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# TAMIL NADU MONUMENTS

# Monuments to be visited in Tamil Nadu ...



# 1. Vivekananda Rock Memorial, Kanyakumari



The spectacular architecture of the Vivekananda Rock Memorial makes it a popular monument in Tamil Nadu. Perched on a small island of Kanyakumari, the memorial offers serenity and peace to the visitors. It takes an exciting ferry ride to reach the Island which houses two adjacent rocks comprising of the 'Vivekananda Mandapam' and the 'Shripada Mandapam'. The memorial stands as an undying source of inspiration highlighting the noble deeds of Swami Vivekananda. It is also an epitome of unity as the whole nation wished, contributed and worked for it.

Built in – 1970



Built by – Kanyakumari Committee and Ramakrishna Mission in Madras planned for the construction of the memorial.

Interesting Facts – The statue of Swami Vivekananda is positioned in such a way that his vision directly falls on the Shripadam. A perfect confluence of the Bay of Bengal, the Indian Ocean and the Arabian Sea can be witnessed from here

## 2. Rama Setu, between Pamban and Mannar Island



A bridge has been the center of attraction for yesteryears. Call it Rama's Bridge or Adam's Bridge, Rama Setu is a chain of limestone shoals between Pamban Island and Mannar Island. Many legends are associated with the bridge which makes it the hot topic to talk about. It was reported that the bridge could be traversed on foot up to the 15th century. But now, the navigation is hindered because of the shallowness that varies at different points. The causeway is not only revered by the Hindus but also holds a special place in the hearts Muslims and Christians as well.

Built in – The first mention of the bridge can be found in the ancient Indian Sanskrit epic Ramayana.

Built by – If mythology is to be believed, the bridge was built by the Vanara Sena (army of monkeys) of Lord Rama. But scientific studies put a question mark on it and determine that the bridge was formed naturally by limestone shoals.

Interesting Facts – The Rama Setu is visible via aerial view even today. The causeway was walkable till 15th century. The study of Oceanography reveals that Palk Strait is 7000 years old which sync with Ramayana. It is still not clear that whether the bridge is man-made or naturally formed.

### 3. Kolukkumalai Tea Estate, Kottagudi



Nothing is better than the feeling of sipping freshly brewed cup of tea on a misty mountain boasting of the highest organic tea plantations in the world. Nestled in Kottagudi, Kolukkumalai Tea Estate is a historical place in Tamil Nadu where tea is still made by hand. Since its establishment, nothing has changed much. None of the computerized system or modern machines have been introduced here. Many of the

ancient machines still flaunt the time stamps dating back to 1940s and labels of the English manufacturers.

Started in – early 1900s

Started by – a Scottish planter

Interesting Facts – Reaching to the world's highest tea plantation requires crossing endless hiking trails that will beguile you with astounding views. The tea grown here is of fine quality and retain its original flavor. The distinctive aroma of the tea lingers in the mouth for long. The tea estate has won the Golden Leaf Award by the Tea Boards of USA and India for its excellent tea quality.

## 4. Ripon Building



This stunning building, built in 1913, is the official seat of the Chennai Corporation. A vision in white, it is painted this colour in the Indo-Saracenic tradition popular with British architects of that era.



Named after Lord Ripon, the erstwhile Governor General of British India, the buildings clock tower stands 43 meters high and its Westminster Chiming Clock measures 2.5 meters.

Location: Sydenhams Road, Periamet

Timings: 10 am to 6 pm (weekends closed)

## 5. Thousand Lights Mosque



Spread over three acres, this mosque is one of the largest in the whole of India and is a national treasure. Built in 1810, it is said that a thousand lights needed to be lit to light the assembly hall.

Built in medieval architectural style with domes and minarets that grow to heights of 64 meters, the Thousand Lights Mosque is an important pilgrimage site for Muslims. For the rest of its visitors, it is simply a joy enough to soak in the marvelous history and beauty.

Location: Nungambakkam Timings: 5.30 am to 8.30 pm

## 6. Madras War Cemetery Chennai



The Madras War Cemetery Chennai is a tribute to all the valiant soldiers who laid down their lives in the Second World War. Set up in 1952, the Madras War Cemetery in Chennai was constructed by the Imperial War Graves Commission, which is now called the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

Location:

Madras War Cemetery is located near the Chennai Trade Center.

