



# Chennai

Photo: gagarych/Shutterstock.com



jorisvo/Shutterstock.com

The site of former Indian, Portuguese and Dutch settlements, today's Chennai was established by the British in the 17th century as a trading port. This colonial town, formerly known as Madras, has since grown into India's fourth-largest city and the capital of the Indian state of Tamil Nadu. This bustling and colorful Indian city is bound to have something on offer for everyone.



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PRABHAS ROY/Shutterstock.com

# QUIZ

*What Type of Traveller  
Are You Based on  
Your Travel IQ?*

**TAKE THE QUIZ**

## Top 5



### Fort Museum

The museum houses military memorabilia belonging to the times of the British...



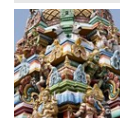
### San Thome Cathedral

Originally established in 1523, the San Thome Cathedral Church was rebuilt i...



### Government Museum & Nation...

The museums' archaeological collection includes artifacts



### Kapaleswarar Temple (Kapa...

Thousands of worshippers flock to this temple - one of Chennai's oldest - wi...

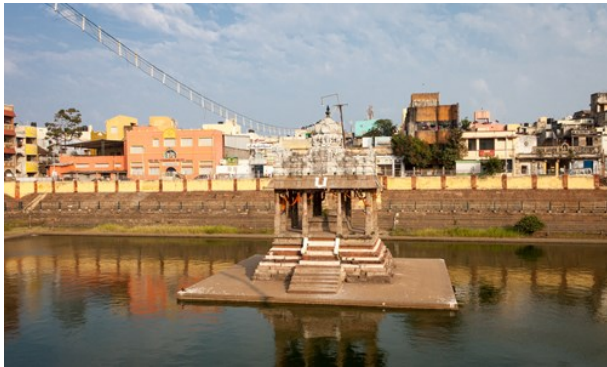


### Marina Beach

One of the world's longest beaches doesn't only feature water and sand, it i...



## THE CITY



Sergemi/Shutterstock.com

Chennai, or the 'Gateway to South India' as it is also called, is a city with a rich colonial past famous for its cultural events, music, literature, dance and cuisine as well as for being the home of India's second-largest film industry, known as Kollywood. While Chennai mainly is a commercial city with automobile, technology and healthcare industries and, therefore, has fewer famous tourist attractions than many other Indian cities, it still has plenty of delightful offers for visitors.

For those with an interest in history, a visit to Fort St. George - built in the 1640s by the British - is a must. Apart from the British heritage, the site also showcases the rich history of southern India throughout the centuries in the museum located on the fort's grounds. Chennai is also home to some 75 temples, churches and mosques well worth a visit, particularly the beautiful and richly-ornamented Kapaleeswarar Temple. The city's beach, the Marina, is one of the longest stretches of sandy beaches in the world and something visitors cannot miss. Those reluctant to swim in the sea can instead visit one of the city's many waterparks, or just indulge in the foods and snacks and souvenirs sold in the stalls on the beach.

The city also hosts both colorful street markets

as well as luxurious shopping malls with wood and stone carvings, mats, textiles and silk being some of the most sought-after items on offer. After a hard day of shopping, tourists can relax, or start the evening's party, at one of Chennai's many swish restaurants and bars.

## DO & SEE



Darshan Simha/Flickr.com (image cropped)

Chennai is home to a colonial fort and an array of beautiful temples, monuments and churches, water sports and amusement parks, street markets and shopping centers, fine dining and luxury hotels, as well as one of the longest sandy beaches in the world.

### Fort Museum



The museum houses military memorabilia belonging to the times of the British and the French East Indian Companies, as well as of the British Raj and the Muslim administrations.

Photo: Mark Pegrum/Flickr.com (image cropped)

Address: Rajaji Road Fort Saint George, Chennai

### San Thome Cathedral



Originally established in 1523, the San Thome Cathedral Church was rebuilt in Neo-Gothic style in 1896. It is said to be built over the shrine keeping the remains of St. Thomas the Apostle.

