on the day of Ratha Saptami (in Jan-Feb) the rays of the setting sun fall directly on the feet of the deity. The Godavari joining the sea or 'sangam' is clearly visible here.



Getting there: Air: Rajahmundry Airport (97km).

Rail: Narsapur Railway Station (22 km).

Road: There are frequent buses from nearby towns, Razole, Amalapuram, Palakollu and Bheemavaram.

Ancient Shrine of Immense Sanctity





Adurru East Godavari

*Find Serenity at an
Ancient Buddhist Settlement*

Adurru is located on the western bank of the Vainateya branch of Godavari river which is around 9.5 km from sea. The place is famous for a mound which the local people call 'Dubaraju Gudi'. Excavations carried out in the year 1953 brought to surface a Mahastupa which measures 17 feet in diameter built like a wheel. A raised platform surrounds it all around. The Buddhist remnants are datable to the 3rd century A.D. The fact that a Buddhist site of such importance was found in the heart of the East Godavari belt, is itself a rare and intriguing fact.



Getting there: Air: Rajahmundry Airport (91km).
Rail: Narasapur Railway Station (37km).
Road: Number of buses and Taxis available from nearby towns.



Ryali

Located about 40 Km from Rajahmundry, it is an enchanting place situated between the rivers Vashista and Gautami. The famous temple of Jagan Mohini Kesava Swamy is located here with its exquisite idol, made of black stone. This shrine is itself the form of Sri Maha Vishnu, with the idol of Sree Kesava Swamy, "Sri Mahavishnu" on front side and Jagan Mohini on the back side. A major highlight is the flow of Ganga waters from the feet of Sri Maha Vishnu. The shrine is also referred to as "Swayambhu" and devotees who visit the shrine believe that the shrine is not man made but a creation of the Lord himself.

*Soul journeys to
sacred destinations*

Ksheera Rama Temple Palakollu

Ksheera Rama Temple is one of the five Pancharama Kshetras and is located in Palakollu. The Shivaling here is a unique milky white in colour. There are 72 pillars made of black stone in the temple mandapa. The belief is that Lord Vishnu himself installed the Shivaling and staying one day in Ksheera Rama is equivalent to staying one year in Varanasi.



Getting there: Air: Rajahmundry Airport (69 km) Vizag (161km).
Rail: Palakollu Railway Station.
Road: Buses and Taxis are available from other major towns.

Tourist attractions near Konaseema



Sri Someswara Janardhana Swamy Temple, Bhimavaram

Bhimavaram is renowned for the Someswara Janardhana Swamy Temple, considered to be one of the holy Pancharamas. Built in 3rd century A.D., the Sivalinga in the temple assumes a black-cum-brown color on new moon day and a kind of white on full moon. Another unique feature of this temple complex is that Goddess Annapurna shrine has been raised on top of the Shiva temple.



Getting there: Air: Rajahmundry Airport (91 kms).
Rail: Nearest Railway Station is Bheemavaram (23kms),
Road: Bus and Taxis service are available to Bhimavaram
from nearby towns.



Tourist attractions near Konaseema

Draksharamam

Draksharamam is a hallowed spot where the Bhimeswara Swamy temple, also known as Dakshina Kashi, is located. It is one of the trilingas in the State. The temple is appreciated for its architectural beauty-a harmonious blend of Chalukya and Chola styles-and historical importance. There are 381 inscriptions ranging from 1080 A.D. to 1434 A.D. The Mula Virat here is a long cylindrical pillar rising to about 20-25 feet. Lord Shiva is worshipped in Lingakara here.



Getting there: Air: Rajahmundry Airport (43 km)
 Rail: Kakinada Junction (45km)
 Road : Well connected by road Bus and Taxi Services

An Avian Paradise



Kolleru Bird Sanctuary

Kolleru Bird Sanctuary is located in the West Godavari district. It is rich in flora and fauna, and attracts migratory birds from Australia, Siberia, Egypt and the Philippines, between October and March. Around 2,00,000 birds visit the lake during this season, including open bill storks, painted storks, glossy ibises, white ibises, teals, pintails, shovellers, red-crested pochards, black-winged stilts, avocets, redshanks, wigeons, gadwalls and cormorants. Best season to visit is November-March.

Tourist attractions near Konaseema



Getting there: Air: Vijayawada Airport (51km).
Rail: Eluru Railway Station (36km).
Road: Buses / Taxis are available from Eluru.



