



# TAMILNADU CULTURE



## THE CULTURE OF TAMILNADU



**Hinduism** lies at the core of the culture of Tamil Nadu. Among the most famous of the state's temples, which number in the tens of thousands, are the 7th- and 8th-century structures at Mamallapura, which were designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1984.

## Tamil Nadu Culture: Exploring the Rich Tradition, Art, Music, Food and Festivals



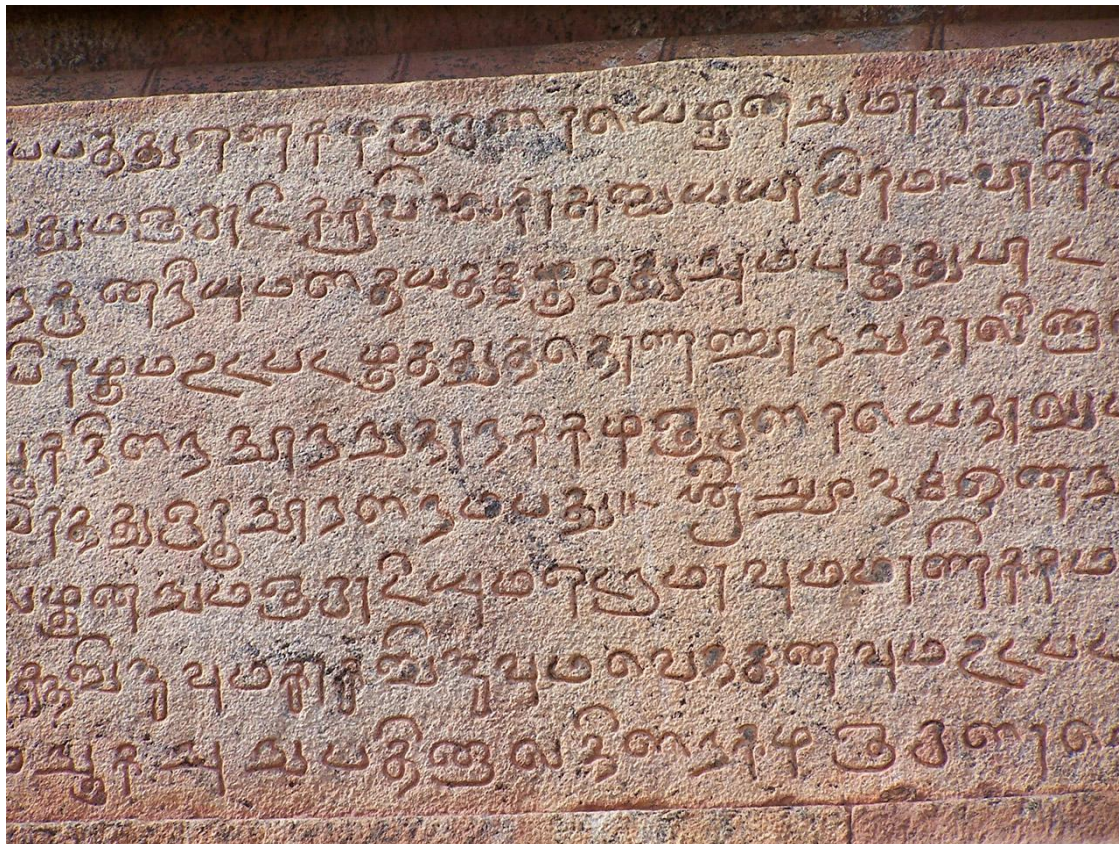
Situated in the southern most state of India, [Tamil Nadu](#) shares its borders with the states of [Kerala](#), [Karnataka](#), and [Andhra Pradesh](#). A land of exhilarating and breathtaking beauty, Tamil Nadu has a distinct place in India. The state is home to great historical heritage and tradition. Tamil Nadu culture is super rich and truly vibrant, hence the state is frequently visited by travellers and history enthusiasts from all parts of the world. The people of the state give immense importance to their culture and traditions, and this is evident from their daily life.