Photo: Arvind Balaraman/Shutterstock.com  
Address: 38 Santhome High Road Dunningkuppam, Chennai

### Government Museum & National Art Gallery



The museums' archaeological collection includes artifacts representing south Indian historical dynasties that span from the 6th century until the arrival of the British.

Photo: Sam DCruz/Shutterstock.com  
Address: Pantheon Egmore, Chennai  
Opening hours: Sat - Thu 9.30am - 5pm  
Phone: +91 44 2819 3035

### Kapaleeswarar Temple (Kapaleeshwara)



Thousands of worshippers flock to this temple - one of Chennai's oldest - with some parts dating back to the 8th century. Its pride is the outstandingly detailed gopuram, or entrance gate, which is 37 meters high.

Photo: jorisvo/Shutterstock.com  
Address: Mylapore, Chennai  
Phone: +91 44 2464 1670

### Marina Beach



One of the world's longest beaches doesn't only feature water and sand, it is also home to hundreds of vendors selling food, refreshments and souvenirs, a light house with panoramic views of Chennai, as well as an aquarium and a swimming pool.

Photo: simianwolverine/Flickr.com (image cropped)  
Address: Marina Beach, Chennai

### St. Thomas Mount



Some 160 steps lead up to the top of the hill, which is believed to be the place where St. Thomas was slaughtered. The 16th-century Church of Our Lady of Expectations, built by the Portuguese and filled with relics, is located at the summit.

Photo: NarayanK/Shutterstock.com  
Address: St. Thomas Mount, Chennai  
Internet: [www.stthomasmount.org](http://www.stthomasmount.org)

### Cinema



Going to the cinema is a must when visiting Chennai. There are plenty of cinemas in the city and, with India being the world's largest film producer, the choice of films showed is broad. Cinemas include the Abirami Complex, Albert and AVM Rajeswari.

Sathyam Cinema: 8, Thiru-vi-ka Road  
RoyapettahINOX Cinema, 3rd Floor, Chennai Citi

Centre Dr. Radhakrishnan Salai.

Photo: Syda Productions/Shutterstock.com

Address: Express Avenue Mall, Whites Road, Express Estate, Chennai

Internet: [www.inoxmovies.com](http://www.inoxmovies.com)

### Fort St. George



Built by the British East India Company in 1640, Fort St. George today houses the legislative parliament of Tamil Nadu state. The site, which

showcases Chennai's colonial history, also features a museum, a library and the oldest Anglican church in India.

Photo: Nigel's Europe & beyond/Flickr.com (image cropped)

Address: Rajaji Salai, Chennai

### AVM Studios



A rival to the film studios of Bollywood, films produced at Chennai's AVM, or Kollywood, are in the Tamil language.

Visitors to the studios can see the film sets and catch a glimpse of the filming or even become an extra.

Photo: Melanie M/Flickr.com (image cropped)

Address: 38 Arcot Road, Vadapalani, Chennai

Opening hours: Every day 9.30am - 5.30pm

Phone: +91 44 4213 6700

Internet: [www.avm.in](http://www.avm.in)

### Madras Crocodile Bank



Observe crocodiles and all the different types of reptiles during your visit to the Madras Crocodile bank. It is located outside

the city, but would be a worthwhile stop to make on your way to Mahabalipuram.

Photo: Andy Hay/Flickr.com (image cropped)

Address: East Coast Road, Vadanemmelli Village, Chennai

Opening hours: Tue - Sun 9am - 5pm

Internet: [www.madrascrocodilebank.org](http://www.madrascrocodilebank.org)

More Info: 10km after Muttukadu Boat House

### DINING



*ne3p/Shutterstock.com*

South Indian cuisine, also referred to as Dravidian, usually consists of several (mainly vegetarian) dishes eaten with steamed rice. Tamil cuisine, famous for the use of a variety of spices, recommends that one includes in a main meal all the six tastes: sweet, sour, bitter, salt, astringent and pungent. A Thali, here known as "meals", is traditionally served on a banana leaf. Look around and see how the other guests handle their leftovers and banana leaf, for good table manners.

