

MADURAI RAILWAY STATION

Madurai is a Temple City of Tamil Nadu which attracts lakhs of tourists from all over India and abroad. The Madurai Railway station connects the Madurai city with rest of the country through 32 daily Express trains, 41 non-daily express trains and 62 daily passenger trains. More than one lakh passengers visit the railway station daily. The Madurai railway station is an “A1” Category Model Railway Station with an annual revenue of Rs.65 Crore



Meenakshi



The Madurai city is one of the ancient city of Tamil Nadu dating back to the *Sangam* period of pre-Christian era. The world famous Goddess Meenakshi Amman Temple is the main attraction of the city. Other famous temples viz. Subramanian Swamy Temple at Tiruparankundram and Palamuthircholai at Alagarkovil are located near Madurai. Madurai also provides connectivity for other tourist attractions like Ramanathaswamy Temple at Rameswaram, Kodaikanal Hills, a summer hill resort. Indian Railways not only provides connectivity for the rest of the destinations to visit tourist spot in and around the country but also provides tourist friendly amenities for its passengers. **Some of the passenger/tourist**

friendly facilities provided in Madurai Railway junction is elaborated below:

Catering facilities:

Hygienic and tasty food at an affordable cost is being provided by the Railways for the passengers through various outlets. A multi-cuisine Food plaza consisting of Raj Bhavan, an AC vegetarian restaurant, Neetus Kitchen, a non-vegetarian fast food counter, Adayar Anandabhavan sweet stall, fruit juice stall etc. are available to the passengers under one roof in platform No.1.



A non-vegetarian ultra modern refreshment stall measuring 2700 Sqft dining area, 3 exclusive parcel counters are also provided in platform No.1. In addition to the above, fourteen catering stalls selling snacks, juice, milk, refreshment items etc. are also provided in all platforms for the convenience of passengers. Besides, five mobile stalls are also available to serve the passengers through train coach window.

Railway Medical Department is regularly taking the food samples from the catering units for analyzing the fitness for human consumption. Besides, staff working in catering stalls should necessarily carry the medical certificate issued by Railway Medical Officer so as to ensure that the staff is not having any contagious disease. In order to maintain hygiene catering services, the servers and hawkers are wearing polythene hand gloves and caps and supplying food items in disposable plates.



Vendor with poly glove and cap

Resting facilities-Rest rooms and Waiting halls.



AC Waiting Room

An AC waiting hall with modern cushioned upholstery sofa sets with a seating capacity of 60 passengers with toilet and bathing facilities separately for gents and ladies with plasma TV also is provided. A nominal charge of Rs.10/- is levied from the passengers for occupation of AC waiting room.

An AC VIP lounge has also been provided with modern furniture for the convenience of VIPs visiting the station.

Upper class waiting room is also available with a seating capacity of 100 passengers at a time and pleasant interior with separate toilets and gents and ladies has been provided in platform no.1. An exclusive waiting hall for ladies is also available in platform No.1.

A waiting hall for II class passengers which can accommodate 120 passengers with pay and use toilets and bathing cubicles has been provided



II Class Waiting Hall



Inside view of Retiring Room

Retiring rooms, 25 numbers spacious and well furnished retiring rooms both AC and Non AC are available in the first floor of the station building for the convenience tourists. 18 beds have been provided in the dormitories. **The booking of retiring rooms and dormitories are computerized and they can be booked through PRS anywhere in India. In addition, booking can be now done through IRCTC website.**

Seating arrangements:

Around 1500 number of benches and chairs has been provided in all platforms and concourse area. Majority of the platform area has been provided with platform shelter. Similarly granite flooring and vacuum dewatered surface has been provided in most of the platforms and concourse area for hassle free movement of passengers and their trolley bags.



Seating Arrangements

Mobility of passengers:



A battery operated car has been provided for the use of differently abled passengers, sickly passengers and senior citizens. In addition, four wheel chairs are also made available for these category of passengers.

A 6 metre wide concrete Foot over bridge has been provided to connect all platforms and the circulating area on eastern and western entries.

