Manora Fort



Located at the Sarabendraraja Pattinam, the fort overlooks the Bay of Bengal in the Thanjavur district of Tamil Nadu. Touted as one of the oldest forts in the whole of India, the fort is built in the Dravidian architectural style by the Maratha ruler Serfoji II. The fort was built during 1814–1815 to commemorate the proud advance that the British force was able to achieve over the force of Napoleon Bonaparte.

The architectural importance of Manora Fort:

Manora Fort principally adopts its name "Manora", from the corresponding English word "Minaret". From the nearest shore, the hexagonal tower, which is built within the fort, is an 8-storied building, which is about 23-meters tall, looking over the majestic Bay of Bengal. With caves, circular stairways, and arched casements that disconnect one storey from another, the fort looks just like a flawless North Indian pagoda. The Fort consists of many common rooms used for stationing troops, and walls of the fort have standard height at all the sides. Effectively incorporated with large doors and windows, the rooms are designed high-quality ventilations, making the stay even better and comfortable. The fort also has impeccable water supply system making effective use of the ponds nearby. Adding exceptionally to the beauty of this magnificent structure is the coast that surrounds one side of the fort. Purely built on the Dravidian architectural style, the fort does not take any element from other architectural styles as the French, Islamic or the British.

Travel Agencies in Thanjavur

1. ALMAAS Tours and Travels - 87543 25985
2. Parveen Tours and Travels - 04362 - 279933
3. SB Tours and Travels - 70944 88443
4. Great Vision Tours and Travels - 04362 - 242424
5. T.K.S.TOURS & TRAVELS - 04362 - 231176

Hotels in Thanjavur

1. Hotel Tamilnadu - 04362 - 231325
2. Hotel Sangam - 04362 - 2537531
3. Hotel Lakshmi - 04362 - 276164
4. Hotel Yagappa - 04362 - 230421
5. Hotel PLA INN - 04362 - 270405



Important Festivals in Thanjavur District

Month	Event	Place
January	Pongal Festival	Thanjavur
	Thanjavur Thiruvizha	Palace
	Thiyagaraja Aradhana	Thiruvaiyaru
February	Maham Festival (Once in 12 years)	Kumbakonam
March	Brahan Natiyanjali	Big Temple
April	World Heritage Day	Thanjavur
May	Summer Festival- South Zone	South Zone Culture
September	World Tourism Day	Big Temple
October	Sathayavizha	Big Temple
November	Darbar Festival South Zone	South Zone Culture
December	Salangainatham	South Zone Culture

for further details contact :

Tourist office

Hotel Tamilnadu Complex, Gandhiji road,
Thanjavur-613 001. Phone No : 04362-230984
Cell No : 9176995873 Email : tntotnj@yahoo.in

DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM

Government of Tamilnadu

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THANJAVUR

TAMIL NADU - INDIA

Thanjavur District

Thanjavur a land, reflecting the art, architecture and culture of ancient Tamil society. The Name Thanjavur derived from Tanjan , a demon of Hindu mythology had been killed by the Neelamega Perumal an incarnation of Lord Vishnu. The pandiyas, Nayaks of Madurai and Marathas together with the Cholas are the prominent rulers of ancient Thanjavur. After all other rulers, the city Thanjavur flourished during the time of Raja Raja Chola. Thanjavur consisted of many beautiful temples, Navagraha stalams, monuments, palace and museum. The Big Temple, unique Grand Anicut, Serfoji's Palace and Saraswathi Mahal Library are testimony for the ancient art and artifacts of Thanjavur. It is also a learning centre for art, music, and paintings still being lived in the minds of people of Thanjavur.

Thanjavur region is full of agro-based fertile lands with the irrigation of Cauvery river. Hence it is called Great Granary or rice bowl of Tamilnadu.

ACCESS

Air : The nearest international airport is Tiruchirappalli (61kms)

Rail : Thanjavur having Railway junction in the heart of the city with the train Connection from major cities of India .

Road : Thanjavur is connected with all major cities by road. Regular bus service connects places of interest in and around Thanjavur.