Restaurants are often referred to as a "hotel" on the signs outside, on which it usually also states if the restaurant serves meat or not. Most of the

good restaurants in Chennai are located in the city's up-market hotels, and are known for their lunch buffets. Don't miss out on all the street stalls that serves wonderful south indian food and note that some foods are only served during breakfast whilst others only are served during night.

### SaravanaBhavan/Egmore



With delicious food and good service, this chain of restaurants has spread in Europe, North America and India and has some 20 different locations in Chennai. The "Unlimited Thali" offer is a popular choice among diners.

Photo: hlphoto/Shutterstock.com

Address: 1 Kennet Lane, Egmore, Chennai

Opening hours: Every day 7am - 11pm

Phone: +91 44 2819 2055

Internet: [www.saravanabhavan.com](http://www.saravanabhavan.com)

Email: [hsb@saravanabhavan.com](mailto:hsb@saravanabhavan.com)

### Saravana Bhavan/Gopalapuram



Feast on Vegetable Biryani, Mushroom Seekh Kebab or Paneer Tikka at this restaurant belonging to the famous chain, which offers more than one hundred Indian and Chinese dishes, or dine in style with silver cutlery on the upper floors.

Photo: chanokpan Rodjutakul/Shutterstock.com

Address: 239 Peters Road, Gopalapuram, Chennai

Opening hours: Every day 7am - 11pm

Phone: +91 44 2835 1155

Internet: [www.saravanabhavan.com](http://www.saravanabhavan.com)

### Ponnusamy Hotel



The obvious choice for food from India's Chettinad region, this restaurant is definitely one of the best in Chennai. It offers a great selection of meat and strictly vegetarian dishes, with its seafood specialties being a popular choice.

Photo: zhgee/Shutterstock.com

Address: 5/1 Gowdia Mutt Road, Royapettah, Chennai

Opening hours: Every day 11am - 12am

Phone: +91 44 2813 3067

Internet: [www.ponnusamyhotel.com](http://www.ponnusamyhotel.com)

### Murugan Idli Shop/Triplicane



This is another chain of restaurants, with three different locations in Chennai. Famous for its idli - an Indian savory cake, similar to semolina, served with coconut and sambar - and its dosai, a crêpe, usually filled with potatoe curry, made from rice and lentils. This place serves some of the best South Indian food in Chennai.

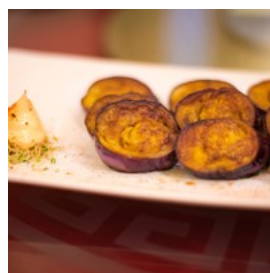
Photo: Joe Gough/Shutterstock.com

Address: 77-1/A,G.N. Chetty Road, T. Nagar, Chennai

Internet: [www.muruganidlishop.com](http://www.muruganidlishop.com)

More Info: Hameedia Shopping Mall

### Bayleaf Food



If you decide to take a break from the South Indian cuisine and feel like trying some Bengali food, this clean and unpretentious restaurant is the place to eat, with both the vegetarian and

the meat dishes being excellent.

Photo: simplemomentss/Shutterstock.com

Address: 14, 6th St, Gopalapuram, Chennai

Opening hours: Every day 12pm - 3.15pm, 7pm - 11pm

Phone: +91 44 2811 4558

### The Residency, Sheraton Park Hotel



This multi-cuisine restaurant is one of the best in Chennai, having made a name thanks to the broad range of meals and desserts served at

the lunch and dinner buffets. The quality of the food, as well as the service, is excellent. There is also live music every evening as well.

