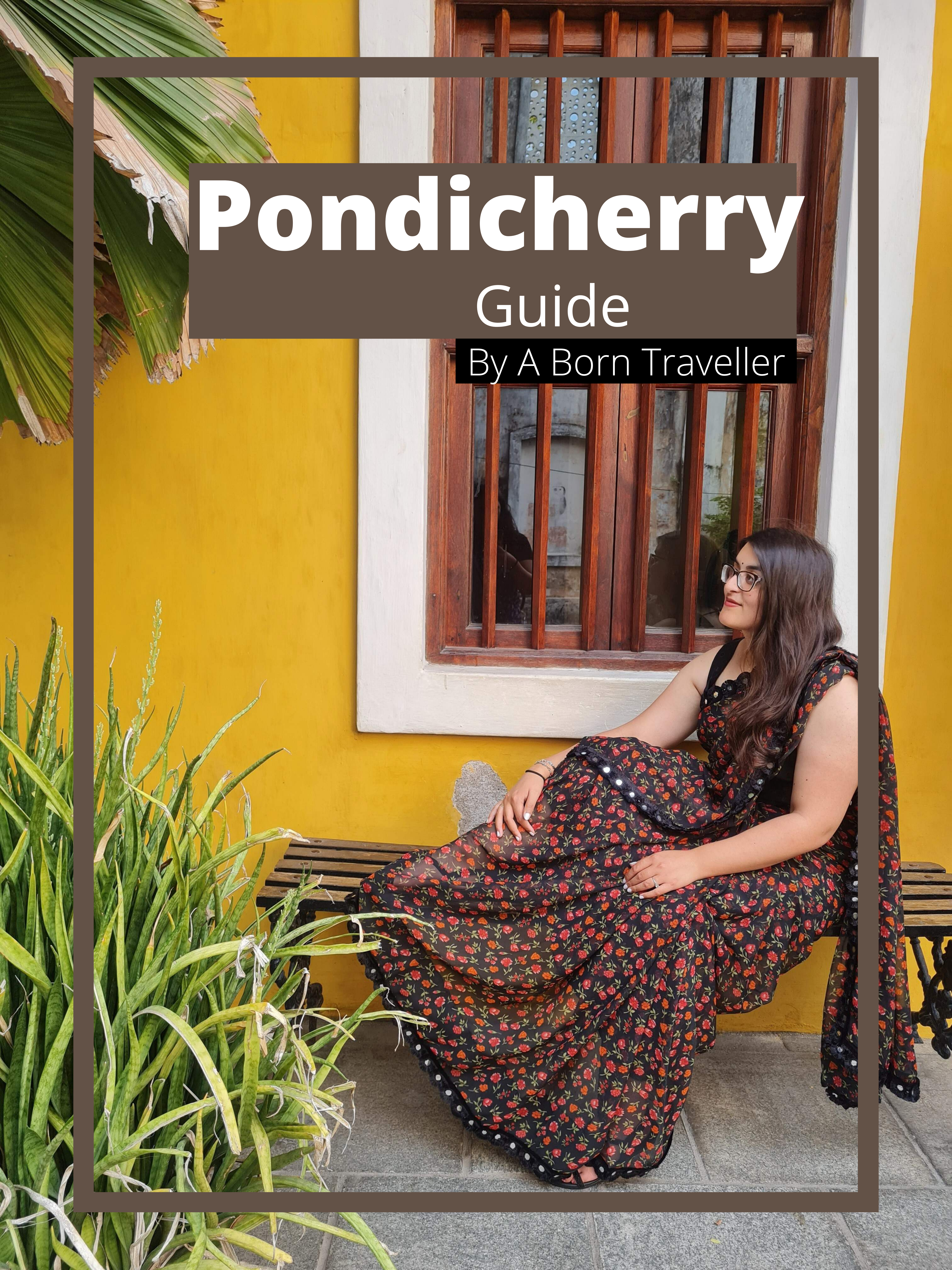


Pondicherry

Guide

By A Born Traveller





Meet Seyamie

Hi fellow explorer!

