



SERVICE DIRECTORY

About Chennai



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CHENNAI



The origin of Chennai, formerly known as Madras, can be traced to the early 1600s when the British East India Company purchased a piece of coastal land, near a settlement called Chennirayapattinam and then began the construction of a harbour and a fort, Fort St. George was founded in 1639 and it is a plausible contention that the city eventually evolved around the fort.

Chennai is the capital city of Tamil Nadu and with a population of 4.6million, it is regarded as the 4th largest metropolitan area in India. Its population density is 24682 per sq. km, making it one of the most densely populated cities in the world. The city's average literacy rate is also very high at 80.1%.

Chennai has evolved as a city with tremendous potential for industrial growth because of its economic viability and available infrastructure. Chennai has witnessed tremendous growth in its automobile manufacturing, retail, health care and IT sector in the last ten years.

The city is India's second largest exporter of software, information technology and information technology enabled services. A major portion of India's automobile manufacturing industry is based around the city.

Chennai Port is the second largest port facility in India It has one of the largest container terminal facilities in the country and has direct sea lane services to China, West Africa, Europe and the United States. It is a substantial reason for Tamil Nadu's manufacturing boom and economic growth. It is due to the existence of the port that the city of Chennai became known as the Gateway of South India.

Chennai is an important centre for Carnatic music, has a vibrant theatre scene. The Kalakshetra is an important centre for the classical dance form Bharatnatyam. The Tamil film industry which is one of the largest film industries in the country is based here and the soundtracks of its films resonate in the daily lives of the local citizens.

**CHENNAI AT A GLANCE**

Area:	174 sqkm
Population:	4.6million
Location:	13 .5'2 N 80 '16 '12' E
Languages:	Tamil, English
Climate:	Tropical wet and dry; the city lies on the thermal equator and is also on the coast, which prevents extreme variation in seasonal temperature. The weather is hot and humid for most of the year. The hottest part of the year spans from late May to early June.
Maximum Temperature:	Around 38- 42 °C (100- 108°F). The coolest month of the year is January.
Minimum Temperature:	Around 18- 20 ° C (64- 68 ° F) .
Annual Rainfall:	The average annual rainfall is about 140 cm (55 in). The city gets most of its seasonal rainfall from the north east monsoon wind s, from mid October to mid-December.

Cyclones in the Bay of Bengal sometimes hit the city. The highest annual rainfall recorded is 257 cm(101 in) in 2005.

PLACES OF INTEREST IN CHENNAI**SAN THOME BASILICA**

Named after St. Thomas, one of the 12 Apostles of Jesus Christ, the San Thome Basilica or the St Thomas Cathedral was built by the Portuguese in 1523 over the burial site of St. Thomas. The Cathedral was renovated by the British in 1893. The 472 m high cathedral has been built in the neo-Gothic style. The beautiful stained glass window at the basilica portrays the story of St. Thomas and the central hall has 14 wooden plaques depicting scenes from the last days of Christ. The cathedral also has a 3 ft high statue of Virgin Mary believed to have been brought from Portugal in 1543.

BUILT: 1523; RENOVATED IN 1893

LOCATION: ROSARY CHURCH ROAD, MYLAPORE

DISTANCE FROM THE HOTEL: 10 KM

TRAVELLING TIME: 25MINUTES

ENTRY FEE: FREE

ST. THOMAS MOUNT

Some Christians of India trace the origin of their church to St. Thomas who attained martyrdom in Chennai nearly 2000 years ago. Legend has it that the Apostle came to India in 52 AD after the demise of Jesus Christ. In the year 72 AD, while trying to



flee from the local ruler, St. Thomas was martyred on top of this 300 feet high hillock. His body was later buried in the present day San Thome Basilica, near Marina beach, however a shrine was built in 1523 on the spot where St. Thomas died atop the hillock. A legendary bleeding cross which was clutched by the saint when he died, is present in the shrine and still has his blood stains on it.

BUILT: ST THOMAS SHRINE (1523), LITTLE MOUNT CHURCH (1551)

LOCATION :VELACHERRY

DISTANCE FROM THE HOTEL: 4.7 KM

TRAVELLING TIME: 20 MINUTES ENTRY FEE: FREE

ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH

St Andrew's Church was built in 1821, and is one of the best Georgian buildings in South India and Asia. Also famous as St. Andrew's Kirk, Saint Andrew's Church is sometimes referred to as 'The Queen of Scottish Churches in the East'. The Church was built for the Scottish Community that had settled in Chennai city. The main spire is 52 feet high and the church has an impressive blue dome decorated with gold stars. One can get an excellent view of the city from the top of the spire.

