

## **CHENNAI ATTRACTIONS**

### **EGMORE MUSEUM**



The Museum located in Egmore, Chennai is more than 150 years old. The modern building contains treasured statues of Lord Nataraja, Buddha, Tamil saints and others in their bronze gallery. The museum complex also has the Connemara Library and the National Art Gallery, built in the style of the Jaipur - Moghul architecture.

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### **BIRLA SCIENCE PLANETORIUM**



The latest astronomical phenomena are brought back to life in audio visual programmes that transport you to space. Adjoining the Birla Planetarium is the Periyar science and Technology Museum. Planetarium programme timings: 10.45 AM, 1.15 PM and 3.45 PM. Location - Gandhi Mandapam Road, Kotturpuram, Chennai.

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### **FORT St. GEORGE**



The bastion derived its name from St. George, the patron saint of England. It was established around 1640 AD, and today it houses the Secretariat and the Legislative Assembly of Tamil Nadu. The Fort also houses St. Mary's Church, the first Anglican Church in Asia and a museum which is a treasure house of rare exhibits of weapons, uniforms, coins, costumes and other artifacts.

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### **St. GEORGE'S CATHEDRAL**



St. George's Cathedral is the Cathedral Church of the Church of South India, Diocese of Madras, located at Cathedral Road. It has a 130 feet spire with its interior very light and the airy with stucco walls. The decorated roof and many fascinating tablets and tombs add to beauty of the spire.

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### **VALLUVAR KOTTAM**



This is a memorial complex to the immortal saint, philosopher and poet, the author of 'Thirukkural', a unique piece of Tamil literature with 1330 couplets containing great wisdom. The whole structure is shaped like a temple chariot and a life size statue of the saint has been installed in the chariot.

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### **THEOSOPHICAL SOCIETY**



The world headquarters of the Theosophical Society founded in 1875 to propagate global oneness, study of comparative religions, philosophy and science is situated in sylvan surroundings on the southern bank of the Adyar River. Apart from the shrines of all faiths and

a peaceful garden, there is a very old library which contains a collection of rare books and oriental palm leaf manuscripts.

The campus also hosts a spectacular botanical wonder, popularly referred to as the 'Adyar Aala Maram' or the 'Great Banyan Tree of Adyar', a 450 year old tree, one of the oldest in India. It has a canopy circumference of 251.65 meters, roots at a height of 12.2 meters and an area of 4.670 square meters.

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### **RIPON BUILDING**



Situated at the heart of Chennai, the building has eye-catching architecture and is named after the British administrator Ripon. This building presently houses various departments of the Corporation of Chennai.

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### **MARINA BEACH**



The Marina is the world's second longest beach with a broad sand shore and is a favourite spot for relaxation. While enjoying the gentle afternoon breeze, a walk down Marina beach will take you through some of the distinctive colonial style buildings in Chennai. The modern light house is another attraction of the Marina.

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### **T.NAGAR**

T. Nagar is one of the fabulous shopping destinations of Chennai, bustling with activity, day and night. There are departmental stores, shopping malls and small vendors, so one can successfully hunt down best buys here! One can also shop for the popular Kanjeevaram silk sarees and gold jewellery.

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## **DAKSHINACHITRA**



Dakshinachitra is a center for the living traditions of art, folk performing arts, craft and architecture of India with an emphasis on the traditions of South India. A project of the Madras Craft Foundation (MCF), a non profit organisation. The centre occupies ten undulating acres overlooking the Bay of Bengal, at Muttukadu, twenty five kilometers south of Chennai, on the East Coast Road to Mamallapuram.

Dakshinachitra is open on all days of the week from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. except Tuesday. Entrance tickets vary from Rs. 50 for Indian residents to Rs. 175 for overseas visitors.

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## **MAMALLAPURAM (MAHABALIPURAM)**



Mamallapuram was a 7th century port city of the South Indian dynasty of the Pallavas around 60 kms South from the city of Chennai. It is believed to have been named after the Pallava king Mamalla. It has various historic monuments built largely between the 7th and the 9th century, and has been classified as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The monuments are mostly rock-cut and monolithic, and constitute the early stages of Dravidian architecture wherein Buddhist elements of design are prominently visible.

**The Tiger Cave** situated 5 kms from Mamallapuram is ideal for nature lovers. Although there are no tigers here, you will find yourself mesmerised by a cave set apart among the rocks

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with a crown of carved tiger heads around the temple.

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### **MUTTUKADU**



Muttukadu Boat House, on way to Mamallapuram, is an unusual spot in the backwaters for tourists and holidaying families. Muttukadu is a paradise for anglers since prawns and jelly fish are in abundance here. What thrills the visitors the most is the stunning effects caused by a rocking bridge over the backwaters. Every year a windsurfing regatta is organised in Muttukadu in February.

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### **CROCODILE BANK**



The Crocodile Bank is located 40 km south of Chennai city on 3.2 hectares along India's east coast road with the Bay of Bengal as a backdrop. The high aquifer on the sandy coast provides sufficient water supply and the proximity to the major ancient temple complex and tourist destination at Mamallapuram ensures regular visitors. The Bank was initially established for the conservation and study of India's three endangered crocodiles. The Bank has bred over 5000 and now holds over 2400 crocodiles of 14 different species.

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