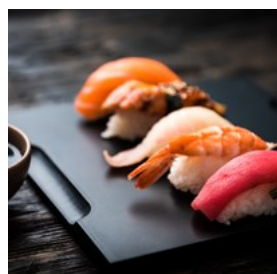
Photo: marandstock/Shutterstock.com

Address: 132 T.T.K. Road, Alwarpet, Chennai

Phone: +91 44 249 941 01

More Info: Sheraton Park Hotel

### Pan Asian



Pan Asian offers an upscale dining experience and is a perfect venue to go for a special occasion. Request to be seated by the open kitchen and

observe the culinary masters in action.

Photo: In Green/Shutterstock.com

Address: Mount Road, Anna Salai, Guindy, Chennai

Phone: +91 44 4906 5271

More Info: ITC Grand Chola, 63, First Floor

### Dakshin



The restaurant enjoys a spotless reputation and serves superb South Indian food. The owners have invested as much

thought into the restaurant's interior as into the constantly updated menu.

Photo: bonchan/Shutterstock.com

Address: Crowne Plaza Chennai Adyar Park, Chennai

Phone: +914424994101

### Cream Centre



North Indian, vegetarian food is served at this Chennai restaurant known for the speed of service. The place is popular for take-out and

offers home delivery.

Photo: StockImageFactory.com/Shutterstock.com

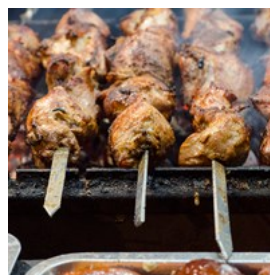
Address: 2nd Main Road, Chennai

Opening hours: Every day 11am - 3.30pm, 7am - 11pm

Phone: +91 44 42815777

More Info: Between Kaliappa Hospital and Park Sheraton, R.A. Puram

### Barbeque Nation



The restaurant is primarily known for its barbecue, but vegetarians will surely not find themselves at a loss either. Unlimited starters

are another feature this place is well-known and frequented for.

Photo: Ustynchenko Iryna/Shutterstock.com

Address: 39 Bazullah Road, Chennai

Opening hours: Every day 12 - 3pm, 6.30 - 10.30pm

Phone: +91 44 6480 6060

Internet: [www.barbeque-nation.com](http://www.barbeque-nation.com)

## CAFES



*Oliveshadow/Shutterstock.com*

A number of different coffee chains have established themselves in the centre of Chennai, where one usually finds coffee, tea, sandwiches and a variety of biscuits and desserts on offer. Most of the cafes open at 10 am and close at 10 pm. Each mole, or area of the city, has a number of cafés as well.

### Amethyst Cafe



If you would like to escape the busy city life only just for a short while, then this is the perfect place to visit. Called as a “Quiet corner in

Chennai”, it offers an amazing green garden with an indoor and outdoor sitting area. On the menu you will find mouth-watering desserts, sandwiches, toasts and salads.

Photo: *Piyato/Shutterstock.com*

Address: Whites Road, Royapettah, Chennai

Opening hours: Every day 10am - 11pm

Phone: +91 44 4599 1633

Internet: [www.amethystchennai.com](http://www.amethystchennai.com)

More Info: Next To Corporation Bank

### Lloyds Tea House



With an extensive menu of 63 teas, this café will certainly attract all the tea lovers out there. Besides offering good quality tea the menu

provides an eclectic choice of cuisine. Come take a sip and you will want to come back for more!

Photo: *search/Shutterstock.com*

Address: 179, Lloyds Road, Chennai

Opening hours: Mon - Fri 10am - 10.30pm, Sat & Sun 8am - 10.30pm

Phone: +91 44 4551 4231

### Writer's Cafe Gopalapuram



Writer's Cafe is located in a beautiful setting surrounded by many books to browse. The experienced barristas serve excellent hot and iced coffees, teas and light lunches as well as cakes. The perfect place to refresh and relax.

