Tamil Nadu
where stories never end

Chennai

Chennai

places
to see

experiences
to try

food
to taste

objects
to buy

Dear Traveller,

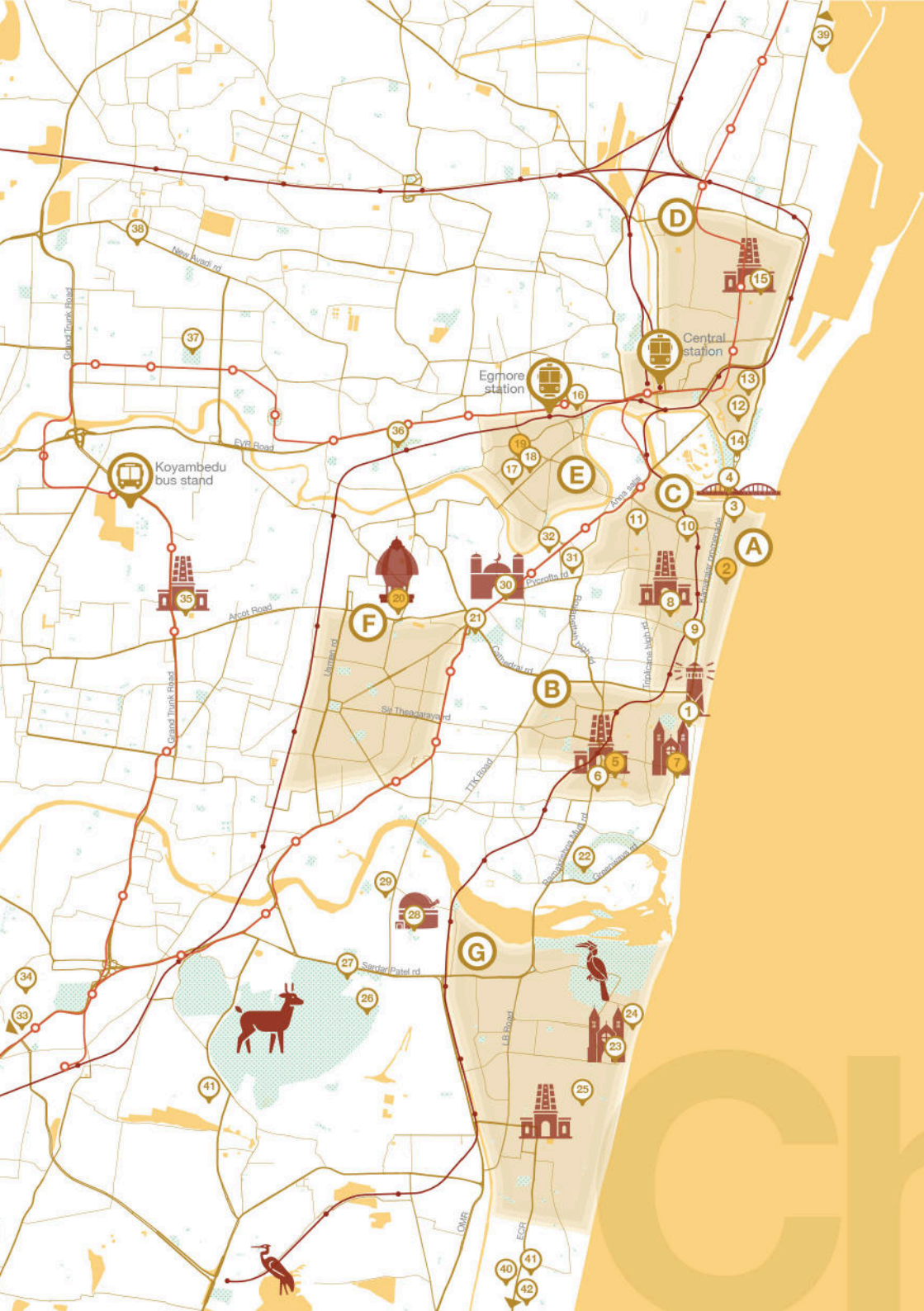
Welcome to Chennai!

Chennai is more than the capital city of Tami Nadu. Chennai is a ‘state of mind’, that has something special for everyone visiting it. It is not just its climate, but the friendly people who make it a warm experience to explore India’s southernmost metropolis city. While on one side it has a roaring economy with top notch Industries and educational institutions, it is also home to a thriving culture of art, music, and timeless traditions.

And it has every reason to be the most visited Indian city by Foreign Tourists. The world’s second largest urban beach of Marina, the sumptuous global cuisines, the drool worthy local eat-lets, the adventure sea sports, the artistic handicrafts, the famous Chennai Super Kings, and so much more! Chennai is quite an emotion that cannot be experienced wholly without paying a visit for real.

This Map of Chennai is a gentle guide to let you experience the city in a wholesome way. The curated list of places to see, experiences to try, food to taste, and objects to buy, will come handy on the GO as a friend on the paper.

Ready to explore?



Central station
Egmore station
Koyambedu bus stand
New Avadi rd
Grand Trunk Road
EVR Road
Arcot Road
Sir Theagaraya rd
Cathedral rd
Pycrofts rd
Anna salai
Kamarajar promenade
Triplicane high rd
Rajapattah high rd
Usman rd
TTK Road
Sardar Patel rd
LB Road
OMR
ECR
A
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C
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F
G

Places

A Marina

- 1 Light House
- 2 Marina Beach
- 3 Memorials of Tamil leaders
- 4 Napier Bridge

B Mylapore

- 5 Kapaleeshwarar Temple
- 6 Ramakrishna Mutt
- 7 Santhome Basilica

C Triplicane

- 8 Parthasarathyswamy Temple
- 9 Vivekananda House
- 10 M.A. Chidambaram Stadium
- 11 Walajah Road Mosque

D George Town

- 12 Fort St. George Museum
- 13 St Mary's Church
- 14 Victory War Memorial
- 15 Kalikambal Temple

E Egmore

- 16 St. Andrew's Church
- 17 National Art Gallery
- 18 Connemara Public Library
- 19 Egmore Museum

F Around T.Nagar

- 20 Valluvar Kottam
- 21 Semmozhi Poonga

G Around Adyar

- 22 Adyar Eco Park
- 23 Annai Velankanni Shrine
- 24 Ashtalakshmi Temple
- 25 Kalakshetra Foundation
- 26 Guindy National Park
- 27 Gandhi Mandapam
- 28 Birla Planetarium
- 29 Anna Centenary Library

