

LAND OF TEMPLES

MARVELLOUS HISTORY OF THE LAND

Tamil Nadu, often referred to as the "Land of Temples," boasts a rich tapestry of architectural heritage and religious significance. Rooted in its ancient history, the region's temples stand as magnificent symbols of cultural and artistic prowess. Characterized by the distinctive Dravidian architectural style, these temples feature towering gopurams, intricate carvings, and colorful sculptures that narrate tales of Hindu mythology. From the majestic Brihadeeswarar Temple in Thanjavur to the serene Shore Temple in Mahabalipuram, each temple is a testament to the skill and craftsmanship of its builders. These sacred sites serve as vital centers of community life, hosting vibrant festivals and rituals that uphold Tamil Nadu's cultural traditions. Moreover, they attract devotees and tourists from around the world, drawn not only by their religious significance but also by their architectural splendor. Preserving the region's spiritual and cultural heritage, the temples of Tamil Nadu continue to inspire awe and reverence, earning the state its well-deserved title as the "Land of Temples."



History

Tamil Nadu's history spans ancient to modern times, beginning with the Sangam Age (circa 300 BCE to 300 CE), noted for Tamil literature and urban centers. The Chera, Chola, and Pandya dynasties dominated early history, engaging in extensive trade with Rome and Southeast Asia. The Chola Empire (9th-13th centuries) excelled in naval power, temple architecture, and cultural achievements, influencing South India and beyond. Following the Cholas, the Pandyas and the Nayak governors under the Vijayanagara Empire led the region.

Colonial encounters began with the Portuguese and Dutch, with British control solidified by the 18th century. Tamil Nadu was pivotal in India's independence movement, producing leaders like C. Rajagopalachari. Today, it is a cultural and industrial hub, renowned for its temples, classical arts, and vibrant film industry.





Sri Ranganatha Swamy Temple, Srirangam: A Divine Heritage

Sri Ranganatha Swamy Temple, located in Srirangam, Tamil Nadu, is one of the largest and most revered temples dedicated to Lord Vishnu. Known for its architectural grandeur and spiritual significance, it is considered the foremost of the 108 Divya Desams, the holy abodes of Vishnu revered in Vaishnavism.

The temple complex spans 156 acres and features seven concentric enclosures, with towering gopurams (gateway towers) and intricately carved pillars. The Rajagopuram, standing at 236 feet, is one of the tallest temple towers in Asia. The temple's presiding deity, Ranganatha, is depicted reclining on the celestial serpent Adishesha, symbolizing eternal rest.

The temple's history dates back over a millennium, with contributions from various South Indian dynasties, including the Cholas, Pandyas, and Vijayanagar Empire. It is also a prominent center for the Srivaishnavism tradition, where festivals like Vaikunta Ekadasi draw millions of devotees.

Sri Ranganatha Swamy Temple is not just a spiritual center but also a marvel of Dravidian architecture, reflecting the rich cultural and religious heritage of Tamil Nadu.

Velankanni Church: A Sacred Pilgrimage Destination

The Basilica of Our Lady of Good Health, popularly known as Velankanni Church, is a revered Roman Catholic pilgrimage site located in the coastal town of Velankanni in Tamil Nadu, India. Often referred to as the "Lourdes of the East," this church attracts millions of devotees from all over the world, particularly during the annual festival held in September.

The church's history dates back to the 16th century, linked to miraculous events involving apparitions of the Virgin Mary and the Infant Jesus. It has since grown into a symbol of faith and hope, welcoming pilgrims of all religions. The basilica's stunning white facade, Gothic architecture, and serene surroundings add to its spiritual ambiance.

Visitors to Velankanni Church often partake in the Eucharistic celebration, offer prayers for healing and well-being, and light candles in devotion. The site also includes a museum showcasing various offerings and artifacts donated by the faithful. Velankanni Church remains a beacon of divine grace and a testament to enduring faith.

Thanjavur Doll Making School

SSS Road, XXX Junction, Chennai - 600xxx
Phone no: 044xxxxxxx9, 044xxxxxx8 email address: thanjavurtoymakingschool@zwr.com

"Thanjavur toys: Where tradition meets playfulness, each piece a small marvel of heritage and artistry."

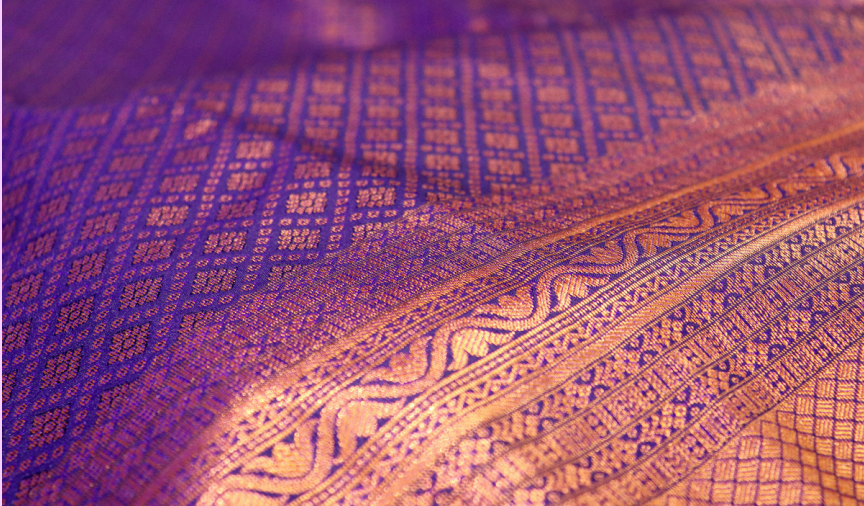


ADMISSION OPEN NOW
FOR AGES 15 ONWARDS
for more information, visit our website-
thanjavurtoymakingschool.org