Photo: *zakalinka/Shutterstock.com*

Address: 127 Peters Road Gopalapuram, Chennai

Opening hours: Every day 9.30am - 10.30pm

Phone: +91 44 4861 1604

### Tryst Cafe



Tryst Cafe is known for being one of the best cafes in Chennai. Its outdoor seating is lined along the seashore and offers a peaceful and calm setting to unwind. They serve delicious freshly baked French bread and dishes inspired by Continental, Mexican and Italian cuisines.

Photo: *immstudio/Shutterstock.com*

Address: 359 East Coast Road, Chennai  
Opening hours: Every day 9am - 10pm  
Phone: +91 72991 55222

### Chamiers Café



Cozy up in this luxurious cafe and enjoy a unique blend of coffee or their fresh fruit juice of the day. Chamiers also serves a selection of fantastic

dishes. Their menu includes pasta, salads and bruschetta platters. This is a great place to spend some time by yourself or with your friends and family.

Photo: Rawpixel.com/Shutterstock.com

Address: Pasumpon Muthuramalinga Thevar Road, Chennai

Opening hours: Every day 8am - 11.30pm

Phone: +91 44 4203 0734

Internet: [www.chamiershop.com/cafe.html](http://www.chamiershop.com/cafe.html)

## BARS & NIGHTLIFE



*v.s.anandhakrishna/Shutterstock.com*

Chennai's nightlife scene has been expanding in recent years, but still, due to regulation, most of the bars and night clubs are found in the top-end hotels. Some of the mid-range hotels also offer a drinking room where Indian beverages can be bought and consumed. Most of the bars in Chennai close at midnight.

### Sera



Unquestionably the hottest place in Chennai, and everyone longing to be seen on the local scene goes here. Sera is simply the place to be in

Chennai. The club offers Spanish drinks, tapas food and innovative cocktails, as well as live music.

Photo: StockLapse/Shutterstock.com

Address: 71 Cathedral Road, Chennai

Opening hours: Every day 12.05pm - 11.55pm

Phone: +91 44 281 114 62

Email: [ceo@orientalcuisines.in](mailto:ceo@orientalcuisines.in)

### The Westminster



Famous for its fine selection of spirits, the Westminster offers guests to enjoy their drinks in luxury surroundings with comfortable chairs and

fresh flowers on the tables.

Photo: rica Studio/Shutterstock.com

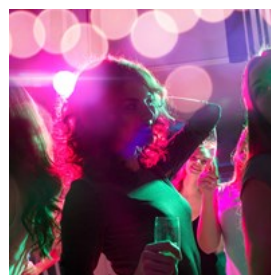
Address: 132 T.T.K. Road, Chennai

Phone: +91 44 249 941 01

Internet: [www.ihg.com/crowneplaza](http://www.ihg.com/crowneplaza)

More Info: Located at Crowne Plaza Chennai

### Pasha



Residing in the elegant Park hotel, Pasha is one of Chennai's busier dance clubs. The venue's bright lights, divan-styled seating areas, candles,

pillows and colored veils gives it a mystic feel. Popular with the local party crowd, the music is usually a mix of pop, R&B and rap.



Photo: Syda Productions/Shutterstock.com  
Address: 601 The Park, Anna Salai, Chennai  
Opening hours: Every day 7pm - 3am  
Phone: +91 44 4267 6000  
Internet: [www.theparkhotels.com](http://www.theparkhotels.com)  
More Info: Located at Park Hotel

### The Leather Bar



If you fancy a quieter, more relaxing and intimate evening, the Leather Bar at the Park hotel is the perfect place, with 20 seats and snacks and drinks on offer. There is also an outdoor terrace where you can sip a tasty martini while enjoying the view.

Photo: Evgeny Starkov/Shutterstock.com  
Address: 601 The Park, Anna Salai, Chennai  
Opening hours: Every day 11am - 11pm  
Phone: +91 44 4267 6000  
Internet: [www.theparkhotels.com](http://www.theparkhotels.com)  
More Info: Located at Park Hotel

### 10 Downing Street



English-style pub that serves food in a welcoming atmosphere. This place is a popular venue for late-night hangouts in the city and a great place where you can relax.

