PRINTABLE TRIP ITINERARY

# Araku Valley in 3 Days

Our completed May 2022 trip for a husband, wife and three teenage daughters, with sleeper trains, Chandrika Guest House, a private seven-seater and ₹26,800 total.

| 3 days | ₹26,800 for 5 | Andhra Pradesh | 3 days |
|---|---|---|---|
| TRIP | BUDGET | DURATION | GUIDE |

## What this guide includes

Actual or planned costs, a readable day-by-day itinerary, practical food and accommodation notes, and public transport station pairs where available.

Important: Historical costs are budgeting references. Verify current prices, route numbers, opening times and entry rules before travel.

# Budget and transport

| Expense | Family of 5 | Per person |
|---|---|---|
| Return sleeper-class train tickets | ₹7,000 | ₹1,400 |
| Chandrika Guest House | ₹4,000 | ₹800 |
| Hired seven-seater and local transport | ₹9,500 | ₹1,900 |
| Vegetarian meals, tiffins and snacks | ₹4,800 | ₹960 |
| Attraction and activity fees | ₹1,500 | ₹300 |
| Total | ₹26,800 | ₹5,360 |

## Bus, train, tram and ferry route card

| Mode | Service | Board at | Get down at | Approx. fare | Note |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Train | Godavari Express / booked overnight service | Secunderabad Junction | Visakhapatnam Junction | Included in booked rail budget; check IRCTC | Use the exact train number and platform printed on the ticket. |
| Private vehicle | Pre-booked seven-seater | Visakhapatnam Junction | Borra Caves, Araku and Chandrika Guest House | Included in ₹9,500 hired-vehicle total | This completed trip used a hired vehicle; there was no fixed-route bus to reproduce. |
| Train | Godavari Express 12727 or booked return service | Visakhapatnam Junction | Secunderabad Junction | Included in booked rail budget; check IRCTC | Confirm the live timetable and platform before travel. |

Checked October 2026: confirm live schedules and disruptions in the official operator planner.

# Day-by-day itinerary and practical notes

We travelled as a family of five—a husband and wife with our three teenage daughters. We took the sleeper train from Hyderabad, stayed at Chandrika Guest House and used a hired seven-seater to explore Araku Valley, Borra Caves and the surrounding Eastern Ghats.

Prices are historical rather than live quotations. Use them as a budgeting reference and verify current fares, entry fees and booking conditions before travelling.

## Exactly what our family spent

## Our three-day Araku Valley itinerary

We boarded our sleeper-class train towards Visakhapatnam carrying snacks and dry vegetarian food from home for the overnight journey.

Our hired seven-seater collected the family after arrival. We drove into the hills, explored Borra Caves, stopped around the Ananthagiri coffee-growing area and continued to Araku Valley before checking into Chandrika Guest House.

We visited the Araku Tribal Museum and later enjoyed a campfire at Chandrika Guest House. This was one of the most memorable family moments from the stay.

We ate at Lucky Tiffin Centre, visited Padmapuram Gardens and spent time at Chaparai Water Cascades. We did not eat bamboo biryani or bamboo paneer; our food spending was on the vegetarian meals, tiffins and snacks we actually chose.

After leaving Araku, we stopped at Galikonda Viewpoint, returned towards Visakhapatnam and visited RK Beach before boarding the Sunday evening train.

The overnight return journey brought us back to Hyderabad on the morning of 9 May.

## Borra Caves

The illuminated limestone formations made Borra Caves the most dramatic stop on our journey. Visiting en route from Visakhapatnam also meant the cave did not require a separate long return drive from Araku town.

## Chaparai Water Cascades

Chaparai gave the family an open-air contrast to the caves and museum. We spent time around the broad rock formations and flowing water, taking care on the wet surfaces rather than treating the site as a guaranteed safe swimming area.

## Where we stayed

Chandrika Guest House was our base in Araku. The family accommodation cost ₹4,000, and the guest-house campfire gave us a relaxed evening together after sightseeing.

## Vegetarian food

We carried snacks and dry food from Hyderabad, reducing what we needed to buy during the train journeys. Lucky Tiffin Centre is the local food stop we remember and can personally confirm. We have not listed other restaurants as personal recommendations because we did not confirm visiting them.

The map connects the main places from this trip. Always verify current road conditions, opening times and access before travelling.

## Family trip summary

Journey: Hyderabad → Visakhapatnam → Araku Valley → Visakhapatnam → Hyderabad

Dates: 5–9 May 2022

Travellers: husband, wife and three teenage daughters

Actual total: ₹26,800 for the family; ₹5,360 per person

Highlights: Borra Caves, coffee plantations, Tribal Museum, Padmapuram Gardens, Chaparai Water Cascades, Galikonda Viewpoint, RK Beach and the guest-house campfire.

Biggest savings: sleeper trains, shared vehicle costs and home-packed snacks and dry food.

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## Before you travel

Reconfirm every fare, stop, timetable, visa or entry requirement, baggage rule and food-import restriction with the responsible provider.