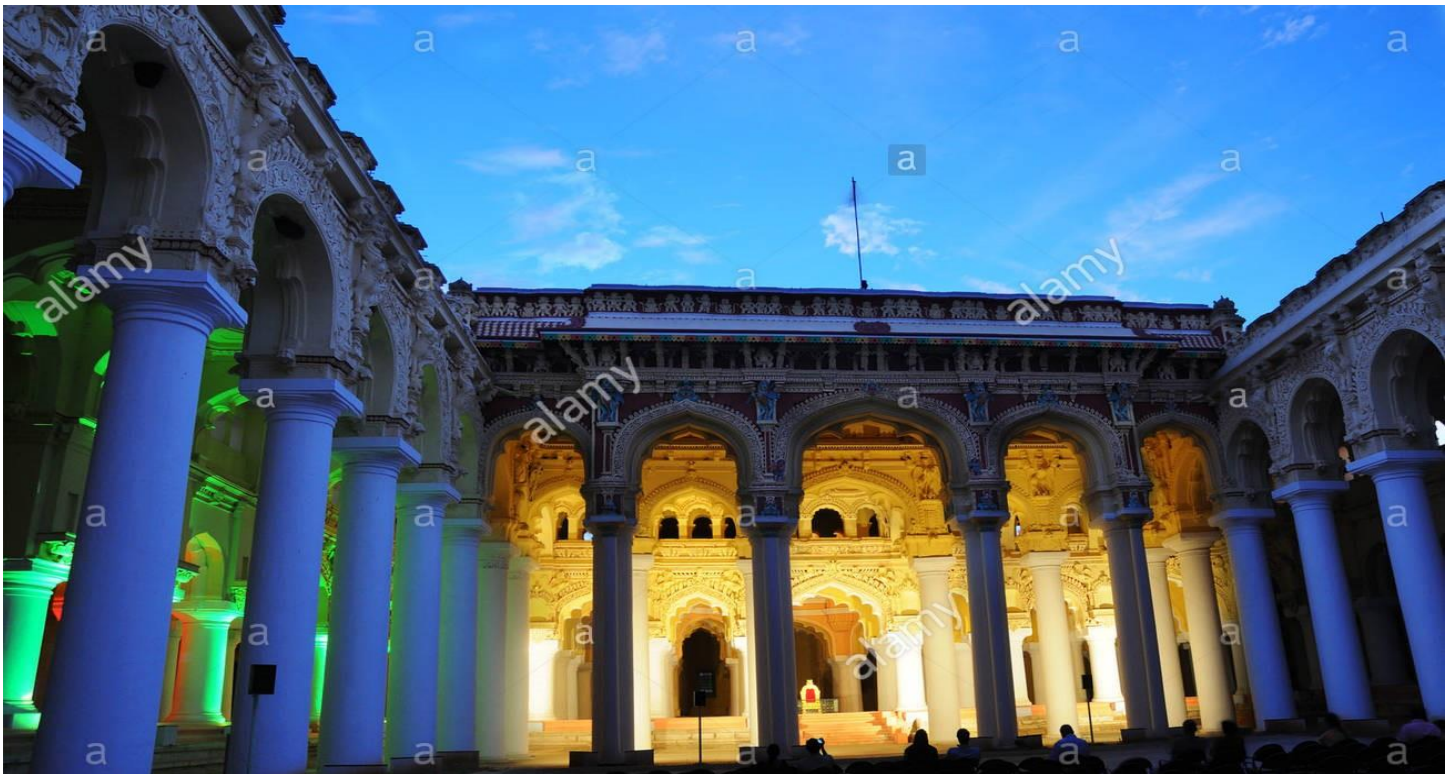
Air: Nearest airport is Chennai, which is well connected to the major cities of India.

Rail: Chennai is the nearest railway station.



The War Cemetery in Chennai is a tribute to the soldiers of the Second World War. The Stone of Remembrance in the Cemetery welcomes its visitors with a beautiful line etched on it, "Their Name Liveth For Evermore". The line has been taken from the Book of Ecclesiasticus. Besides, it was designed by Edward Lutyens, the person who designed Delhi.

## 7. Thirumalai Nayakkar Mahal Madurai



Counted as one of the top tourist attractions of Madurai, Thirumalai Nayakkar Mahal is a prized possession of the Tamil Nadu state. Located 2 km south eastwards of the very popular Meenakshi Amman Temple, this palace is an excellent example of Indo-Saracenic style of architecture, which is an amalgam of Dravidian and Islamic architectures.

The palace was constructed by King Thirumalai Nayak, one of the rulers of Nayaka Dynasty of Madurai in 1636 AD. The palace originally was four times bigger than what is seen today and was the official residence of the ruler. Considered as one of the

wonders of the South during its peak days, Thirumalai Nayakkar Mahal had extremely rich interiors as well as exteriors.

Sound & Light Show

06.45 pm to 07.35 pm (English)

08.00 pm to 8.50 pm (Tamil)