

SIGHTSEEING TOUR - I

Full Day Sightseeing tour of Chennai

Duration: 8 hour(s) - **Location:** Chennai

The full day tour covers Fort St. George, Government Museum, Valluvar Kottam, Snake Park, Birla Planetarium, Kapaleeswarar Temple & Marina Beach.

Fort St. George - It was originally just a warehouse with a stockade around it. But the establishing of Fort St George in 1639, for all practical purposes, marks the birth of the city. Today the Secretariat building (where the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly is housed

The Government Museum and Art Gallery - The Chennai Museum has a good collection of paintings and sculptures, both traditional and modern.

Valluvar Kottam is a massive auditorium, constructed on reclaimed land from an unused lake filled with the city's garbage and debris. The auditorium can seat up to 4000 people.

The Snake Park, at Guindy, houses a variety of reptiles. Cobras, Pythons, Kraits, Adders, Vipers, Monitor Lizards and giant Turtles are some of the special 'draws' at the Park.

Kapaleeshwarar Temple - Built in the eight-century Pallavan architecture style, the Kapaleeshwar Temple located in Mylapore in Chennai is regarded by the Hindus to be one of the most sacred Hindu sites in the Southern Part of India.

Marina Beach - It is the longest beach in the world after the one in Brazil and is a must visit

Planetarium takes visitors on an information-rich journey through space. A 236-seater hemispherical theatre houses a computerised projector that creates a simulated unravelling of the astronomical mysteries. The right place to kick-start amateur night-sky observation as a hobby

Itinerary – 17 December 2012 or 19 December 2012

10.00 am - Pick up from JP hotel

2.00 pm - Break for lunch

6.00 pm - Return to hotel

Participant guidelines

Wear comfortable shoes

Sightseeing will be done in a private a/c car comfortable for 04 persons

Minimum 1 person

Group sizes vary from 2-6 persons

Cost per person: Rs.2000/-(Indian participants)/ 60USD (Other Country participants)

Cost includes: All transfers in air-conditioned vehicle, English speaking driver cum guide

Cost does not include: Entrance fees to monuments, Expenses of personal nature such as table drinks, telephone calls, laundry, camera fees (still or video), tips to drivers, local guides.

One hour lunch break will be part of the tour (lunch costs not included)

Interested participants are requested to contact Dr.R.Sivakumar (rsk.ece@rmkec.ac.in) for further details and advance booking.

SIGHTSEEING TOUR - II

Half Day Chennai tour

Duration: 4 hour(s) - **Location:** Chennai

The city is a perfect blend of traditionalism and a bustling cosmopolitan life. The major attraction of Chennai are its sprawling golden beaches, the most popular among them being the picturesque Marina Beach that also boasts of being the second longest beach in the world.

Visit the Kapaleeshwarar Temple dedicated to Lord Shiva and drive past the majestic Fort St. George and Santhome Cathedral. A must visit on a trip to India, Chennai is a city with deep rooted values, rich culture and friendly people

Enjoy a sightseeing tour in Chennai - the capital city of Tamil Nadu. This tour will take you to:

The Government Museum and Art Gallery - The Chennai Museum has a good collection of paintings and sculptures, both traditional and modern.

Kapaleeshwarar Temple - Built in the eight-century Pallavan architecture style, the Kapaleeshwar Temple located in Mylapore in Chennai is regarded by the Hindus to be one of the most sacred Hindu sites in the Southern Part of India.

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Marina Beach - It is the longest beach in the world after the one in Brazil and is a must visit &

Santhome Cathedral - At the southern tip of Marina is the towering basilica built on the spot where St. Thomas (an apostle of Jesus Christ) was buried. This is the church of the Archbishop of Chennai - pastoral head of the Catholic community in the region

**Itinerary – 17 December 2012 MORNING/AFTERNOON
or 19 December 2012 MORNING**

10.00 am - Pick up from JP hotel

2.00 pm – Return to Hotel

Or

2.00 pm – Pick up from JP Hotel

6.00 pm - Return to hotel

Participant guidelines

Wear comfortable shoes

Sightseeing will be done in a private a/c car comfortable for 04 persons

Minimum 1 person

Group sizes vary from 2-6 persons

Cost per person: Rs.1000/-(Indian participants)/ 40USD (Other Country participants)

Cost includes: All transfers in air-conditioned vehicle, English speaking driver cum guide

Cost does not include: Entrance fees to monuments, Expenses of personal nature such as table drinks, telephone calls, laundry, camera fees (still or video), tips to drivers, local guides.

