

**THE REAL INDIA!**  
**VT Summer Study in India, Summer 2, 2019**  
July 7-August 16, 2019

**Program Description**

This program is based in Visakhapatnam (also known as Vizag), the largest city in the state of Andhra Pradesh located on the Bay of Bengal coast roughly half way between Chennai and Kolkata. A smaller city by Indian standards (about 2 million people) and generally off the tourist beaten path, Vizag offers an opportunity for students to live in and learn about India in an in depth and casual manner. Students will explore and study cultural, historical, and religious sites located in the vicinity of Vizag (see below) and have opportunities for undergraduate research, independent study, and/or community/service learning. Housing and food will be provided for in the quiet community of Lawson's Bay, located near the oceanfront and Kailasagiri, a mountain with a cable car! The program coordinator is Dr. Peter Schmitthenner, a specialist in modern Indian history who has lived in India for over 20 years. Local arrangements will be coordinated by M.V. Krishnayya, retired Professor of Philosophy and Religion at Andhra University, who has worked with American students and scholars for about 50 years!

**Academic program:**

RLCL 3214: Religion and Culture in India (CLE 2/Pathways Humanities) or RLCL 3954-Study Abroad (for students who have already taken RLCL 3214); 3 credits

Includes excursion to about six regional sites of religious and cultural significance (see list on reverse side).

Optional Independent Study/Undergraduate Research; 3 credits

Catered to student's major and/or interests. Guided by either Dr. Schmitthenner or another VT faculty member (remotely). Could include service learning with a local NGO. (See separate list of independent study or undergraduate research possibilities.

**Approximate Program Costs**

Fixed program fee ( <i>includes lodging, meals, and internal transportation, medical and security insurance</i> )	\$2800
International Airfare (current rate; lower fares will probably be available)	\$1600
Visa	\$200
Other possible fees (including immunizations, books, etc.)	<u>\$300</u>
Approximate total costs (excluding VT tuition)	\$4,900
+ VT Tuition & Fees for Summer II ( <a href="http://www.bursar.vt.edu">www.bursar.vt.edu</a> )	

**Application Procedure and Deadline**

The application comprises submission of a brief statement of intent, letter of recommendation, and an unofficial transcript. The application deadline is **November 15**. See here to apply: <http://sa.globaleducation.vt.edu/?go=CLAHSIndia>.

Please contact Dr. Peter Schmitthenner ([pschmitt@vt.edu](mailto:pschmitt@vt.edu)) for further information.

Turn over for description of excursions.

### Description of Excursions

1. Tour of the city of **Visakhapatnam** (Vizag), where the program is based.
2. Visit to **Simhachalam**, a famous Hindu temple and pilgrimage center, located in the hills nearby Vizag.
3. Tour of **Bheemunipatanam** (or Bhimilipatnam), a coastal town near Vizag which contains remnants of a Dutch settlement dating to the 17<sup>th</sup> century.
4. Visit to **Aruku Valley**. A popular tourist destination in the hills about 60 miles north of Vizag. It is home to indigenous peoples (advasis).
5. Tours of **Vizianagram** and **Bobbili**, towns about 30-40 miles from Vizag which were once part of an independent princely state (under British rule), whose rulers were great patrons of the arts and literature. Bobbili is the site of a famous battle between the British and French during the 18<sup>th</sup> century, which is the subject of a popular folk performance.
6. Tours of **Rajahmundry**, the **Godavari River**, and **Machilipatnam**. Rajahmundry, located at the head of the Godavari River delta about 120 miles southwest of Vizag, is an important Hindu pilgrimage destination and is known as an important center of Telugu literature and culture. The tour includes a boat trip up the Godavari River, the largest river in south India. Machilipatnam, located about 100 miles southwest of Rajahmundry, was once a thriving port city (under the British East India Company) and is famous for its colorful block-printed textiles (kalamkari).