Mahabalipuram Beach

At a distance of 2 km from Mahabalipuram Bus Station, the golden sandy Mahabalipuram Beach is a serene beach situated near the Shore Temple. The beach stretches 20 km and comprises rock-cut sculptures. Also, this is the venue for the captivating Mahabalipuram Dance Festival held in December-January where one can get to see extremely talented classical dancers performing against the backdrop of the sea.

Entry fee: Free
Contact: Mahabalipuram special town panchayat - 044-27642223

DakshinaChitra Heritage Museum

Established by the Madras Craft Foundation, DakshinaChitra is a repository for living traditions of South Indian folk art, performing arts, craft, and architecture. Artists and weavers exhibit their talent and dexterity here. The centre explores the traditions of Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, and Tamil Nadu.

Entry fee: Indian Rs. 75/-, Students Rs. 30/-, Foreigner Rs. 200/-, Foreign Student Rs. 70/-
Contact: 044-24998943/27472603

On ECR, in Muttukadu lies the water sports facility, Muttukadu Boat House. It offers speedboat rides, water skiing, windsurfing, and rowing. This is a backwater region of the Bay of Bengal. Tamil Nadu Tourism Development Corporation owns and manages the facility, which opened in 1984. It also serves as a great picnic spot.

Entry fee: Depending upon the boat ride
Timing: All days 9 AM to 6 PM
Contact: TTDCA Manager at 091-976968826

Sculpture Museum

Located on the East Raja Street in Mamallapuram, the museum boasts over 3000 sculptures of deities from Hindu mythology, holding historical importance. Along with that, this includes monoliths, affixed, relief sculptures, and Raths sculptures can also be captured in the museum. On the display, one can find some impeccable paintings which are captivating for a historical and cultural tour.

Entry fee: Rs. 5/-
Timing: All days 9.30 AM - 5.00 PM
Contact: Principal, Govt. Architecture and sculpture college - +01 7397369992

Getting there:

By Road
A good metalled road connects Mamallapuram with Chennai and other places. The State Transport Corporation operates buses to Chennai, Kanchipuram, Chengalpat, Kanchipuram, Vellore directly and buses to Chidambaram, Nagapattinam and Villupuram via Mamallapuram.

By air
The nearest airport is Chennai which is 55 Kms from Mamallapuram.

By local transport
Taxis, Auto-rickshaws, Bicycles and Mopeds are available for hire in and around the area.

By railway
The nearest railway station is Chengalpattu, 30 Kms from Mamallapuram. Trains to Chidambaram, Thiruvaimozhi, Thiruvallur, Thanjavur, Tiruchirappalli, Madurai, Rameswaram, Tirunelveli and Kanniyakumari, coming from Chennai can be boarded here.