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SIGHTSEEING TOUR - III

Full Day MAHABALIPURAM Sightseeing

Duration: 8 hour(s) - **Location:** Mahabalipuram

The full day tour covers Shore Temple, Five Ratha's, Arjuna's Penance, Kovalam, Tiger's Caves, Crocodile Bank, Muttukadu Boat House

An ancient seaport, on the shores of Bay of Bengal, built by the Pallava king Narasimhavarman I, in the 7th century AD, **Maamallapuram** is a treasure trove of South Indian sculptural and architectural heritage.

Shore Temple



Tradition has it that there once stood seven temples along the shore line in this area. Today, the only one that is there is the Shore Temple. It was built during the 7th century by the artisan Rajasimha under the rule of Narasimha Varman II. It is one of the oldest temples that can be found in South India that is built in the Dravidian style. It has lately increased in popularity because it is now listed as one of the world heritage sites of the UNESCO. Numerous carvings can be found throughout the temple. Three separate buildings make up the temple. Two are Shiva temples that face east and west.

Five Ratha's



The Five Rathas, also known as Panch Rathas, is a set of rock temples. They are excellent examples of the evolution of Dravidian style architecture. These temples are built in the same shape as pagodas, and greatly resemble Buddhist shrines and monasteries. The rathas are associated with the great epic Mahabharata. The first ratha that is located right by the entrance gate is Draupadi's Ratha. It is shaped like a hut and is dedicated to the goddess Durga. Next comes Arjuna's Rath. This one has a small portico and carved pillar stones and is dedicated to Lord Shiva. There are no carvings inside this temple, but many are on the outside. Directly in front of Arjuna's Rath is the Nakula – Sahadev Rath. This ratha has some huge elephant sculptures included that are a huge draw for the Five Rathas. It is dedicated to the God of Rain, Lord Indra. The Bhima Rath is huge. It measures 42 ft in length, 24ft in width, and 25ft in height. The pillars there do contain lion carvings even though the ratha as a whole is incomplete. The largest of the Five Rathas is the Dharamraja Yudhistar's Rath. This rath is also dedicated to Lord Shiva and is a great example of later built South India temples.

Arjuna's Penance



Arjuna's Penance is a famous rock sculpture that portrays a story out of India lore. It is carved onto the back side of a whale shaped rock. The sculpture measures 9 meters high and 27 meters long. Arjuna is the great hero of the great epic Mahabharata, and the name of the sculpture comes from his story. There is some controversy however as to whether the story portrayed is actually the story of Arjuna or if it is the story of Bhagiratha who is an ancestor to Lord Rama. Numerous gods and demigods as well as animals and people are all carved on the sculpture. The talent that it took to create such a sculpture is obvious and deserves respect. The characters amazingly look both realistic as well as humorous

Kovalam

The village of Kovalam was originally just a small fishing village that was located 15 kilometers from Mahabalipuram. Today, that fishing village is still there, but has also expanded to become one of the most famous beach resorts in all of India. You can still explore the old sea port that used to exist there. Numerous quality beach resorts can be found at Kovalam. The beaches at that location are absolutely exquisite, and are greatly enjoyed by all that visit there. It is also to these beaches that the well-known Olive Ridley Turtles travel to every year to hatch their eggs.

Tiger's Caves



Tiger's Caves is near the coastal village of Salurankuppam that is only 5 kilometers to the north of Mahabalipuram. This amazing mandapa contains a shrine that is dedicated to the goddess Durga. There are large and impressive figures located in front of the

caves. As with most carvings in India, the carvings and figures tell a story. This story has to do with an event that happened to the goddess Durga.

Crocodile Bank



The Crocodile Bank is located 14 kilometers from Mahabalipuram. It was established by herpetologist Romulus Whitaker in 1976. It houses several different species of Indian and African alligators and crocodiles. They are kept in open pools that are made to resemble their natural habitat. This Crocodile Conservation Center is the most popular site to visit at Crocodile Bank. A snake farm is also located at this site. Anti-venom is produced here. The process of extracting the snake venom is a popular tourist attraction, and it allows the Irulas, the snake catcher's tribe, to make a living.

Muttukadu Boat House

Muttukadu is situated at a distance of 36 km from Chennai and is an excellent picnic spot for the residents of the city as well as tourists. The backwaters at Muttukadu have been developed by Tamil Nadu Tourism Development Corporation. This was done in order to provide a fun filled spot offering water sports, for the entertainment of the people. This has positively affected the travel and tourism prospects of the area.



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