H Rest of Chennai

- 30 Thousand Lights Mosque
- 31 Express Avenue
- 32 Spencer Plaza
- 33 Vandalur Zoo
- 34 St. Thomas Mount
- 35 Vadapalani Murugan Temple
- 36 Chetpet Eco Park
- 37 Anna Tower Park
- 38 Chennai Rail Museum
- 39 Pulicat Lake
- 40 Mamallapuram
- 41 Crocodile Bank
- 42 Dakshina Chitra
- 43 Vedanthangal Sanctuary

Metro network

Chennai suburban and MRTS network

02

Marina Beach

This popular beach with a sea shore of 13 km stretch along the Bay of Bengal is the longest natural urban beach in India and the second longest in the world. Along the shore, there are many buildings built during the British colonial rule. The South Beach Road runs past the Madras University, the Senate House, the Chepauk Palace which acted as a courtroom for Nawabs of Carnatica. The mesmerising ambience captivates tourists to stroll along the shore on evenings to enjoy the calmness of the waves and local seafood cuisine.

05

Kapaleeshwarar Temple

The Kapaleeshwarar Temple is dedicated to Lord Shiva and is located in Mylapore. It was built by Pallavas in 7 CE, and is of typical Dravidian architectural style, with the gopuram overpowering the street on which the temple sits.

Location:
Kapaleeswarar Sannadhi Street, Vinayaka Nagar Colony, Mylapore, Chennai -600004.
Ph: 044-24641670

Timing:
7.30 AM to 11.30 AM, 5.00 PM to 9.00 PM.

07

Santhome Basilica

One of the city's landmarks, located to the south of Marina Beach, the Santhome Cathedral was constructed in 1896 in a Neo-Gothic style of architecture. This church is dedicated to St.Thomas, one of the 12 apostles of Jesus. After his death in Chennai, he was laid to rest at the cathedral's present site.

Location:
No 24, Santhome High Road, Mylapore, Chennai - 600004.
Ph: 044-24985455

Timing:
Open all days of the week

19

Egmore Museum
This is the second oldest museum, next to Kolkata. This is a multi-purpose State Government Museum located in Egmore, spread over an area of 16.25 acres of land. Six independent buildings have 46 galleries. It is rich in archaeological, numismatic and largest Roman collections too.

Location:
86 Pantheon Road,
Egmore,
Chennai - 600008.
Ph: 044-28193238
Timing:
9.30 AM to 5.00 PM
Friday holiday.
Entry Fee:
Adult Rs.15/-
Children Rs.10/-

20

Valluvar Kottam
It is a historical monument dedicated to the well-known poet, philosopher and saint, Thiruvalluvar. The temple is built in the shape of a chariot, and is 39m high. On the giant columns of the auditorium, the facade and in the hall corridors, one can find the inscription of 1,330 verses of Thirukkural

Location:
Valluvar Kottam High Rd, Tirumurthy Nagar, Nungambakkam,
Chennai- 600034
Ph: 044-28172177
Timing:
8.30 AM to 5.30 PM
(No Holiday)
Entry Fee:
Adult- Rs.10/-
Children - Rs.10/-

40

Mamallapuram
The only heritage site on a beach, this is a UNESCO World Heritage Site belonging to the Pallava period dating back to the 7th and 8th centuries, commonly known as Mahabalipuram or Seven Pagodas, is located on the Bay of Bengal's Coromandel Coast. A large number of preserved Pallava temples and monuments adorn the place with noble charm.

Location:
Mahabalipuram,
Tamilnadu - 603104
Timing:
6.30 AM - 5.30 PM
Entry fee:
Indian - Rs. 10.00/-
Foreign tourists - US$5/-

41

Crocodile Bank
Crocodile Bank in ECR, is home to several species of Indian crocodiles and alligators from around the world which are bred in captivity. These reptiles are kept in their natural habitat in open pools and can be viewed from safe proximity.

Location:
Post Bag No 4,
Mahabalipuram,
Tamil Nadu 603104
Ph : 27472447
Timing:
8.30 AM - 5.30 PM
Monday Holiday.
Entry fee :
Adult - Rs. 35/-
Children - Rs. 10/-

39

Pulicat Lake
Pulicat played its role as a seaport in one of the few natural harbours on the Coromandel Coast of South India. It extends from the extreme southeastern portion of Andhra Pradesh into the adjacent portion of Tamil Nadu state making it India's second largest brackish water lagoon. It offers beautiful sights of fascinating birds as it serves as a breeding ground for rare birds. It has about 16 island villages and 30 adjoining the lake.

Location:
Located in Tiruvallur district that is 60kms from Chennai city.

42

Dakshina Chitra
Dakshina Chitra, established by the Madras Craft Foundation, is a repository for the living traditions of South Indian art, craft, and architecture. Here, the artisans and weavers exhibit their talent and dexterity. The centre explores the traditions of Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, and Tamil Nadu.

Location:
SH 49, Muttukadu,
Tamil Nadu 603112
Ph :044- 24918943
Timing:
10 .00 AM to 5.00 PM
Entry fee:
Indian- Rs. 75/-
Student- Rs. 30/-
Foreigner- Rs. 200/-
Foreign Student- Rs. 70/-

09

Vivekanandar House

This important landmark along the Marina was initially built in 1842 to house ice bars that the Tudor Ice Company had imported from the USA. It bears the name of Swami Vivekananda, who stayed here from February 6th to February 15th of 1887 and exhibits images that show the historical events of his life.

Location: Kamaraj Salai, Triplicane, Chennai- 600005
Timing: 10.00 AM - 12.30 PM and 3.00 PM - 7.30 PM
Monday Holiday.
Entry fee: Adult - Rs. 20/- , Children - Rs. 10/-

12

Fort St. George

The country's first English fortified colony, Fort St.George, or White Town was founded in Madras in 1639. The name of this stronghold is taken from St. George, who is England's patron saint. The State Legislature and the Secretariat are located here. The earliest British tombstones in India are those in the courtyard of this building.

Location: Rajaji Rd, near Legislature and Secretariat, Fort St George, Chennai - 600009

Kalakshetra

The Kalakshetra Foundation is an arts and cultural academy that promotes the preservation of traditional values in Indian art and crafts, especially in the field of Bharatanatyam dance and Gandharvaveda music. It was founded in 1936 by Rukmani Devi Arundale.

