



CHENNAI

Tamil Nadu constitutes the south-eastern extremity of the Indian peninsula. Chennai is the capital city of the State, besides being an important district. The district city is one of the metropolises of India and serves as the gateway to the culture of South India. In spite of being the capital of a Tamil-speaking state, it has emerged as a cosmopolitan city playing an important role in the historical, cultural and intellectual development of India, representing still the distinct components of the highest form of Dravidian civilization. In addition, it holds out an interesting fare of South Indian architecture, music, dance, drama, sculpture and other arts and crafts.

Places of Interest

Museum: Chennai Government Museum is one of the oldest of the entire nation. The archaeology section one of the major highlights and has around 1500 bronze figures. The art section displays famous original paintings like the works of Raja Ravi Varma, Tanjore paintings and Rajput paintings. It is located at Egmore around 11 km away from IITM campus.



The Universal Temple: Ramakrishna Mutt is a house for all the monks who follow Ramakrishna Order. Attached to the Mutt is the famous Universal Temple dedicated to Sri Ramakrishna, who is a symbol of Universal Religion. The unique features of the temple are its vibrant prayer hall and the spectacular carvings. The temple provides its visitor with an experience of serenity, inner peace and all the wisdom practiced by ancient saints and sages of India. The Mutt is located at Mylapore, 8 km away from IITM campus, within the city.

Dakshinachitra: Do not miss this unique heritage centre located on the east coast road in Muttukadu on the way to Mahabalipuram (25 km away from IITM campus) which offers the visitor an unforgettable & authentic insight into the lifestyles of the diverse peoples of South India. The cultural village of Dakshinachitra has brought into light the ancient traditions of architecture, craftsmanship, performing arts and cuisine of Kerala and Tamil Nadu.



Mahabalipuram: Once the port city of the Pallavas, Mamallapuram or Mahabalipuram is situated at the periphery of Chennai and is approximately 61 km away from the main city. The place is known for its monuments and silvery sandy beach together creating a unique blend of history and natural beauty. The monuments are mostly rock-cut and monolithic, and they constitute shore temples, cave temples, monolithic rathas (chariots), sculpted reliefs, pillars and structural temples. The temples are the example of the zenith of Dravidian art and architecture.

Puducherry: Puducherry or Pondicherry is a peaceful city referred by names such as ‘Quintessence of French Culture’, ‘India’s Little France’ and ‘The French Riviera of the East’. It has always preserved the French heritage and its cultural aspects which are unique in India. It is located 160 km from the city of Chennai. People who love to go for shopping can select Pondicherry as goods in this town can be bought for cheaper prices and the shoppers can bargain and pay the minimal charges for goods to their satisfaction. The golden sea shores, the exclusive sunset cruises, the enchanting moonlit dinners and the blissful lagoons have given the lovely resort a reputation of being the most appropriate place for those in quest of a relaxed and leisurely holiday. The world-renowned Sri Aurobind Ashram is also situated here.



Culture



The Margazhi Festival of Dance and Music: The Chennai festival is one of the world's largest cultural events, larger than the Woodstock festival in Edinburgh, with over 2000 performances of Indian classical music, dance and allied arts spread over a period of almost two months during December and January every year. Scholars, critics, organizers, festival directors, eminent artists and art lovers from all over the world reach Chennai to participate. In nearly all of programs, there is always a rush for tickets. Hence, book them in advance for your favorite performers.

Cuisines



The cuisine of Tamil Nadu is counted among the popular cuisines in India. It is enjoyed by the people of the country and equally relished by the foreigners coming to India. Dishes like Idli, Dosa, Sambar, Filter ‘Kaapi’ (coffee) and Rasam are the most exotic dishes among the south Indian cuisine. The south Indian platter or Thali is also very popular, comprising various vegetables, along with dominant coconut flavor. Another highlight of south Indian cuisine is, Pongal, a sweet dish prepared during the the harvest festival 'Pongal'. Saravana Bhavan, Sangeetha and Sri Krishna Sweets are some of the eat-outs where you can treat your taste buds with original south Indian flavors. Also, there are numerous restaurants that specialize in international cuisine offering Chinese, Mexican, Continental, Thai, Japanese, Mediterranean and Italian food among others.

We welcome you and wish you a happy stay at our ‘Singara Chennai’.