Three sets of six escalators have been provided in platform No.1 at circulating area, platform No.2/3 and 6 at western circulating area. Besides, trolley path has been provided connecting all the platforms for easy movement of battery car, wheel chair and luggage trolley.



For easy accessibility and fast evacuation of passengers, a separate entry has been provided in the western side which facilitates the public inhabiting on the western side.

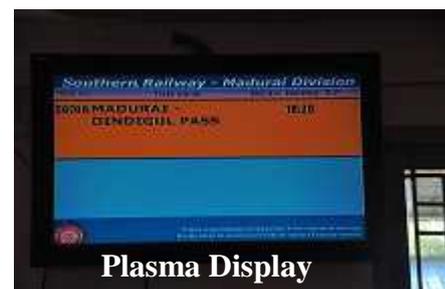
A cloak room has been provided in the circulating area which functions round the clock facilitating the tourists to keep their luggage in safe custody.

Passenger Information System:

To disseminate train arrival/departure, reservation status and other passenger related informations, following facilities have been provided in Madurai railway station.

1. CCTVs provide railway information and entertainment programmes.
2. LCD TVS have been provided in all the circulating area and waiting hall and platforms

which provide exclusive train arrival/departure and passenger information.





Coach Guidance Display

3. **Electronic coach indication boards** have been provided in main Platform No.1

4. **Two e-charting system with 12 screens** has been provided which display status of reservation – waitlist/RAC position of reserved passengers of trains originating/passing through Madurai. This is a eco-friendly green initiative thereby wastage of paper by eliminating printing of charts

5. **Eight touch screen terminals** has been provided at various vantage locations for disseminating train arrival/departure, platform, coach position, reservation ticket status etc. for passengers

Information counters: An information counter with modern facilities has been provided in the main concourse for the convenience of passengers.



Touch Screen

The counter, is manned by railway officials, round the clock. Computerized Public address system is also made available.

Transport Arrangements:



Call Taxi

A bus bay has been provided inside the railway station premises where all the city buses pass through railway station. This gives connectivity for rail passengers.

Call Taxi service: A call taxi service run by a reputed firm is operational from main entrance.

Sufficient parking area has been provided for parking taxis and auto rickshaws and about 50 taxis and 170 numbers of auto rickshaws have been permitted to park in the railway premises for the use of passengers. A large parking area with a capacity of more than 1000 cars is available on both main and western entry.



Car Parking Area



Multi Level Parking

A modern multi level 2 wheeler parking is provided in the main entry for the convenience of passengers parking two wheelers in the station. Spacious Cycle/Scooter/Car parking stands are also made available on the both entrances of this station.

Health facilities



Medical Assistance Booth

Free Medical Assistance Booth run by **Vadamalayan Hospital**, which is one of the reputed hospitals in Madurai is available in the concourse to meet the emergency need of the passengers. In addition, medial facilities are also made available by the 250 bedded Railway hospital which is available 200 metres from the railway station.

In order to maintain hygiene and cleanliness of the station premises, Madurai station is brought under an exclusive comprehensive sanitation contract where around **85 personnel** are deployed for ensuring cleanliness of the station and its premises.



The platforms and concourse are being cleaned using state of art cleaning machines. The tracks

have been provided with **cement concrete apron** and high pressure jets are used for cleaning the track.



Bio-degradable and non bio-degradable dust bins with distinct colour have been provided for segregation of disposable waste.

Ordinary and pay and use toilets and bath rooms to have been provided at vantage locations.

Drinking water through Reverse Osmosis plant has been made available through 6 outlets free of charge for the use of passengers.

Security systems:

To take care of security of passengers and their belongings, following infrastrucutre facility has been made available:

A full-fledged police station is functional in platform No.1 In addition, a well equipped RPF stations is also functional in platform No.1 for assistance of passengers.



Security Camera

An integrated security system has been provided with 52 surveillance cameras installed at various locations of Madurai station and its premises. The system is being monitored by RPF personnel round the clock in the RPF control room to ensure safety and security of passengers. A special booth manned by city police has been provided in the circulating area to control vehicles and crowd.