Photo: Ilya Zlatyev/Shutterstock.com  
Address: 50, North Boag Road, T. Nagar, Chennai  
Opening hours: Every day 12pm - 12am  
Phone: +91 44 28152 152  
Internet: [www.10ds.in/chennai](http://www.10ds.in/chennai)  
Email: [chennai@10ds.in](mailto:chennai@10ds.in)

### Elixir



Elixir lies somewhere between a bar and a nightclub, and doesn't tend to get too crowded, so you may always count on finding a cozy spot to have a drink and even dance later in the night.

Photo: bogdanhoda/Shutterstock.com  
Address: Express Avenue 213, Anna Salai, Chennai  
Opening hours: Mon - Fri 4pm - 12am, Sat & Sun 12pm - 12am  
Phone: +91 44 2846 3333  
Internet: [www.expressavenue.in](http://www.expressavenue.in)  
More Info: Located at Express Avenue Mall, Gate 1

## SHOPPING



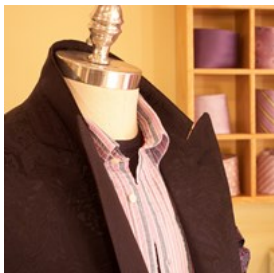
Sudhamshu Hebbar/Flickr.com (image cropped)

Shopping in Chennai is easy and fun and, like in any other big city in India, one can find anything from traditional handicraft to the latest digital products. Tourists mostly buy palm leaf mats, bronze and brass castings, jewellery, stone carvings from the nearby town of Mamallapuram, ready-made or tailored clothes, and last, but not least, the famous silks from Kanchipuram. Contemporary artworks or genuine antiquities as well as different musical instruments are also items strongly sought after.

There are several shopping areas, all of them located in the Egmore, Nungambakkam or

T-Nagar districts. The most popular are Theagaraya Nagar, known as T-Nagar, and Anna Salai. Georgetown, which grew around the fort, is another interesting shopping area. In the mazelike streets one can find shops specialized in selling only one type of merchandise such as fireworks in Badrian Street and paperworks in Anderson Street. Even without the shopping, a walk here is recommended to get a feel for the Indian culture and life. The best shopping malls in the city are Chennai Citi Centre and Spencer Plaza.

### Chennai Citi Centre



One of the most expensive shopping malls in the city, Chennai Citi Centre offers shoppers everything they can desire in both national and international brand names, and has given older malls such as Spencer Plaza a run for their money. Spread over five floors, there is also a wide variety of restaurants serving everything from Indian to Italian to American dishes as well as a game arcade and a cinema.

Photo: aastock/Shutterstock.com

Address: 10 - 11 Dr. Radhakrishnan Salai, Chennai  
Phone: +91 44 28477666

### Spencer Plaza



Tracing its roots back to 1864, when Spencer and Durant opened the first department store on the Indian subcontinent, Spencer Plaza is today one of the largest malls in South Asia. The original building was destroyed in a fire in 1983, and the mall now consists of three different buildings - the third one being the newest one.

Indian and international brands, clothes and jewellery can be found here.

Photo: L.vivian.richard/Wikimedia Commons (image cropped)

Address: 768-769 Anna Salai, Chennai

Opening hours: Every day 9.30am - 10pm

### Victoria Technical Institute



Traditional wooden furniture, wood carvings, sandalwood items, textiles, stone carvings and bronze items awaits visitors to this arts and

crafts shop, the perfect location for those wanting to lay their hands on beautiful Indian souvenirs.

Photo: oriental/Shutterstock.com

Address: 180 Anna Salai, Chennai

Opening hours: Mon - Sat 10.30am - 7pm

Phone: +91 44 285 231 41

Internet: [www.vtichennai.com/](http://www.vtichennai.com/)

### SIPA's Craftlink



This is South India's first fair-trade shop. If you are interested of supporting local artisans, you can buy various crafts and art objects here.

