

# AN INTRODUCTION TO CHENNAI



## CHENNAI

Chennai, formerly known as Madras, was founded in 1639 and is located on the south-eastern Coromandel Coast off the Bay of Bengal. This vibrant metropolis serves as a gateway to the culture of South India and is a major hub of cultural, commercial and education. Blessed with the rich heritage of art, Carnatic Music and Bharatanatyam are two of the notable cultural exports from the city.

The capital of Tamil Nadu contributes a GDP of \$66 billion. Owing to its leading automobile industry, Chennai is known as the "Detroit of India". It also ranks as the second largest exporter of Information Technology and Business Process Outsourcing (BPO) services after Bangalore.

The city today is abuzz and alive with its varied mix of modern and traditional blend of culture and lifestyle.



## ATTRACTIONS



ANNA ZOOLOGICAL PARK - 18 KMS

**Anna Zoological Park** - this park is said to be one of the biggest in South East Asia. The wildlife population is exhibited in a large open moated island enclosure with a simulated natural environment. More than 170 species of mammals, birds and reptiles are housed in this park



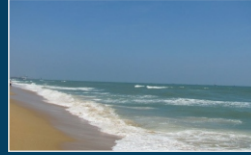
FISHERMAN'S COVE - 34 KMS

**Fisher's Cove** - is a luxury beach resort near the coast of the Bay of Bengal in Chennai, India and is categorized as a 5-star deluxe resort by Ministry of Tourism, Government of India



MAHABALIPURAM - 59 KMS

**Mahabalipuram** - is a tourist town 60 km south of Chennai famous for its stone carvings. Mostly carved straight out of granite, these structures are among the oldest existing examples of Dravidian (South Indian) architecture



MARINA BEACH - 17 KMS

**Marina Beach** - is a 12 km long and offers excellent opportunities for walks and has a very wide sandy foreshore. It is an elegant promenade with flower beds along its lanes. Along the shore, there are many buildings built during the British colonial rule



BASILICA - 16 KMS

**Basilica of the National Shrine of St. Thomas** - it is famous for being one of the three churches built over the tomb of an Apostle of Jesus Christ in the whole world. The other two are Basilica of Saint Peter in Rome and Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela in Spain. There are two new structures today: The Tomb Chapel below the Basilica and Museum cum theatre.



KAPALEESWARAR TEMPLE - 14 KMS

**Kapaleeswarar Temple** - one of Chennai's oldest and best-known temples, dating back to 8th century, although the present structure dates to the 1600s. Notable above all for its soaring, incredibly detailed 37m gopuram (entrance gate). There is a large water tank behind the temple, used for the Thaipusam festival (Jan-Feb).

## SPICY FACTS

Characterized by the use of rice, legumes and lentils, the region has a rich cuisine involving both traditional non-vegetarian and vegetarian dishes. The distinct aroma and flavour achieved in various dishes comes through the blending of flavourings and spices. The traditional way of eating a meal involves being seated on the floor with food served on a banana leaf. Preparing and serving filter coffee is almost a ritual for the people of the city.

Chicken Chettinad - incorporates succulent chunks of tender chicken in dark, spicy paste of curry leaves. Spiced up with pepper for aromatic perfection, the rich gourmet of Chicken Chettinad is the one to savour. Keeping the traditional flavour and taste intact, the richness and vibrancy of this classy preparation is sure to tickle the taste buds in no time. A delicacy par excellence apt for sheer indulgence, Chicken Chettinad is truly a feast for the senses.

Idli Sambar - Idli is a savoury rice cake served and a part of traditional breakfast item in South Indian households. The cakes are usually two to three inches in diameter and are made by steaming a batter consisting of fermented black lentils (de-husked) and rice. It is usually served with Sambar, a lentil based vegetable stew or chowder based on a broth made with tamarind.



## CHENNAI CLIMATE

Chennai is situated in the Thermal Equator zone which prevents extreme changes in temperature. Chennai has mainly two seasons - Summer (35-42°C) in Apr-Jun and Monsoon in Oct-Dec. Climate is humid pretty much throughout the year as the city is on the coast. Summers are very hot and humid but the city gets bountiful rains from the north-east monsoon from October through December. December to February are the mildest months in temperature.



Average high: 40°C (104°F)



Average low: 15 °C (59°F)



Precipitation: 55 mm

### CSC Address:

Unit 13, Block 2, SDF Buildings, MEPZ,  
Chennai - 600045

Tel No: +91-44-22628080



DISTANCE  
FROM AIRPORT-15 KMS



TRAVEL  
TIME-40 MINS