PLACES OF INTEREST

GENERAL INFORMATION

Area	:	3396.57 Sq. Kms.
Population	:	2405890 (2011 Census)
Temperature	:	27.23°C - 34.40°C

Rainfall

south west mansoon 151.0 (in mm)
North East mansoon 471.0 (in mm)

Brihadeeswarar Temple (Big Temple)

The Brihadeeswarar temple, Popularly called the Big Temple, was built by Raja Raja Chola of Chola dynasty during 10th centaury AD. A temple dedicated to Lord Siva has been upkeep and maintained by Archaeological Survey of India together with the Hidu Religious and Endowments Department. It is an outstanding example of Dravidian architecture recognizing for its unique architectural beauty. UNESCO had declared Brihadeeswarar temple as a World



Heritage Monument.

The vimanam (tower over the sanctum sanctorum) having height of 64.8 mt is a finest example to the engineering skill of the Cholas. In keeping with the size of the temple, it has a gigantic Mahalingam in the sanctum, measuring 4 meters in height. A monolithic Nandhi chiseled out of single rock, is the second largest Nandhi in India. It has been believed that Nandhi or bull is the vahana (vehicle) of Lord Siva. Beautiful fresco paintings adorn the inner wall of the Temple expose the painting skill of ancient Tamil society.

One of the outstanding temples in South India, the Brihadeeswarar temple is the Chola dynasty's finest contribution to Dravidian style of architecture. What makes the contribution, so peculiar compare to other constructions. Usually temples have been built with tall gopuram and smaller vimana in its temple structure. But in Big Temple the vimanam soars high while the gopuram is smaller.

The temple is the most ambitions architectural perfect of the Cholas and is fitting symbol of the magnificent achievements of Raja Raja Chola. The dark passage surrounding the sanctum of the temple contains important specimens of sculptural art and the entire wall-space and ceiling of the passage have exquisite paintings. The fine series of 108 dance poses are carved out around the inner wall of the first floor of the temple. This is considered to be the highest achievement of Cholas in the field of art and architecture .



The Palace

Just 1 km away from the Brihadeeswarar Temple is a magnificent palace, surrounded by the huge walls dating back to the 14th century AD., it was built partly by the Nayaks and partly by the Marathas. The



Maratha royal family resides inside the palace. It is a fascinating building with huge corridors, spacious halls, decorated rooms, tall observation towers, beautiful stucco works, wonderful fresco painted walls and ceilings, an underground tunnel and intricate carvings. The royal family's sacred "Chandra Mauleeswarar Temple" is located within the Palace premises.

Saraswathi Mahal Library



Thanjavur Maharaj Serfoji Saraswathi Mahal Library is one among a few libraries in the world with texts of the medieval period. It is a treasure house of knowledge carefully fostered and nurtured by successive dynasties of Nayaks and the Marathas of Thanjavur. It contains rare valuable collections of manuscripts, books, maps and paintings on all aspects of Art, Culture and Literature.

The Encyclopedia Britannica, in its survey of the Libraries of the world, describes it as "the most remarkable Library in India". This Library was made a Public Library in 1918.

Timings : 10.00 am to 5.30 pm. Closed on Wednesdays and National Holidays.

Art Gallery



The art gallery has fabulous collection of bronze icons, stone sculptures and pieces of art. The collection is unique for its large repres-entation of Hindu Gods and Goddesses, myths and legends.

The exhibits are very precious for their historical association.

Timings: 9.00 am to 1.00 pm and 2.00 pm to 5.00 pm. Closed on National Holidays.

Maratha Durbar Hall



Its huge pillars, beautiful stucco paintings and fresco-painted ceiling are eye-catching. Timings: 10.00 am to 5.00 pm.

Royal Museum & Serfoji Memorial Hall



Located in the palace complex, it displays rare antiques belonging to the Maratha Royal Family. The artefacts, manuscripts, weapons, royal robes and handicrafts made out of ivory, jade, lacquer, glass, porcelain, wood, cloth and leather are worth seeing. Timings: 9.30 am to 6.00 pm.

Sangeetha Mahal (Hall of Music) Mahal a part of the palace, is acoustically perfect music hall. It is a striking example of the engineering skill of ancient builders.



Sharjah Madi



This is in the Eastern part of the palace, built in the saracenic style by Raja Serfoji after his return from Varanasi. It is six-storied tower, well-known for its ornamental balconies. Its spacious halls bespeak grandeur of this palace. It enables the tourists to have a panoramic view of Thanjavur City. Timings: 10.00 am to 5.00 pm.

Rajarajan Mani Mandapam



It is the southern part of Thanjavur. This structure has been built during the 8th World Tamil Conference in 1995. This Manimandapam has museum owned by State Archaeology Department in its ground floor. The Tourism promotion council under the chairmenship of District Collector maintains the park inside the Manimandapam.