A parcel scanner and luggage scanner in the and in the main concourse for scanning of parcel and luggage of the passengers to ensure security and safety of passengers and train journey. An under chassis vehicle scanner has been provided in the main entrance to scan the vehicles entering the railway station premises.

An NGO rganization called “Friends of Police” deploys around 30 of their volunteers during peak hours to guide and control the passenger movement.

Dog squad is also available under the control of Railway Protection Force for detecting the inflammable items in the baggage of passengers, if any.



Banking facilities:



Five ATMs of prominent banks viz. State Bank of India, Indian Bank, Canara Bank, IOB and Bank of Baroda are available in the circulating area for the conveniences of needy passengers, by which passengers need not carry the hard cash during travel.

Tourist Facilities:

An exclusive tourist siding has been provided for stabling tourist coaches/trains

An exclusive counter has been provided by Tamil Nadu Tourist Development Corporation in the concourse area for the convenience of passengers seeking tourist information.



Tourist Information Centre



Walls in the public interface have paintings depicting cultural importance of the city

Illumination:



To improve the illumination level in passenger approach path ways, high mast lights have been provided for the safety of passengers and public.

Clean & Green Railway station:



Separate dust bins for non-biogradable and bio-gradable wastes have been provided at all the platforms so as to have participation in saving the environment.

Posters are also being removed then and there to avoid visual pollution.

Those who litter and spoil the environment in Railway premises have been dealt with severely then and there by

imposing suitable fine. Station premises, toilets, track, circulating area etc. are cleaned regularly so as to provide healthy environment to the rail users.

A garden with appealing greeneries is also being maintained in front of the Railway station building in order to create pleasant atmosphere.

Map of Madurai City:



**INTER-DISTANCE BETWEEN
MADURAI RAILWAY JUNCTION AND TOURIST SPOTS**

	Tourist Spots	Distance from Madurai Junction	Via	Transit Time
1	Sri Meenakshi Amman Temple	1.4 Kms	Town Hall Road	10 minutes by walk
2	Tirumalai Naicker Mahal	3.3 Kms	West veli and South Masi St.	8 minutes by Car/Bus
3	Tirupparankundram	7.9 Kms	Tirupparankundram Road	15 minutes by Car/Bus
4	Alagar Kovil & Pazhamuthir Cholai	25.8 Kms	Natham Road	48 minutes by Car/Bus

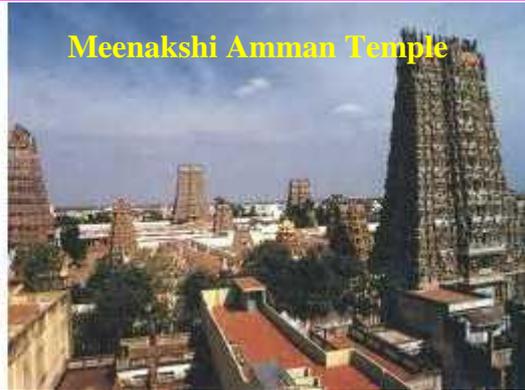
SOUTHERN RAILWAY MADURAI DIVISION



**TOURIST FRIENDLY
MADURAI RAILWAY JUNCTION**



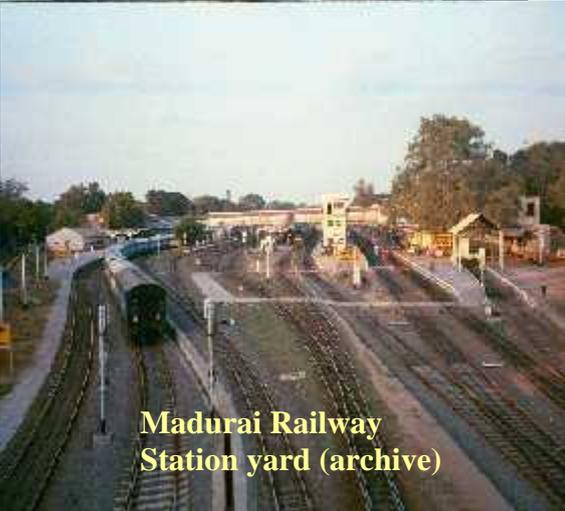
Tirumalai Naicker Palace



Meenakshi Amman Temple



**Madurai Railway Station
in night lighting**



**Madurai Railway
Station yard (archive)**

Thenmala:



Thenmala is a tourist place near Punalur town, Kollam district in Kerala. It is located about 72 km from Thiruvananthapuram, and about 160 m above sea level. The first eco tourism project in India is located at Thenmala. The Thenmala dam was built across Kallada River. Thenmala is famous for being the shooting location in Malayalam and Tamil movies.