Devi Kanchipuram Silk Sarees

Purest Silk Sarees ever from
Kanchipuram
zzz Junction, Chennai

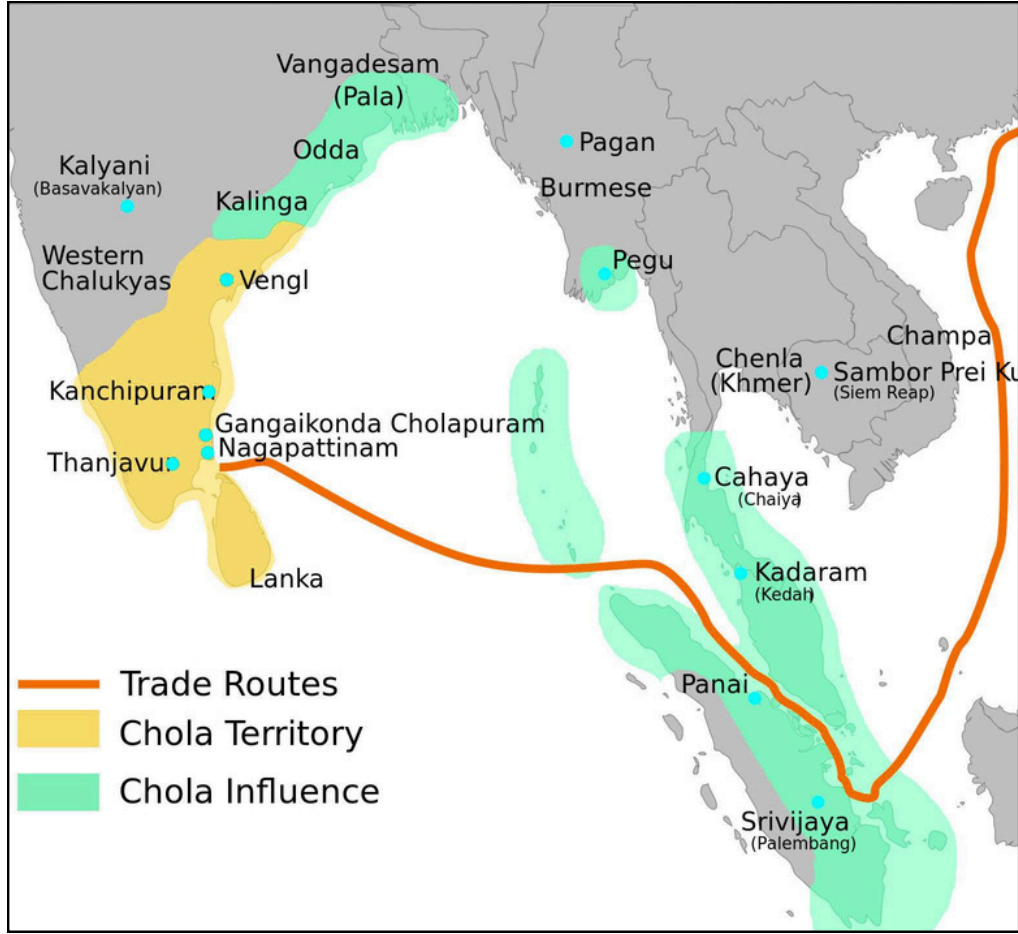


**5000 NEW SAREES
HAVE ARRIVED WITH
AMAZING OFFERS!!**



The Beauty of Bharatanatyam

Bharatanatyam, a classical dance form originating from Tamil Nadu, South India, is celebrated for its grace and precision. It intricately weaves together footwork, hand gestures (mudras), facial expressions, and rhythmic movements. Initially performed as a devotional art in temples, Bharatanatyam underwent a revival and standardization in the 20th century, emerging as one of India's premier classical dance styles. Its repertoire encompasses invocatory pieces, narrative sequences inspired by Hindu mythology, and rhythmic compositions. Bharatanatyam's structured framework, rich symbolism, and spiritual resonance embody the cultural diversity and heritage of India. Today, it graces stages worldwide, captivating audiences with its artistry and storytelling prowess, while upholding and propagating India's ancient artistic traditions.