Kanyakumari, the southern tip of India, is a marvel in itself, the fascinating and mesmerizing beauty of the place is beyond description, and is also one of the places frequented by tourists. [Tamil Nadu](#) is home to an ancient history spanning over two thousand years. Throughout its history, the state has been under the rule of different dynasties, such as the Pallava Dynasty, The Pandya Dynasty, the Chola Dynasty, and the Chera Dynasty. The state's vast and rich heritage can be observed in the historically relevant and culturally rich monuments that adorn the state.

## Language in Tamil Nadu



Majority of people in Tamil Nadu [speak Tamil](#), and hence it is also the official language of the state. A part of the Dravidian language family, Tamil has speakers around the world. It is also the official language of [Srilanka](#) and [Singapore](#) and is also spoken in considerable numbers in the countries of South Africa, Mauritius, [Malaysia](#), and Fiji. Recognized as a classical language of India due to its independent tradition, significant ancient literature, and ancient origins, the language is also recognized as one among the 22 languages which are included in the Indian Constitution. As the oldest and the longest surviving classical languages prevalent in the world today, the language is also heir to a fascinating collection of ancient literature.



# Tamil Nadu Food Culture



South Indian food is quite popular for its remarkable delicacy and the unique blend of spices. The [Tamil Nadu cuisine](#) too is no exception and offers a wide range of dishes to choose from. Rice is the staple food of the Tamilians and includes a variety of the same. From the ordinary plain rice to the different rice varieties such as lemon rice, Thakkali Soru (Tomato rice), Thengai Soru (Coconut rice), Paruppu Soru (Lentil rice) is prepared in the state. Sambar, Rasam, Coconut Chutney are among the most popular side dishes in the state. Breakfast usually includes Dosa, which too has several varieties or idli along with coconut chutney or sambar. Uttapam, a dish identical to the Dosa but with tomatoes and other spices, is also a common breakfast dish in the state.

On special occasions, the people of Tamil Nadu prefer to have food on a banana leaf. Other dishes include Poriyal, Puliyo dharai, Medhu Vada, paniyaram among others. For those with a sweet tooth, Tamil Nadu is also home to some a variety of sweet dishes and desserts such as the Arisi thengai payasam, Pasi Paruppu Payasam, among others. The state also has some enjoyable snacks such as the Murukku and Seedai, among others.

## Traditional Dress of Tamil Nadu



For the people of Tamil Nadu, their attire is an important part of their culture as it represents their rich tradition. Women usually dress in sarees, which are known for their elaborate, elegant designs and vibrant colours. The [Kanjeevaram](#) saree is the most popular kind of saree in the state and is widely worn by the women of the state, mostly during special occasions. Young girls usually wear the half saree which comprises a blouse, a full-length skirt and a shawl known as Davani. Tamilian men wear a lungi and a shirt along with an Angavastram which is a crucial piece in their wardrobe. The traditional dresses are usually worn along with traditional accessories, such as Chains, Oddiyanam, and payals made of gold. They also adore their hair with flower garlands in a particular fashion, called gajras.

## Cultural Festivals of Tamil Nadu





The **cultural festivals** of any state are instrumental in highlighting and celebrating their culture. As a land with a rich heritage, Tamil Nadu is also home to several cultural festivals, which portray the vivid and diverse Tamil Nadu culture.

Pongal is perhaps the most significant and popular cultural festival of the state. The festival takes place in January and is celebrated as an expression of gratitude for the Harvest, and hence is also known as the Harvest festival of the state. The festival takes place in a span of 4 days, and each day has its own significance. The first day is called Bhogi Pongal, and is seen as a new beginning; all the houses in the state are decorated on this day. The second day is known as Surya Pongal; on this day people wear traditional clothes. The third day of the festival is known as Mattu Pongal during this time the famous **Jallikattu** event happens, and the last day is Kaanum Pongal, which marks the end of the celebrations.

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