Visit the wild and wonderful Mangrove Forests



Tourist attractions near Konaseema



Coringa Wildlife Sanctuary East Godavari

Situated near Kakinada, this sanctuary is known for its backwaters and abundant mangrove plantations. Otter, a protected species, is found here among other animals, which include fishing cat, jackal, sea turtle and estuarine crocodile. The common birds found here are snipes, ducks, sea gulls and flamingos. Accommodation is available at Forest Department rest house located at Coringa and Rajahmundry.



Getting there: Air: Rajahmundry Airport (69km).
Rail: Kakinada Railway Station (23km).
Road: Buses and taxis are available from Kakinada.

Picturesque isle on the Bay of Bengal



Tourist attractions near Konaseema



Getting there: Air: Rajahmundry Airport (47 km)
Rail: Kakinada Junction (8 kms)
Road : Kakinada is well connected by road



Hope Island

Hope Island is a narrow stretch of sandy formation in the mighty Bay of Bengal which was responsible for the formation of the Bay of Kakinada. This enchanting island was formed during the last 200 years by the sand drifting from the tributary of Godavari River.

The island presents a beautiful view with backwaters on one side and sandy beaches on the side facing the Bay of Bengal. The northern part of the island is called the "Godavari point" which overlooks the entry point into the Bay of Kakinada and the Kakinada harbor. Hope Island protects the city of Kakinada from the strong cyclone/tidal waves coming from the Bay of Bengal and offers shelter to ships which berth at anchor in the bay making it one of the safest natural harbours on the east coast of India.

Papikondalu

Another experience not to be missed is the cruise down river Godavari amid the breathtakingly beautiful and scenic Papi Hills or 'Papikondalu'. These hills are at a distance of 50 km down the river from Rajahmundry. This range is part of the Eastern Ghats where the mighty river Godavari narrowing and passing with twists and turns along the Papi Hills is every visitor's delight. The entire Hill range is covered with tropical forests and rain forests. With its emerald-green dense forests and magnificent waterfalls, it makes one gasp in awe-inspiring wonder. Papikondalu is the place where the width of the Godavari is the narrowest. When the boat cruises through the narrow width and emerges on the other side, - it is the most glorious moment of the trip. The boat ride leads one past lush countryside, tiny farm plots, emerald green landscape dotted with tribal habitations all blending naturally with the deep river...to make it a magical place.

Enjoy
Nature's Awesome
Beauty on this
Blissful Cruise

*Tourist attractions
near Konaseema*



Getting there: Air: Rajahmundry is the nearest Airport (50)km
Rail : Nearest Railway Station is Rajahmundry



Marvelous feat of Engineering



The Godavari Arch Bridge

Tourist attractions near Konaseema

This bridge is a marvel of engineering and is one of the longest bowstring arch girder bridges in Asia. It is the latest of the three bridges that span the river Godavari near the city of Rajahmundry. It is a recognized landmark of Rajahmundry and it is often used as a symbol to represent Rajahmundry in art, media and culture. This is perhaps one of its kind in the world where this type of construction ie bowstring arch girder has been used to span the extremely long distance if 97.55 metres or more than 320 feet. Construction on the bridge began in 1991 and lasted till 1997. It was commissioned for passenger traffic in March 1997 and became fully operational for running trains by the Indian Railways from 2003. The bridge is located in two channels, the Kovvur channel and the Rajahmundry channel, and hence the bridge is also known as the Kovvur-Rajahmundry Bridge.



Enjoy close encounters with verdant nature

Tourist attractions near Konaseema



Beauty blossoms in the flower garden of Andhra Pradesh

Maredumilli, East Godavari

Maredumilli is a little known eco paradise, near Rajahmundry. Spread across lush forest land, with several sparkling streams and waterfalls, the nature lover will find a number of attractions here like Madanakunj medicinal plant centre and more. To enjoy exciting proximity with nature there is the 'Jungle Star Nature Camp' offering tented accommodation. One can also trek to the Amruthadhara Falls amidst vast acres of rubber plantations. Tourist friendly facilities are available.



Getting there: Air: Rajahmundry Airport (67km).

Rail: Rajahmundry Railway Station (67km).

Road: Can be accessed by bus / Taxi

Kadiyapulanka Rajahmundry

Kadiyapulanka is a small, picturesque village with thriving floriculture and horticulture. The colorful gardens of jasmine, roses, chrysanthemums, lilies and hibiscus here offer a feast to the eyes. Ornamental plants such as Archaria, Song of India, Johnny Fresh, Dracenia, Arclias etc. are also cultivated here. An annual flower show, held here in January, offers a great opportunity to see some of nature's most beautiful creations. The area's nurseries export flowers across India.