Awesome that you downloaded this guide of Pondicherry!

I am Seyamie and I am a twenty-something-year-old, Dutch travel lover. I used to work in Sevilla and Barcelona and just returned home from an amazing adventure in Asia.

I met my boyfriend in Spain, but he is originally from Pondicherry (India). I've visited this town often and fell in love with it. That resulted in the articles on my [blog](#) and eventually this guide.

I hope you'll enjoy your stay in this photogenic city!

xoxo Seyamie

**I HAVE BEEN TO AS MANY PLACES
AS MY LUGGAGE**



**A BORN TRAVELLER OR JUST A FOOD LOVER,
EVERYONE IS WELCOME HERE!**

A woman with long dark hair, wearing a black saree with a red and white floral pattern, is sitting on a wooden bench. She is positioned to the right of a large, dark brown wooden window with vertical bars. The wall behind her is a vibrant yellow. In the foreground, there are green plants, including a large, fan-shaped leaf on the left and a cluster of long, thin green leaves at the bottom left. The overall scene is bright and colorful.

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A woman with long brown hair and glasses is sitting on a wooden bench. She is wearing a black saree with a red and white floral pattern. She is looking towards the right. The background is a bright yellow wall with a window that has wooden frames and a decorative lattice. There are green plants in the foreground on the left.

Food Spots

P.s. I also added some spots in Auroville, as it is not that far and Auroville has really cute spots as well.

Coolcat

Coolcat must be my favorite place in Pondy! How excited I was the whole of 2022 to have a filter coffee again at Coolcat. It is simple, but not for me. **I love to stand here**, watch the locals and traffic zoom by, and have a good talk with the person next to me, while sipping amazing **filter coffee**, for a tiny price. Core memory <3

Address: 231, Mahatma Gandhi Rd, Heritage Town

Price: €

1



Food spots



The Indian Kaffe Express

My boyfriend loves coffee and has lived in Pondicherry for most of his life. He is saying that TIKE is one of his **favorite cafés**, then it must be good right?!

The Indian Kaffe Express has a very **international**, colorful, and modern vibe, which is precisely how I would describe Pondicherry also...

After the renovation I do feel like they are a bit too grey now. Still the food is good!

Address: 3 Rue, Dumas St, near IG Office, White Town

Price: €€

Website

2



Bread & Chocolate

Don't worry, the restaurant might be named Bread & Chocolate, but they don't only sell bread and/or chocolates.

In fact, they sell all kinds of good stuff; From **delicious pizzas** to stuffed wraps or indeed chocolates. Most options are **vegan**, but you can choose to have chicken with it.

Address: NO.2, 6, Marine Street, White Town

Price: €€€

Website

3



Cafe des Arts

One of the biggest reasons why you should visit Café des Arts is because of the **street art** outside. It's so bubbly, cool and funny on the lovely orange walls. This place mostly serves **French food**, like crêpes, amazing garlic bread and good coffee.

Address: 10, Suffren St, White Town

Price: €€

Website



Café Olé

Craving some snacks, sweets and good coffee? Then Café Olé is the place to go. I love the **Ferrero Rocher shake**, especially because it has some small pieces in it. I dream about it!

Address: 319, Mission St, MG Road Area

Price: €

Website



Eniteo

Eniteo is a nice place with not only a **Virgin Mojito** that is to die for. But they also have different kinds of foods, like burgers and Vietnamese rolls. A very **diverse menu**, you could say.

Address: 14, Bazaar Saint Laurent St, White Town

Price: €€

Website



Coromandel Cafe

Rated the **5th best new restaurant in the world** by Condé Nast Traveler, Coromandel is a place you have to try out in Pondy! It's a bit **fancy**, but the food is really **unique and delicious** and not something I have had before in Pondicherry at least!