Location: Kalakshetra Rd, Radhakrishnan Nagar, Thiruvanmiyur, Chennai - 600041
Timing: 8.30 AM to 11.30 AM
Entry fee: Indian - Rs. 100/- Foreign Tourists: Rs. 500/-

25

Thousand Lights Mosque

The Mosque that spans across five acres includes a Hall which is always illuminated with one thousand lamps, giving the location its name. It developed into a mosque and a prominent place of worship over time. The Mosque's two tall minarets and five inward curving domes are indications of Western Asian influences.

Location: Royapettah, Peter's Rd, Peters Colony, Thousand Lights, Chennai - 600086

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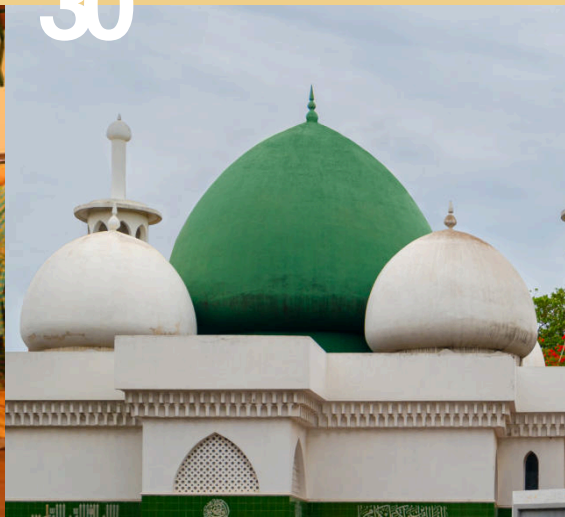

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Anna Centenary Library
The Asia's second-largest library houses over 12 lakh volumes on its 9 levels, in both Tamil and English. The library is segmented for children's books, English books, Tamil books, newspapers, periodicals, also comprises an audio visual section, rare books, a photo library, a food court, and book retailers segmentary.

Location: Gandhi Mandapam Rd, Kotturpuram, Chennai - 600085
Ph: 044-2220 9999
Timing: 9.00 AM to 8.00 PM

St. Thomas Mount
This historic church was established by the Portuguese approximately in 1514. It is positioned on the 76-metre-tall mount where St. Thomas was martyred. The Church is home to some intriguing artefacts, including an antique Stone Cross that was believed to be held by the Apostle in his hand at the moment of his death.

Location: St. Thomas Mount National Shrine, Kathipara Grade Flyover, Parangi Malai, Chennai.

08

Parthasarathy Swamy Temple
The Parthasarathy Temple is a Hindu Vaishnavite temple that was built in Triplicane, Chennai, India, in the sixth century. The temple is extolled in the early medieval Tamil literature canon of the Alvar saints from the sixth to ninth century CE.

Location: Car St, Narayana Krishnaraja Puram, Triplicane, Chennai - 600005
Ph: 044-28442449
Timing: 5.30 AM – 12.00 PM and 4.00 PM – 9.00 PM

Vedanthangal Bird Sanctuary
It is one of India's most massive and oldest bird sanctuaries that has been fiercely protected by the local population for well over 250 years.The park was deemed a sanctuary in 1936, and the Madras Forest Act officially listed Vedanthangal as a reserve forest in 1962.

Location: Vedathangal, Madurantakam, 603314
Ph : 044 - 22351471
Timings: 6.00 AM to 6.00 PM
Entry fee : Adult Rs. 5/-, Children Rs. 2/-.

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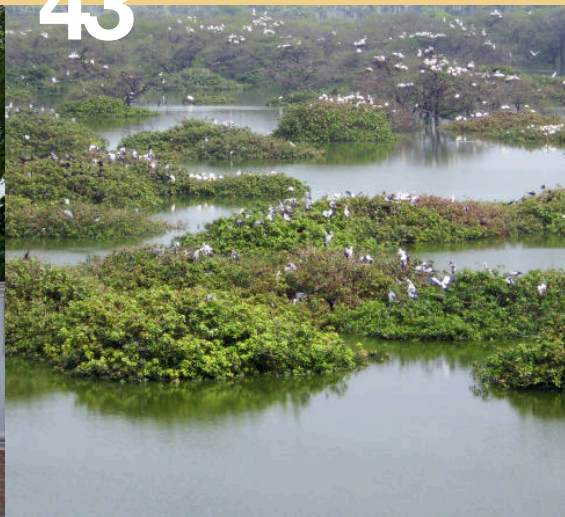