BUILT: 1821

LOCATION : EVK SAMPATH ROAD, NEAR EGMORE RAILWAY STATION

TIMINGS: 0900 -1800 HRS

DISTANCE FROM THE HOTEL: 13.4 KM

TRAVELLING TIME: 25 MINUTES

ENTRY FEE:FREE

CHURCH OF OUR LADY OF LIGHT

The Church of Our Lady of Light is a Roman Catholic shrine in Chennai, India. It is commonly called Luz Church by the locals - a name derived from the Portuguese name Nossa Senhora da Luz. Built in 1516 by the Portuguese, it is one of the oldest churches in the city. There is a legend about the church which states that five Jesuit priests who were on their way to Chennai by sea, lost their way in rough waters. Upon praying to Mother Mary for their safety, they saw a mysterious light which guided them to shore. Hence, they built the church in Mother Mary's honour.

BUILT: 1516

LOCATION: MYLAPORE

DISTANCE FROM THE HOTEL: 7.8KM

TRAVELLING TIME: 25 MINUTES

ENTRY FEE:FREE

AUSPICIOUS DATES: 15 AUGUST (FEAST OF OUR LADY OF LIGHT)

THOUSAND LIGHTS MOSQUE

This mosque was built by the Nawab of Arcot, Umdat-ul-Umrah in the year 1810. It is one of the largest mosques in the country and is a revered place of worship for Shia Muslims. Holy quotations from Quran have been inscribed on the walls of the Mosque. The mosque has five domes and two 64 foot tall minarets.

Thousand Lights is the name of the area where this historic mosque is and Thousand Lights is what the mosque is called. The name has been derived from the tradition that one thousand and more oil-lamps used to be lit to light up an



assembly hall that once occupied the triangular wedge between Mount Road and Peter's Road that is now occupied by the Mosque.

LOCATION: THOUSAND LIGHTS, ANNA SALAI

DISTANCE FROM

THE HOTEL: 9.1 KM

TRAVELLING TIME: 30 MINUTES

ENTRY FEE: FREE

ISKCON TEMPLE

ISKCON Temple is located in the Injambakkam region of Chennai city. The temple is one of the many popular places of worship established by ISKCON and was built in 1983. The ISKCON Temple at Chennai, like other ISKCON centres, is the axis point from where the teachings of Lord Sri Krishna Chaitanya are spread. The deities worshipped in the temple include those of Rukmini and Krishna. The image of deity Satyabhama, one of the eight wives of Krishna, is also housed in the temple premises. Other deities worshipped in the temple include Jagannath, Baladeva, Subhadra and Gaura-Nitai.

LOCATION: INJAMBAKKAM REGION IN THYAGARAJ NAGAR

TIMINGS: 0400-1300HRS&1600-2030HRS

DISTANCE FROM THE HOTEL: 6.9 KM

TRAVELLING TIME: 25MINUTES

ENTRY FEE: FREE

AUSPICIOUS DATES: JANMASHTMI

KAPALEESWAR TEMPLE

The Kapaleeswar Temple is one of the most visited temples in the state of Tamil Nadu. The temple which was built about 1300 years ago and again renovated in the 16th Century, is a fine example of Dravidian architecture. Kapaleeswar Temple is dedicated to Lord Shiva. The temple houses the shrines of Kapaleeswar (Shiva) and Karpagambal (Parvati). The Punnai tree in the courtyard is the oldest of its kind in Chennai and has been there since the time the temple was built

BUILT :EARLY 6TH CENTURY; RENOVATED IN THE 16TH CENTURY

LOCATION: MYLAPORE

DISTANCE FROM THE HOTEL: 9.9 KM

TRAVELLING TIME: 25 MINUTES

ENTRY FEE: FREE

FORT ST. GEORGE

Fort St George, is the name of the first English fortress in India. It was founded in 1639 in the coastal city of Madras, the modern city of Chennai. The construction of the fort provided the impetus for further settlements and trading activity and the city eventually evolved around the fortress.

