

Thanjavur

“ An ancient city, rich in cultural and historical heritage, Tanjore is an incredible destination where you can immerse yourself in the culture, history and fine arts of India. The city was ruled by the Chola empire who were immensely rich in fine arts and music that formed the very base of South India. Brihadisvara Temple, Great Living Chola Temples, Thanjavur Maratha Palace, Saraswathi Mahal Library and Royal Palace Museum are the major architectural attractions of this heritage town. ”



Famous For : City

Thanjavur formerly known as Tanjore, is a city in the south Indian state of Tamil Nadu and is located near the banks of Kaveri River. It was once the capital of the mighty Cholas and after the fall of Cholas, the city was ruled by various dynasties like Pandyas, Vijayanagar Empire, Madurai Nayaks, Thanjavur Nayaks, Thanjavur Marathas and the British Empire until independence. The pursuits of these rulers are reflected in the great monuments like Grand Anaicut, Big Temple, Serfoji Palace and Saraswathi Mahal Library, etc. in the district.

It is called the Rice Bowl of South India because of its agricultural activities in the delta region of river Cauvery. This was a kingdom so fertile that it was called the 'granary of the South'; elephants rather than oxen thrashed the abundant paddy. Rich harvests, a lush country and a full river gave people the leisure and inclination for the fine things of life: culture, religion, architecture and literature.

Even now, the Thanjavur of the Cholas, Nayaks and Marathas manages to soar grandly above the dust and crowd of humdrum modernity. Visitors will be surprised by glimpses of ancient buildings on almost every street. Even auto drivers speak knowledgeably about politics and classical music. This city is home to Brahadeeswara Temple, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, built in the 11th Century AD. There are a number of other ancient temples and forts in the city too. The city is recognized worldwide for its antiques and meticulous handicrafts. Tanjore is also the birth place of Carnatic music and Bharathanatyam. Thanjavur is famous for artistic Thanjavur brass plate & for manufacture of musical instrument Veena. Both are unique in the world.

When To VISIT

<http://www.ixigo.com/weather-in-thanjavur-lp-1137894>

Jan			
Pleasant weather. Carry Light woollen.			
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Oct
Pleasant weather. Carry Light woollen, umbrella.
Max: 28.0°C Min: 24.10000038 Rain: 165.0mm
1469727°C

Nov
Pleasant weather. Carry Light woollen, umbrella.
Max: 25.10000038 Min: 22.89999961 Rain: 182.0mm
1469727°C 8530273°C

Dec
Pleasant weather. Carry Light woollen, umbrella.
Max: 23.79999923 Min: 21.10000038 Rain: 115.0mm
7060547°C 1469727°C

What To SEE



5 Sights

<http://www.ixigo.com/places-to-visit-see-in-thanjavur-lp-1137894>

1 Brihadishwara Temple



Membalam Road, Balaganapathy Nagar, Thanjavur, Tamil Nadu

613001, India

Witness one of the most lavish indulgences of the Chola temple architectures at the Brihadishwara Temple. This is one of the largest temples in India and is rightly called the 'Big Temple'. It is also a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Made of huge granite blocks, it has an enormous stone linga and a huge monolithic Nandi (bull) as highlights. A part of the Sivaganga Fort, this temple (1099 CE) is surrounded by a dry moat and with an enormous entrance arch. At the entrance, the temple elephant blesses the pilgrims on their heads.

The temple sprawls across an expanse of 33,000 sq ft. Unlike in most Tamil temples, the entrance tower is shorter and less ornate than the one over the sanctum. The block of granite that perches atop this tower weighs 80 tonnes. In a feat of engineering, a 4-mile-long ramp was built to roll the cupola into place. The shrine of Goddess Brihan Nayaki, to the north of the sanctum, is noteworthy not only for the beauty of the idol but also for the exquisite stone frescoes. Altogether, the temple houses no less than 252 Shivalingams.

2 Royal Palace Museum

Thanjavur, Tamil Nadu, 613001, India

Royal Palace Museum in Thanjavur or Tanjore is famous for housing many important relics and artifacts related to the history of Tanjore. The rich cultural heritage of Tanjore is kept alive in the numerous paintings, statues, manuscripts that are on display in the museum. Idols from famous temples like Gangaikondacholapuram Temple and Brihadeshwara Temple can be seen in the palace museum. Apart from these, works of glass are one of the most well-known pieces of the entire collection.

