## THE LEELA PALACE

CHENNAI

# CITY INFORMATION GUIDE

## PLACES OF INTEREST

1. *Fort St. George*
2. *Marina Beach*
3. *Santhom Basilica*
4. *Kalakshetra*
5. *Kapaleeshwarar Temple*
6. *Government Museum*
7. *Pondy Bazaar*
8. *Mahabalipuram*
9. *Pondicherry*

## Fort St. George

George was the first fortress in India founded in the year 1644. It houses the famous St Mary's Church (an ancient Anglican Church), a museum (housing antics and artefacts from British Rule) and Wellesley House (paintings of the Fort Governer.)

Currently it is home to the administrative offices of Tamil Nadu Government and the Legislative Assembly.Located on the Rajaji Salai road, Fort St George is a very prominent landmark in Chennai and owing to its historical reference; the fort is looked upon by ASI (Archaeological Survey of India).

*Visiting hours – 10 am to 5pm, closed on  Friday's*



01.

## Santhom Basilicas

anthome Church in Chennai also known as Santhome Cathedral Basilica and International Shrine of Saint Thomas Cathedral Basilica, sits on the tomb built over the mortal remains of one of the twelve Apostles of Jesus Christ. Saint Thomas had come to India in A.D.52, was martyred in A.D.72 and buried in this very site then known as Mylapore.

"San Thome" assumes its name from Saint Thomas. There are only two other Basilicas in the world other than Santhome Cathedral that have been built over the tomb of an apostle. One of them being "St.Peters Basilica", in Rome and the other being "church of St.James the great", in Santiago de Compostela, Spain.



*02.*

*Marina Beach*

Marina beach in Chennai along the Bay of Bengal is India's longest and world's second longest beach. This predominantly sandy of nearly 12 kilometers extends from Beasant Nagar in the south to Fort St. George in the north.

Marina beach is full of activity in the early morning hours and in the evenings. Walking along the beaches during sunrise and sunset is a pleasant experience for all. In the evening this beach becomes a fair ground with numerous stalls selling artifacts, handcrafted showpieces, ethnic jewelry, and food items. Children play games and frolic around.Going into the sea should be done under expert guidance as the undercurrent is strong. Flying kites and pony riding are popular activities on this beach.
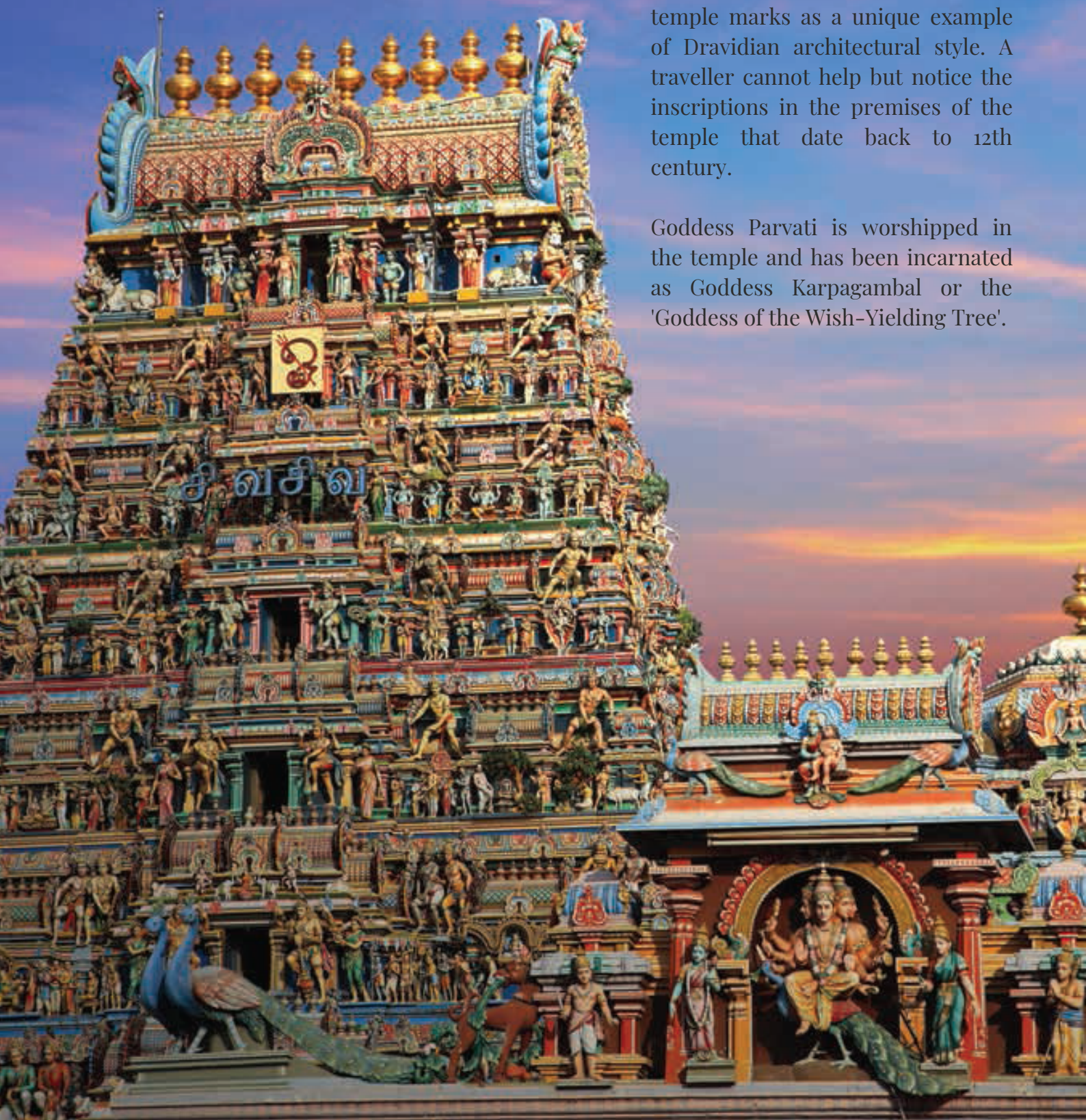
## *Visiting hours – 6 am to 10pm*