Getting there: Air: Rajahmundry Airport (30km).

Rail: Rajahmundry Railway Station (13km).

Road: Can easily be reached by bus / Taxi from Rajahmundry.

Where to Stay

The incredible natural beauty of Konaseema has encouraged Andhra Pradesh Tourism to provide the best facilities for tourists to explore this lush and lovely region. **Dindi Coconut Country Resort** of Andhra Pradesh Tourism, is a set amidst the beautiful backwaters of the Vashishta and Vainateya tributaries of River Godavari. Tempting the tourist with its lush green beauty, the Haritha Coconut Country resort here has the best of modern facilities. The multi-facilities include a A/C Restaurant, banquet hall, swimming pool and excellent venues for Conferences. A.P. Tourism offers river cruises on fully furnished houseboats across the backwaters.. The **Palavelli Resorts**, nestled on the banks of the Vashishta Godavari provides contemporary luxury in the lap of nature. The resort offers villas and multi-cuisine restaurant besides adventure activities and boating facilities. 'Dindi by the Godavari'-is another perfect riverside holiday location which has been set up by **Sterling Resorts**. It is an undisturbed realm of natural beauty with well appointed rooms, spa Restaurant, swimming pool and bar. Located 80 km from Rajahmundry it is the perfect breakaway you would desire into an enchanting and exciting riverside world. There are many Star Hotels at Rajahmundry like **Hotel Shelton Rajahmahendri**, **River Bay**, and **Anand Regency**, **A.P. Tourism Haritha Beach Park Hotel**, **Hotel Royal Park** in Kakinada which can be used as base camps for exploration of Konaseema and its environs. These and many more experiences that invite you to visit Konaseema, a region where you can enjoy nature at its best, refresh your mind and soothe your senses.



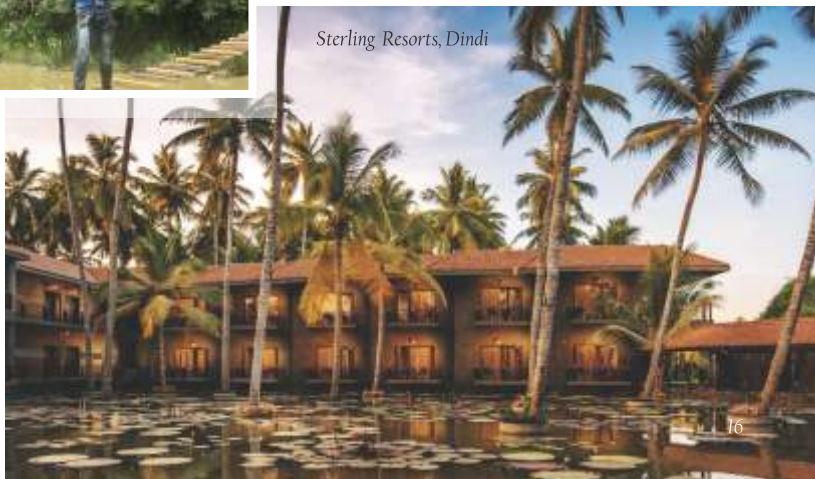
Coconut Country Resorts, Dindi



Palavelli Resorts, Dindi



Sterling Resorts, Dindi



AP Tourism
Haritha Beach Resorts

What to Eat

Konaseema has been praised as a land of plenty and prosperity and the richness of the region is reflected in its cuisine. The fertile land gives scope to cultivate a vast variety of vegetables which are famous for their fresh and flavorsome taste. People use them generously in every preparation right from dals to chutneys with delightfully tasty combinations. **Chinta Chiguru Pappu** is a Konaseema special dal (cooked lentils) speciality which is made of fresh green tender leaves of the chinta (Tamarind) tree. A tempering of garlic, asafoetida mustard and fenugreek seeds is usually added for additional aroma and flavor. An abundance of cashew nuts grows in the Konaseema Region. A local delicacy comprises whole cashew fruits cooked in a rich gravy of onions, tomatoes and drumsticks or fresh brinjal (eggplant). A delicacy available only in Konaseema is the conical steamed idli or “Pottakkalu”. These pyramid shaped idlis steamed in jackfruit leaf baskets are made only in Ambajipeta village.

