

PRE-ARRIVAL INFORMATION - smr.2283

The activity will be held at the Institute of Ocean Management, Anna University Chennai 600 025. (<http://www.annauniv.edu>), in the Campus of College of Engineering, Guindy (for taxi drivers request to stop at Anna University Chennai, Guindy).

The College of Engineering (CEG) Campus hosts Faculties of Engineering and Technology and Faculty of Science and Humanities. The Workshop will take place in the Koodal Hall, Institute of Ocean Management. The lectures will be held in the Koodal hall equipped with blackboard, LCD projector, a computer (with Windows XP Professional or Windows 7), overhead projector for transparencies and one microphone.

ACTIVITY UPDATINGS

Additional information, Programme, etc, will appear on <http://agenda.ictp.it/smr.php?2283>

CONTACT INFORMATION

Prof. Hema Achyuthan - Mobile no: 09382849662./Lan no. 22358453

TIME ZONE

GMT + 5.3 hour.

CURRENCY

Indian Rupee

Currency Exchange

Euros and US dollars are the easiest currency to exchange. Travellers should bring cash in preference to traveller's cheques.

DO NOT CHANGE CURRENCY WITH NON-IDENTIFIED PEOPLE.

Credit/Debit Cards and ATMs

Major credit cards are accepted.

Visa & MasterCard.

Visa card is accepted at most ATM. There are lots of these in Chennai. All major banks now have ATM available. Note that VISA is the card of choice. MASTER CARD is also accepted.

Banking Hours

Monday-Saturday: 10.00 - 16.00 hrs.

LANGUAGES

Throughout Chennai official languages are Tamil and English. Hindi is also spoken by the locals.

VOLTAGE, TELEPHONE AND INTERNET

Electricity

220-240 volts outlets in Chennai with three round pins.

Telephone

Indian country code is +91 and Chennai city code is 044.

Internet

Internet with cable may be used on the University Campus. Anna University campus is provided with Wi Fi facility.

PERSONAL DOCUMENTS

It is advised to carry some form of identification at all times (either a certified copy of your passport or your identity card).

TRANSPORTATION

State transport buses, minibus, taxis and rickshaws are common mode of transport.

Traffic in Chennai city is heavy during weekdays, but is very light during the weekends. Best means to get around is by rickshaw and pay by the kilometer travelled.

Minibus : Note a minibus (or sharetaxi) will not leave before completely packed with passengers, groceries -and in some case live chickens jumping out of a plastic bag .

SAFETY AND SECURITY

Take personal security precautions and maintain a high level of vigilance in public places. For example by avoiding the streets at night, and as far as possible go out in the company of others. Ensure that car doors are locked when travelling, avoid wearing jewellery and carry the minimum in cash and valuables with you. Have your bag, jacket and backpack always with you.

SIGHTSEEING

ATTENTION: Photography:

Cameras should be used with discretion, particularly in rural areas. Always ask permission before taking a photograph. Do not photograph airports, military establishments, official buildings, or military personnel in uniform. Don't take pictures of government buildings, or of anything that may be military.

In and around Chennai there are several tourist sites and each offer a different set of perspectives.

The main attractions of Chennai are:

The Marina beach
The Elliot's beach
The Theosophical Society
The Chepauk area , University of Madras- Senate House.
St Mary's Church
St Thomas Church
The Egmore Museum
Kalakshetra Foundation
60 Kms south-Mahabalipuram.

WEATHER

Chennai being near the coast is hot and humid during large time of the year. However in December just after the North east rains the climate is cool and pleasant. The best period to visit the city is during December to February. Chennai is one of the few places in the country where during December the weather is still pleasant to go outside. There is a cool feel to the breeze and you do not get the suffocating heat. December weather temperature range of average lows are 18°C -28°C.

EATING in Chennai

Best snack bars and eating places are near the shopping centres and market area.

Some popular eating spots are the following (be prepared to spend approx. min. 5 to 50 Euros per person):

Adyar Park Hotel
Lemon Tree Hotel
Rain tree hotel
Eden
Rain Forest at Adyar
Esthelle at adyar Corner
Le Meridien
Trident
Saravana Hotel at Mambalam, T. Nagar, Mylapore
Adyar
Sangeetha hotel at Adyar, Alwarpet
Ponnuswamy Hotel at M.G.Road

SHOPPING

Bargaining: requires time and patience.

You will find lots of shopping centers and malls (The Chennai City Centre, Spencers, Express Avenue mall, Skywalk) in Chennai for dressing & grooming needs. In central city, places such as Mylapore, T.Nagar, Adyar offer a typical south Indian grocery, cloth, jewellery shopping.

Some of the popular places to shop are:

Basant nagar,

Thiruvanmiyur

Adyar

Mylapore

T. Nagar

Pondy Bazaar

Parry's corner

Mount Road.

During the December month music and dance festival is organized in several auditoriums.

We hope you will enjoy your stay!