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WHAT'S
TRENDING

THE GREAT DIVINE DARSHAN

In a world that is constantly chasing speed, scale, and screens, Great Divine Darshan at GRT Hotels & Resorts invites guests to pause, breathe, and return to the sound of their own spirit, embracing a vision of luxury rooted not in marble and chandeliers but in stillness, connection, and those unspoken sacred moments that remind us who we are and where we belong, while gently rediscovering the sacred geography of South India—where divinity is woven into everyday life, in dawn temple bells, dusk jasmine, and the quiet contentment of a shared meal after darshan.

THE PILGRIM'S JOURNEY IN MODERN TIMES

For centuries, South India has been a land of seekers. The Cholas built temples not merely as monuments of faith, but as living laboratories of art, architecture, music, and community. From the towering gopurams of Madurai to the sea-washed shrines of Rameswaram, from the hilltop sanctuaries of Thiruthani to the golden calm of Kanchipuram — every temple tells a story, every ritual reveals a rhythm, every devotee carries a dream.

Yet, as modern travelers, we often experience these places as tourists — rushing from one darshan to another, taking pictures instead of pausing for perspective. GRT Hotels' Great Divine Darshan seeks to change that — to reimagine spiritual travel as a journey of the senses, the intellect, and the soul.

Our hotels — from Regency Tiruttani to Great Trails Kodaikanal, from Grand Madurai to Regency Kanchipuram and our soon-to-open Great Trails Kumbakonam — are not just convenient stopovers. They are sanctuaries

designed for reflection, discovery, and soulful rest between pilgrimages.

A SACRED MAP OF EXPERIENCES

Every GRT hotel along the spiritual corridor has curated experiences under the Great Divine Darshan program that allow our guests to engage with local traditions in meaningful ways:

- Guided Temple Trails: Our concierges and scholar design temple visits with rich context in mythology, architecture, and rituals.
- Soulful Cuisine: Guests enjoy prasadam-inspired dishes like Kumbakonam pongal, Madurai athirasam, and Thanjavur's black rice payasam.
- Mindful Mornings: Each day starts with chanting, yoga, and meditation, bringing a calm temple-like awakening.
- Sacred Souvenirs: We offer sustainable souvenirs including artisan-crafted icons, kolam art, and floral infusions.
- Evening Aartis and Story Circles: Guests gather for oil lamp rituals and stories from priests, artists, and team hosts.



THE PROMISE OF MORE — THROUGH THE SOUL'S LENS

At GRT, our guiding philosophy — The Promise of More — takes on deeper meaning through Great Divine Darshan. More than comfort, we offer connection. More than service, we offer significance. More than rooms, we offer resonance.

Our mission is to transform every stay into a sacred pause — a chance for each guest to feel cared for, understood, and inspired. We call this soulful hospitality — where technology serves the heart, and design honors the spirit. It's the gentle blending of convenience with compassion, of ritual with relevance.

In every hotel, you'll find subtle nods to our cultural heritage — a mural depicting the journey of the soul, the fragrance of temple flowers in the lobby, the use of traditional lamps during evening turndown. These aren't mere aesthetics; they are intentional acts of reverence. Because when hospitality touches the soul, it transcends service — it becomes seva.

A BRIDGE BETWEEN THE ANCIENT AND THE MODERN

The Great Divine Darshan program also addresses a larger national movement — the rise of spiritual tourism in India. According to recent trends, nearly 60% of domestic travel in South India is faith-based. But what's fascinating is the evolution of the modern pilgrim: they are as interested in the experience as the ritual. They seek authenticity without austerity, tradition without rigidity.

This is where GRT Hotels is uniquely positioned. We are South Indian in our soul, yet global in our mindset. We understand that today's travelers want to meditate in the morning and attend a hybrid business meeting in the afternoon. They want to visit temples and return to hotels that feel like extensions of that sanctity — sustainable, serene, and steeped in grace.

Our hotels along the spiritual circuit — Madurai, Thanjavur, Tiruttani, Kanchipuram, Rameswaram, Kumbakonam, and Thirukadayur — are part of this living pilgrimage network. Through our partnerships

with local guides, temple authorities, and cultural historians, we aim to revive the lost art of travel with meaning.

SUSTAINABILITY MEETS SPIRITUALITY

At GRT, spirituality and sustainability go hand in hand. The Great Butterfly Effect, our sustainability movement, complements Great Divine Darshan by ensuring that every sacred journey is also a responsible one. From replacing plastic bottles with glass and introducing alkaline water, to conserving energy and supporting local craftspeople — we believe every act of care for the planet is an offering in itself.

Our guests can offset their travel carbon footprint through CaCo Club, our carbon-conscious loyalty program. For every stay under the Great Divine Darshan, a tree is planted in temple towns — symbolizing the cycle of giving back to the earth that sustains our journeys.

THE FUTURE OF SOULFUL HOSPITALITY

As we expand into more temple towns and spiritual destinations, our vision remains clear: To make GRT Hotels the home for the modern pilgrim. A home that welcomes not just the body but the soul. A home where travelers don't just check in — they tune in. A home that believes luxury is not opulence, but awareness.

The future of hospitality lies in creating meaning, not just memories. And Great Divine Darshan is our humble offering — an invitation to rediscover South India through the eyes of faith, culture, and consciousness.

A PERSONAL NOTE

Having walked barefoot on temple streets since childhood, carrying my mother's prasadam and my father's stories, I've learned that spiritual travel is less about reaching a temple and more about returning to oneself. Through GRT Hotels, if we can help even one guest find peace, reflection, or a memory of grace, we fulfill The Promise of More. So when you travel, don't just go to a place—travel with purpose, letting your darshan begin at a GRT Hotel check-in, where every stay is a pilgrimage and every departure a blessing.



ACTIVATE YOUR COSMIC GPS!

THE GREAT DIVINE DARSHAN UNFOLDS...

Do you ever feel that ancient pull—a deep connection to something far greater than your 5G signal? That's your cosmic GPS activating, and it's pointing straight toward South India, the original 'Land of Gods'!

At GRT Hotels, we understand that a journey to the divine shouldn't be a logistical puzzle. That's why we are thrilled to launch the Great Divine Darshan—your all-access pass to the region's most sacred sites, from magnificent temples dedicated to Lord Shiva and Goddess Meenakshi to the serene Apostolic

churches of the coast. For our guests, whether you're a local devotee or an overseas explorer, this program makes accessing these spiritual treasures effortless. Forget the stress of planning routes, finding guides, or navigating temple timings. We provide expertly curated itineraries, comfortable transport, and local insights, ensuring your focus remains purely on the divine energy that flows through these ancient halls.

Consider us your personal charioteer, guiding you safely and smoothly across this mystical landscape. Come, unlock your karma points, find your peace, and perhaps even secure a blessing from a temple elephant! Your soul's journey begins here.

THE INSPIRING JOURNEY OF THE HUMBLE VISIONARY

Some journeys begin unexpectedly, yet leave behind legacies that inspire generations. So is the journey of our beloved DMD, Mr. Natarajan. His association with GRT Hotels and Resorts began by chance, when a vehicle repair led him to the property, but destiny had other plans. The Chairman and then General Manager of Grand Chennai by GRT Hotels, moved by his eloquence, wisdom, and business acumen, saw in him a leader destined to rise.

Mr. Natarajan believed that a customer's trust and well-being are the truest victories of the company. He embraced every challenge with courage and turned ideas into milestones. Guided by the principles of our Chairman and MDs, he poured his heart into the brand, working tirelessly,

and leading with an unwavering spirit. In just two decades, through sheer determination and vision, he transformed GRT from a humble two-branch hotel into a proud family of 21 branches, with its name echoing far and wide. Behind this success lay not only strategy and skill, but also humility, warmth, and a simple kindness that touched everyone he met.

For 20 remarkable years, Mr. Natarajan has shaped GRT Hotels and Resorts with unwavering commitment and a spirit that inspires all. Through every challenge and triumph, he has nurtured talent, created opportunities, and led with humility, standing as a hero among his people. His story is one of perseverance, belief, and the transformative power of following one's dreams.





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A CELESTIAL WEDDING ON EARTH

Muhammed Sheriff

Having called Madurai home for ten years as the Senior GM of Regency Madurai, he recounts the magic of the city's legendary wedding festival.

You're in for a pleasant surprise. A celestial wedding does take place on Earth — every year in Madurai, one of Tamil Nadu's most charming and vibrant temple cities.

HOW OFTEN DOES ONE GET TO WITNESS A CELESTIAL WEDDING ON EARTH?

We've all read pictorial books about Gods and Goddesses, and tales of ethereal love. But does such divine union ever unfold in real life? You're in for a pleasant surprise. A celestial wedding does take place on Earth every year in Madurai, one of Tamil Nadu's most charming and vibrant temple cities.

Madurai is also known as Thoonga Nagaram ("the city that never sleeps"). The city earned its title because of its bustling disposition, with its markets and food stalls chirping away before the crack of dawn. And, come every April (the Tamil month of Chithirai), this city witnesses one of the most vibrant celebrations in Hindu calendar; a celebration of divine love between Shiva and Shakti, as represented by Goddess Meenakshi (Parvati) and Sundareshwara (Shiva).



ALAGAR FESTIVAL

The Alagar festival at the Kallalagar temple near Madurai also has a rich legacy. It is said that sage Manduka had been cursed by the irritable sage Durvasa to live as a frog in the Vaigai river.



On Manduka's prayers, Alagar, an incarnation of Vishnu, descended from the Alagar Hills to relieve him of the curse. As a reward, Alagar revealed all his 10 avatars to Manduka.