For the non-vegetarians, a feast awaits. Pulasa Fish a rare seasonal fish found only in some parts of the Godavari backwaters and considered a delicacy in the region. As a local saying goes “Pulasa” must be had in your lifetime even if it means that you have to sell off your valuables, even your gold chains. Cooked in



Drumstick and Cashew Curry



Andhra Meal



Pulasa Fish

a rich tangy sauce or '**Pulusu**' **Pulasa** is very expensive and a single fish could cost you a few thousand rupees. It is said that when Pulasa is being cooked in a house everybody on the street can identify a house where it is being prepared by its rich distinctive aroma. Pulasa is available during August and September and can be advance ordered and custom cooked for you in some local restaurants. 'Peethala vepudu' or Crab Fry, 'Chepala Pulusu' or Fish in sour gravy, and 'Royyala Iguru', a thick prawn curry, tingle your palate with their taste. All these are of course accompanied by rice. But surprisingly the pot biryanis or '**Kunda Biryani**', of Ravulapalem, vie with the Hyderabad counterpart in their tantalizing taste. Try it for the culinary delight. Dals, pickles and the entire range of snacks like dosas, upma, persarattu and idli are the ubiquitous favorites but the delicious jack fruit curry and brinjals cooked with cashew fruit are dishes that will have you craving for more. For the sweet tooth there are dry fruit crepes or '**poothatrekulu**', '**madatha kajas** from Athreyapuram, '**Palakova**' or 'peda' from Rajahmundry and the very popular mango jelly or '**maamidi taandri**'. In all, Konaseema offers a culinary platter that is a gourmet's delight.



Pot Biryani, Ravulapalem



Pakam Garelu, Perumallapuram



Kakinada Kaja



Pootharekulu, Athreyapuram



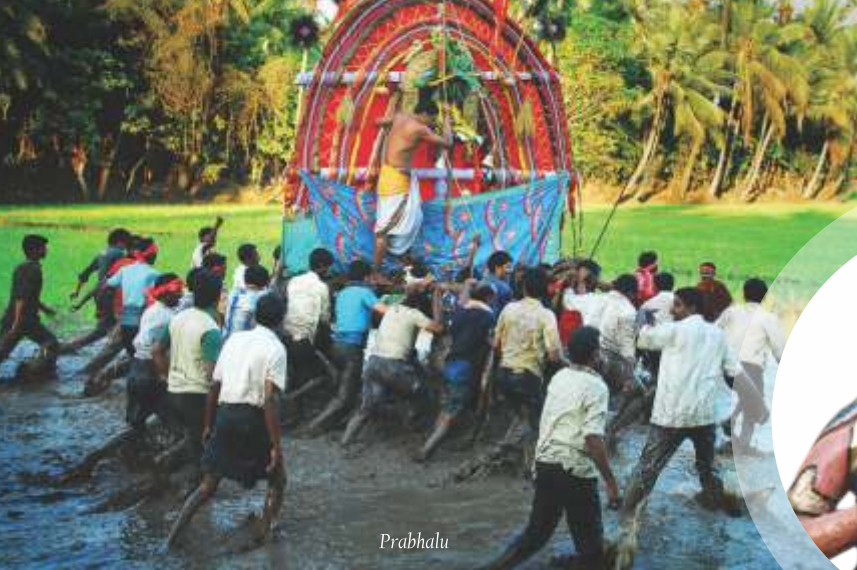
Madatha Kaja, Tapeswaram



Festivals and Culture

Konaseema has its own rich culture of festivities and celebrations and they are colorful and entrancingly different. Almost all of 150 villages of Konaseema celebrate **Sankranti** and Kanuma festivals in January with aplomb. Large processions with '**Prabhas**' or high decorated banners on poles are paraded throughout every town and village, uniting them in religious rejoicing. Indigenous dance forms of Konaseema that are vibrant yet rarely see elsewhere are the vigorous, energetic '**Veeranatyam**', reminiscent of Lord Shiva's cosmic dance accompanied by tridents, bells and drums, then the gentle persuasive '**Vilasini Natyam**' of the '**devadasis**' or temple dancers. These vanishing arts are presently being given a fillip to regain their past glory.





Prabhalu

Butta Bommalu



Narsapur Lace Work



Leather Puppets



Uppada Sarees

Konaseema has rich natural resources and creative output too, and one can take back a treasured souvenir from the repertoire of crafts. There are the **'Tholu Bommalu'** or leather puppets that are colorful and decorative or one can also prefer to purchase a mask of the **'Butta Bommalu'** dancers...each one a unique piece. Then there is the world famous **Narsapur Lace** and you can have your pick from a mindboggling variety. Yet another immensely popular product from this region are the gorgeous **silk sarees from Uppada**, coveted across the country and the world for their rare 'jamdhani' technique of weaving. Any of these could make great souvenirs which you will treasure.



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