The fort now serves as the administrative headquarters for the legislative assembly of Tamil Nadu state and it still houses garrisons of troops in transit to various locations in South India. The fort museum contains many relics of the Raj Era, including portraits of many of the Governors of Madras.



BUILT :1639

LOCATION: RA-JAJI SALAI

TIMINGS: 1000 - 1700 HRS

DISTANCE FROM THE HOTEL: 13 .9 KM

TRAVELLING TIME: 35 MINUTES

PERARIGNAR ANNADURAI MEMORIAL

The Perarignar Annadurai Memorial is dedicated to the great leader of the Dravidian movement, Arinzar Annadurai. The memorial is located in the centre of a lavishly laid out park. The entrance of the park is marked by an arch that resembles the converging tusks of an elephant. The small tomb at Anna Square is provided with a pillar like structure with an eternal flame. The complex also houses a safari park, museum, aquarium and a nocturnal animal house.

LOCATION: TRIPPLICANE, NORTH OF MARINA BEACH

TIMINGS: 1000 - 1700 HRS

DISTANCE FROM THE HOTEL: 13.1 KM

TRAVELLING TIME: 30 MINUTES

RIPON BUILDING

The Ripon Building is the current seating place of the Chennai Municipal Corporation. The building is a fine example of Indo Saracenic style of architecture which combines Indian, Gothic and Corinthian styles. Ripon building was named after Lord Ripon, Governor-General of British India and the father of local self-government

BUILT: 1913

LOCATION: NEAR CHENNAI CENTRAL RAILWAY STATION

DISTANCE FROM THE HOTEL: 11 KM

TRAVELLING TIME: 35 MINUTES

VIVEKANAND HOUSE

Vivekanandallar was the place where Swami Vivekananda stayed during his week-long visit to Chennai in 1897. The house which dates back to 1842, has now been converted into a museum dedicated to showing the life of Swami Vivekananda and displays some of his memoirs, essays, photographs and letters.

BUILT: 1842

LOCATION: ON THE MARINA BEACH FRONT

TIMINGS: 1000 - 1200 HRS AND 1500 - 1900 HRS (CLOSED ON WEDNESDAYS & PUBLIC HOLIDAYS)

DISTANCE FROM THE HOTEL: 8.8 KM TRAVELLING TIME :25 MINUTES

ENTRY FEES: INR 2 FOR ADULTS & INR 1 FOR CHILDREN

GOVERNMENT MUSEUM

The Government Museum is one of the oldest in India and was built in 1896. It has six independent buildings and 46 galleries. The museum has sections on archaeology, art, numismatics, botany, zoology, geology and also has a dedicated children's museum.

LOCATION: PANTHEON ROAD, EGMORE

TIMINGS: 0930 - 1700 HRS (CLOSED ON FRIDAYS & NATIONAL HOLIDAYS)

DISTANCE FROM THE HOTEL: 11.9 KM TRAVELLING TIME: 25 MINUTES

ENTRY FEE: INDIAN NATIONAL: INR 15,

CHILD BELOW 12 YEARS: INR 10

FOREIGN NATIONAL: ADULT: INR 250 CHILD BELOW 12 YEARS: INR 125



STILL C AM ERA :INR 200 VIDEO CAMERA: INR 500

PARTHASARTHYTEMPLE

The temple is dedicated to Lord Krishna. Parthasarthy means 'charioteer' and Lord Krishna was the Charioteer of Prince Arjun in The Mahabharata. The temple is in the typical South Indian temple style, and also houses nine other deities representing the various reincarnations of Lord Vishnu.

**BUILT: 8TH C EN TURY; RENOVATED IN THE 16TH CENTURY
BY RULERS OF VIJAYANAGARA EMPIRE**

LOCATION: TRIPLICANE

DISTANCE FROM THE HOTEL: 11.6 KM

TRAVELLING TIME: 35 MINUTES

ENTRY FEE: FREE

GANDHIMANDAPAM

The Gandhi Mandapam, Chennai's homage to Mahatma Gandhi, is a graceful memorial that lies beside the Guindy National Park. The memorial has been built in the style of a traditional temple. The Gandhi Mandapam is located opposite to Anna University and is adjacent to the Guindy National Park.