It was during this time that Meenakshi, sister of Alagar, was to marry Sundareshwara (Shiva) in Madurai. Alagar began his 20 km journey to attend the wedding, disguised as a robber to protect his possessions. But he was late in reaching the wedding venue.

It is said Sundareshwara himself, in Vishnu's form, performed the kanyadana. When Alagar arrived late at the Vaigai river and learned the wedding was over, he was furious. To pacify him, Meenakshi and Sundareshwara met Alagar near the river, where he presented them his gifts in a mandapa and returned to

Alagar Hills without entering Madurai.

It is said this legend emphasises the unity of Shaiva and Vaishnava traditions. Historically, the Meenakshi (Shaiva) and Alagar (Vaishnava) festivals were celebrated separately. But they were later performed together during the Tamil month of Chithirai to promote religious harmony and support Madurai's economy.

The major events during this festival include Kodi Yetram (flag hoisting), Pattabhishekam (Meenakshi's coronation), Dikvijayam (her global conquests and meeting with Shiva), and Meenakshi Kalyanam (divine wedding). There is also a Chariot Festival that features a grand procession. The festival ends with the Devendra Puja, honoring Indra at the Meenakshi Temple.



THE DIVINE 'CONNECT'



Draw a line to connect each divine deity to their respective Vahana (divine vehicle)



GReaT DIVINE DARSHAN

WALK THE SACRED CIRCLE OF THE NAVAGRAHAS



**TRAVEL, PRAY, AND UNWIND WITH
COMFORT ON YOUR SACRED 3-DAY JOURNEY.**

Curated Temple Circuits | Convenient Stays | Darshan Facilitation
Senior & Accessibility Support | Sattvik Dining
Seamless Experience



WHISPERS OF THE EMPIRE: TRACING TAMIL NADU'S COLONIAL COAST

Lakshmi Sharath

Passionate Traveller, Storyteller & Writer

As dawn unfurls across Marina Beach in Chennai, the sky turns gold, casting long shadows across the sand where fishermen haul in their nets and morning joggers trace the shoreline. But beyond the everyday bustle, this coast carries the weight of history —echoes of European powers who landed here centuries ago in search of trade and conquest. On the Coastal Colonial Trail, curated by Radisson Hotels by GRT Hotels & Resorts, each stop is lined with windswept ruins, sun-warmed ramparts, crumbling churches, and forgotten cemeteries that bear witness to an India shaped by the ambitions of the world.



MADRAS TO SADRAS—COLONIAL FORTS AND CRUMBLING CANONS

The trail begins in Chennai, once known as Madras, where the British established Fort St George. Centuries ago, a sandy strip was leased to the British by the local Nayak rulers. A settlement grew around the fort with White and Black Towns as more colonial colonies mushroomed along the coastline. While Fort St George was a British settlement, the neighbouring Santhome — once a Portuguese enclave—adds to the multicultural legacy of the place.

Driving south past the ancient Pallava port town of Mahabalipuram, the journey leads to Sadras (Sadarangapattinam), a quiet fishing village that once echoed with Dutch voices. The restored Sadras Fort is a relic of a time when Dutch and British naval forces clashed during the Battle of Sadras. Tombstones, canons, and sea-facing warehouses still remain.

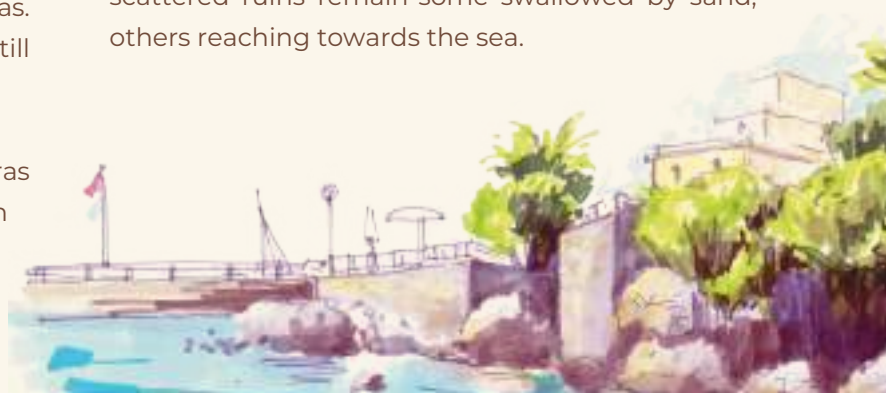
A walk through the moss-covered ruins of Sadras feels like slipping between the pages of a forgotten

maritime chronicle. With the sea shimmering nearby and fishing boats bobbing in the distance, it's a surreal juxtaposition of past and present.

ALAMPARAI FORT—A PICTURE POSTCARD OF RUINS

We take a detour and enter the portals of another crumbling fortress overlooking the ocean - the 17th century Alamparai fort that was ruled by the Nawab of Carnatic and was gifted to the French for their support, but was subsequently destroyed by the British.

Overlooked by most travellers, this ruined fortress is an underrated gem. Time and tide have taken their toll on its crumbling walls. Once a French naval outpost, today only broken walls, bastions, and scattered ruins remain—some swallowed by sand, others reaching towards the sea.





PONDICHERRY — THE FRENCH RIVIERA OF THE EAST

The sun gets kinder as we drive towards the last vestiges of French India — Puducherry. Once the capital of French India, the town still retains its French Quarter with colonial villas, latticed windows, and bougainvillea-draped balconies. Street names like Rue Dumas and Rue Romain Rolland evoke a Parisian air, while the grand statue of Governor Dupleix watches over the promenade. The French Quarter still remains one of the most atmospheric enclaves with sun-washed yellow facades, white-framed windows, and flower-laced balconies.

A visit to Pondicherry or Puducherry is not complete without heading to Auroville, an experimental township envisioned as a universal city. Auroville feels like a whisper—a quiet commune where time slows and the spirit breathes. The golden sphere of the Matrimandir

rises from manicured lawns, reflecting the soul of a township built not on borders, but on belonging. Here, bougainvillea spills over mud-brick cafés, artisans shape pottery under banyan trees, and cyclists glide silently down leafy trails that echo with birdsong. Visitors can meditate in sun-drenched gardens, explore handcrafted boutiques, sip cold-pressed juices, or attend talks on sustainability, design, and inner growth.

CUDDALORE TO PORTO NOVO – BRITISH TO PORTUGUESE FOOTPRINTS

If Pondicherry is a time capsule that is tinged with nostalgia, Fort St David in Cuddalore along the banks of the River Gadilam is lost amidst ruins. The story goes that the area which came under the range of the canon was colonized by the British. We drive towards Porto Novo, colonized by the Portuguese and sieged by the Dutch and British. It was the home of foreigners or Parangis and hence the local name, Parangipettai. It was also a trade centre for the Arabs and the Yemenis. Besides, a battle was fought here between Hyder Ali and the British.





TRANQUEBAR - THE DANISH DREAM

The music from the seashore lifts our spirits as we reach Tranquebar or Tharangambadi, the town of the singing waves. As you drive through the town gate or “Landporten”, you see the imposing Fort Dansborg. Outside, the sea crashes relentlessly against the rocks, and the wind carries whispers in Danish, Tamil, and English. Though Denmark eventually sold Tranquebar to the British, traces of its past live on in street names, restored heritage homes, and the gentle rhythm of waves that whisper old Norse prayers to the shore.

From fortified outposts and trading ports to sleepy towns and windswept ruins, Tamil Nadu’s coast holds a rich history. These aren’t just remnants of the past—they’re living legacies, waiting to be rediscovered.

Travelling with Radisson Hotels by GRT Hotels and Resorts, this journey becomes more than a trail—it’s an experience. An invitation to stand where empires once stood, to hear the waves carry old stories ashore, and to uncover India’s colonial past in all its complexity and contrast.

Lakshmi Sharath is a traveller and storyteller from Bangalore who believes that travel is a way of life and people make places. She is one of the pioneers of travel blogging in India and has authored over 500 articles across different publications on culture, heritage, arts and crafts, sustainable and responsible travel. You can read her stories



A WINDOW INTO CHENNAI'S SOUL

Lakshmi Krishnamurthi, Head of PR and Marketing at Radisson Blu Hotel and Suites GRT Chennai, an explorer and adventure seeker shares her intimate journey into the city's spirit.

Chennai, a city where ancient traditions beautifully intertwine with modern life, offers a rich tapestry of cultural and spiritual experiences. For guests at GRT Hotels, these sacred landmarks are not just distant attractions but easily accessible treasures, often visible from your very own window or just a short, pleasant journey away.

From the elegant comfort of Grand Chennai by GRT Hotels, you're perfectly positioned to explore one of Chennai's most iconic spiritual jewels: the Kapaleeshwarar Temple in Mylapore.

A quick drive, often just a 15-20 minute ride, transports you to the heart of this vibrant temple town. Dating back to the 7th century, the Kapaleeshwarar Temple is a magnificent example of Dravidian architecture, dedicated to Lord Shiva. Its towering gopuram (ornate gateway) is adorned with intricate sculptures depicting mythological tales, a sight that captivates every visitor.

Step inside, and you're enveloped in an atmosphere of profound devotion — the rhythmic chants, the fragrance of incense, and the vibrant hues of devotees' attire, creating an unforgettable sensory experience. Beyond its spiritual significance, the temple is a cultural hub, surrounded by bustling streets filled with flower sellers, traditional eateries, and shops offering silk sarees and handicrafts. A visit here is not just a temple tour; it's an immersion into Chennai's rich heritage and spiritual pulse.