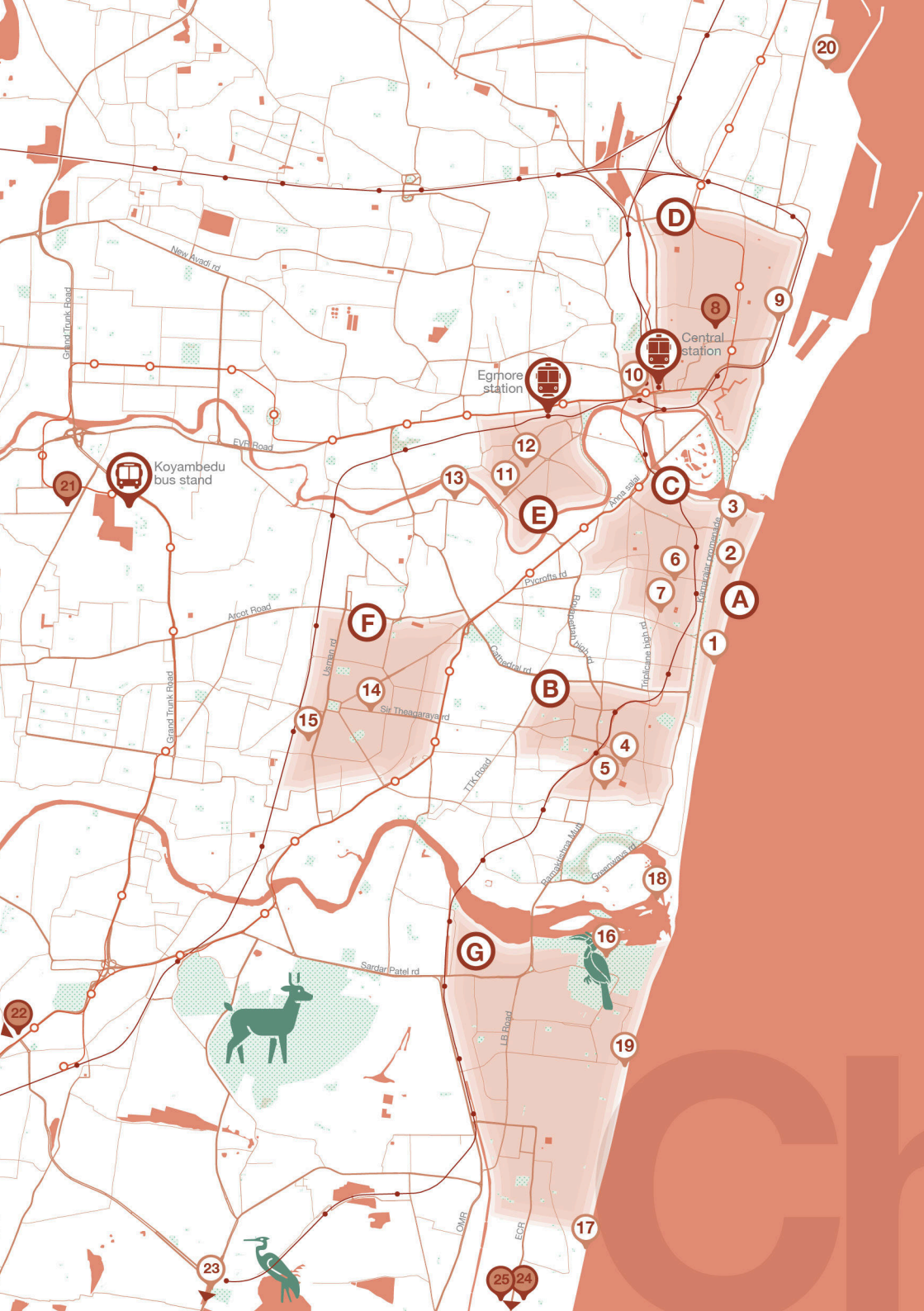

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Experiences

A Marina

- ☐ **1** Watching Sun Rise
- ☐ **2** Carnival Games at the Beach
- ☐ **3** Statue Spotting

B Mylapore

- ☐ **4** Exploring the Vernacular Architecture of Mylapore
- ☐ **5** Carnatic Music during Madras Music Season

C Triplicane

- ☐ **6** Traditional eateries in the Streets of Triplicane
- ☐ **7** Life of Bharathiyar at Mahakavi Bharathiar House

D George Town

- ☐ **8** Take a Cycle Rickshaw through the Streets of Parry's
- ☐ **9** Walk Through the bustling markets of Burma Bazaar
- ☐ **10** Spend an evening at the Central Plaza around Ripon Building

E Egmore

- ☐ **11** Explore Traditional clothing at Co-Optex
- ☐ **12** Explore the Museum Complex
- ☐ **13** Discover the first educational campus and see through the collection at Madras Literary Society

F Around T.Nagar

- ☐ **14** Shop small along the Pedestrian Plaza in Pondy Bazaar
- ☐ **15** Affordable Shopping on Ranganathan Street

G Around Adyar

- ☐ **16** Sit Under the 450 Year Old Banyan Tree in the Theosophical Society
- ☐ **17** Stroll around the Calmer Thiruvanmiyur Beach
- ☐ **18** Birdwatching in the Adyar Creek
- ☐ **19** Experience Beach-Front entertainment at Besant Nagar Beach

H Rest of Chennai

- ☐ **20** Fresh Fish at the Kasimedu Fishing Harbour
- ☐ **21** Koyambedu Market
- ☐ **22** Vandalur Zoo
- ☐ **23** Birdwatching at Pallikaranai Marsh
- ☐ **24** Kovalam Water Sports
- ☐ **25** Muttukadu Boating

Metro network

Chennai suburban and MRTS network

08

Streets of Parry´s

Often referred to as Parry's, it is situated near the Chennai Port, at the intersection of North Beach Road and NSC Bose Road. It is named after Thomas Parry, a Welsh merchant who set up the EID Parry Company in 1787, the corporate headquarters of which stands on the corner.

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JAYARAM MUDALIAR

21

Koyambedu Market
Koyambedu Wholesale Market Complex (KWMC) is one of Asia's largest perishable goods market complexes located at Koyambedu. The market complex is spread over an area of 295 acres. Inaugurated in 1996, the complex consists of about 3,100 shops, including more than 1,000 wholesale shops and 2,000 retail shops.

Location :
Anna fruit market, whoelsale market complex, Koyambedu, Chennai - 600107

22

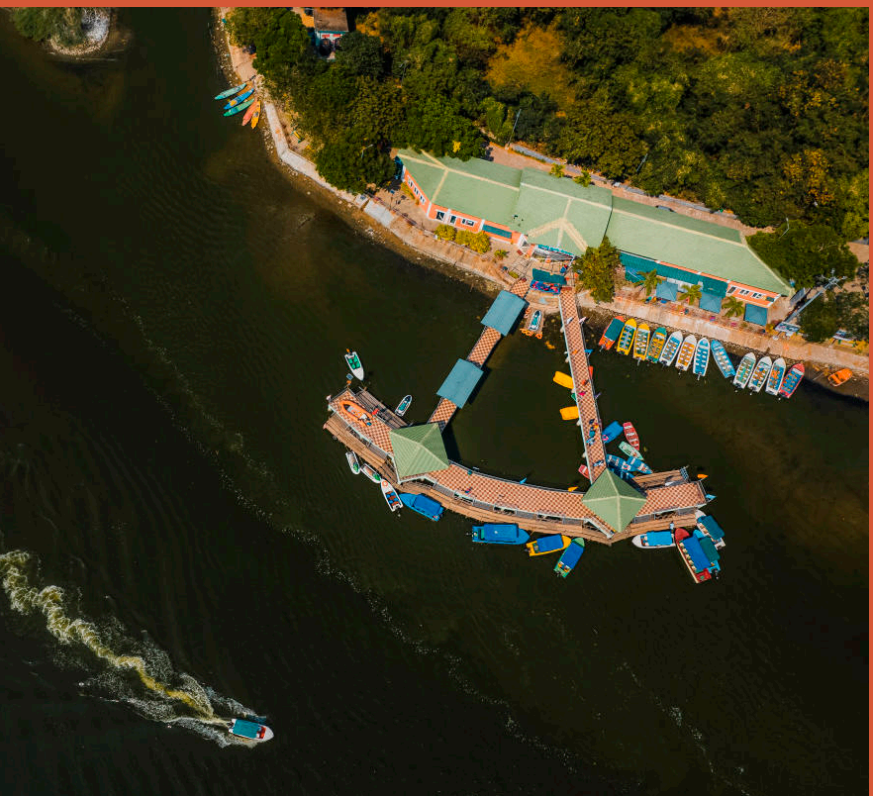
Vandalur Zoo
Arignar Anna Zoological Park also known as the Vandalur Zoo, is a zoological garden located in Vandalur, in the southwestern part of Chennai. Established in 1855, it is the first public zoo and the largest zoological park in India in India. The zoo houses 2,553 species of flora and fauna across 1,265 acres.

