Chennai Tourism

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Tourist Attractions

#### Mahabalipuram

Mahabalipuram was the earlier name of Mamallapuram because the demon king Mahabali was killed by Lord Vishnu. The name was changed later by the king of Pallava Narashima Varman who has got the title of Mamalla; the great wrestler. The beauty of the place is not only due to these architecture but the vast casuarinas trees, the silvery sandy beach the classical hand male crafts around have made them all to form what is a collective splendor. Any visitor who visits mahabalipuram will remain startled and intoxicated with the grandeur. They feel hand hearted and more out from this historical and fascinating tourist spot.There are a lot of places to visit in mahabalipuram.

The total land area is an 8 square kilometers, situated exactly to the mean sea level. The population of this place is 12,000. The climate is moderate and breezy due to the location of the sea close to the land. Tamil and English are the two languages spoken here. There is no specific season for the tourists to visit mahabalipuram as it can be visited in, at any past of the year. The nearest Airport is in Chennai. The nearest railway is in Chengalpattu and it is well connected by road ways. The (ECR) East coastal road which connects chennai and Pondicherry passes through this place.

#### Dakshin Chithra

DakshinaChitra is an exciting cross cultural living museum of art, architecture, lifestyles, crafts and performing arts of South India. The main mission is to exhibit, promote and preserve aspects of the broader, more inclusive cultures of the states and to bring these arts to the public in a participative, enjoyable and engaging way. DakshinaChitra Heritage Museum , a project of Madras Craft Foundation an NGO was opened to the public on December 14th 1996. The Museum is located overlooking the Bay of Bengal, at Muttukadu, twenty five kilometers south of Central Chennai, on the East Coast Road to Mamallapuram, Tamil Nadu, India.

DakshinaChitra has a collection of 18 authentic historical houses with contextual exhibitions in each house. All the houses bought and reconstructed at DakshinaChitra had been given for demolition by their owners. The authentic homes in a regional vernacular style are purchased, taken down, transported and reconstructed by artisans ( Stapathis) of the regions from where the houses came

#### Egmore Museum

Egmore Museum, established in 1851, is located in Egmore, Chennai. Known as the Madras Museum, the museum is the second oldest museum in India, the first being the Indian Museum at Kolkata, started in 1814. It is also one of the largest museums in South Asia.[citation needed] It is particularly rich in archaeological and numismatic collections. It has the largest collection of Roman antiquitiesoutside Europe. Many of the buildings within the Museum campus are over 100 years old. Among them, the colossal Museum Theatre is one of the most impressive.[1] The National Art Gallery is also present in the museum premises. Built in Indo-Saracenicstyle, it houses rare works of artists like Raja Ravi Varma.[2][3]

#### Vivekananda House

Vivekananda House (known as Vivekanandar Illam in Tamil), an important landmark in Chennai is associated with the Sri Ramakrishna Math since 1897 when Swami Vivekananda stayed here for nine days after his triumphant return from the West. Later, Sri Ramakrishna Math, Chennai was founded and functioned at this place during its ten years from 1897 to 1906. Now, this historic place houses a permanent exhibition on Indian Culture and Swami Vivekanandaâ€™s Life. Currently, Vivekananda House is maintained by Sri Ramakrishna Math and itâ€™s a source of inspiration to thousands of people who visit it every year.

#### Vandaloor Zoo

Chennai, the then Madras had the distinction of having the first zoo in India, started in 1855. Factors like air and sound pollution, insufficient place for accommodating the animals and highly dense human population around the corporation zoo became health hazards to animals of the zoo. Hence it was decided to shift the zoo from Moore market area to Vandalur Reserve Forest in the out-skirts of Chennai city. Works for the establishment of the zoo was started in 1976 and Arignar Anna Zoological Park was opended to public in 1985. It is one of the largest zoos in South East Asia sprawling over an area of 602 ha.

The existing landscape was utilized as it is and all the animals are exhibited in large open moated island type enclosures with simulated environment. The entire area of 602 ha. has been clothed with vegetation both by natural and some artificial regeneration.

#### Guindy National Park

The Guindy National Park, 2.70 sq.KM wide is unique in more ways than one. It has the rarest vegetation type â€“ the tropical dry evergreen vegetation. It is one of the smallest national parks and is situated right in the heart of a metropolitan city - Chennai. But perhaps the best of all is that it has a role in both ex-situ and in-situ conservation.

Guindy National Park is home to 400 black bucks, 2000 spotted deer, 24 jackals, a variety of snakes, geckos, a wide variety of snakes tortoises, geckos and over 100 species of birds, over 60 species of butterflies and spiders each, a wealth of different invertebrates-grasshoppers, ants, termites, carbs, snails, slugs, scorpions, mites, spiders, earthworms, millipedes, etc., These are free-ranging fauna and live with the minimal of interference from human beings. The only major management activity is protection as in other in situ conseration area. The park boasts of over 350 species of plants, and form a natural destination for botanists.

About 22 acres of GNP has been carved out into a zoo for ex-situ conservation. This entails keeping different species in captivity on view to public. Childrenâ€™s park - the zoo was started with the idea of providing children a natural environment, to educate them about animals and create awareness on conservation. The animals, have bred well in recent years. In childrenâ€™s park include black buck, sambar, spotted deer, porcupine, hyena, jackal, python, grey pelican, night heron, cormorant, cockatiel, mongoose, bonnet monkey, common langur.

#### Birla Planetorium

The Planetarium is considered in the modern world as an Indoor - Universe. The Planetarium has provisions to execute diurnal, annual, latitudinal and precessional motions. The special effect projectors inside the Planetarium recreate some of the most awe-inspiring astronomical phenomena on the specially perforated aluminium inner dome. Multi-dimensional activities and multimedia projection arrangements which have been incorporated inside the sky theatre make the programme further lively and excited one. The Planetarium, which is fully computerised, can seat 236 persons at a time.

Designed by Dyanesh,Naveen and Niranjan