For those staying at the luxurious Radisson Blu Hotel and Suites GRT Chennai, a different, yet equally profound, spiritual landmark awaits: the Santhome Church. Depending on your room's orientation, you might even catch a glimpse of its pristine white spires against the city skyline, a symbol of peace amidst the urban expanse. A short, comfortable drive will take you directly to this historic basilica.

Officially known as Santhome Cathedral Basilica, this stunning Roman Catholic church stands majestically on the reputed tomb of St. Thomas the Apostle, one of Jesus Christ's twelve disciples, who is believed to have arrived in India in 52 AD. This makes it one of only three churches in the world built over the tomb of an apostle, elevating its global spiritual importance.

The Indo-Gothic architectural style, with its soaring arches and stained-glass windows, creates an ethereal interior that invites quiet contemplation. The museum within the basilica houses a relic of St. Thomas and other fascinating artifacts. Santhome offers a serene sanctuary, a place where history, faith, and architectural beauty converge, providing a unique spiritual experience for all who visit.

Whether you seek the ancient rhythms of a Shiva temple or the peaceful solemnity of an apostolic basilica, GRT Hotels places you at the heart of Chennai's diverse spiritual landscape, ready to explore these divine windows into the city's soul.



ST. THOMAS MOUNT – A HIDDEN HERITAGE TRAIL

We reached the base of St. Thomas Mount just as the day began to exhale into its golden hour. The bustle of Butt Road faded behind us, replaced by a quiet expectancy. “Ready for a little time travel?” he joked.

THE TRAIL ROUTE

We began our ascent up the old pilgrim steps—fifteen minutes of gentle climbing, but centuries of stories rising with us. The granite underfoot felt ancient, almost warm with memory. Mini shrines lined the path, each holding faded flowers, melting candles, and whispers of devotion. We stopped at a cluster of terracotta votive offerings—tiny clay horses, limbs, and symbols left by villagers seeking healing. “So many wishes,” she said softly, tracing one with her

fingertips. It felt as though the hill had absorbed generations of hopes.

Halfway up, the Portuguese watchtower revealed itself—a rugged stone guardian from the 1600s. Through its arched window, the modern airfield shimmered below. Planes lifted into the sky while we stood framed in history. The contrast was almost poetic; we took a quiet moment to soak it in.



Duration: 2 – 2.5 hours (late afternoon to sunset recommended)

Difficulty: Easy walk with steps (uphill path optional via vehicle)

Start Point: Base of St. Thomas Mount Church Road (near Butt Road junction)

End Point: Sunset View Bench behind the Church Summit

Best Time: 4:30 PM – 6:30 PM

Dress Code: Comfortable footwear / modest attire for church visit

A short detour, arranged through the GRT concierge, brought us to the Armenian Cemetery. The caretaker opened the gate with reverence. Inside lay tombstones etched with Armenian inscriptions, lotus carvings, and merchant symbols—remnants of a cosmopolitan Madras few remember. “They travelled oceans, and now they rest here on this hill,” he said, almost to himself.

At the summit, the Chapel of Our Lady of Expectation stood timeless, its walls from 1523 holding centuries of faith. Behind the altar rested the mystical St. Thomas Cross, Pahlavi script still guarding its secrets.

The caretaker guided us into the hidden prayer room—a dim, narrow vault once used by Jesuit missionaries. Wooden beams bore marks left by sailors; candle-lit arches created an intimate hush. We didn’t speak—we didn’t need to.

Behind the flagpole, the Seven Church viewpoint opened up like a revelation. From San Thome to

Velachery, we traced the legendary line of shrines pilgrims once visited in a single day as penance. The city below looked calm, almost meditative.

We continued past the old Colonial Barracks and under the sweeping Cantonment Arch, architectural reminders of the British military presence that once dominated the hill. The vantage point here offers striking views of the south slope.

The Banyan Meditation Grove welcomed us into its quiet circle of ancient trees. The light at 5:45 PM turned everything golden—the leaves, the path, even our thoughts. The dense canopy provided a quiet respite before the final stop.

Our final stop was the Sunset Bench behind the church. The city stretched out like a story, flights rising, church bells echoing faintly. We sat together, watching the cross silhouette against the sky, feeling as though time had paused—just for us, and just for that perfect Chennai sunset.



COLOURING PAGE



Madurai to Rameswaram 3-Day Sacred Sojourn.

Day 1: Madurai The Temple City Beautiful

Arrive Madurai
check in at Grand Madurai or Regency Madurai by GRT.

On arrival, check-in
Dive deep into Meenakshi Amman Temple's majestic architecture & rituals (3-4 hrs)

Afternoon
cultural tour

Thirumalai Nayakkar Palace
Davidian-Islamic blend of grandeur.

Gandhi Memorial Museum
Stories and struggle of India's freedom

Evening

Shop handicrafts and textiles at Puthu Mandapam market; unwind with sunset at Vandiyur Mariamman Teppakulam tank.

Day 2: Heritage Hills & Murugan Shrines

Morning trek to **Alagar Koyil (Kallazhagar Temple)** serene Vishnu abode (2-3 hrs).

Visit Pazhamudhir Solai, one of Lord Murugan's six sacred abodes nearby.

Evening: Explore Thiruparankundram Temple, ancient rock-cut Murugan sanctuary.

Day 3: Rameswaram Island of Ritual & Legend

Early morning drive to Rameswaram (approx. 3-4 hrs).

Holy dip at Agnitheertham before entering Ramanathaswamy Temple.

Explore the temple's giant corridors and 22 theerthams for ritual baths (2-3 hrs).

Afternoon
sightseeing

Dhanushkodi Ghost Town where history meets sea

Panchamukhi Hanuman Temple with its five-faced idol and floating stones.

Cross the iconic Pamban Bridge with panoramic views.

Return to Madurai for overnight stay.



Book your temple odyssey



NAVAGRAHA TEMPLES: AN IMMERSIVE SPIRITUAL EXPERIENCE

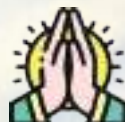
Vijaya Kumar, a spiritual hotelier and GM of Grand Chennai, guides readers through the unique Navagraha temple circuit.

The Navagraha temples in Tamil Nadu are nine sacred shrines near Kumbakonam and Mayiladuthurai, each dedicated to a planetary deity. Devotees visit them to seek blessings and relief from planetary doshas, often completing a pilgrimage across all nine temples.



Astrological Remedies

Believed to mitigate the negative effects of planetary positions in one's horoscope.



Spiritual Cleansing

Seek blessings for health, prosperity, marriage, and overall well-being.



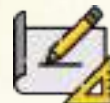
Cultural Significance

Each temple has unique traditions and rituals tied to its presiding planet.



Mythological Roots






Legends trace their origins to Lord Brahma and Sage Kalava, affirming their divine presence on Earth.



Architectural Grandeur

The temples are centuries old, featuring exquisite carvings and inscriptions.

NAVAGRAHA TEMPLES

 <p>Suriyanar Temple</p>	<p>Surya (Sun)</p>	<p>Suriyanar Kovil, near Kumbakonam</p>	<p>Blesses with health, fame, and leadership</p>
 <p>Thingalur Temple</p>	<p>Chandra (Moon)</p>	<p>Thingalur, near Thanjavur</p>	<p>Enhances mental strength and emotional balance</p>
 <p>Vaitheeswaran Koil</p>	<p>Angaraka (Mars)</p>	<p>Near Sirkazhi</p>	<p>Heals diseases, removes Mangal dosha</p>
 <p>Kanjapur Temple</p>	<p>Shukra (Venus)</p>	<p>Near Kumbakonam</p>	<p>Grants love, wealth, beauty, and artistic talent</p>
 <p>Alangudi Temple</p>	<p>Guru (Jupiter)</p>	<p>Near Kumbakonam</p>	<p>Enhances wisdom, education, and removes obstacles</p>

<input type="checkbox"/>	 Thirunageswaram Temple	Rahu	Thirunageswaram Temple, near Kumbakonam	Removes doshas and grants success in ventures
<input type="checkbox"/>	 Thirunallar Temple	Shani (Saturn)	Near Karaikal	Reduces effects of Sade Sati and karmic suffering
<input type="checkbox"/>	 Keezhaperumpallam Temple	Ketu	Near Poompuhar	Aids spiritual growth and detachment
<input type="checkbox"/>	 Thiruvengkadu Temple	Budha (Mercury)	Near Sirkazhi	Increases intelligence, business skills, and communication

The itinerary

The temples are usually covered over two to three days, with tours starting from Chennai or Kumbakonam. Many combine the Navagraha tour with cultural highlights of Thanjavur, including the Brihadeeswara Temple and Thanjavur Palace.

A visit is not only a spiritual remedy but also a cultural immersion into Tamil Nadu's rich heritage — where mythology, music, and architecture converge.





SACRED BITES – A SPIRITUAL CULINARY JOURNEY

Elango Rajendran

A chef at heart and a leader by profession, Elango Rajendran (Cluster Operations Manager - Grand by GRT Hotels) explores the divine secrets behind some cherished prasadam.

Prasad, or prasadam, is not merely food — it is a symbol of divine grace. Tamil Nadu, a land steeped in ancient traditions and vibrant spirituality, offers a unique array of "sacred bites" as temple prasad. These offerings are imbued with devotion and history, and reflect the culinary distinctiveness of the region.

EXPRESSION OF DEVOTION



The word "prasad" means "grace" or "favor." When food or other offerings are presented to a deity during a puja (worship ritual), it is believed that the deity accepts it, thereby consecrating it. These "blessings" from the divine are then distributed to devotees.