Location:
GST Road,
Vandalur - 600048
Ph: 22751089
Timing:
9.00 AM - 5.00 PM
Tuesday Holiday.
Entry fee:
Adult - Rs. 30/-
Children - Rs.10/-

24

Kovalam
Covelong Beach is also called Kovalam beach that is located on the coast of the Bay of Bengal. This is a fishing village 40 km from Chennai. Kovalam Beach is on the way to Mahabalipuram near the East Coast Road. Tamil Nadu's first internationally certified 'Blue Flag' beach in Kovalam is, one of the cleanest in the State and has amenities like showering, and eco-friendly bamboo huts to unwind.

Location:
Kovalam,
Chennai - 603112
Timing:
6.00 AM to 7.00 AM
Entry fee:
Rs.20/-



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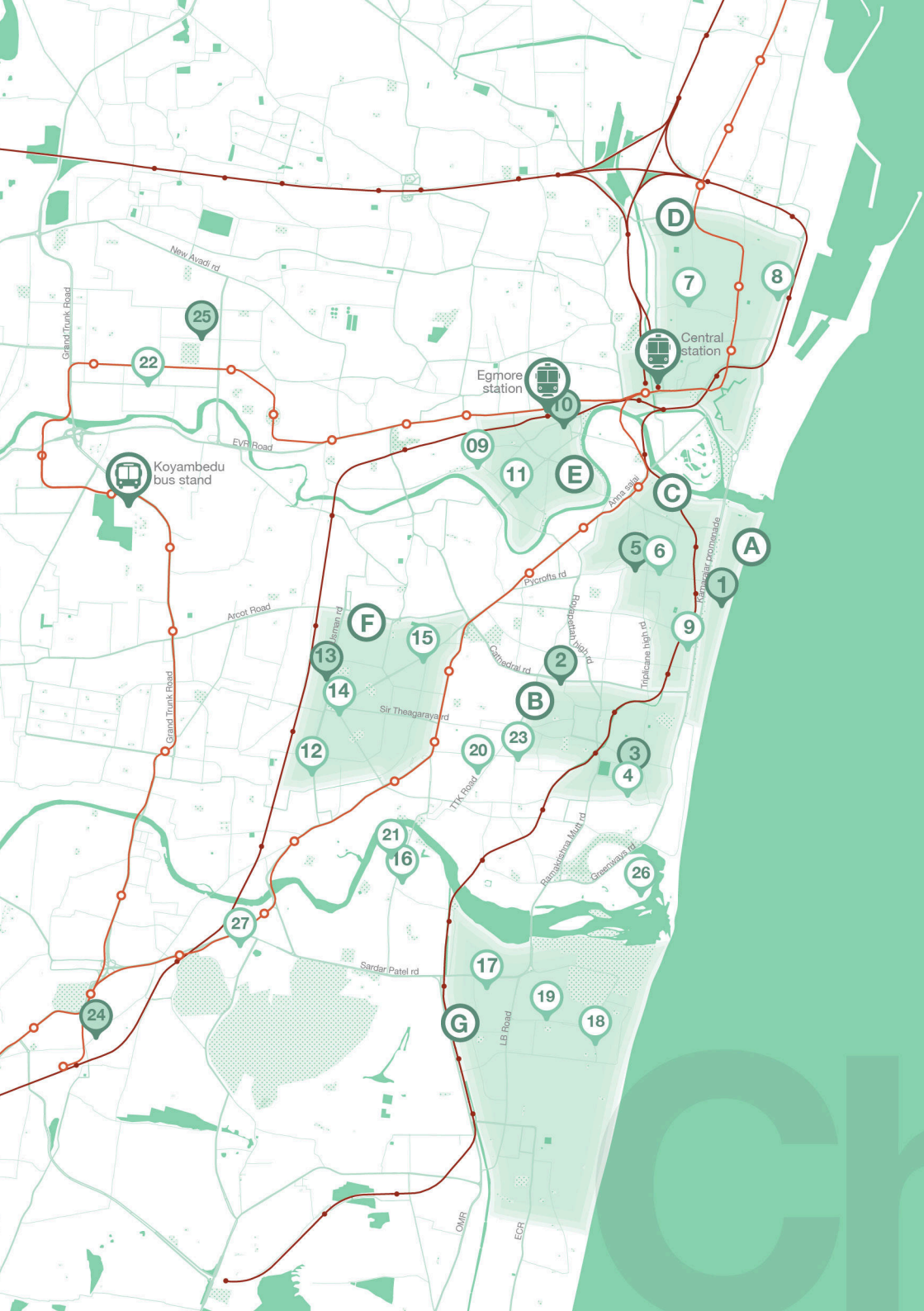
Muttukadu Boating
Muttukadu Boat House is a water sports facility on the East Coast Road at Muttukadu, offering rowing,speedboat, kayaking and waterscooter. It is a backwater area of the Bay of Bengal located 36 km from the city on the way to Mamallapuram.
As the water isn't very deep (varying between 3 feet and 6 feet), you could try stand-up paddling, windsurfing, and water skiing too in these backwaters that are isolated from the rest of the town.