## *Kalakshetra*

Kalakshetra,[3] is an arts and cultural academy dedicated to the preservation of traditional values in Indian art and crafts, especially in the field of Bharatanatyam dance and Gandharvaveda music.

Based in Chennai, India, the academy was founded in January 1936 by Rukmini Devi Arundale and her husband George Arundale. Under Arundale's guidance, the institution achieved national and international recognition for its unique style and perfectionism.

### *Visiting hours - : Monday- Friday (8.30 am- 11.30 am)*



Kalakshetra Archives

## Kapaleeshwar Temple

The Kapaleeshwar Temple is dedicated to Lord Shiva and was built approximately in seventh century. The Gopuram inside the temple marks as a unique example of Dravidian architectural style. A traveller cannot help but notice the inscriptions in the premises of the temple that date back to 12th century.
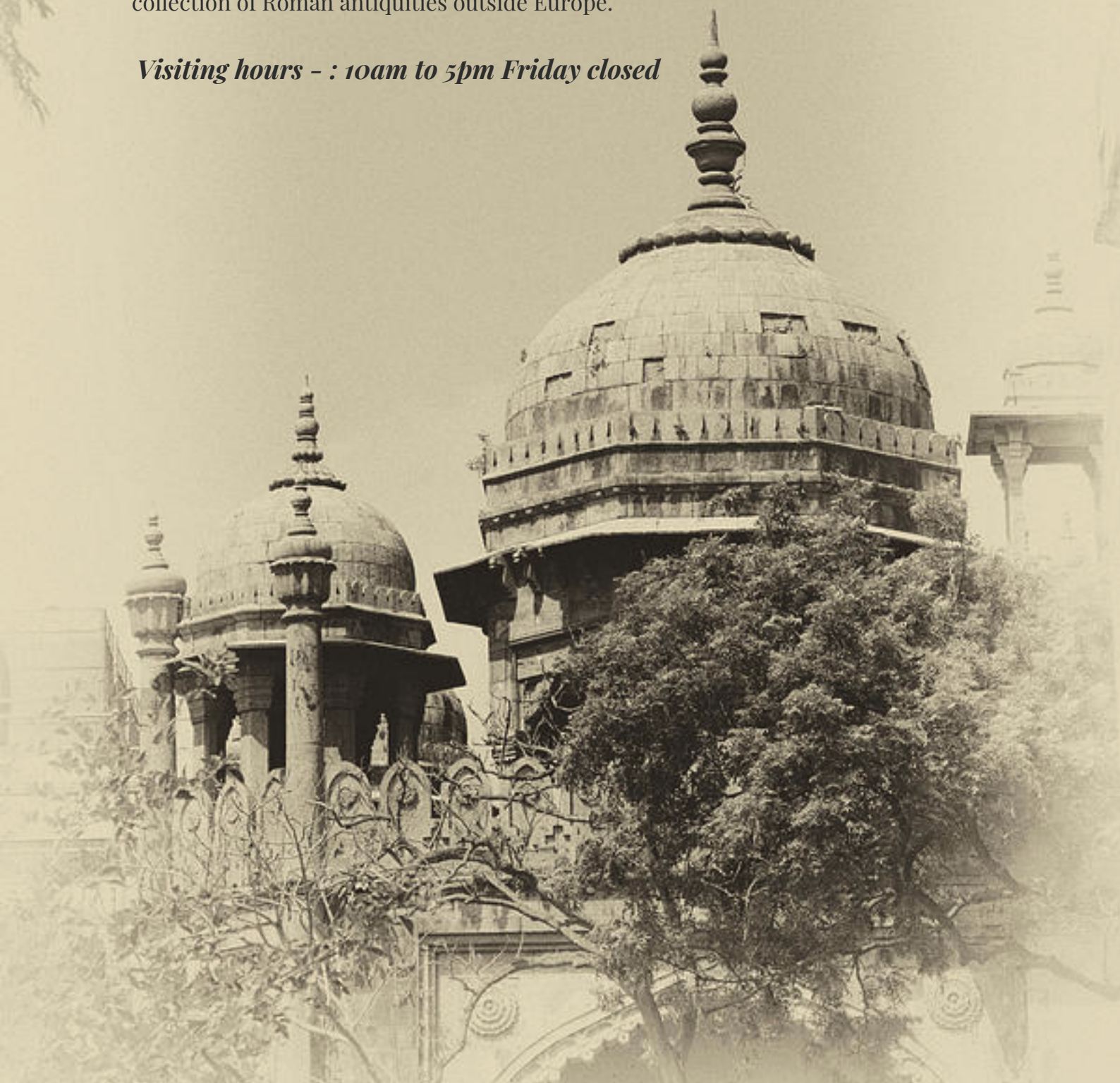
Goddess Parvati is worshipped in the temple and has been incarnated as Goddess Karpagambal or the 'Goddess of the Wish-Yielding Tree'.