Thenmala is a small village at the foothills of Western Ghats and predominantly a forest

area. The famous Shendurney Wildlife Sanctuary is the most important ecotourism resource of Thenmala Ecotourism. This Wildlife Sanctuary is of about 100 sq. km. and harbors large varieties of flora and fauna. Thenmala : "Then + Mala", i.e. in local parlance "Then" means honey and "Mala" means hillock i.e. it means honey hills. The honey collected from Thenmala forest region is of good quality and of high medicinal value because of the unique floristic composition of the forests.

Thenmala, Eco-Tourism

It is India's first planned eco-tourism destination, which is gaining popularity due to its unique vistas, bio-diversity and functioning. Situated about 72 kms from Thiruvananthapuram, in the District of Kollam, the Thenmala Eco-Tourism shares its resources with the famous Shendurney Wildlife Sanctuary at the foothills of the Western Ghats.

The word Thenmala in the local language Malayalam has an interesting meaning. 'Then' means honey and 'Mala' means hill; and they combine to mean 'Honey Hill'. It is believed that the honey collected from this region is of very good quality owing to its unique biological settings. Managed by Thenmala Eco-Tourism Promotional Society, which is an undertaking of the Government of Kerala, Thenmala Eco-tourism is a unique destination from a visitor's point of view. It has equal opportunities for fun, adventure, leisure and for learning the significance and necessity of eco-friendly measures for promoting tourism related activities.

At Thenmala Eco-Tourism, a visitor is taken care of by its well-trained staff providing guidance and information about the various attractions and facilities, enabling one to move about, explore and experience every bit of this remarkable destination. There are well-placed signboards, direction pointers, and information boards to facilitate one's movement inside the project area. Divided into different zones with a particular theme, the project area currently has three major zones viz. Culture Zone, Leisure Zone and Adventure Zone.

At the Culture Zone one can indulge in a variety of activities like trying few traditional Kerala dishes at the restaurant there, a bit of shopping for memento sake, a peep on Kerala's art and culture, an amphitheatre etc. But the highlight of the Culture Zone is the open air Musical Dancing Fountain, which is a big attraction among the visitors. There is also a Tourism Facilitation Center in the Culture Zone to provide information on a wide range of tourism products available at Thenmala.

Step into the Leisure Zone here and try the boardwalk leading to the dam. The sway bridge here could be an exciting proposition, especially for children. Adding more variety and elegance to the landscape here is the Sculpture Garden, which has Man & Nature as its theme.

For those with an overdose of adrenalin and those willing to test their adventure spirit would find the Adventure Zone here quite a thrilling experience. Take the elevated walkway for a journey that winds through the canopy of trees and going over rocky terrains bringing one close to life at different heights. And still those who don't mind to give their body muscles a real work out can go for mountain biking, rock climbing and river crossing.

Besides the zone-based activities for a visitor, Thenmala Eco-Tourism also offer other attractions, like an invigorating boat ride in the Shenduruney Wildlife Sanctuary; a visit to the Deer Rehabilitation Centre, where one can have a look at a group of spotted deer, the sambar deer and the barking deer, which have been given protection after straying out from the forests. The project area also has tree top huts and children's eco-park, riverside treks, and battery powered vehicle rides through the forest, enabling one to sight wildlife from a close distance.