Prasad makes devotees feel closer to the deity. It reinforces the idea that the divine provides for us.



Prasad is prepared with purity, devotion, and reverence. The ingredients are often vegetarian (sattvic), and the cooking environment is kept clean.



Prasad is distributed equally among all devotees, regardless of their social or economic status. It emphasizes the principle of samatva (equality).



Prasad is believed to nourish the soul and carry healing vibrations.

In essence, sacred bites are a blend of devotion, tradition, community, and the tangible experience of divine blessings. Each bite is a reminder of the grace received and the connection forged with the divine. They are typically vegetarian (sattvic) and are said to have healing properties.

CHERISHED TEMPLE PRASADS

PALANI PANCHAMIRTHAM DHANDAYUTHAPANI SWAMY TEMPLE, PALANI

This Geographical Indication (GI) tag prasad is often described as an ancient form of jam. The name Panchamirtham comes from Pancha - five and Amritham - nectar. The "five nectars" traditionally include: Virupakshi Hill Banana that is grown in the Palani hills, jaggery, honey, ghee and cardamom. Dates, raisins and sugar candy are included for texture and flavour. It's believed to have medicinal properties, especially after being poured over the idol of Lord Murugan, which is made of "Navapashanam" (a unique amalgam of nine poisonous substances believed to possess healing powers).



GUDANNAM / NEI PONGAL / SAKKARAI PONGAL MEENAKSHI AMMAN TEMPLE, MADURAI

A sweet rice dish, similar to sweet pongal, focuses on rice, jaggery, and dollops of ghee. It is made of softly cooked rice, jaggery, loads of ghee, cardamom, raw camphor and ghee-fried cashews. This is said to be Goddess Meenakshi's favorite dish.



PULIYODHARA RAMANATHASWAMY TEMPLE, RAMESWARAM

This is a tangy and spicy tamarind rice. This offering in Rameswaram is renowned for its distinctive flavor.

The Puliyodharai is made of cooked rice, tamarind extract, a special spice mix of mustard seeds, fenugreek, asafoetida, dried red chillies, curry leaves and roasted peanuts. The medium is sesame or groundnut oil. A hint of jaggery is added to swell the flavors.



ARAVANAI / AKKARAVADISAL SRI RANGANATHASWAMY TEMPLE, SRIRANGAM

This Vaishnavite temple staple is a rich, creamy sweet made with rice, jaggery, milk, ghee, edible camphor and cardamom. Unlike regular chakkara pongal, the rice grains in aravanai are grainy, instead of mushy.

This is often prepared and offered during the month of Margazhi, especially during the Koodaravalli festival that is dedicated to Andal's devotion to Lord Ranganatha.

SACRED BITES MATCH THE FOLLOWING.



Column A: Place of Worship

1. Sri Venkateswara Temple, Tirupati
2. Harmandir Sahib (Golden Temple), Amritsar
3. Jagannath Temple, Puri
4. Ajmer Sharif Dargah, Ajmer
5. Vaishno Devi Temple, Katra
6. Kashi Vishwanath Temple, Varanasi
7. Shirdi Sai Baba Temple, Shirdi
8. Mahabodhi Temple, Bodh Gaya
9. Shri Banke Bihari Temple, Vrindavan
10. Jama Masjid, Delhi
11. Meenakshi Amman Temple, Madurai
12. Khajrana Ganesh Temple, Indore
13. St. Francis Xavier's Basilica, Old Goa
14. Kamakhya Temple, Guwahati
15. Siddhivinayak Temple, Mumbai

Column B: Famous Prasad/Offering

- A. Langar, Kada Prasad
- B. Maakhan Mishri
- C. Tirupati Laddu
- D. Pedda
- E. Udi
- F. Modak
- G. Mahaprasad
- H. Deg
- I. Offerings of flowers, candles, incense, and water
- J. Puffed Rice, Dried Apple, Sugar Balls
- K. Communal Iftar meals and blessed dates
- L. Boondi/Laddoo
- M. Rosaries, Candles, and Blessed Oil/Water
- N. Angodak & Angobastra
- O. Ghee Roast Dosa and Panchamirtham



15-F 14-N 13-M 12-L 11-O 10-K 9-B 8-I 7-E 6-D 5-J 4-H 3-G 2-A 1-C

ANSWERS

ALIGNING MIND AND BODY WITH STARS

Chef Sheetharam Prasad,
Corporate Executive Chef, GRT Hotel & Resorts
A culinary innovator and expert on food as medicine,
reveals the secrets to aligning your diet with the stars

For those who grew up in the Seventies and Eighties... do you remember your teen years when you had a crush on a classmate or neighbor? You may have grabbed a copy of Love Signs by Linda Goodman. The New York Times best-selling American astrologer has penned books that resonated with that generation, many of whom may have secretly read her books. Cut to 2025. Grand Chennai by GRT has taken a celestial leap to help get our stars aligned... not to find a life partner, but to find a life of health and wellness!

“We are promoting this concept among our guests and staff as a guide to a diet that can be customized for people born under a particular zodiac sign,” Prasad adds.

HOW? ONE MAY ASK.

Grand Chennai by GRT has come up with Astro Food, a unique culinary concept that tries to match our diet with our zodiac signs! “The idea behind Astro Food is to create awareness among guests that if one consumes fruits, vegetables and grains as per their zodiac sign, it does play a major role in improving their health,” says Chef Sheetharam Prasad, who curated this concept.

FOOD, A TOKEN OF GRATITUDE

In India, food is not merely perceived as an energy producing substance. Food is considered holy; a token of gratitude to the almighty. For centuries, mealtime has been an act of discipline; and every morsel people consume is akin to therapy. The sick have been tended to with a healing diet, rather than medicine. The concept of Astro Food is based on the fact that human beings develop physical and emotional characteristics, based on how the stars were aligned at the time and place they were born. It recommends food choices that can maintain a good balance in the body.

Our chef suggests that the prescribed Astro Foods should be cooked in gingelly oil or ghee to fully experience their benefits.





ARIES



TAURUS



GEMINI



CANCER



SAGITTARIUS



AQUARIUS



LEO



VIRGO



LIBRA



SCORPIO



CAPRICORN



PISCES

FOODS THAT ARE NOT CLASSIFIED UNDER ASTRO DIET

Refined products (refined flour, refined sugar, refined oil)

Cauliflower / broccoli

Milk / curd / butter / cheese / cream / paneer

Besan (gram flour)

BENEFITS OF CONSUMING ASTRO FOOD

Will nourish physically and mentally.

Body feels fresh

Spinal cord will be erect



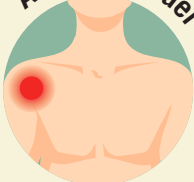



Digestive track will be clean

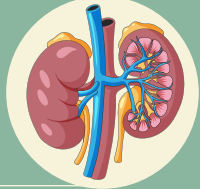
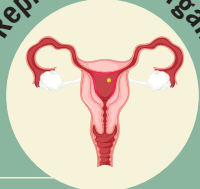




No drowsiness after food

Sound sleep at night



STAR FOOD CHECKLIST

Astros	Taste	Recommended vegetables	Problematic organs
Aries/ Mesham	Astringent	Plantain flower, karisalankanni, raw banana, maavadu, kaduka pinchu, nellikai, fig	Head, eyes 
Taurus/ Rishabam	Spicy	Pidi karnai, aria keerai, pacha milagai, siru keerai, ginger, peppercorns, apple	Lungs, throat 
Gemini/ Midunam	Salt	Thoothuva elai, agathi, tulasi, drumstick leaves, vallarai keerai, Plantain stem, brinjal, pears	Arms, shoulder 
Cancer/ Kadakam	Salt, sweet	Pirandai, ginger, kovakkai, ridge gourd, yellow pumpkin, raw banana, okra, lemon, dry ginger	Stomach, liver 
Leo/ Simham	Astringent, spicy	White raddish, beetle leaf, cucumber, manathakkali, snake gourd, plantain flower, thandu keerai, mulai keerai, grapes + mesham vegetables	Heart, spine 
Virgo/ Kanni	Sweet, bitter	Potato, karamani dry/fresh, jack seed, senai, narthangai, Pirandai, coriander, raw papaya, sweet lime	Stomach, liver 

Astros	Taste	Recommended vegetables	Problematic organs
Libra/ Thula	Sweet, bitter	White pumpkin, capsicum, cucumber, radish, knoolkol, snake gourd, fenugreek leaf, chow chow, musk melon	Kidney 
Scorpio/ Virutchigam	Sweet, astringent	Drumstick, drumstick leaves, pasalai keerai, neem flower, poppy seed, mint, star anise, sirunaagapoo, chiko	Reproductive organs 
Sagittarius/ Danush	Salt	White pumpkin, snake gourd, all sprouts, fenugreek leaf, kovakkai, raagi, coriander leaf, dry fruits	Hip, thigh 
Capricorn/ Magaram	Salt	White pumpkin, snake gourd, sundakkai, bitter gourd, broad beans, beans, ripe cucumber, dry fruits	Hip, thigh 
Aquarius/ Kumbam	Astringent	Curry leaves, neem flower, red banana, mesham+danush vegetables	Blood circulation 
Pisces/ Meenam	Sour	Fenugreek, colocasia, kandanthipili, guava, mesham+thulam vegetables	Lower limbs 



DIVINITY IN NATURE

An oasis of ecological harmony

Shabin Sarvotham

Nature lover, Biker & Hiker

Headed Radisson Blu Resort, Temple Bay Mamallapuram for 2 decades

Would you like to meet our cherished and treasured resident at Radisson Blu Resort Temple Bay, Mamallapuram?