Location :
East coast road,
Muttukadu - 603103
Timing:
9.00 AM to 6.00 PM



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09

Food

A Marina

- 1 Street Eateries and Seafood on the Sea Front

B Mylapore

- 2 South Indian Meals @ Woodlands
- 3 Filter Coffee @ Karpagambal Mess
- 4 Kalathi Rose Milk

C Triplicane

- 5 Sambar Idly @ Ratna Cafe
- 6 Kebab @ Al Reem

D George Town

- 7 North Indian Delicacies @ Mint St
- 8 Burmese Street Food Near Burma Bazaar

E Egmore

- 9 South Indian Meals @ Annalakshmi Restaurant
- 10 Sambar Idly @ Sangeetha Restaurant
- 11 Bread Omelet @ Alsa Mall

F Around T.Nagar

- 12 Sambar Vadai @ Saravana Bhavan
- 13 Idly at Murugan Idly
- 14 Kari Dosai at Ajees Bhai Kadai (Street Food)
- 15 Chicken 65 @ Buhari

G Around Adyar

- 16 Chettinad Food @ Savya Rasa
- 17 Traditional Village Food @ Prems Graama Bhojanam
- 18 Indian Sweets @ Sri Krishna Sweets
- 19 Murukku & Seedai @ Grand Sweets

H Rest of Chennai

- 20 Thai Food @ Benjarong
- 21 Pan Asian Food @ Soy Soi
- 22 South Indian Meals @ Sree Akshayam
- 23 Continental Food @ Pumpkin Tales
- 24 Mutton Biriyani @ Sukkubhai Biriyani
- 25 Biriyani @ Ambur Star Biriyani
- 26 Fine Dining @ Leela Palace
- 27 Fine Dining @ ITC Grand Chola

Metro network

Chennai suburban and MRTS network

02,09,22

South Indian Meals

South Indian meals comprise cuisines of five South Indian states namely Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. The base is often the rice, and in Tamil Nadu, the servings are comprised majorly of different gravies and curries (Sambar, Rasam, Kuzhambu, Thayir), side dishes (Kootu, Poriyal, Papad, etc), sweet dishes & accompaniments (Kheer, Kesari, Payasam, etc).

01

Sea and Street food at Marina

Situated on the shorelines of the Bay of Bengal, it is not a surprise that a wide range of seafood delicacies like freshly fried prawns, fishes, squids, crabs and more are served on the food hubs of Marina beach. Sliced sweet & salt mangoes, chilli bhajjis, roasted corn, masala puffed rice, etc. are notable street bites.

03

South Indian Filter Coffee

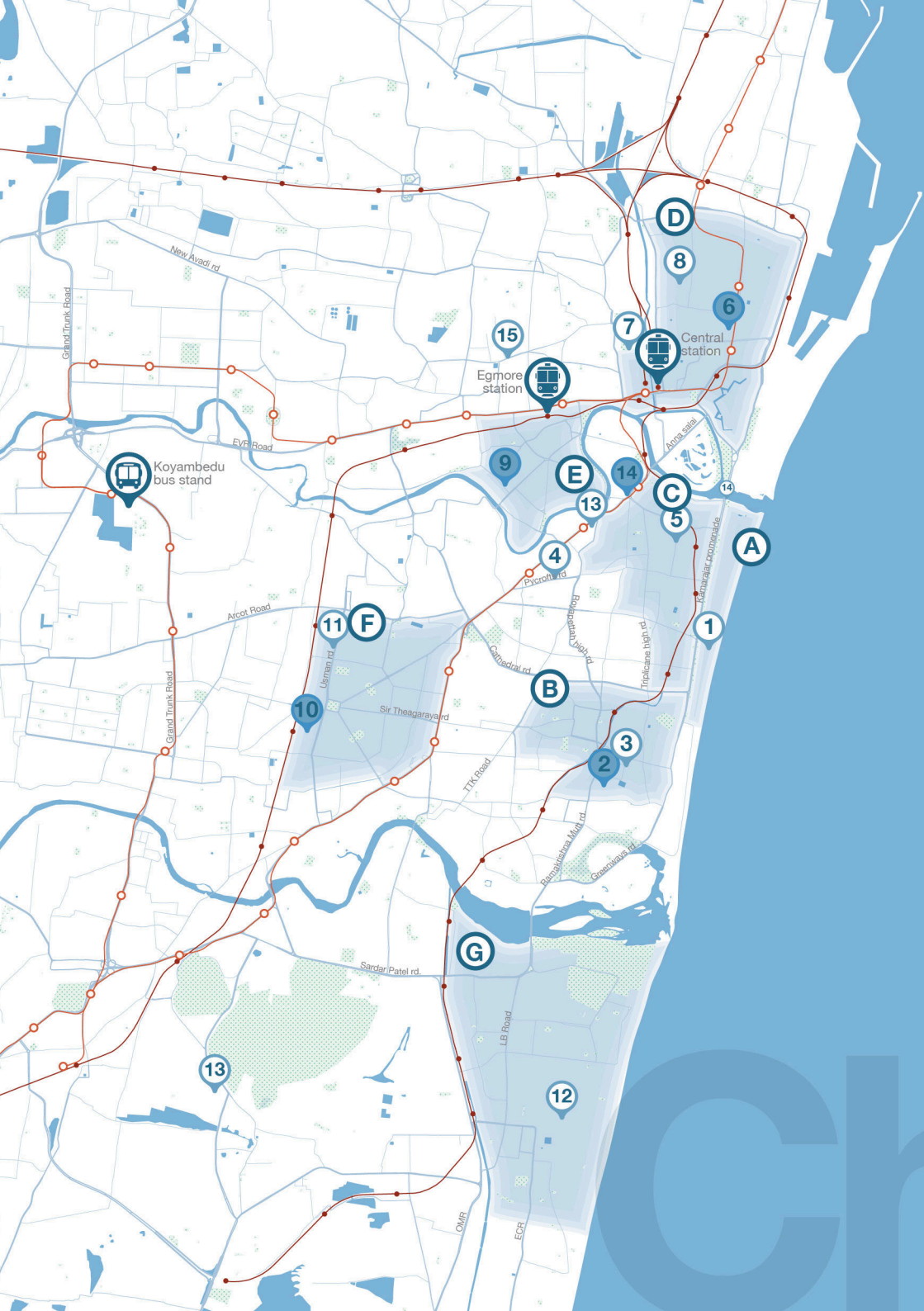
Brewed extra strong with plenty of sweetened milk and served in steel cups that sit atop containers known as dabarah, the authentic filter coffee has been a fueling concoction of South India for centuries now. There are a lot of homegrown brands that serve a variety of blends according to your preference of keeping it light or strong.