I had pancakes with pomegranate and some cream, which was really nice!

Address: 8, Romain Rolland St, White Town

Price: €€€

Website



Dumont Creamery

It seems like they have been closed, maybe and hopefully for the moment

Want to have the **best ice cream in town?** Then go to Dumont!

My friend Pooja is obsessed with the **Lotus Biscoff** ice cream and comes here weekly, sometimes even daily 😊 Next to the Lotus Biscoff, I really love the **Dutchmen Brownie** flavour.

Address: 299, Mission St, White Town

Price: €

Website



Hope Cafe

You have to come here twice! To make pictures of the **amazing art** inside during daylight, but also during the **evening** when it is dark. It is just amazing and when it's dark it's all lit up like neon lights, **super cool!**

I actually did come here twice. First to have a **drink** (Chai!) and lovely fries.

Second, we took a friend here for him to try the food.

Address: No.4, Rue, Suffren Street

Price: €€

Website



Hope Cafe Auroville

If you like the Hope Cafe in Pondicherry, you will also like the one in Auroville (and vice versa). The big difference is that this cafe is mostly outside and **nature is really beautiful**. You could say it is even **romantic** to be seated here. And of course, the food is just as nice as the one in Pondy. Wanna go already with your loved one?

Address: Auroville Rd, Auroville, Kuilapalayam, Tamil Nadu 605101

Price: €€

Website



Frozen Bottle

Just looking for **amazing (but unhealthy) drinks?** The Ferrero Rocher shake is just as amazing here as at Cafe Olé. They also have some waffles you can try out.

Address: Shop No 98-102, Mission Street, Chetty St, opposite Diva

Price: €€

Website



Rendezvous cafe restaurant

Next to a charming cafe where you can have breakfast and lunch, they also have a **rooftop restaurant**, where **live jazz music** is performed. Rendezvous has been most famous for its classical continental, seafood, and Mangalorean cuisine, to name a few. If I haven't convinced you, I don't know what can ;)

Address: 30, Suffren St, White Town

Price: €€

Website



Richie Rich

The place itself isn't great to be honest, but if you love ice cream, try out '**Death by Chocolate.**' Thank me later!

Address: There are 3 stores in Pondicherry :)

Price: €

Website



Flaming Dragons

Flaming Dragons has some great Asian dishes, various from **Thailand, Vietnam, Japan**, and more. I really loved the Hakka Paneer and Dragon Fried Rice. Next to that, the music is enjoyable. It is also a **Lounge and Nightlife club**, so you can even party after you stuffed yourself with sushi.

Address: No 7, La Bourdonnais St, White Town

Price: €€

Website



Surguru Restaurant

Time for some **South Indian food!** If you can't handle very spicy food like me, you would definitely like the idiyappam with coconut milk and not spicy curry. Otherwise, you will love anything!

Address: Mission St, MG Road Area

Price: €

Website



Catamaran Brewing Company

Wanna have a good drink while experiencing some good vibes (and nice music!), then Catamaran is the place to be. Even if you don't drink, like I do, you can have good mocktails, or a delicious chocolate drink (whoops). Next to that, the food is great, so try out the chicken dishes!

Address: 3 rd floor 35, Anna Salai Muthu Mariamman Kovil Street, junction, above Westside

Price: €€

[Website](#)



Hotel Ram International

Eat 1 dosa with the whole of your family. This is all possible at Hotel Ram International for a decent price. I wanted to have the dosa as well, but unfortunately, they did not have it. Instead of that, I had the Chhore Batore, which was delicious!

Address: 398, Anna Salai, Adjacent To Pothys, Subbarayapillai Chathiram

Price: €



The Koi

Some dishes we tried from the Koi are Chicken Bulgogi & Chicken Katsu Ramyeon, which were great. It's definitely better than other restaurants serving ramen or Japanese food. Usually packed on the weekends, you'd be lucky to find a place as it's a little small, but the ambiance is great. A must-try for those vagabonding travelers coming into Pondy, make it part of your to-do list. The ebi tempura sushi is also amazing!