For a visitor to Thenmala Eco-Tourism, some of the nearby attractions are also worth exploring. One may visit the picturesque Palaruvi waterfalls, about 16 km away, on the way to Shenkottah. Thenmala Eco-Tourism is open round the year and there are conducted tours organized by the Kerala Tourism Development Corporation from the Capital City of Thiruvananthapuram and also by the District Tourism Promotion Council of Kollam District.

Information Desk

Thenmala Eco-tourism Promotion Society,
Thenmala Dam Junction,
Thenmala PO 691308 Kollam District,
Kerala, India.
Phone:91-475-2344800
E-mail: info@thenmalaecotourism.com
Website: www.thenmalaecotourism.com

Getting there

Nearest railway station: Shenkottah, about 29 km and Kollam, about 66 km away
Nearest airport: Thiruvananthapuram International Airport, about 72 km away

Location

Latitude:8.960346, Longitude: 77.061836

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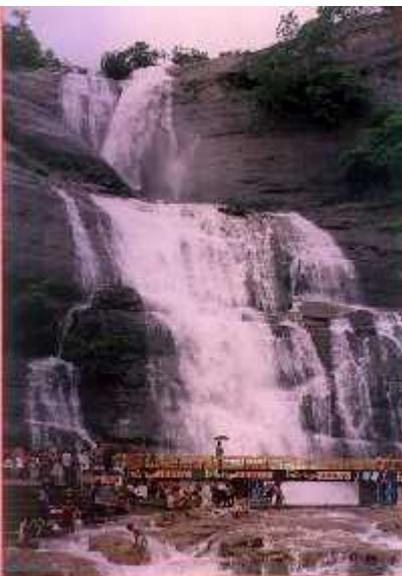
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Arayankavu is a village in [Kerala](#), [south India](#) with Piravam Road as the nearest [railway station](#). It belongs to the [Amballoor](#) Village [Panchayath](#). The Arayankavu Temple is a famous temple of the Hindu mother goddess Bhagawati. The temple is located near Ernakulam in the southern Indian state of Kerala and is one of the most popular temples in the state, for "garudan thookkam". Lord Shiva, ayyappa, naga are also worshiped at the temple. Pooram is the most famous celebration.



Water falls near Sengottai

Main Falls:

The most popular and frequented waterfalls are the Main falls. Not only during the season, but also during the period November to January, the crest receives the northeastern monsoon emptying itself on the slopes to swell the falls and the Chittar River. From a height of 300 ft., the Chittar River makes its last descent to the plains.

Shenbagadevi Falls:

A mile away from the Main falls is the Shenbagadevi falls, so called because of its location near to the temple of Shenbagadevi. During full moon days large crowds visit this temple.



Honey fall:

About 3 miles from the Main falls on the upper crusts of the rocks is the Honey falls. It is so called because of beehives on the promontory. It is a romantic place of solitude and those who seek seclusion come here to meditate on reality.

Five Falls:

Connected by a good road about 3 miles from the Main falls are the Five falls, so named as the cascade spreads in five heads like a hooded cobra. This spot is venerated highly as it presents an image of Adishesha with several hoods.



Tiger Falls:

About 6 furlongs from the Main falls is the Tiger falls with a temple for Sastha nearby. Bathing Ghats have been provided for pilgrims.

New Falls:

Perched at an elevation of 1000 ft, and one and half miles from the Main falls is the New falls amidst a sylvan landscape of wild forest. The panoramic view from this ledge is beautiful affording a sight of the entire town below.

**Old Falls:**

About 4 miles from the Main falls are the Old falls, rarely frequented. Apart from all these falls Courtallam is also famous for Thirukootachalanathar Temple, meaning- Lord of three peaks.

**Thirukootachalanathar Temple:**

The temple is dedicated to Lord Thirukootachalanathar (Shiva). This temple contains many inscriptions about Chola and Pandya Kings. Less than a furlong from here is a small temple called "Chitra Sabha" (Hall of Pictures) dedicated to Lord Nataraja and decorated with paintings of rural deities and devotees, puranic stories and religious events. The Sabha is one of the five Sabhas where Lord Nataraja performed the cosmic dance. Another interesting place is Thirumalai - 15-km from Courtallam, where there is a beautiful temple dedicated to Lord Muruga on the ranges of the Western Ghats.