When you visit our 44-acre property, nestled along the azure Bay of Bengal, you can stroll up to our special resident, a magnificent 150-year-old tree that hosts bustling beehives and offers sanctuary to over 50 species of birds. At another end is our tall and elegant “green monument”. Planted by His Majesty King Charles III of the UK during his visit in 1973, this tree exudes history and charm.

Radisson Blu Resort Temple Bay is indeed a rare blend of luxury and ecological harmony. Nature reveals its wonders at every turn, surprising us, and surpassing what we could ever imagine.

The speciality about this property is the seamless coexistence of nature and architecture. In one room block, a tree gracefully passes through the structure! That is how much we are sensitive to preserving nature.

We also have our own “oxygen supply” from our bamboo garden. This clump of bamboo trees breathes life into the resort, emitting oxygen round the clock, while fruit trees dot the landscape, enriching both the air and the palate.



THERAPEUTIC FOR THE EYES...AND THE HEART

Vibrant colours imprinted on nature's canvas is not just an artist's imagination. The nine colours of bougainvillea and 12 colours of frangipani splashing across Temple Bay make it a surreal burst of expression. This colour palette not only makes it therapeutic to our eyes, it touches our heart with thick fragrances. What's more! The rare and sacred Cannonball Tree (Naga Linga Poo) and the delicately scented Mano Ranjitham add a deeper spiritual essence to our natural landscape.

A PLATEFUL OF GOODNESS

The in-house vegetable farm here adds that dash of earthiness to the resort's rich tapestry. Get ready to be overwhelmed by the tall and eternally elegant coconut trees. By the way, there are 650 in all, lovingly planted across the grounds. And then, an oasis of health awaits you — an organic garden where we grow fresh, seasonal vegetables such as brinjal, lady's finger, bitter gourd, snake gourd, bottle gourd, ridge gourd, cluster beans, broad beans, green chillies, and more. We ensure your dining experience is farm fresh, with no carbon footprints! That is what we call a win-win!

NATURE'S SYMPHONY

Temple Bay has that rare magical sensitivity, with seagulls in flight and the sound of music emanating from our feathered residents such as bulbuls, owls, egrets, the common myna, brahminy myna, oriental white-eye, sunbirds, honeysuckle birds, silver-crescent munia, black and brown munia, wagtails, water hens, crow pheasants, Asian koel, barbets, bee-eaters, drongos, prinia, rufous treepie, falcon / kestrel and more. You may even spot dolphins leaping and playing in the ocean waves as you walk along the beach.

The endangered Olive Ridley Turtle, which we adopted as the official mascot in 2022, is a symbol of our commitment to marine conservation. During nesting season, we work to raise awareness and support the protection of these endangered creatures.

ON A 'PAWSITIVE' NOTE

There is a heartwarming tale entwined in our family story— a stray dog gave birth to a litter on our campus. Today, Tippu and Rocky, two of the puppies, are healthy, vaccinated, and are cherished members of the Radisson Blu Temple Bay family — bringing joy to staff and guests alike.



THE LADY OF SNOWS— TUTICORIN'S GUARDIAN

Samson

A native of Tuticorin, offers an intimate portrait of the Basilica, a landmark central to the city's cultural and spiritual identity.

Tucked away on the sunlit coast of Thoothukudi (Tuticorin) in Tamil Nadu, a radiant white sanctuary — the Basilica of Our Lady of Snows — is a picture of elegance and grace. To the people of the Pearl Fishery

Coast, Our Lady is more than a deity in the church; she's a living legend, a protector, and a symbol of enduring faith.

In the early 1500s, the seafaring Paravar community, drawn by Portuguese explorers and missionaries, embraced Christianity. As a result, a church, dedicated to St. Peter, came up in Tuticorin in 1538. A spiritual wind swept across the coast, bringing with it the influence of St. Francis Xavier, who visited in 1542 to minister to the newly converted. The spread of Christianity spurred the arrival of a beautiful figure of Mother Mary on June 9, 1555. This was carved in Portugal and once housed in Manila. It is believed that this was the same statue sent after the passing of St. Francis Xavier. Believers are said to have felt miracles as well as a feeling of being protected.

During the Dutch occupation in 1658, when Catholic worship was outlawed, the statue was hidden by the faithful. She was returned in 1610. The present church, which rose in 1713, still holds the sacred statue. Architecturally stunning, the basilica reflects Portuguese style with Gothic arches and vaulted ceilings. The Latin words etched on its altar — Sancta Maria, Ora Pro Nobis — mean “Holy Mary, Pray for Us.” They echo through the hearts of generations who’ve found solace here.

In 1982, Pope John Paul II elevated the church to the status of a minor basilica, affirming its spiritual and historical significance.

Every year, between July 26 and August 5, Thoothukudi comes alive. The Feast of Our Lady of Snows draws pilgrims from across the country. On August 5, a breathtaking tradition unfolds — the statue is paraded through the streets in a grand 53-foot golden chariot, representing the 53 beads of the rosary. The air is filled with devotion, music, and the scent of incense — a celebration of grace that has lasted centuries.

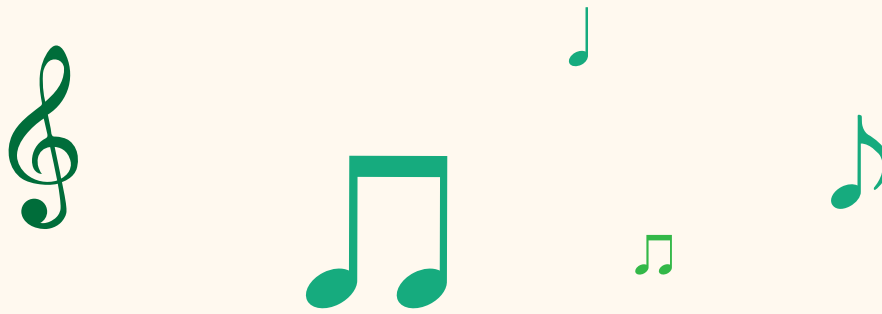
To this day, she is lovingly called the “Mother of Refuge for the Seven Coastal Villages.” Believers feel that during storms and sunshine, in joy and sorrow, the Lady of Snows watches over the people of the sea. She remains a “guardian”.



THE POETRY OF SOUND AND THE PATH TO THE DIVINE

Kumaresh Rajagopalan
Celebrated Carnatic Violinist





Music is often called the highest of all art forms. I will go a step further—it is not merely an art form, but a divine expression. Music and the “divine” are inseparable. Just as the divine cannot be seen but only experienced, music, too, cannot be grasped with the senses alone; it must be lived and felt. The divine is limitless, undivided, and eternal.

But humanity, in its attempt to analyze and compartmentalize everything, has managed to divide even this indivisible essence—separating the divine from music, and music from its spiritual roots. Despite all this, music remains the one force capable of uniting a divided world. It transcends barriers of language, culture, geography, and age. It belongs equally to a child or an elder, to human beings as well as animals and plants. Every being resonates with sound in some form. Music is, therefore, universal, accessible, and deeply intimate at once.

One of the most fascinating aspects is its fluidity. Like water, music adapts to the space it enters. It changes shape and expression according to the listener, the performer, or the practitioner. It can soothe an infant as a lullaby, inspire as a classical raga, thrill as a folk rhythm, comfort as a devotional hymn, or energize as a rock or pop anthem. From the most refined traditions of śāstrīya sangeet to the simplest songs sung in fields or homes, music shapes culture, influences emotions, and transforms the ecosystem it touches.

Our culture has always recognized this exalted role of music. Swami Vivekananda once said, “Music is the highest art, and to those who understand, it is the

highest form of worship.” In the Indian tradition, the practice of music is revered as Nāda Upāsana—a spiritual discipline rooted in the exploration of sound in its dynamic state. Music, in this sense, is not mere entertainment but a pathway to inner awakening. It is poetry written not with words but with sound.

This journey of sound is not limited to its external, physical dimension. There is also an inner journey—a quest of the Atma. Through music, one seeks, understands, unravels, and experiences fulfilment. It can lead to devotion, transcendence, and finally, to joy—an indescribable, boundless joy that points to permanence. Perhaps this is why our ancestors placed music on such a high pedestal, seeing it as the realm of the celestial beings, the Gandharvas.

To guide aspirants toward this state, they codified pathways of practice. Among them, the simplest was ‘Bhakti mārga’—the path of devotion. In India, music and devotion often walk hand in hand, though each has its distinct essence. Great sages and yogic composers used music as their chosen vehicle to express philosophical truths and artistic insights. Here lies the paradox: though music itself is divine and a reflection of truth, it has also been used as a medium to worship, celebrate, and seek the divine. In the end, music is more than sound. It is an experience. It is worship. It is poetry in sound. Most importantly, it is the bridge between the finite and the infinite—the human and the divine.

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KODAIKANAL'S CHILL VIBE & COSMIC DARSHAN

Arun Raj

Senior GM, GReaT Trails Kodaikanal
Bird watcher, Star gazer & Plant Parent

If the plains are giving you too much heat (and too much static for your cosmic GPS), it's time to ascend to Kodaikanal—the 'Princess of Hill Stations'! But this misty mountain town isn't just about chocolate and boat rides; it's a powerhouse for a spiritual detox, and our Great Divine Darshan program is ready to escort you to its most sacred peaks.