Address: 19, Sardar Vallabhai Patel Salai, near Hoshi Wellness Spa, White Town

Price: €€€

[Instagram](#)



The Red Box

Tasty Indo-Chinese fresh food on-the-go. The garlic-burnt fried rice is to die for!! Even if you can't go to the restaurant itself, make sure to order it home!

Address: 301, 1st floor, Anna Salai

Price: €€

[Website](#)



P.s. Not too spicy biryani, you can find at Mamma Spicella

Address: 239, Sardar Vallabhai Patel Salai, Ponnaiyapet



Must-visits/ do's in Pondicherry

Looking for some beautiful traditional clothing? Pothys is always a good choice.

Address: 400, Anna Salai, near Ram International Hotel, Govindhasalai, Subbarayapillai Chathiram

For traditional jewelry; Jaya Utopia has a good collection
Address: 76, Chetty St, Heritage Town

Sea vibes

Pondicherry has some really good beaches. From **Rock Beach** to **Pondy Marina, Promenade, or Serenity Beach**, they all differ a little bit. Nowadays you can also do some **boating** activities, which is supposed to be fun.

See the statue of Mahatma Gandhi or go all the way to the lighthouse. It is always **lively** near the beach and best of all; there is **no traffic** at Rock Beach. So you can walk in peace and enjoy the waves coming in.

Photoshoot

Pondicherry is one of the most **photogenic towns** I know. This has everything to do with the different cultural backgrounds. You can take photos near the **sea**, in the lush park, in the colorful temples. But due to the French influences, you have beautiful **yellow and pink** walls and gorgeous doors.

In Old Town, you can find **grey buildings**, due to the Ashram.

Go to the Arabic Quarter and you'll find amazing historic buildings. You have **temples, mosques, churches...**

I have done 2 photoshoots already with a friend, but I can't wait to return and find new incredible spots.

Sunday market

And don't forget the Goubert Market while strolling around!



Visiting the Sunday Market in Pondicherry is a must for its **vibrant local culture** and diverse products. It offers fresh products, handmade crafts, and textiles, providing an authentic shopping experience.

It's a social gathering spot for locals and an opportunity to immerse in Pondicherry's rich cultural blend. For an authentic glimpse of everyday life and a chance to support local businesses, the Sunday Market is a rewarding and enriching way to spend a Sunday morning.

Surfing/ scuba diving

Surfing in Pondicherry: It has gained popularity as a surfing destination due to its favorable coastline and waves. The main surfing spot in Pondicherry is **Serenity Beach**, located a short distance from the town. This beach is known for its consistent waves, making it suitable for **both beginners and experienced surfers**. There are surfing schools and rental shops at Serenity Beach where you can take lessons and rent equipment if you're new to the sport. Surfing season in Pondicherry typically spans from **October to March**, when the waves are more reliable.



Scuba Diving: Pondi is also known for scuba diving, and you can explore the underwater world of the **Bay of Bengal**. The best diving spots are located around 8 to 12 kilometers off the coast, near the coastal town of Pondicherry. The main dive sites include **Temple Reef, The Hole, and Cool Shark Reef**. Divers can encounter a variety of marine life. Diving in Pondicherry is generally available year-round, but the best visibility is typically during the months of **February to April**.

Websites for scuba diving

- templeadventures.com
- urbannomadadventure.com
- divetheworld.in

Websites for surfing

- ecoledesurf.in
- www.surfschoolindia.com
- mother-ocean-surf-school.business.site

Sita Cultural Center



Cycling tours, cooking classes, (Bollywood) dancing, saree workshops, yoga... Name it all and you can do it at Sita Cultural Center.

I did a cycle tour at this center, which was lots of fun! You will think, a cycle tour? In the **chaotic traffic of India**? Yes, you can! More about my experience, [you can read on my blog](#).