Photo: imagesef/Shutterstock.com

Address: 70 Kodambakkam High Road, Chennai

Phone: +91 44 282 575 45

Internet: [www.sipa.in](http://www.sipa.in)

### Varadarams Silks



Founded more than 90 years ago, this is one of the best places to buy silk from the Kanchipuram district, with sarees, party wear, wedding sarees and dhoti traditional men's wear being sold.

Photo: Fribus Mara/Shutterstock.com

Address: 88 Harrington Road Chetput, Chennai

Opening hours: Every day 10am - 7:30pm

Phone: +91 44 2836 3867

Internet: [www.varadarams.com](http://www.varadarams.com)

Email: [varadarams@gmail.com](mailto:varadarams@gmail.com)

### Phoenix Market City



Phoenix Market City is currently the largest mall in Chennai, and offers the ultimate shopping and entertainment experience with local and international boutiques, a Cineplex and impressive food court.

Photo: Ashwin Kumar/Flickr.com (image cropped)

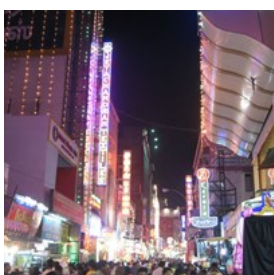
Address: 142 Velachery Main Road, Chennai

Opening hours: Every day 10am - 10pm

Phone: +91 44 3008 3007

Internet: [www.phoenixmarketcity.com](http://www.phoenixmarketcity.com)

### Ranganathan Street



This busy shopping street offers plenty in the way of affordable items and might be a challenge to struggle through during rush hour - the deals on all sorts of items available here are worth the trouble, however.

Photo: Remi Boissonnas/Flickr.com (image cropped)

Address: T-Nagar, Ranganathan Street, Chennai

### Higginbothams



Higginbothams is a bookstore located in a historic colonial building, and is a must-visit for book and history-lovers alike, as it is one of India's oldest and most iconic bookstores.

Photo: arisara/Shutterstock.com

Address: 116 Anna Salai, Chennai

Phone: +91 44 2852 0640

### Express Avenue Mall



This mall, along with Phoenix Market is one of the most reputable in the city, and is always busy with shoppers. Unlike its closest double, Express Avenue houses many more local, Indian brand boutiques, which allows for a more authentic shopping experience.

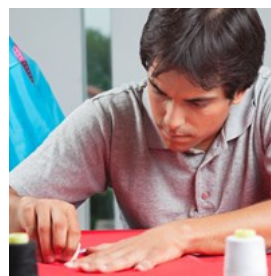
Photo: Ashwin Kumar/Flickr.com (image cropped)

Address: 2 Club House Road Express Estate, Chennai

Opening hours: Mon -Thu 10.30am - 9.30pm, Fri - Sun 10am - 10pm

Internet: [www.expressavenue.in](http://www.expressavenue.in)

### Montage Fashion House



Montage sells fashions inspired by local designs, and is an interesting stop for savvy shoppers, even if they do not end up purchasing any of the items - the store is a curiosity to browse through at the very least.

Photo: Tyler Olson/Shutterstock.com

Address: Nungambakkam High Road, Chennai  
Opening hours: Mon - Sat 10am - 7pm  
Phone: +91 98409 93506  
More Info: Anugraha, C Block, Ground floor

## TOURIST INFORMATION



Sam DCruz/Shutterstock.com

### Passport/Visa



All foreign nationals entering India are required to possess a valid international travel document with a valid visa. A visa is required for

most nationalities, with the exception of Bhutan, Nepal and the Maldives (if not arriving from mainland China).

The visa has to be requested through an online application, and the instruction for filling in the application and for scheduling appointments can be seen at the visa department's website.

Be aware that a visa can only be acquired via this online application, and without any intermediary – do not follow agents who claim speedy/express grant of e-Visa.