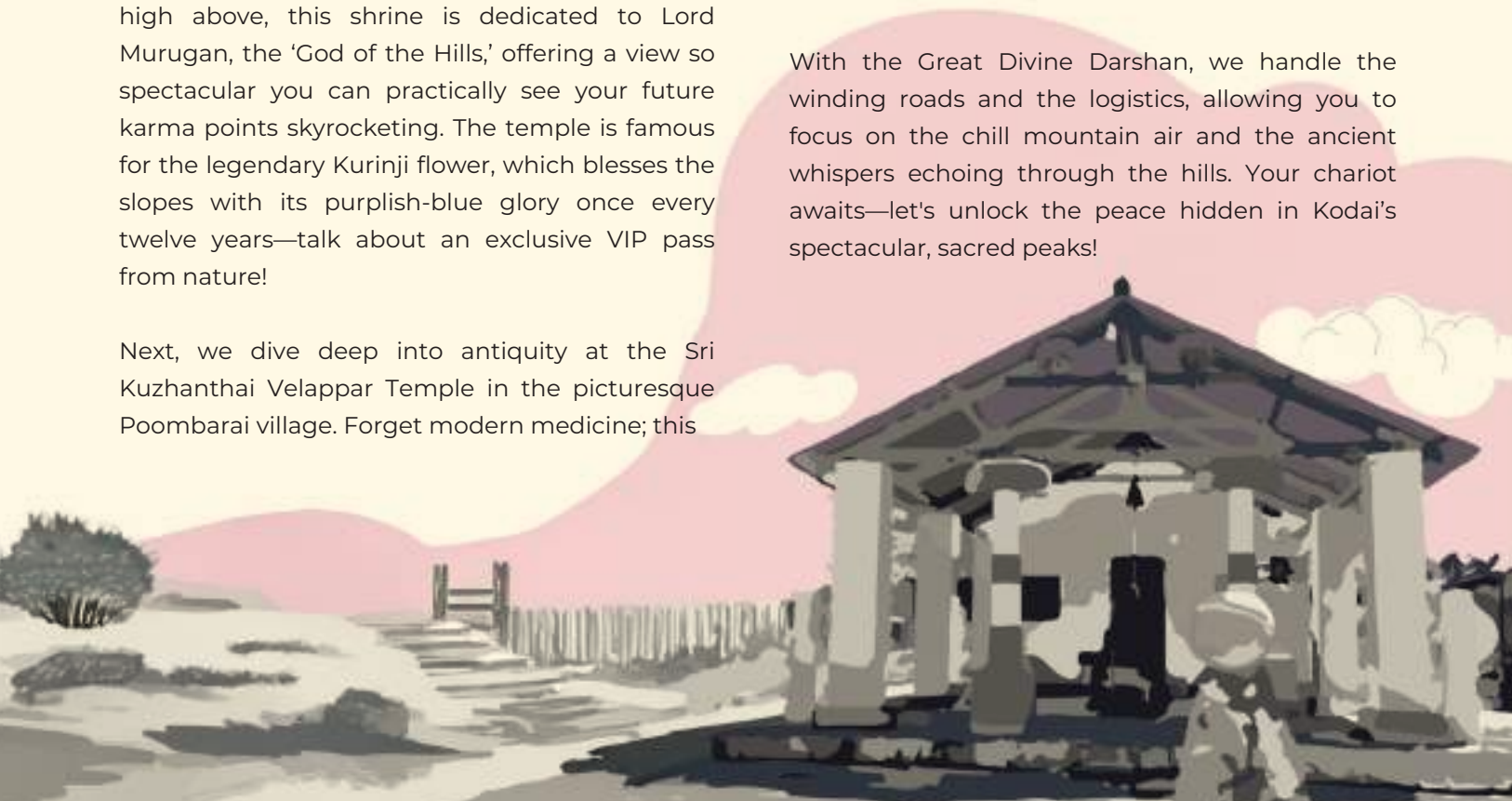
First up on this mystical itinerary is the breathtaking Kurinji Andavar Temple. Perched high above, this shrine is dedicated to Lord Murugan, the 'God of the Hills,' offering a view so spectacular you can practically see your future karma points skyrocketing. The temple is famous for the legendary Kurinji flower, which blesses the slopes with its purplish-blue glory once every twelve years—talk about an exclusive VIP pass from nature!

Next, we dive deep into antiquity at the Sri Kuzhanthai Velappan Temple in the picturesque Poombarai village. Forget modern medicine; this

3000-year-old sanctuary houses an idol of Lord Murugan crafted from the rare and potent Navapashanam (nine herbal poisons) by the ancient sage Bogar. Visiting here is like sipping spiritual filter coffee—it's intense, ancient, and highly invigorating.

But Kodaikanal's soul is beautifully diverse. We also guide you to the serene Our Lady of Fatima Church. Located on Fatima Hill, this holy spot provides tranquil Christian contemplation amidst the same rolling shola forests. It's a wonderful reminder that the divine connection we seek transcends walls, offering peaceful views and quiet reverence that's perfect for all seekers.

With the Great Divine Darshan, we handle the winding roads and the logistics, allowing you to focus on the chill mountain air and the ancient whispers echoing through the hills. Your chariot awaits—let's unlock the peace hidden in Kodai's spectacular, sacred peaks!





EMBRACING TRADITION, SERVING PILGRIMS

GRT Mahalakshmi Kasi Annapoorna Chatram, located just 4 km from the Kashi Vishwanath Temple (near Akashvani), offers pilgrims affordable lodging. The 30 modern rooms (each having capacity of three people) carry a nominal fee. A large dining hall serves free South-Indian meals (annadhanam) to residents, sponsored by GRT's charitable trust. This project, carried by GRT's philanthropy arm, revives the centuries-old South Indian chatram tradition – temple rest houses that used to feed travelers, the destitute, the elderly and handicapped as a matter of civic duty.

Historically, chatrams were more than rest houses – they were symbols of compassion, hospitality, and

devotion, ensuring that no pilgrim would go hungry or homeless on their spiritual journey. The GRT Mahalakshmi Kasi Annapoorna Chatram continues this legacy in a modern avatar, blending comfort with service. Its strategic location places it within easy reach of Varanasi's sacred landmarks: the Kashi Vishwanath Temple, Dashashwamedh and Manikarnika Ghats along the Ganga, Assi Ghat to the south, and revered shrines like Sankat Mochan Hanuman, Durga Kund, and Tulsi Manas Mandir. By offering both accommodation and nourishment so close to these pilgrimage sites, the Chatram serves as a sanctuary for yatri who come to seek blessings, perform rituals, or immerse themselves in the city's timeless spiritual aura.

A LEGACY OF GIVING

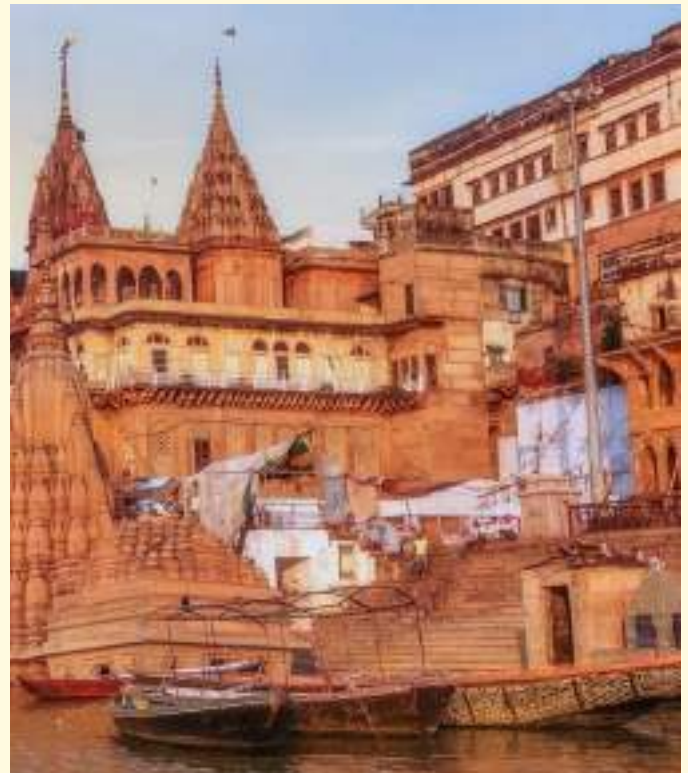
Under founder chairman Shri G. Rajendran and Managing Directors Shri G.R. “Anand” Ananthapadmanabhan and Shri G.R. Radhakrishnan, GRT Jewellers has made “giving back” central to its mission. Anand summed up their ethos: “At GRT Jewellers, we believe in contributing to the betterment of society... creating a healthier, happier future”. In practice, this means mobilizing aid in crises: in late 2023, the company donated ₹50 lakh to Tamil Nadu’s cyclone relief fund. GRT has also backed healthcare and education: for example, it granted ₹61.63 lakh to Chennai’s The Child Trust (a children’s hospital) and ₹34.78 lakh to Sankara Nethralaya (an eye-care charity) for new medical equipment. As the MDs notes, helping “those who are constantly serving the masses” is not only a duty but a privilege.

IMPACT AND VISION

GRT summarizes its philosophy plainly: “True growth occurs when we grow together as a community”. Every rupee given is viewed as building shared prosperity. Local beneficiaries express gratitude, noting how GRT’s scholarships have enabled education and its meal programs, and chatrams have eased hardship. By blending modern comforts with the age-old practice of darshan (sacred visitation) and annadanam, GRT’s Kasi Annapoorna Chatram exemplifies this vision. As its leaders say, prioritizing community well-being is both a privilege and obligation. This legacy – rooted in gratitude and forward-looking service – casts GRT Jewellers not just as a business, but as a long-term partner to the people, promising benefits for generations to come.