The ladies of the center are **really sweet** and there is a great vibe at the center. I would not have wanted to miss out on this opportunity while in Pondy.

Website

Address: 22, Candappa Moudaliar Street

Odissi dance with Pooja

Do you love **dancing** and would you love to more about the Odissi dance (from the State **Orissa**)? Then you definitely have to get in contact with Pooja. She's a good friend of mine and a very **talented dancer**. Next to her talent, she is also fun and can teach you a lot about India.



- 2 DAYS/WEEK
- OFFLINE & ONLINE MODE
- 1-1/GROUP CLASSES

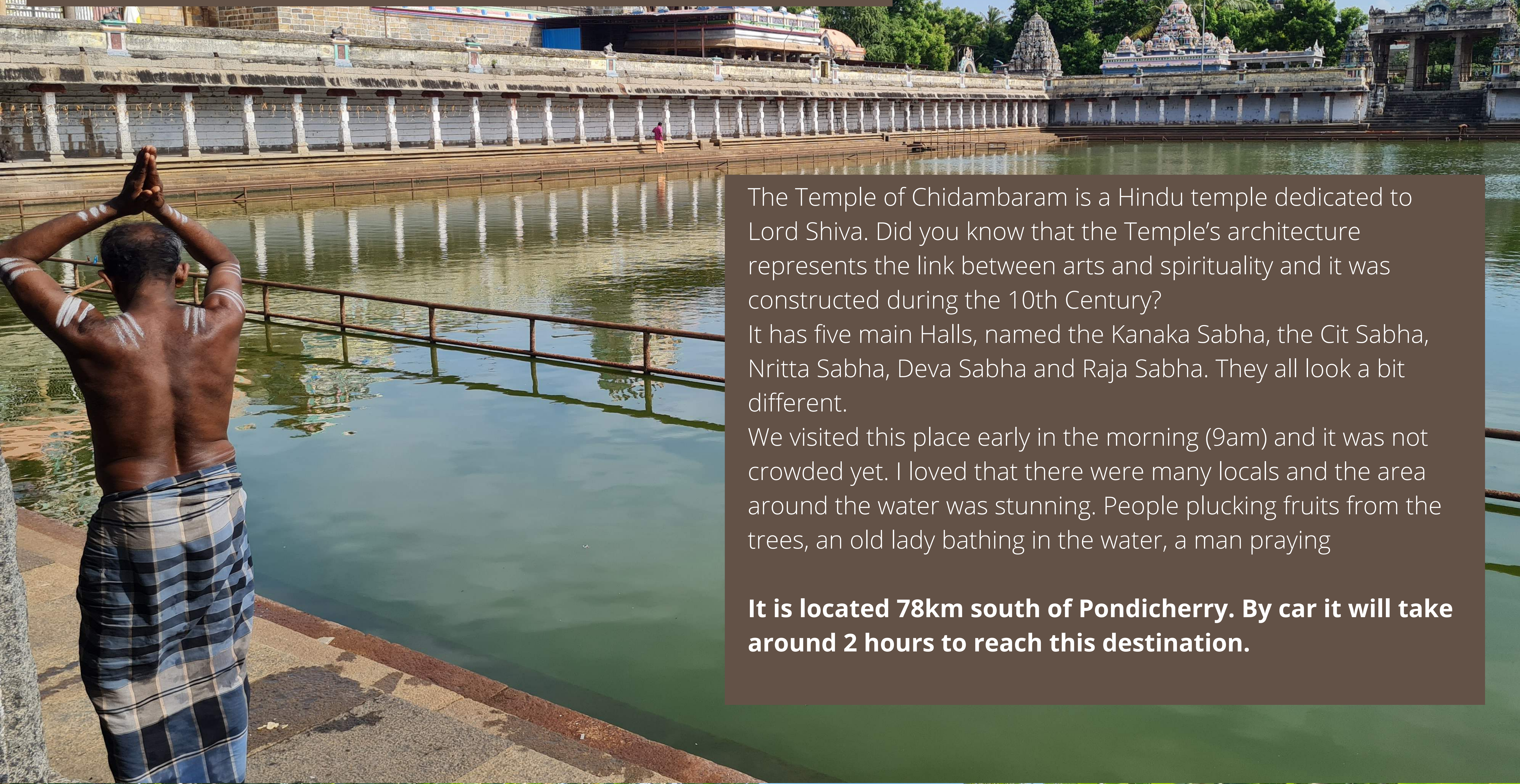
LEARN
ODISSI
FROM
POOJARANI

Whatsapp: 8220078454
Insta: diary_of_a_dancer



4 awesome places nearby
Pondicherry

Chidambaram



The Temple of Chidambaram is a Hindu temple dedicated to Lord Shiva. Did you know that the Temple's architecture represents the link between arts and spirituality and it was constructed during the 10th Century?