Saral Festival:

Courtallam is famous for its season, which lasts from June to September, the hottest period of the plains. The monsoon brings happiness and at Courtallam water falls on rocks and tiny droplets that are sprinkled into the air, thus, giving a 'fog-like' appearance. The breeze carries this 'fog' far. The phenomenon is called ' Saral ' in Tamil.

Kumbhavuruti Falls is a beautiful waterfall located in Aruvappulam, Kerala. **Kumbhavurutti Waterfalls** is a beautiful place situated 7 Kms away from the



Achencoil. It is on the Achencoil-Schencottah Road of Kollam district, Kerala. Achencovil is almost 95 kms away from Kollam. Kumbhavurutti Waterfalls is managed by Manalar-Kumbhavurutti Vana Samrakshana Samithy and, is close to the Kerala -Tamil Nadu border. Kerala Forest Department has started an "Eco-Contact Centre" at this place. Apart from waterfalls, visitors can go trekking to the sprawling grasslands at high elevation, for a unique experience through evergreen thickets, abundant in wild flora and fauna. Manalar is a natural falls, which is 2 Kms away from Kumbhavurutti waterfalls. Achencovil is a main Hindu pilgrim center in Kerala. Achencovil Sastha temple is one of the five Sastha temples in Kerala. Achencovil is also an Eco-Tourist place. The place is near from NH 208. Entry is allowed from 10 a.m. Trekking is an important attraction here. Kumbhavurutti waterfalls is one of the main attractions of Achankovil, a pilgrim center in Kollam District. This natural waterfall gives a breathtaking atmosphere with sounds of the rushing waters and the beauty of the nature. Achankovil is situated 80 kms north-east of Punalur. The waters of the Kumbhavurutti cascading down the hills at once attract your attention. Both sides of the narrow, hill road are dotted with thatched sit-outs. We can see a few beautiful treetop houses too. Kumbhavurutti Waterfalls offers a breathtaking sight!. From the top, the water finds its way through big and small rocks to become a bubbling stream.

-- Read
waterfalls-



Palaruvi-waterfalls

more:

<http://www.ixigo.com/palaruvi-india-ne-1625157>

Kundaru Dam /Falls near sencottah



Kundaru Dam



way to the falls

A 2Km walk above the Kundaru Dam a small falls is there it is called as Lucky Falls by the local and this is allowed for Public Use and above there are 8 private falls owned by private parties, we can hire Jeep to the falls charges Rs 300 - RS 3000 depends on the KM we travel.

Kundaru Falls allowed to Public Use



LIST OF AMENITIES AVAILABLE AT MADURAI Jn.

- 1 Retiring room
- 2 Waiting room with bathing facilities – Upper class
- 3 Waiting room with bathing facilities – Second class
- 4 Waiting room with bathing facilities – Ladies exclusive
- 5 AC waiting hall
- 6 AC VIP Lounge
- 7 Information counter
- 8 National Train Enquiry System
- 9 Interactive Voice Response system
- 10 Computerised Public Address System
- 11 Electronic Train Indicator Board
- 12 Touch Screen Enquiry System
- 13 Standard Signage
- 14 Train coach indication system

- 15 CCTV announcement & security purpose
- 16 Refreshment room
- 17 Modular Catering Stalls
- 18 Food Plaza
- 19 Book stalls/other stalls for essential goods
- 20 Foot Over Bridge
- 21 Escalators
- 22 Pre-paid Taxi service
- 23 Battery operated car
- 24 Wheel Chairs
- 25 Washable apron with jet cleaning
- 26 Pay & Use toilets at the end of platforms & circulating area
- 27 Parking/Circulating area with lights
- 28 Multi level parking stand
- 29 Automatic Ticket Vending Machines
- 30 Coin vending machines
- 31 Special counters, toilets, water taps & ramps for physically challenged
- 32 Separate ticket counters for ladies, senior citizen, physically challenged etc.
- 33 ATMs
- 34 Cloak room
- 35 High level platform
- 36 High mast lights
- 37 Telephone booths