BROAD HORIZONS: HEALTH, EDUCATION AND HERITAGE.

GRT’s CSR portfolio spans education and cultural heritage as well. The group has awarded over ₹1.37 crore in scholarships to underprivileged students and runs free meal programs feeding thousands daily through its retail outlets. It also supports medical research and hospitals (cancer institutes and kidney research). On the heritage front, GRT donated ₹1 crore to expand Chennai’s historic TTD Venkateswara Temple complex, preserving sacred space for future devotees. These sustained investments – from school bursaries and equipment grants to temple preservation-demonstrate GRT long-term impact on society.



PILGRIMAGE SITES NEAR GRT MAHALAKSHMI KASI ANNAPOORNA CHATRAM



Kashi Vishwanath Temple

The holiest Shiva temple, centerpiece of spiritual Varanasi.



Dashashwamedh Ghat

Famous for the spectacular Ganga Aarti every evening.



Manikarnika Ghat

One of the oldest and most sacred cremation ghats.



Assi Ghat

Popular ghat where pilgrims bathe at the confluence of Ganga and Assi rivers.



Sankat Mochan Hanuman Temple

Revered shrine dedicated to Lord Hanuman.



Durga Kund Mandir

Known as the Monkey Temple, a red-painted shrine for Goddess Durga.



Tulsi Manas Mandir

Temple where Tulsidas composed the Ramcharitmanas.




Bharat Mata Mandir

Unique temple with a marble map of India as the deity.

With the Chatram as their base, pilgrims can comfortably explore these timeless spiritual landmarks while enjoying traditional hospitality and annadhanam.


Chennai to Kanchipuram 2-Day Temple Odyssey.


Afternoon 
temple spree.


Day 1: Sunrise
to Sunset Temple Trails

8:00 AM: 
Depart Chennai
for Kanchipuram
(2-3 hrs drive, 75 km).

**On arrival,
check-in** 
at Regency by GRT.
Refresh & enjoy
breakfast.

 **Kamakshi Amman**
Temple: Revered Shakti
Peetha with tranquil vibes.


 **Ekambareswarar Temple**
Lord Shiva's vast abode,
home to an ancient mango tree.


 **Sri Chitra Gupta Swamy Temple**
Rare shrine of Yama's
celestial accountant.


Easy Evening 

at hotel and buzzing
local markets.
Dinner at the hotel.


Day 2: Spiritual
Wisdom & Divine Legends


 **Varadaraja Perumal Temple**
Majestic Vishnu shrine
with iconic 100-pillared hall.


 **Ullagalanda Perumal Temple**
Dravidian Pallava marvel,
home of Vamana avatar.

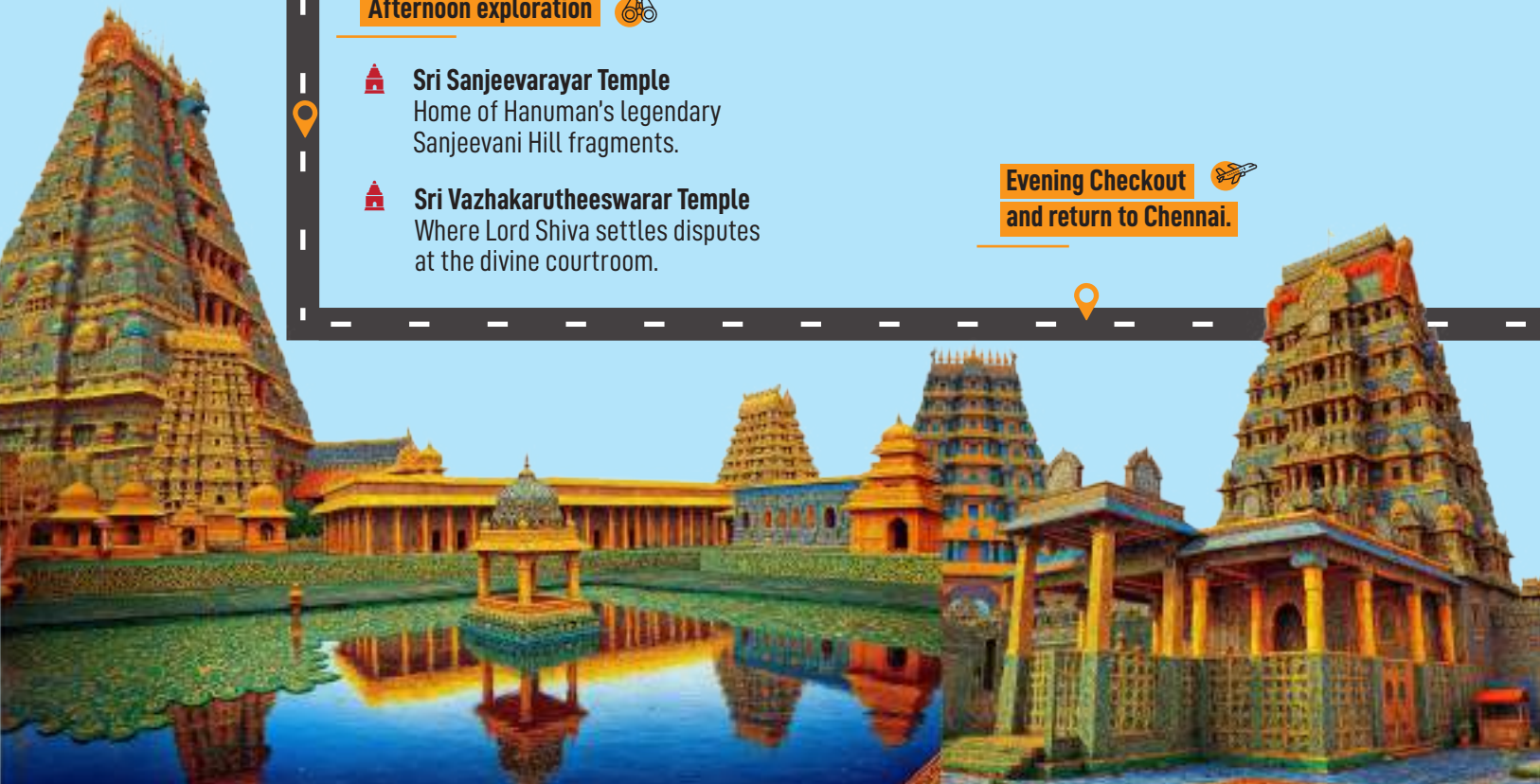
 **Kanchi Kamakoti Peetham**
The hub of Advaita Vedanta
founded by Adi Shankaracharya.

Afternoon exploration 

 **Sri Sanjeevarayar Temple**
Home of Hanuman's legendary
Sanjeevani Hill fragments.

 **Sri Vazhakarutheeswarar Temple**
Where Lord Shiva settles disputes
at the divine courtroom.

Evening Checkout 
and return to Chennai.



Book your temple odyssey

KANCHIPURAM: TIMELESSNESS WOVEN IN HERITAGE

P. Sattish

Senior Corporate General Manager - R&B, GRT Hotels & Resorts

A former resident of Kanchipuram and the highly seasoned official explores the heritage woven into every single thread.

One place, many nomenclatures! Spiritual seekers, saree lovers, historians and lovers of architecture and culture, they all converge in this one place – Kanchipuram. Earning surnames such as “the city of thousand temples”, “the silk capital of India”, “the spiritual capital of Tamil Nadu” and “the capital of Pallava Nadu” because of the ancient city’s multifaceted personality, Kanchipuram or Kancheevaram in the southern state of Tamil Nadu evokes reverence and echoes the culture, heritage and artistry of the country.

Being the cultural treasure trove, art, history and spirituality coexist in perfect harmony here, making it a living museum! Every lane of Kanchipuram carries centuries-old stories and traditions of dynasties, artisans and temples.

SPIRITUAL SPLENDOR

The “spiritual capital of Tamil Nadu” is adorned with temples, each rich in significance, glory, grace, heritage and history. Earlier, Kanchipuram was divided into Shiva Kanchi and Vishnu Kanchi, according to Shaivite and Vaishnavite traditions. Today, it is a seamless array of sacred sites like the Kailasanathar Temple, Ekambareswarar Temple, Varadaraja Perumal Temple, Kamakshi Amman Temple, Ulagalandha Perumal Temple, Chitragupta Temple, Athivaradhar Temple and Kanchi Kamakoti Peedam. Everyone who visits Kanchipuram is not just captivated by the spiritual aura, but also by the intricately carved gopurams, majestic towers, ornate sculptures and mythological tales.





DRAPING ELEGANCE AND TRADITION

Kanchipuram is celebrated for its weaving tradition of the finest mulberry silk and rich zari threads like gold, silver and copper. Having earned its Geographical Indication (GI) tag in 2004-2005 for its silk sarees, the weaves are a symbol of elegance, craftsmanship and cultural pride. People flock to “the silk capital of India” for Kanchipuram silk sarees that have remarkable designs like the temple borders, floral motifs, checks, stripes and intricate pallus that are inspired by nature and mythology.

Beyond sarees, Kanchipuram is also a hub for artisans creating silk dhotis, dupattas, and handcrafted fabrics. The intricate weaving techniques, passed down through generations, highlight the unmatched skill and patience of the weavers. The vibrant colors, combined with delicate gold zari work, reflect the city’s deep-rooted cultural ethos and aesthetic sensibilities.

A JOURNEY FOR THE SOUL

A visit to Kanchipuram is incomplete without experiencing its spiritual and cultural richness. From walking through temple corridors that echo with devotion to draping yourself in the luxurious silks woven with stories of tradition, Kanchipuram leaves an indelible impression on the heart and soul. It is a city where culture, heritage, and skill are not just preserved—they are celebrated every day, in every weave and every prayer.

