

Where to stay

Tirupati

ROOM SERVICE Priyanka Agarwal picks the best hotels to check in to, whether you're seeking blessings or a business deal



	Resort	Luxury	Business	Good value
	MARASA SAROVAR PREMIERE	FORTUNE SELECT GRAND RIDGE	MINERVA GRAND	KEYS HOTEL VIHAS
Location	Away from the town centre. 18km from the airport and 24km from the temple	Near the art and craft village of Shilparamam. 25km from the temple	Close to the offices of major infrastructure and manufacturing companies Lanco and Grindwell Norton	The closest hotel to the temple, it is about 40 minutes away by road
Look	The theme is the 10 avatars of Vishnu, complete with a restaurant named Krishna, decorated with flutes	White and brown, with pops of colour and glitzy lights. There's also a bookstore and art exhibition space	It's your standard small-town hotel—plain on the outside and comfortable inside	Channels South India's love for gold, from the bright lighting to the lampshades and headboards
Crowd	Visitors looking for some R&R during their pilgrimage	 N Chandrababu Naidu and Shruti Haasan have stayed here	Business travellers and the odd celebrity such as actor Nagarjuna	Devotees looking for a convenient stay close to the temple
Rooms	115 rooms and six suites with geometric patterns on the walls and hurricane lamps	Featuring a contemporary look, the 133 rooms and five suites come with free wi-fi	66 rooms and three suites with oakwood floors and free wi-fi	58 rooms and three suites with 24-hour room service—great for a coffee before your pre-dawn darshan
Eating & drinking	The all-day Lotus Café is good for pan-Asian meals, while Krishna serves vegetarian Indian fare	Zodiac and Rainbow offer Indian, European and Chinese; the latter is vegetarian	Minerva Coffee Shop does a good Andhra vegetarian thali; BlueFox is a decent multi-cuisine option	Nine Flavours serves Indian, European and Chinese food
Best thing	Views of the Tirumala Hills from some of the Premiere Rooms	Its infinity pool, the only such hotel pool in Tirupati	 The tasty Andhra thalis at Minerva Coffee Shop	A beauty kit for female guests, with pins, kumkum and nail polish remover
Worst thing	The secluded approach can feel a bit daunting after dark	The views of nearby buildings are nothing to write home about	Opaque glass in the rooms keeps out dust and heat, but this means no views at all	No alcohol, owing to its proximity to the temple
Price	Doubles from ₹3,000	Doubles from ₹4,200	Doubles from ₹3,600	Doubles from ₹3,000
Contact	Upadhyaya Nagar, Karakambadi Road (www.sarovarhotels.com)	Shilparamam, Tiruchanoor Road (www.fortunehotels.in)	19-3-39, Renigunta Road (www.minervahotels.in)	Madura Nagar (www.keyshotels.com)



The early morning Suprabhat darshan, when idols of the deities are bathed and dressed for the day. Limited spots are available, so book a few days in advance (www.ttdsevaonline.com)