05
10
13

Idly/Dosa
Served with three different chutneys alongside a steaming cup of Sambar, Idlis and Dosas are must-tries when in Chennai. What makes them special apart from the fact that they taste so soft and good, is the easy-to-digest nature of the batter that comprises fermented rice and lentils in the right proportion.

24
25

Biriyani
When the hot, steaming Biryani rice is placed in front of you with all its aroma that melts the mood, it is very hard not to drool. There's an Ambur style, Dindigul style, Thalassery style, and many other fusion styles for both vegetarians and non-vegetarians to indulge in.



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Objects

A Marina

- ☐ **1** Traditional Children's Toys from Beach Vendors

B Mylapore

- ☐ **2** Golu Bommai during Navratri Season
- ☐ **3** Traditional Utensils and Imitation Jewellery

C Triplicane

- ☐ **4** Books @ Pycrofts Road
- **5** Traditional Preserved Food Items (Fryums, Pickles)

D George Town

- ☐ **6** Mallipoo and Kadhambam @ Flower Market
- ☐ **7** Books @ Moore Market
- ☐ **8** Glass Bangles @ Perumal Mudali Street

E Egmore

- ☐ **9** Street Shopping for Cotton Fabric along Pantheon Road

F Around T.Nagar

- ☐ **10** Silk Sarees Around Panagal Park
- ☐ **11** Jewellery @ Usman Road

G Around Adyar

- ☐ **12** Handicrafts @ Kalakshetra Flea Market

H Rest of Chennai

- ☐ **13** Books @ Higginbotham's
- ☐ **14** Handicrafts @ Poompuhar
- ☐ **15** Readymade Clothes @ Purasaiwakkam

Metro network

Chennai suburban and MRTS network

02

Golu Bommai

Golu is the festive display of dolls and figurines in South India during the autumn festive season. These displays are typically thematic, narrating a legend from a Hindu text to court life, weddings, everyday scenes and miniature kitchen utensils. Each displayed item in a Golu display is called a Golu doll. These are typically made by rural artisans from clay and wooden materials that are brightly painted. These are available in the temple fronts and are good souvenirs.

செலுத்தும் வசதி
84448 84448

06

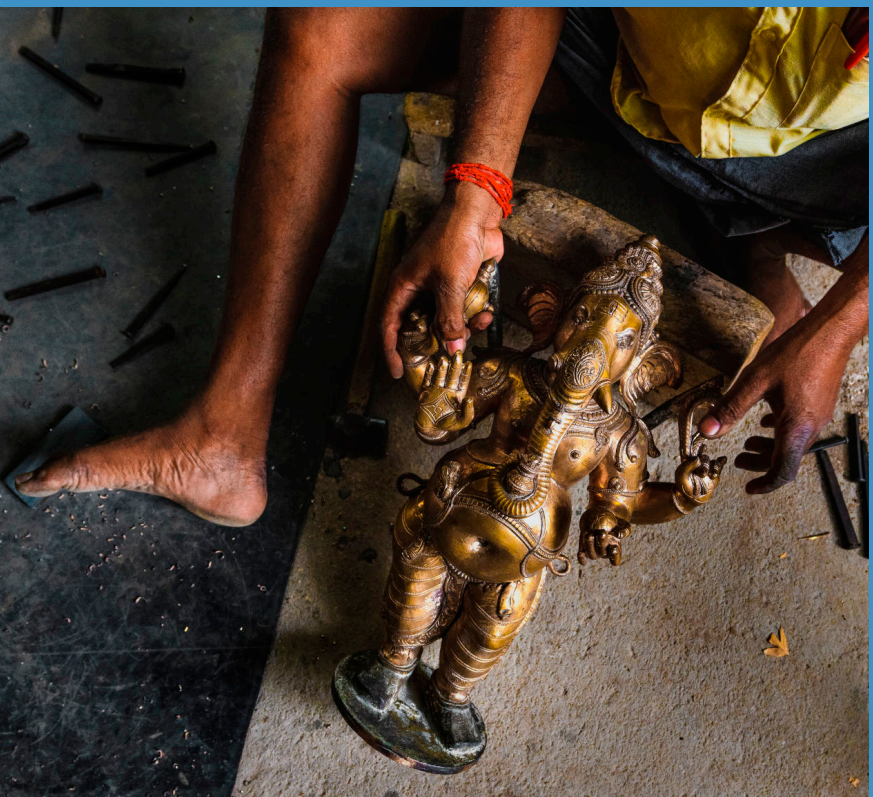
Mallipoo
Chennai has a thing for flowers, and Mallipoo (Jasmine) deserves a special mention. The fragrant Mallipoo is used as an accessory, a perfume, a symbol of joy, and even an aphrodisiac. It is also secular in a way that it is sported by women from all religions without any differences, with the love for Mallipoo standing tall.

09

Co-Optex
The Tamil Nadu Weavers Cooperative Society, popularly known as Co-Optex, is a cooperative of traditional handloom weavers of the Indian state of TamilNadu. Authentic textile products like silk sarees, cotton sarees, dhotis, shirts, home textiles, etc. are available aplenty here. You can buy yourself some authentic regional wear from here.

10

Silk Sarees
Kanchipuram Silk sarees are brilliantly crafted with impeccable patterns, and are popular for their tradition, and grandeur. Available aplenty in Chennai, these sarees exude a royal vibe and enthrals every generation. The intricate weave, the fabric's softness, the classic sheen and the exemplary zari work places the silk saree on a pedestal.



14

Poompuhar
Poompuhar, the well acknowledged brand name of the Tamil Nadu Handicrafts Development Corporation (THDC) has been serving the native arts and craftsmen of Tamil Nadu since its inception in 1973. Poompuhar is a unique handicraft store that has a wide range of art and craft objects like bronze statues, wooden statues, intricate art pieces, etc that are delights to buy.

CURATED TOURS BY TAMILNADU TOURISM

No.2, Wallajah Road, Triplicane,
Chennai-600 002.

Phone : 044 -2533 3850 - 54
044-2533 3333, 2533 3444
Fax: 044-2533 3385

Toll Free No : 1800425 311 11

E-mail : support@ttdconline.com,
tour@ttdconline.com

Places to See:

Fort St George, Government Museum, Valluvar Kottam, Guindy National Park and Marina Beach.

