

## **THILLAI NATARAJA TEMPLE**

### **Chidambaram, Cuddalore, Tamilnadu, India**

God

The main deity of this temple is Thillai Nataraja, who is an incarnation of Lord Shiva facing South direction is a Swayambhu.

Goddess

Umayambikai and Sivakama Sundari are consorts of Thillai Nataraja.

#### **Interesting Facts**

Of the panchabhoodha sthalas (places) Chidambaram belongs to Akasha. The hymns sung by Gnanasambandar, Tirunavukkarasar and Sundarar were found from this temple only.

This temple is located at the Center Point of world 's Magnetic Equator.

Among the "Pancha bootha" temples, Chidambaran denotes the Skies. Kalahasthi denotes Wind. Kanchi Ekambareswar denotes land. All these 3 temples are located in a straight line at 79 degrees 41 minutes Longitude. An amazing fact & astronomical miracle.

Chidambaran temple is based on the Human having 9 Entrances denoting 9 Entrances or Openings of the body.

Temple roof is made of 21600 gold sheets which denotes the 21600 breaths taken by a human being every day ( $15 \times 60 \times 24 = 21600$ )

These 21600 gold sheets are fixed on the “Vimanam” (Roof) using 72000 gold nails which denote the total no. of Nadis (Nerves) in the human body.

Thirumoolar states that man represents the shape of Shivalingam, which represents Chidambaram which represents Sadashivam which represents Lord Shiva’s dance.

“Ponnambalam ” is placed slightly tilted towards the left. This represents our Heart. To reach this, we need to climb 5 steps called “Panchatshara padi ” “Si, Va, Ya, Na, Ma ” are the 5 Panchatshara mantras. There are 4 pillars holding the Kanagasabha representing the 4 Vedas.

Ponnambalam has 28 pillars denoting the 28 “Ahamas “as well as the 28 methods to worship Lord Shiva. These 28 pillars support 64 +64 Roof Beams which denote the 64 Arts. The cross beams represent the Blood Vessels running across the Human body.

Kalasas on the Golden Roof represent the 9 types of Sakthi or Energies. The 6 pillars at the Artha Mantapa represent the 6 types of Sashtras. The 18 pillars in the adjacant Mantapa represents 18 Puranams.

## Best Season To Visit

The best season to visit this temple is Winter season. The best months to visit are September to March.

## Weather

Highest - April to June (38°C during day and 26°C during night)  
Average - May (37 °C during the day and 21 °C during night)  
Lowest - October to February (30 °C during day and 18 °C during night)  
Monsoon season - August to September

## Dress Code

For men the dress code is Shirt & Trouser, Dhoti or Pyjamas with upper cloth.

For women the preferred dress code is saree or half-saree with blouse or chudidhar with pyjama and upper cloth.

These rules are applicable for foreigners also. Shorts, mini-skirts, middies, sleeveless tops, low-waist jeans and short-length T-shirts are not allowed.

Pilgrims/visitors will not be allowed inside the temple if dress code is not followed.

## Do's & Dont's

Do bathe and wear clean clothes before you enter the temple.

Do respect ancient customs and co-pilgrims while at temple.

Smoking is strictly prohibited inside the temple premises.

transport connections

Name  
Distance  
Contact Number

Chidambaram Bus Stand

750 MTRS  
1800-419-4287

Chidambaram Railway Station

1.6 KM  
139

Puducherry Airport

67.5 KM  
0413-2255506

Deity

God

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