It has five main Halls, named the Kanaka Sabha, the Cit Sabha, Nritta Sabha, Deva Sabha and Raja Sabha. They all look a bit different.

We visited this place early in the morning (9am) and it was not crowded yet. I loved that there were many locals and the area around the water was stunning. People plucking fruits from the trees, an old lady bathing in the water, a man praying

It is located 78km south of Pondicherry. By car it will take around 2 hours to reach this destination.

Pichavaram Mangrove Forest

Pichavaram is the second largest Mangrove forest in the world, with 1100 hectare area.

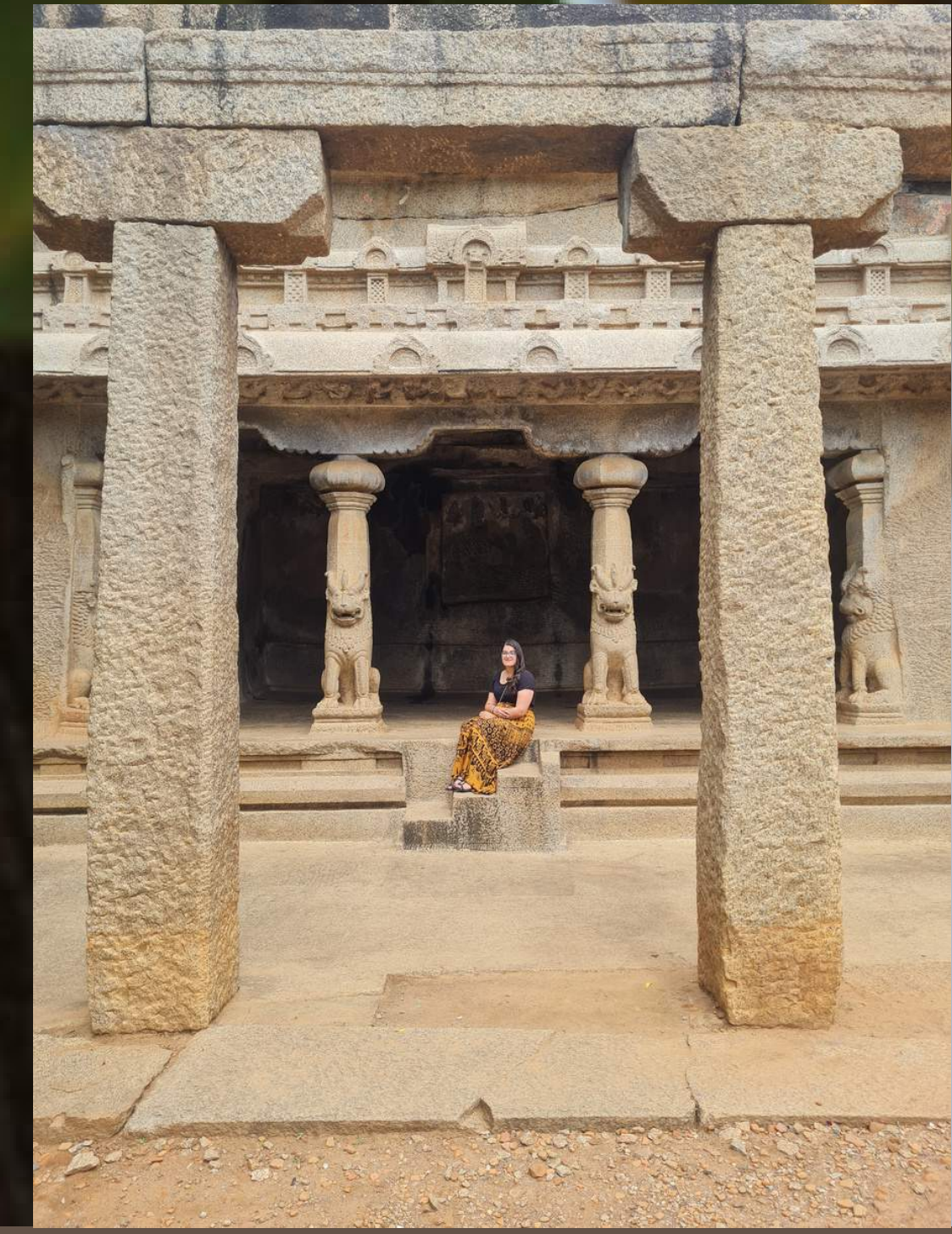
You have to go here and enjoy a boat ride, through the narrow canals and hope you get to see some wildlife. We did see a few birds, which was very special.