3 Thanjavur Royal Palace



E. Main Road, Thanjavur, Tamil Nadu, 613001, India

Flaunting a marvelous spread of mural work, the Thanjavur Royal Palace was built during the Nayak rule and its construction was further carried on during the rule of the Marathas. It is the official

residence of the Bhonsle family and is locally known as Aranmanai. Walk through the queen's courtyard and witness divine scenes painted on the walls of the Durbar Hall. Also, search for the underground passage in this palace. There is also the Royal Museum, a gallery and the Saraswati Mahal Library stationed within the palace complex. Multimedia shows are organised inside the museum, which are very informative and gives information about the palace. With intricate and beautiful architectural designs, it is an impeccable structure of teak and tile works, which has continued to charm visitors from all over the world.

4 Sangeetha Mahal



📍 Tanjore Palace, Thanjavur, India

Here's a glimpse of the fine craftsmanship of ancient Tanjore – Sangeetha Mahal. Located at the first floor of the Thanjavur Palace, it has been strategically designed to manoeuvre sound and avoid amplification. This is where skilled performers used to showcase their talent through dance and music performances, in the past. Today, it is an exhibition hall displaying varieties of handicrafts. The hall is an example of the way art and culture were celebrated in Thanjavur. Be a part of this creative delight and get mesmerized by artistic geniuses of that time.

5 Gangaikonda Cholapuram Temple



📍 Cholapuram, Thanjavur, Tamil Nadu, 613001, India

What can one say about a magnificent temple set in a serene ambience? Rare yet splendid – the temple at Gangaikonda is a must visit. Dedicated to Lord Shiva, this unique architectural creation from the Chola

period displays a octagonal shaped Vimana. The temple stands pompously in the city built by Rajendra Chola to celebrate his successful march to the Ganges. It is a spectacular example of the Dravidian style architecture and makes for some striking pictures too. There are also numerous tiny temples studded in the area. Don't miss the shrine dedicated to the Goddess, the one with a colossal lion guarding the entrance. Although less remains of the erstwhile capital city of the Cholas, this temple is well maintained and stands in all its glory.

Read up a bit on the Rajendra Chola and the history of the city to make your visit even more exciting. Unlike most popular spots, this place is devoid of large crowds and so you can spend some relaxed time here.



1 Sree Aariya Bhavan



📍 Old Bus Stand, Thanjavur, Tamil Nadu, 613001, India

☎ +91-436-2230457 | +91-90420-26277

How about some authentic South Indian food to kick start your morning? There couldn't be a better way to start your day than with delicious dosas and fluffy idlis. Sree Aariya Bhavan serves a mouth watering treat on the traditional banana leaf at very economical prices. Discover the flavours of South India in a traditional ambience and you will be asking for more of their freshly prepared amazing food!

2 Sri Venkateswara Lodge Restaurant



📍 No 60, Near Bus Stand, Kumbakonam, Thanjavur, Tamil Nadu, 612001, India

☎ +91-435-2430598 | +91-98438-99924 | +91-94438-73137

Located right near the bus stand, Sri Venkateswara Lodge is a completely

vegetarian restaurant. The thali here is both filling and comes at affordable prices, just the kind of food to keep you going even while you are away from home. Head here for a meal between your sightseeing and temple-hopping trips. The ambience of the restaurant is nice and the service is very fast. Overall, it is a good idea to visit this restaurant.

3 Karthik Restaurant



📍 South Rampart, Old Bus Stand, Thanjavur, Tamil Nadu, 613001, India

☎ +91-4362-278662

Located right around the bus terminal, Karthik Restaurant is a good place for a quick yet scrumptious bite when you are around the place. There is lots of variety to choose from and the food is both delicious and economical. Don't forget to try the delicious masala dosa and upma served at this restaurant. Since the restaurant is also popular among locals, this might just be the place to gather some good local

insights!

4 Sathars



167 Gandhiji Road, Thanjavur, Tamil Nadu, 613001, India

Mughlai dishes are the star highlights, particularly surprising for a restaurant located in the heart of South India. The deliciously rich gravies, kebabs and biryani served at Sathars can stir up your appetite anytime of the day. And the paranthas are to die for. All this is served in a simple ambience, which makes food taste even more delicious! This place is famous for its non-vegetarian dishes and you will see the place is always crowded with locals and tourists alike. Overall, it is a good idea to visit this restaurant.

5 Ayyankadai Street



Ayyankadai Street, Thanjavur, Tamil Nadu, India

Quick LOCATE



<http://www.ixigo.com/hotels-in-thanjavur-lp-1137894>



See

- A: Brihadishwara Temple
- B: Royal Palace Museum
- C: Thanjavur Royal Palace
- D: Sangeetha Mahal
- E: Gangaikonda Cholapuram Temple



Food

- F: Sree Aariya Bhavan
- G: Sri Venkateswara Lodge Restaurant
- H: Karthik Restaurant
- I: Sathars
- J: Ayyankadai Street

