**Madurai International Airport**

**Madurai International Airport (IXM)**

Madurai International Airport connects the city in Tamil Nadu to other destinations in the country. It is located approximately 12 kilometers from the railway station and was established in 1957.

During the Second World War, the airport was used by the Royal Air Force. Primary passenger flight on the Madurai – Trivandrum – Madurai route flew in 1956. The Madurai Airport was among the 35 non-metro airports for modernization and the new building was inaugurated in September 2010.

**Flight Information**

Several airlines connect Madurai to 8 cities in India with airlines like Spice Jet, Jet Airways, and Air India offering flight services. Scheduled flights to Chennai, Delhi, Mumbai, and Hyderabad are available from the Madurai International Airport.

The international airport has regular flights to Colombo; the maiden journey was undertaken on September 20, 2012. In November 2013, Spice Jet offered another international sector between Madurai and Dubai.

**Terminals**

The total area of the domestic and international terminals is 17,000 square meters and it has 16 check-in counters. There are 8 and 4 immigration counters at the arrivals and departures lounges, respectively. In addition, the Madurai Airport has 2 security counters and 5 customs counters, with 4 of these in the arrivals and 1 in the departures section.

The terminal capacity for arrivals and departures at the domestic as well as international terminals is 250 each.

**Traveling Around**

Traveling from the Madurai International Airport is not difficult for passengers. A city bus service is available for tourists and there is also a car rental counter at the airport for travelers who prefer to use private transport.

**Services and Facilities**

Passengers can enjoy several facilities and services that are available at the airport. In addition to luggage trolleys that are available at no charge, travelers can take advantage of free childcare, wheelchair, and medical facilities in case the need arises. The airport also has a first-aid room and lost and found baggage counter to cater to the travelers if the need arises.

**Things to Do**

Both domestic and international terminals at the Madurai Airport, house plenty of stores for passengers who like to shop around for memorabilia, such as pearls, garments, or jewelry while awaiting their flights. They can also enjoy regional and international cuisines at the several eateries and restaurants that are within the airport. Tourists can also avail of the tourism facilities that are provided within the Madurai International Airport premises.

**Hotels**

Irrespective of the budget you are traveling on, you can easily find appropriate accommodation within the proximity of the airport. Affordable stay options include Hotel Alps Residency, Madurai Residency, Hotel Padman, and Hotel Boopathi. For luxury accommodation, travelers can choose from hotels like Heritage Madurai, Taj Garden Retreat, and The Gateway Hotel Pasumalai Madurai.

**Tips for Fliers**

The city is known as "Thoonga Nagaram", which means a city that never sleeps, so tourists looking for an active nightlife are unlikely to be disappointed in Madurai.

**Nearby Attractions**

Tourist attractions that are located within 50 kilometers of the Madurai International Airport include Sri Meenakshi Temple, Gandhi Museum, Thirumalai Nayak Palace, and Azahaqar Kovil.