India is India, which means that if you want to go through the narrow canals, you will need to pay a bit more to your driver (next to the official entry fee).

Pichavaram is located 65km(2h ride) from Pondicherry and 15km (20min ride) from Chidambaram. I would advise you to visit both Chidambaram and Pichavaram in 1 day if possible.



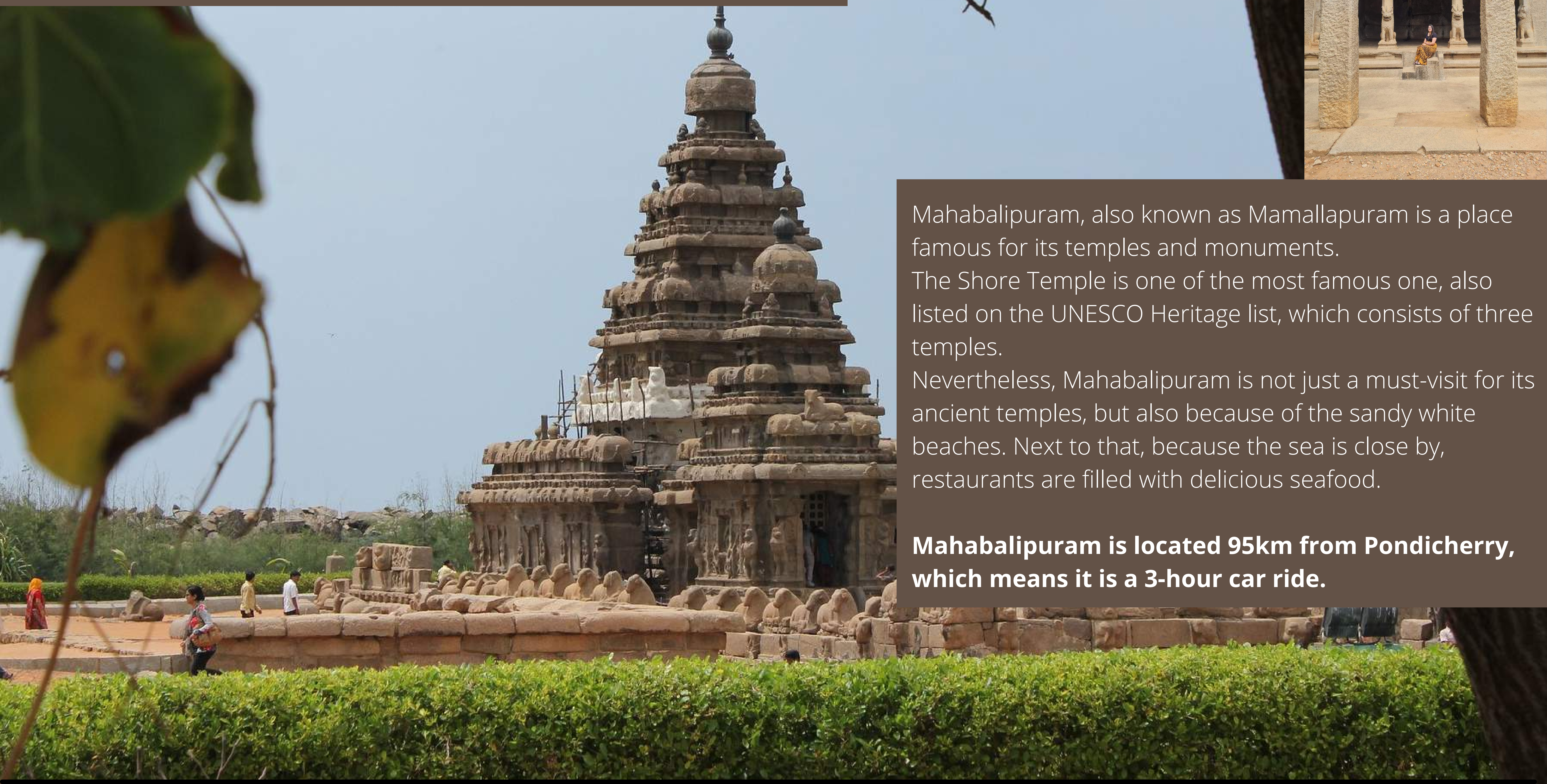
Mahabalipuram



Mahabalipuram, also known as Mamallapuram is a place famous for its temples and monuments. The Shore Temple is one of the most famous one, also listed on the UNESCO Heritage list, which consists of three temples.

Nevertheless, Mahabalipuram is not just a must-visit for its ancient temples, but also because of the sandy white beaches. Next to that, because the sea is close by, restaurants are filled with delicious seafood.

Mahabalipuram is located 95km from Pondicherry, which means it is a 3-hour car ride.



Auroville

Now, Auroville is a special case and very different as the other places in this article.

Auroville basically wants to be a universal town where women and men of all countries are able to live in peace and progressive harmony above all creeds, all politics and all nationalities.

It is not easy to enter the Matrimandir, which is the center of Auroville.

