

# Mallela Theertham

THE 110-FOOT WATERFALL IS IN THE HEART OF A RESERVE FOREST ABOUT 58 KM FROM SRISAILAM AND 158 KM FROM HYDERABAD



Natasha



## NATASHA BALI

 Mallela Theertham waterfalls was not my first choice for a weekend getaway. Dharamsala was. But some last-minute work came up and instead of a family outing in the north, I turned to my friends in Greater Hyderabad Adventure Club for a short weekend break. Some browsing of the club website and a few phone calls later I found myself headed to Mallela Theertham. The 110-foot waterfall is in the heart of a reserve forest about 58 km from Srisailam and 158 km from Hyderabad.

About 20 of us left Hyderabad early on a Saturday morning and our first stop was the Umamaheshwaram temple. It is perched on top of a picturesque Nallamala forest range, about 100 km from the city and is on the Hyderabad-Srisailam highway. It is considered as the northern gateway to Srisailam. The temple itself is a modest structure but its surroundings add a lot of character and mysticism to it. A beautiful path has been carved out of rocks, right above the temple. A short walk cannot be missed, as



The pristine and clear waterfalls in Mallela Theertham which will soothe your senses

you get to witness the grandeur of Nallamala forest in all its glory. Our time here ended around noon and I was very glad to have visited it. Off we went to Mallela Theertham with a short lunch break near Mannanur check post en route. Once we crossed the check post some of us decided to travel on the roof the bus. It was absolutely the most thrilling experience... undoubtedly the best bus ride of my life.

On reaching Mallela Theertham, we spotted a small stream. We decided to follow this stream up to the

source of the waterfall. We had experienced guides to help us all through. As we walked further, the stream kept getting bigger and the water flow stronger and we soon reached the source. It appeared like a cluster of jacuzzis with water flowing off its edges at dangerous speeds. After spending an hour here, we came back down and headed straight for the camping site.

Next morning we were back at Mallela Theertham, this time tracing its path downstream. During the trek, we came across seven small waterfalls. It was quite a task trying to find our way down each of them. All of us waited for till each and every member of the group had safely crossed the small falls. It took about 20 minutes to cross each waterfall. At the final waterfall there was a beautiful pond below. It was a perfect spot to take a long well deserved break before heading back. Many of us swam in the pond while others played in the water. No one came out of that place dry. That marked the end of our trip. By afternoon we were on our way back to Hyderabad. We stopped at the same *dhaba* near Mannanur for lunch.

We were all nicely dried up by the time we reached the outskirts of Hyderabad. But, thunder and rain had followed us to Hyderabad and the minute we got off the bus we were drenched in the rain. I didn't really mind the rain. I couldn't get any wetter than I already was, so decided to walk in the rain for a while. Quite an amazing trip it was.

— The writer is an IT professional and an avid traveller

## how to reach

**YOU'LL HAVE TO BE UP EARLY**

There is an early morning APSRTC bus from Hyderabad which goes directly to Mallela Theertham. Alternatively, take a bus going to Srisailam and get off at Vataralapalli.



## pit stop



## BE WARNED

It is advisable not to stay in the forest unless you have the necessary permissions and expertise. You can stay at the AP Forest Guest House at Mannanur, 26 km from Mallela Theertham. The tariff ranges from ₹20 for a dormitory bed to ₹800 for an air-conditioned room.

**Food Stop**

**BRING IN YOUR HOME FOOD**



**F**or the day trek at Mallela Theertham, please carry food from home or buy something from the *dhabas* at Vataralapalli.