ASK YOUR SUTHRADHAR TO TRY OUR SIGNATURE KATHA



Silk & Streets – Kanchi Bazaar Stroll

Wander through Kanchipuram’s lively bazaars where silk sarees, brass lamps, jasmine flowers and temple jewellery line every street. Pause for filter coffee and soak in the colours, scents and hum of everyday life.





EXPLORING KANCHIPURAM

Shopping Guide for Silk saree lovers

- ☯ BM silks
- ☯ PS Silk Sarees Shop
- ☯ A.S.BABU SAH
- ☯ Sri Sarvalakshmi Silks
- ☯ Meganathan Silk sarees
- ☯ Prakash Silks and Sarees
- ☯ Kanchipuram Sri Madheswaran Silk Sarees
- ☯ Anna society
- ☯ Murugan society
- ☯ Thiruvalluvar society



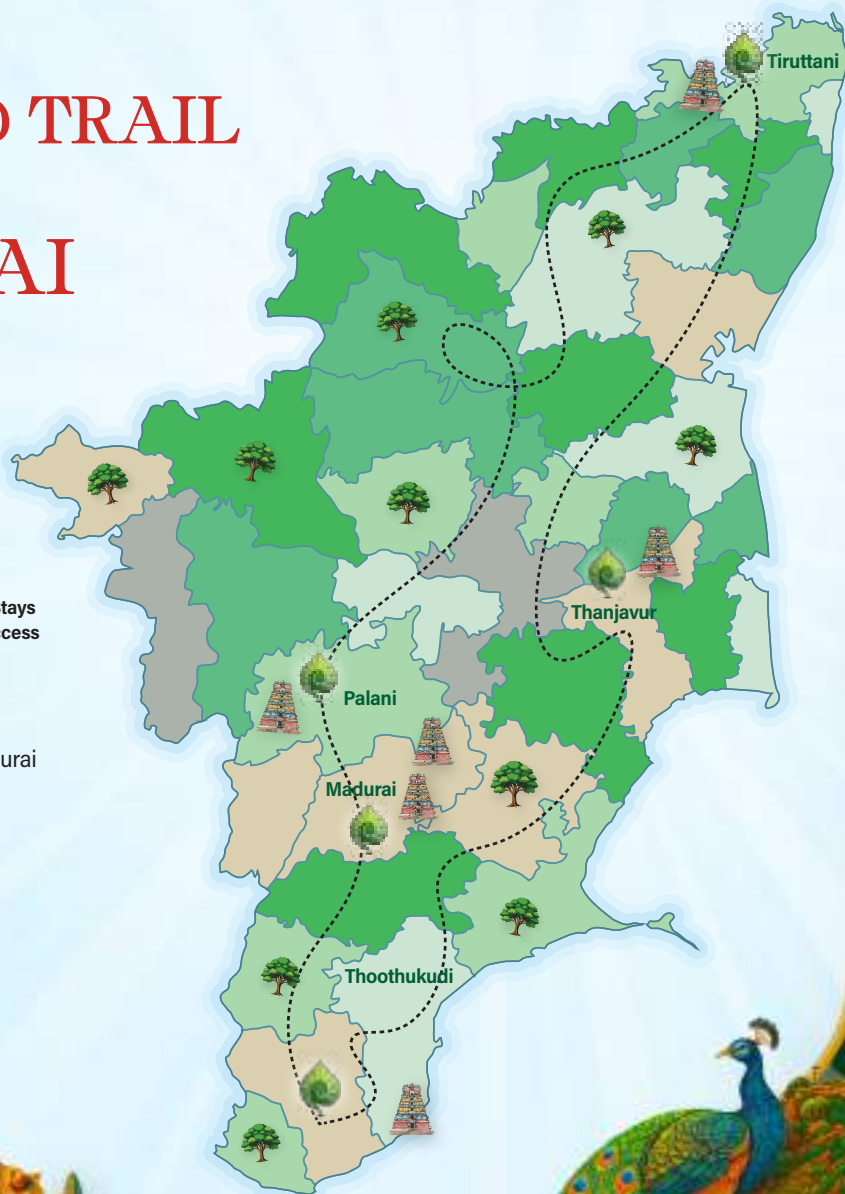
GReaT DIVINE DARSHAN

A SACRED TRAIL THROUGH ARUPADAI VEEDU

EVERY TEMPLE FEELS
A LITTLE CLOSER WHEN
THE JOURNEY FLOWS
WITH EASE & COMFORT

Curated Temple Circuits | Comfortable Stays
Darshan Assistance | Senior-Friendly Access
Sattvik Dining | Seamless Experience

- ▲ Thirupparankundram - Madurai
- ▲ Thiruchendur - Tuticorin
- ▲ Swamimalai - Kumbakonam
- ▲ Tiruttani - Tiruttani
- ▲ Pazhamudircholai - Madurai
- ▲ Palani - Palani



WHAT'S TRENDING



GRT HOTELS RECOGNIZED AS ONE OF THE BEST PLACES TO WORK!

We are delighted to announce that GRT Hotels has been honored as one of the Best Places to Work! This recognition is a powerful testament to the passion and unwavering commitment of our entire team.

At GRT Hotels, we firmly believe our team members are the foundation of our success. We have cultivated a work environment that is collaborative, innovative, and deeply supportive. This prestigious achievement reflects the payoff of our team's collective dedication to excellence in hospitality.

Our heartfelt gratitude goes out to every GRT team member. Your enthusiasm and dedication make GRT Hotels a truly special place to work, and we are thankful to have you driving our success.

MADRAS WEEK HONOURING THE TIMELESS TALES OF MADRAS!

Between 1880 and 1925, E. F. H. Wiele and Theodore Klein, official photographers to the Governor of Madras, captured the city's heartbeat on fragile glass plates. When they left India, these treasures passed into the quiet care of Ms. Cooper, a housekeeper in Coonoor, where they slept for half a century.

At Radisson Blu Hotel & Suites GRT Chennai, we secured exclusive rights to 16 of these treasures and built an entire floor - Madras Memories, where every corridor keeps the city's history alive in living light.

These photographs are displayed in the hotel lobby for the Madras Affair, our month long tribute to Madras.





FULL MOON FLOW PARTY WHARF 2.0 LAUNCH!

FULL MOON. FULL VIBES. Radisson Blu Resort Temple Bay, Mamallapuram celebrated the grand launch of the revamped Wharf 2.0 with an unforgettable Full Moon Flow Party! The atmosphere was electric as guests gathered under the stars and right by the sea. Illuminated by the silvery glow of the moon, the night truly flowed. This event marks the exciting return of Wharf 2.0, now hosting the spectacular Full Moon Flow Party once every month! Expect Chennai's best seaside dining and vibrant, recurring nightlife.

Book your pass to the next full moon party:
+91 80622 10102

GREAT CEREMONIES LAUNCH

GRT Hotels & Resorts proudly unveils GReaT Ceremonies – a reimagined wedding and event destination in the heart of T. Nagar, Chennai. For over 26 years, our convention centre has been the chosen stage for life's most cherished moments. Now reborn with elegance and purpose, GReaT Ceremonies brings together over 11,400 sq. ft. of beautifully designed, British colonial styled spaces, capable of hosting up to 1,000 guests across multiple venues. Whether you're planning a wedding, milestone celebration, or corporate gathering, discover spaces that tell your story, supported by signature GRT hospitality and flexible, personalized planning. Let the celebrations begin!

Let us host your next ceremony: +91 75500 36789



SOWCARPET STORIES

Sowcarpet Stories is Kari Theory's contemporary homage to the vibrant streets of North Madras, where heritage seamlessly meets modern gastro-bar culture. Inspired by iconic lanes such as Devaraja Mudali Street, Kasi Chetty Street, Govindappa Nayakar Street and Avudaiappan Street, the festival captures the colours, energy and flavours of Sowcarpet through a thoughtfully curated à la carte menu.

Classic street snacks and sweets are reimagined as elegant bar bites and paired with signature South Indian cocktails. Rooted in authentic street exploration and storytelling-led curation, the experience brings Old Madras alive in a refined, stylish setting—retold through food, craft and culture.

Experience such distinctive flavours at Kari Theory, the award-winning restaurant at Radisson Blu Hotel & Suites GRT Chennai.



GREAT CONVERSATIONS BENGALURU CHAPTER

A powerful evening at Radisson Hotel Bengaluru City Centre as we hosted GReaT Conversations—an all-women panel exploring emerging travel trends and evolving guest buying behaviour. Expertly moderated by Shubhangi Nandagopalan - VP Sales and Marketing GRT Hotels, with Anu Shinoj - GM Radisson City Center by GRT Hotels Bengaluru - bringing warmth and energy to the dialogue.

With insights from Ranjini Nambiar - CEO Footloose Yatra and Loveleen Multani Arun - Co Founder Panache World, the session was engaging, thought-provoking, and future-focused—celebrating leadership, insight, and the women shaping tomorrow's travel landscape. Our sincere thanks to the speakers for an impactful discussion.

GReaT
**DIVINE
DARSHAN**

**INTRODUCING
REGENCY PALANI**

A TRUSTED NAME NOW CLOSER TO YOUR SACRED JOURNEY.

- 🌿 Free Shuttle Service to the temple
- 🌿 Skanda - Exclusive Meditation Lounge
- 🌿 Choice of Sattvik dining
- 🌿 50% off* for Senior Citizens
- 🌿 Early check-in and late check-out
- 🌿 Pet Friendly