CHENNAI CITY TOUR
(Half Day)

MUDALIYARKUPPAM ISLAND PICNIC TOUR
(One Day)

Places to See:

Mamallapuram, Mudaliyarkuppam (Boating, Watersports, Island Visit)

Places to See:

Kancheepuram, Mamallapuram, Muttukadu Boating

KANCHEEPURAM - MAMALLAPURAM (One Day)

Places to See:

Chennai - Mamallapuram Shore Temple, Five Rathas, Arjuna's Penance.
Chidambaram - Natarajar Temple, Gangaikonda Cholapuram, Suriyanar Kovil.
Ariyalur - Gangaikonda Cholapuram
Thanjavur - Thanjavur Big Temple, Palace, Thiruvaiyaru Thiyagarajar Kovil, Kallanai (Grand anaicut), Iravadeshwar Temple (Darasuram).
Trichy - Sri Rangam, Butterfly Park, Thiruvanaikaval, Samayapuram.

UNESCO HERITAGE CIRCUIT (Four Days)

CHENNAI - MAMALLAPURAM (One Day)

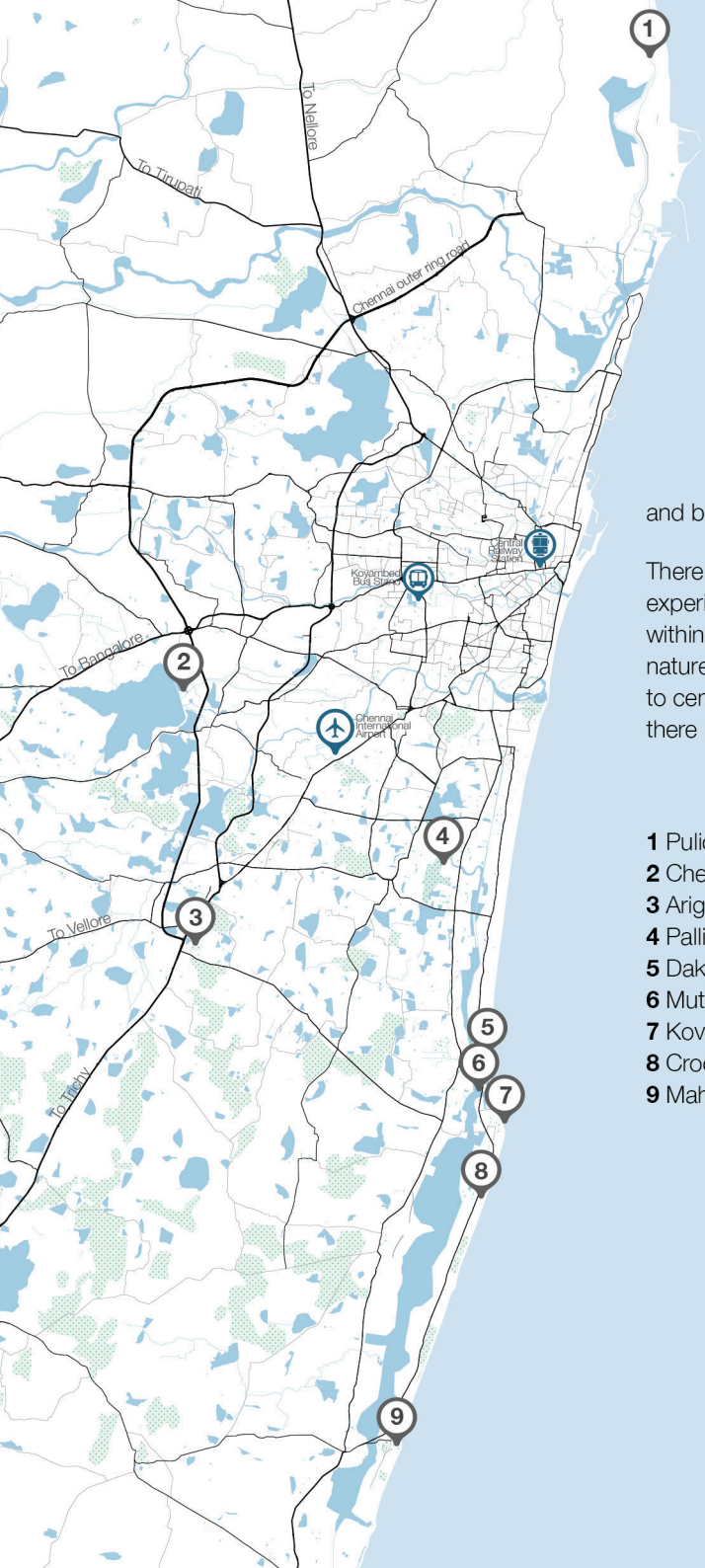
Places to See:

Marundeeswarar Temple, Iskcon Temple, Dakshina Chitra, Muttukadu Boating, Crocodile Bank, Tiger Cave, Mamallapuram.

MONUMENT CIRCUIT (Five Days)

Places to See:

Mamallapuram - Sea Shore Temple, Five Rathas, Arjunas Penance.
Kancheepuram - Mudaliyarkuppam, Ulagalandha Perumal, Ekambareshwarar temple.
Arikamedu - French Settlement.
Cuddalore - Thiruppapuliyur Siva Temple, Pitchavaram Boating.
Chidambaram - Natarajar Temple, Sirkazhi, Thiruvenkadu, Kezhpeumballam, Poombuhar,
Thanjavur - Big Temple, Palace, Sivagangai Poonga, Chiththannavasal, Kudimian Malai.
Kumbakonam - Kumbeswarar Temple.
Trichy - Sri Rangam, Samayapuram, Sathanur Kalmarapoonga.



and beyond...

There are so many exciting things to experience beyond urban Chennai within a day's time. From pristine nature reserves and adventure sports to centuries old heritage monuments, there is so much to offer.

1 Pulicat Lake
2 Chembarambakkam Lake
3 Arignar Anna Zoological Park
4 Pallikaranai Marshland
5 DakshinaChitra Heritage Museum
6 Muttukadu Boat House
7 Kovalam Beach
8 Crocodile Bank
9 Mahabalipuram

Mudaliyarkuppam Boat House

Tamil Nadu
where stories never end

Chennai

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Government of Tamil Nadu

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