The Majestic Chola Past of the Tamizh Region

The Chola Empire, dominant from the 9th to the 13th centuries in southern India, is renowned for its formidable military, architectural brilliance, and cultural richness. During its zenith under rulers like Rajaraja Chola I and Rajendra Chola I, the empire expanded its influence across a vast region, including present-day Tamil Nadu, parts of Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Sri Lanka, and Southeast Asia. The Cholas were adept at naval warfare, enhancing their trade networks across the Indian Ocean. Their architectural legacy includes monumental temples such as the Brihadeeswarar Temple in Thanjavur, known for its grandeur and intricate carvings.

The Chola period also witnessed significant advancements in bronze sculpture, particularly the iconic Nataraja statues. In literature, the Cholas supported Tamil poets and scholars, leading to a flourishing of classical Tamil literature. Their innovative administrative system, with efficient revenue collection and local self-government, set benchmarks for governance in the Indian subcontinent.





Delectable Cuisine of Tamil Nadu

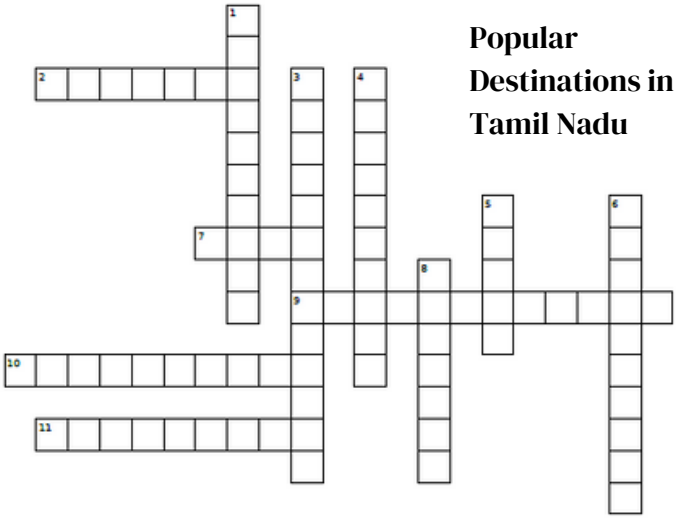
Tamil Nadu cuisine is a rich tapestry of flavors, distinguished by its use of spices, rice, and lentils. It features a wide array of vegetarian and non-vegetarian dishes, often served on banana leaves. Breakfast staples include idli (steamed rice cakes), dosa (crispy rice crepes), and vada (savory fritters), typically accompanied by sambar (lentil stew) and various chutneys.

Thanjavur cuisine is renowned for its elaborate vegetarian meals, often featuring unique dishes like "aviyal" (mixed vegetable curry) and "kootu" (vegetable and lentil stew). Mudaliar cuisine, from the northern part of Tamil Nadu, is known for its rich gravies and flavorful meat dishes. Chettinad cuisine, from the Chettinad region, stands out for its spicy and aromatic flavors, with specialties like Chettinad chicken and pepper mutton.

In the Kongu Nadu region, the cuisine emphasizes simplicity and health, with millet-based dishes and subtle flavors. Tamil Muslims, or Tamil Sahibu, have a distinct culinary tradition that blends Tamil and Mughal influences, evident in their biryanis and rich meat curries.

Meals in Tamil Nadu are centered around rice, with sambar rice, rasam (tangy soup), and curd rice being integral. Snacks and sweets, like murukku (crispy spirals) and payasam (sweet pudding), are popular. Filter coffee, brewed strong and sweet, is a beloved beverage. Reflecting the region's agricultural abundance and cultural diversity, Tamil Nadu cuisine offers a unique and comprehensive culinary experience.

Crossword



Popular Destinations in Tamil Nadu

Down:

1. Industrial hub, famous for textile production and the serene Isha Yoga Center.
3. Southernmost tip of India, where the Indian Ocean, Arabian Sea, and Bay of Bengal meet.
4. Popular hill station known for its lush landscapes and cool climate.
5. Key industrial city, noted for steel production and nearby Yercaud Hill Station.
6. Renowned for the Basilica of Our Lady of Good Health, a major Christian pilgrimage site.
8. Capital of Tamil Nadu, known for Marina Beach and vibrant cultural heritage.

Across:

2. Ancient city renowned for the magnificent Meenakshi Amman Temple.
7. Famous hill station with picturesque tea gardens and the Nilgiri Mountain Railway.
9. Known as the "City of Thousand Temples" and famous for its silk sarees.
10. Sacred pilgrimage town, known for the Ramanathaswamy Temple and its religious significance.
11. Historical city, home to the majestic Brihadeeswarar Temple.

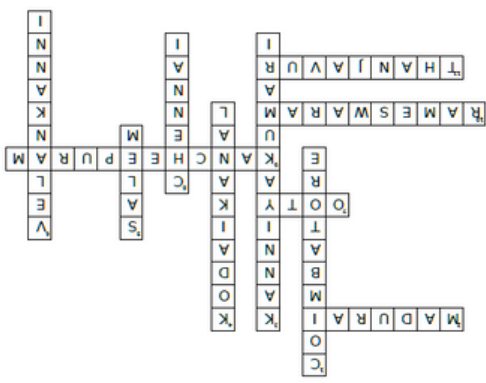


Children's Activity



Colour the saree given below





Answer Key