LOCATION: GUINDY TIMINGS: 1000 - 1800 HRS

DISTANCE FROM THE HOTEL: 2.9 KM

TRAVELLING TIME: 15 MINUTES

ENTRY FEE: FREE

VALLUVAR KOTTAM

Built as a symbol of Tamil culture, the Valluvar Kottam is a standing memorial to the immortal Tamil Poet Saint Thiruvalluvar. It is a spectacular auditorium, constructed on reclaimed land and has an auditorium which can accommodate about 4000 people. All the 1330 verses of the poet's epic, Thirukkural, are inscribed on the granite pillars that surround the auditorium. There is a 101-feet high temple chariot structure with a life-size image of the poet. This chariot is a replica of the temple car of Thiruvavur in Tamil Nadu. The base of the chariot shows 13 chapters of the Thirukkural in bas-relief.

BUILT: 1976

LOCATION: KODAMBAKKAM HIGH ROAD, NUGAMBAKKAM

TIMINGS: 1000 - 1700 HRS

DISTANCE FROM THE HOTEL: 10.2 KM

TRAVELLING TIME: 25 MINUTES

RAJIV GANDHIMEMORIAL

The Rajiv Gandhi Memorial is situated in the town of Sriperumbudur, 40 km from Chennai. The memorial has been built in the memory of late Rajiv Gandhi, a former Prime Minister of India. Rajiv Gandhi was assassinated here on 21st May 1991. The memorial was dedicated to the nation by the then President of India Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, on 10th October 2003.

The memorial consists of a raised block of square shaped pink granite, on which portrait images of the late Prime Minister have been painted on each facet. There are also seven granite pillars, which encircle this sanctum. Each granite pillar has been capped with a bronze capital.



The bronze capitals represent the concepts of Satya - Truth, Dharma - Duty, Vigyan - Knowledge, Nyaya - Justice, Shanti - Peace, Tyaga - Renunciation and Samrudhi - Contentment. The seven sacred rivers of Yamuna, Ganga, Brahmaputra, Godavari, Sindhu, Narmada and Kaveri are also represented by these pillars. The memorial is surrounded by an expansive lawn interspersed with tree lined pathways and is a place of peace and quiet reflection.

LOCATION: SRIPERUMBUDUR (OUTSIDE CHENNAI)

TIMINGS: 1000 -1800 HRS

DISTANCE FROM THE HOTEL: 34 KM

TRAVELLING TIME: 60 MINUTES

ENTRY FEE: FREE

CHENNAI WAR MEMORIAL

War heroes lie buried in many civil and cantonment cemeteries in various parts of India, where it is not possible to maintain their graves in perpetuity, hence the memorial has been built in their honour.

LOCATION: MADRAS WAR CEMETERY GROUNDS

TIMINGS: 0800 - 1800 HRS

DISTANCE FROM THE HOTEL: 13.9 KM

TRAVELLING TIME: 30 MINUTES

ENTRY FEE: FREE

MARINA BEACH

Located on the coast of the Indian Ocean, the Marina beach has a total length of 14 km, making it the world's second longest beach. A famous tourist spot the beach has several memorials located

close to it. It also features a number of food stalls serving fresh catch of the day. Swimming is not allowed as there is no lifeguard on duty.

LOCATION: BETWEEN FORT ST. GEORGE AND BESANT NAGAR

TIMINGS: SUNRISE TO SUNSET

DISTANCE FROM THE HOTEL: 13 KM

TRAVELLING TIME: 25 MINUTES

ENTRY FEE: FREE

ELLIOT'S BEACH

Named after Edward Elliot the erstwhile British Governor of Madras, Elliot's Beach is smaller than Marina Beach and falls to its south. A favourite hangout for sunbathing or simply splashing in the water, Elliot's Beach attracts several foreign tourists and Chennai's college going crowd. Swimming is not allowed as there's no lifeguard on duty.

LOCATION: NEAR BESANT NAGAR **TIMINGS:** SUNRISE TO SUNSET

DISTANCE FROM THE HOTEL: 8.4 KM

TRAVELLING TIME: 20 MINUTES

ENTRY FEE: FREE

GUINDY NATIONAL PARK

Guindy National Park is the only national park in the country located inside a metropolitan city. The park has a very rare tropical dry-evergreen cover that is suitable for several species of deer. The park is home to a large number of black buck, spotted deer, jackal, a wide variety of snake, gecko, tortoise, over 100 species of bird, and over 60 species of butterfly and spider. These are free-ranging fauna



and live with minimal interference from human beings. The park also has its own snake park and a small zoo for children's education.