## Government Museum

The Government Museum or Madras Museum is a museum of human history and culture located in the Government Museum Complex in the neighborhood of Egmore in Chennai, India. Started in 1851, it is the second oldest museum in India after the Indian Museum in Kolkata and is the tenth oldest Museum in the World.

It is particularly rich in archaeological and numismatic collections. It has the largest collection of Roman antiquities outside Europe.
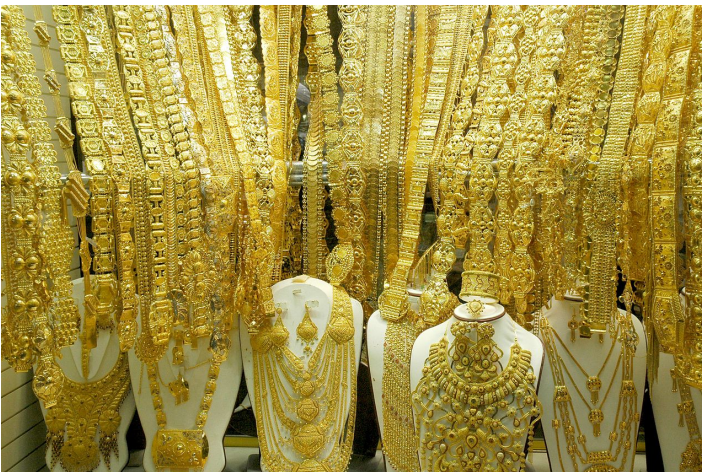
*Visiting hours – : 10am to 5pm Friday closed*

## *Pondy Bazaar*

officially called Soundarapandianar Angadi, is a market and neighborhood located in T. Nagar, Chennai. It is one of the principal shopping districts of Chennai
It is particularly rich in archaeological and numismatic collections. It has the largest collection of Roman antiquities outside Europe.

Pondy Bazaar has a wide variety of clothing, accessories and footwear stores in all price ranges within a two or 3 km radius. It is a one stop destination for the multi-brand Retail. This market is also famous for silk sarees and gold jewellery

## *Mahabalipuram*

Mamallapuram, also known as Mahabalipuram, is a town in Chengalpattu district in the southeastern Indian state of Tamil Nadu, best known for the UNESCO World Heritage Site of 7th- and 8th-century Hindu Group of Monuments at Mamallapuram.

The Cave Temple, Shore Temple, Pancha Rathas (Five Chariots), Arjuna's Penanc are some prominent landmarks of this beach town.







*08.*

## *Pondycherry*

Pondicherry, officially known as Puducherry, and commonly referred to as just Pondy, is one of the seven Union Territories of India. This former French colony is a perfect amalgamation of the traditional Indian sensibilities and French architecture, making it a dreamy escape that offers the best of both worlds.

The streets of the French Quarter of Pondicherry, also known as White Town, are dotted with charming mustard-yellow colonial structures with bougainvillaea laden walls. These are interspersed with cosy cafes and chic boutiques that offer delectable French cuisine and beverages. Simply strolling down these streets, can give the traveller an insight into the fairytale charm of Pondicherry.





09.