Enjoying a monsoon vacation in Pondicherry

One of the amazing beach destinations found in the south of India, it’s a place that you feel you could keep going back to. An amazing monsoon vacation trip to Pondicherry, or Puducherry as it is known, can hold a prominent spot on your to-do list. The French for long colonized the town and it still does hold those French influences close to the heart in terms of architecture, cuisine and even the bit of the language spoken here has got that French connection.

**Places to visit**

*La Maison Rose*

If you are fond of architecture and edifices that have stood the test of time, Pondicherry is the place that fulfills your desire to check some magnificent fresh colonial architecture. People have kept the original intact and converted them to boutique shops to retain the old elegance of the place. You can now shop for unique pieces of jewelry, clothes and much more. There are some exquisite pieces of souvenirs that you could take home. The owners have tried to retain the old-world charm of the place and it’s one of the best places to shop and look around the marvelous edifice.

*Eglise De Notre Dame Des Anges*

The church, also known as our lady of angels, happens to be one of the oldest churches built in the 18th century. The architectural similarity matches that of Basilica at Lourdes In France. The church is built to overlook a large water body, the Bay of Bengal, adding to the tranquilness of the place as you see the pristine water sparkling in the morning sunlight. A huge statue of Mother Mary holding infant Jesus along with a Joan of arc statue with much detailing. In the entire Pondicherry, only mass is held in this church.

*Rock Beach*

This beach is called by several names, the Gandhi beach or Promenade beach. Quite a huge beach is stretching for one and a half kilometers of sand and sun. You can sit back and relax or have in the waters. The beach is quite a viewpoint wherein you can check out the amazing landscapes and surrounding landmarks.

*French war memorial*

It’s a great place to be for all those history buffs who want to check out this French war memorial built to commemorate the world war I martyrs. The French took a lot of interest and ensured memorial services conducted on Bastille day celebrations on July 14 and celebrated to this day right on the beach.

*Ousteri Lake*

Ousteri is nearly 100 years old, spread across 390 hectares. It is one of the largest catchment areas for freshwater for the people of Pondicherry. The lake is man-made and is considered one of the vital wetlands of Asia. You will see that various migratory birds visit the lake every year, such as the open bill stork, painted stork and the golden oriole are some of the frequent visitors to Ousteri lake.

*Botanical gardens*

French colonists have made a difference to the landscape of Pondicherry by setting up so many architectural beauties. One of the interesting ones happens to be the Botanical gardens built in the 19th century. The entire garden covers 22 hectares, filled with 1500 species of flora. The garden boasts of several varieties of jasmine, orchids and roses, which are well maintained. The garden also has a train ride which allows children to take an entire tour of the garden.

*Shri Aurobindo Ghosh Ashram*

The ashram is dedicated to Sri Aurobindo, a freedom fighter, in 1926. It is a place of spirituality and tranquility. The serene atmosphere also is one of the driving forces for tourists to pay a visit. You can check out the timings specified for taking a tour around the ashram.

*Chunnambar Boathouse*

It’s a great place to take a boat ride with your family and friends. The boathouse is constructed right where the Chunnambar River meets the Bay of Bengal. You could relax and watch the sunset or sunrise or get tanned in the afternoon sun. You could even watch the beauty of the surrounding areas while perched at the boathouse.

*Sri Vardarja Perumal Temple*

It is the oldest temple found in Pondicherry. The temple is set in Dravidian style with an eye-catching gopuram on the top and numerous goddesses and gods adorning the walls sculpted intricately to depict the scriptures. The deity is supposed to be the incarnation of the Lord Vishnu.

*Bharti Government Park*

Usually, people avoid places that government has because of poor maintenance, but this park is beautifully maintained. You will be surprised at the sheer amount of seasonal flowers blooming, the gushing fountains, and well-manicured lawns. An Ayi mandapam happens to chief park monument made in the Greco-Roman style. The place happened to hold the main source of water for the people of Pondicherry.

*Jawahar Toy museum*

It’s an amazing place for kids to pay a visit and elders can look at the 120 dolls showcased here. These dolls are bedecked with Indian finery depicting the various cultures of different states in India. It is such a good way to learn.

*Arikmedu*

An amazing archeological site that you shouldn’t miss out on visiting. Built-in, the 19th century by the French, it happened to be the trading spot for the people of Pondicherry. Several studies show through excavations that trade connections with the Roman empire existed right through the reign of Augustus Ceasar.

*Old lighthouse*

Though the lighthouse is no longer used from 1979, it is still a poignant lighthouse that guided far too many ships. This place still attracts tourists. They come to see the architecture and have a look into the sea below.

*Statue of Duplex*

Those who want to check out the nightlife of Pondicherry are in for a treat. This place boasts of some of the best pubs and nightclubs with live music and DJs entertaining an enthusiastic crowd the whole time. You could check out Toxic, pub Zipper, Ozone Bar, Tantra, Bay of Buddha, Dragon Lounge, L’Aqua. For those who want to check out the best places to eat well, quite a few fit into a list for foodies who want to try out the best, such as the Le rendezvous, Chez Francis, Gelateria Montecatini Terme etc.

It’s the best place to let your hair down enjoy the untouched beaches with pristine white sand. The welcoming crystal clear beaches make it paradise for visitors to spend an amazing vacation. Pondicherry is a trip that you will remember for life.