

tourist info



Instead of doing the mall-movie routine this weekend, why not get your travel boots on to explore a picture perfect weaving village set amidst lakes and take in migratory birds like flamingoes and pelicans too?

Handloom Holiday

South Indian silk saris have always been known for their elegance. Whether woven in Telangana, Andhra, Karnataka or Tamil Nadu, every sari is different and is typical of the region in its design and technique.

Paatur saris are made in the Karipakam village in Chittoor district. While making Paatur saris, cotton, silk and *zari* threads are handwoven together to craft cotton silk saris. Traditional motifs like peacocks, mangos and flowers are the most commonly used.

There were around 150 weavers in this village once. Today there are only 50, as the lack of patronage pushes them to find work in factories nearby. The head weaver gets designs from stores and distributes the work amongst these weavers. As a rule, once a design is made, it is not repeated; some variation is mandatory. If you wish to see the weavers at work, busy at their looms, do visit the village on a sunny morning.

PLACES OF INTEREST NEARBY

PULICAT LAKE – India's second largest salt-water lagoon, it is the winter home for numerous migratory birds from Central Asia, of which flamingoes and pelicans arrive in large numbers. The state tourism department hosts a flamingo festival here in January every year. Pulicat is just half an hour's drive from Karipakam.

NELAPATTU BIRD SANCTUARY – Also known as Pelican Paradise, it is one of the popular bird sanctuaries of India. Look out for the spot billed pelicans and other migratory birds from the 187 species found here.

GETTING THERE

BY ROAD – The most convenient way to get there is to drive down from Tirupati. This takes a little over an hour. From Hyderabad, it is an eight hour drive to Karipakam, which is 524 kms away.

BY AIR – Nearest airports are Tirupati and Chennai.

BY RAIL – Nearest railway station is at Sullurpet.

STAY

One can check out the Big Stay serviced apartments at Tada. With a restaurant offering Continental, Oriental and Indian cuisine, it is quite a comfortable place to stay. For bookings call 76600 1166 or write to reservations@bigstay.in.

NOTE

- If you are an avid bird watcher, do make time to go to the sanctuaries.
- The saris are affordable and start at Rs 2500, remember to pick up a souvenir as each sari is unique.
- Carry your SLR, or ensure your phone is fully charged as you can click countless selfies with the colorful looms in the background. ■



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