OPENED: 1972 LOCATION: GUINDY

ENTRY FEES: CHILDREN BELOW 10 YEARS: FREE ;CHILDREN AGED 11-17 YEARS: INR 5; ADULTS: INR 10 TIMINGS: 0900 - 1730 HRS (EXCEPT TUESDAYS)

DISTANCE FROM THE HOTEL: 2.5 KM

TRAVELLING TIME: 15 MINUTES

MADRAS HIGH COURT BUILDING

The Madras High Court is one of the major landmarks of the city and is located near one of the most important Central Business Districts of Chennai. Madras High Court was established on 26 June 1862, and was one of the three High Courts of India, along with the courts established at the Presidency Towns of Bombay and Calcutta, by Letters Patent granted by Queen Victoria. The jurisdiction of the Madras High Court extends to Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry. Although the name of the city was changed from Madras to Chennai in 1996, the Court as an institution did not follow suit and remains to be known as the Madras High Court.

BUILT: 1862

LOCATION: PARRY'S, GEORGE TOWN

DISTANCE FROM THE HOTEL: 12 KM TRAVELLING

TIME: 35 MINUTES

MGR MEMORIAL

The grand memorial of M.G.Ramachandran, the actor-turned-Chief Minister, is located on the sands of Marina Beach overlooking the Chennai University on Beach Road Kamaraj Salai, where he was cremated. It consists of a samadhi and a park.

LOCATION: MARINA BEACH TIMINGS: SUNRISE TO SUNSET

DISTANCE FROM THE HOTEL: 13 KM

TRAVELLING TIME: 25 MINUTES

ENTRY FEE: FREE

KAMARAJ MEMORIAL

Kamaraj Memorial House is built in memory of the former Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Shri Kamaraj. He rose out of poverty to become Chief Minister thrice. The Memorial House was inaugurated in 1978 by the then Chief Minister, M. G. Ramchandran. The memorial is spread across two floors of the building. It showcases the personal photographs and effects of Shri Kamaraj, which provide an insight into his life.

OPENED: 1978

LOCATION: ON ANNA SALAI, NEAR PARRY'S TIMINGS: 0900 - 1700 HRS (CLOSED ON TUESDAYS) DISTANCE FROM THE HOTEL: 9 KM

TRAVELLING TIME: 30 MINUTES

AMBEDKAR MANI MANDAPAM

The architect of the Indian Constitution who championed the cause of the downtrodden and stood for exploited millions was born on 14th April 1891 and died on 5th December, 1956. His memorial Mani Mandapam is built at Mandavelipakkam, and one can visit this memorial between 0900 - 1730 hrs.



BIRLA PLANETARIUM

Provided with state-of-the-art technology, the planetarium reproduces the celestial experience of the sky with shows every day at different timings in different languages. The subjects of the shows are the Solar System, Sky and Seasons, Eclipses, Man on the Moon, Comets, Shooting Meteoroids, Stellar Cycles and the Deep Sky.

BUILT: 1988

LOCATION: KOTTUPURAM

TIMINGS: OPEN ON ALL DAYS, SHOW TIMINGS ARE 1045HRS, 1330HRS AND 1545HRS.

DISTANCE FROM THE HOTEL: 4KM TRAVELLING TIME: 20MINUTES

DAKSHINA CHITRA

The name Dakshina Chitra, means a picture of the South. It is a celebration of culture through the art architecture and crafts of South India. A trip to Dakshin Chitra transports the visitor to an era furnished by folk art and handicrafts, which are demonstrated by talented artisans and artists through exhibitions and exclusive cultural events. The sprawling 10 acre campus is divided into four segments covering the four major southern states further emphasising their unique culture in aspects such as house architecture, textiles, handicrafts and more.

BUILT: ESTABLISHED IN 1996

LOCATION: EAST COAST ROAD, MUTTUKADU, CHINGLEPET DISTRICT

TIMINGS: OPEN ON ALL DAYS OF THE WEEK (EXCEPT TUESDAYS) FROM 1000 - 1800HRS

DISTANCE FROM THE HOTEL: 27KM TRAVELLING TIME: 50MINUTES