Museum : Closed on Wednesdays and all National Holidays
Timings : 10.00 am to 5.00 pm. Holiday-Wednesday.

Schwartz Chruch



This Church was built adjacent to Siva Ganga Tank in 1779 AD by Rajah Serfoji, so as to expose his affection to the Rev. C. V. Schwartz a tutor of a Danish Missionary.

Sivaganga Park



This water tank lies beyond the North West compound of Brihadeeswarar Temple. It is surrounded by large walls and known for it's sweet water.

Rajagopala Beerangi

This is huge cannon placed at the Eastern gate of the Fort, which is called "Beerangi Medu". The Cannon is amazing in size and the quality of cannon speaks about the metallurgical knowledge of the people of those times. Timings: 10.00 am to 6.00 pm.

Tholkappiyar Sadukkam

This Sadukkam (Square) was built during the 8th World Tamil Conference. One can have a panoramic view of Thanjavur Town from the top of the tower.

TAMIL UNIVERSITY



An educational Institution established in Thanjavur during 1981, renowned for Tamil research and advanced studies in Tamil Literature. It enables advanced studies in Tamil like Literature, Grammar, Linguistics, Religion and Philosophy, Manuscriptology, History, Epigraphy, Sociology, Folklore, Anthropology, Arts, Sculpture, Music, Drama, Legal Studies, Administration, Science, Engineering, Computer Science, Medical Science, Encyclopedia and Adult Education.

Excrusions

Punnai Nallur Mariamman Temple (6 Kms)



A temple dedicated to Goddess Mariamman was built by Maratha ruler Tuljaji in 1677 AD. It is 6 kms East of Thanjavur.

Thiruvaiyaru (13kms)



Situated on the banks of the river Cauvery, Thiruvaiyaru has an old Siva Temple dedicated to Panchanatheeswarar. Pilgrims throng to this temple throughout the year. Thiruvaiyaru is renowned for its association with Saint Thiyagaraja, who along with Muthusamy Dikshitar and Shyama Sastri constitute the Trinity of Carnatic Music. The Thiyagaraja Aradhana Music Festival is held in January at the "Samadhi" of the saint-poet on the river banks. Exponents of Carnatic music will come to Thiruvaiyaru and perform Music in the aradhana so as to pay homage to Thiyagaraja.

Grand Anaicut (48 Kms)



Karikala Cholan (2nd Century AD) constructed a water reservoir of the Grand Anaicut by raising flood banks in the River Cauvery to irrigate the wasteland beside the river. The ancient dam consists of a solid mass of rough stone and clay, stretching across the River Cauvery. It is a fine picnic spot.

Poondi Matha Basilica (35 Kms)



This Basicilica in Poondi village is a Roman Catholic pilgrim centre like Velankanni. It attracts pilgrims from all over India. Accommodation is provided to the pilgrims by the Church Authorities.

Thirukarukavoor (20 Kms)



Arulmigu Mullai vananathar and Garbarakshambigai Temple is situated in the river bed of Vettaru, a branch of Cauvery, at a distance of 20 kms. North-East from Thanjavur and at distance of 20 kms South-West from Kumbakonam



Papanasam (30 Kms)



Papansamam is a historical town. There are two famous temples. One is the Palaivananathaswamy Temple constructed by the Chola kings. The other is the 108 Sivalayam temple, which has 108 Sivalingas. The granary constructed by the Nayaks (1600-1634) is a grand sight.

Swamimalai (32 Kms)



It is one the six abodes (Arupadai Veedu) dedicated to Lord Subramanya. The temple is beautiful. The handicrafts of Swamimalai are much sough after for their beauty and artistic value, particulary bronze idols.

Kumbakonam (36kms)

The four large temples-Sarangapani, Kumbeswarar, Nageswara and Ramaswamy temples –located here noted for sculptures and carvings. It is believed that a bath in the Mahamaham Festival, celebrated here once in 12 years, is unique one.

Patteswaram (30 Kms)



There is temple dedicated to Goddess Durgai Amman. Friday is auspicious to worship the Goddess.

Darasuram (34kms)



The Airavatheeswarar of Darasumam Temple built by Raja Raja Chola II (Rajendra Chola) is an example of 12th century Chola architecture and is well preserved. The frontal columns of the temple have unique miniature sculpture. Darasuram is also a silk weaving centre. UNESCO declared this temple as a World Heritage Monument.