Photo: TukTuk Design/Shutterstock.com

### Best Time To Visit



If you are looking to visit Chennai while the temperatures are pleasant, you should travel in the winter months of November to

February. Especially during the summer months temperatures can easily reach the 40s and the months of July to September are monsoon season in Chennai. There is also a dance festival in December that you should not miss.

Photo: VectorA/Shutterstock.com

### Airport



Chennai International Airport is located 7 kilometers south of Chennai, and getting to and from the airport is easy given its taxi, bus

and train connections.

Pre-paid taxis can be ordered from the airport arrivals terminal to Chennai's Egmore district. The suburban railway network also serves the airport via the Tirusulam station, which is located a short walk opposite the airport's main international entrance. The travel time to Egmore Station in central Chennai is about 40 minutes. The Metropolitan Transport Corporation also provides bus services from the airport into Chennai. Be careful when leaving the airport, as there are many beggars and taxi drivers who will offer to carry your luggage or offer you transport, and it is easy lose sight of your baggage in the crowds.

Photo: Juan Garces

Address: Chennai International Airport

Phone: +91 44 2256 0551

Internet: [www.chennaiairport.com](http://www.chennaiairport.com)

## Public Transport



Chennai's extensive bus service, with more than 3 000 buses on more than 600 routes that carry some 4 million people every day, is an efficient

way of getting round the city, but services can get very crowded. In addition to the bus network, there are also vans that are run like bus services on many routes in the city, called Maxi Cabs. Chennai also has a suburban railway network, connecting the suburbs with the city centre, and the airport south of Chennai with the city.

Photo: Pierre-Luc Auclair

## Taxi



The best and quickest way of getting around Chennai is by taking a rickshaw or an auto rickshaw, which are available around the city.

Tourists should be advised to negotiate the price before departure. Regular taxis are also popular with tourists, and are a good means of transport when traveling longer distances or in a group. Order one from your hotel or find fixed-rate tourist taxis at the central train station, the airport or the main bus terminus.

## Taxi Chennai

Photo: taxi

Phone: +91 44 2474 7687

Internet: [www.taxichennai.com](http://www.taxichennai.com)

## Post

Chennai General Post Office.



Photo: Andy Fuchs

Address: Post Office Street, Chennai

Opening hours: Mon - Sat 8am - 5pm

Internet: [www.chennaipost.gov.in](http://www.chennaipost.gov.in)

More Info: When sending a parcel from India, you usually have to get it stitched first. Check with the post office you are using and they will guide you to a shop where they'll wrap your parcel into cloth and seal it with wax before you can send it.

## Pharmacy



There are plenty of Pharmacies located around the city, some specializing on Ayurvedic medicines. Muthu Pharmacy D.no 109, 1st

main road, Near Chinthamani

## Chennai Pharmacy

No. 33, Sarojini Street, T.Nagar, S Usman Road, T Nagar

## Apollo

Photo: Gemma Garner

Address: 15b Syed Mansion, Shafee Mohammed Road, Chennai

Phone: +91 44 439 223 00

Internet: [www.apollopharmacy.in](http://www.apollopharmacy.in)

## Telephone



Country Code: +91 Area  
code: 044

Photo: Jardson Almeida

## Electricity



230V-240V 50 Hz AC  
three round-pin sockets

Photo: Stirling Tschan

## Population

4.9 million in Chennai city, urban area 9 million

## Currency

Rupee 1 INR/Rs. = 100 paise

## Opening hours

Normally 10.30 am - 8.30 pm

## Internet

[www.chennaionline.com](http://www.chennaionline.com)

## Newspapers

The Hindu – India's national newspaper  
New Indian Express – a major newspaper  
Chennai City Guide - weekly information about culture and  
tourism

## Emergency numbers

Police: 100  
Traffic Police: 103  
Fire Control: 101  
Ambulance: 102  
Apollo Ambulance: 1066

## Tourist information

India Tourism Development Corporation  
29 Dr. P.V. Cherian Crescent, Egmore  
+91 44 28211782