But the town around it has many cool cafeterias (like Hope cafe and Bread & Chocolate) and beautiful nature. As it is only 20km from Pondicherry, so you should definitely visit it at least once.

Auroville is located 20km from Pondicherry. By bike you can reach within 20-30 minutes.



Indian delicacies

CROSS OFF WHAT YOU'VE HAD

Food

- Biryani
- Samosa
- Nougat from the Ashram
- Vada
- Dosa
- Halwa
- All types of naan
- Butter chicken
- Paneer
- Chhore Bature



Samosa



Vada

Drinks

- Lemon Soda
- Lassi
- Masala chai
- Filter coffee
- Butter milk



Biryani

And many more!

**HAVE YOU
TRIED IT
ALL?**

Read this as well



SEYAMAILA / 18 JANUARY 2023

8 things I don't like about India

After 2.5 months in India, I know what I like and do not like about this immense country. I feel like India is so different from any other country I have been to. Today I will be sharing 8 things...



SEYAMAILA / 21 JUNE 2022

A must-do: Bicycle tour in Pondicherry (India)

Ever thought about cycling in India? No, me neither, but it is actually super fun to do! In this article I will tell you everything about my experience of cycling in Pondicherry. What to expect in this article Cycling in Pondicherry...



SEYAMAILA / 17 JULY 2022

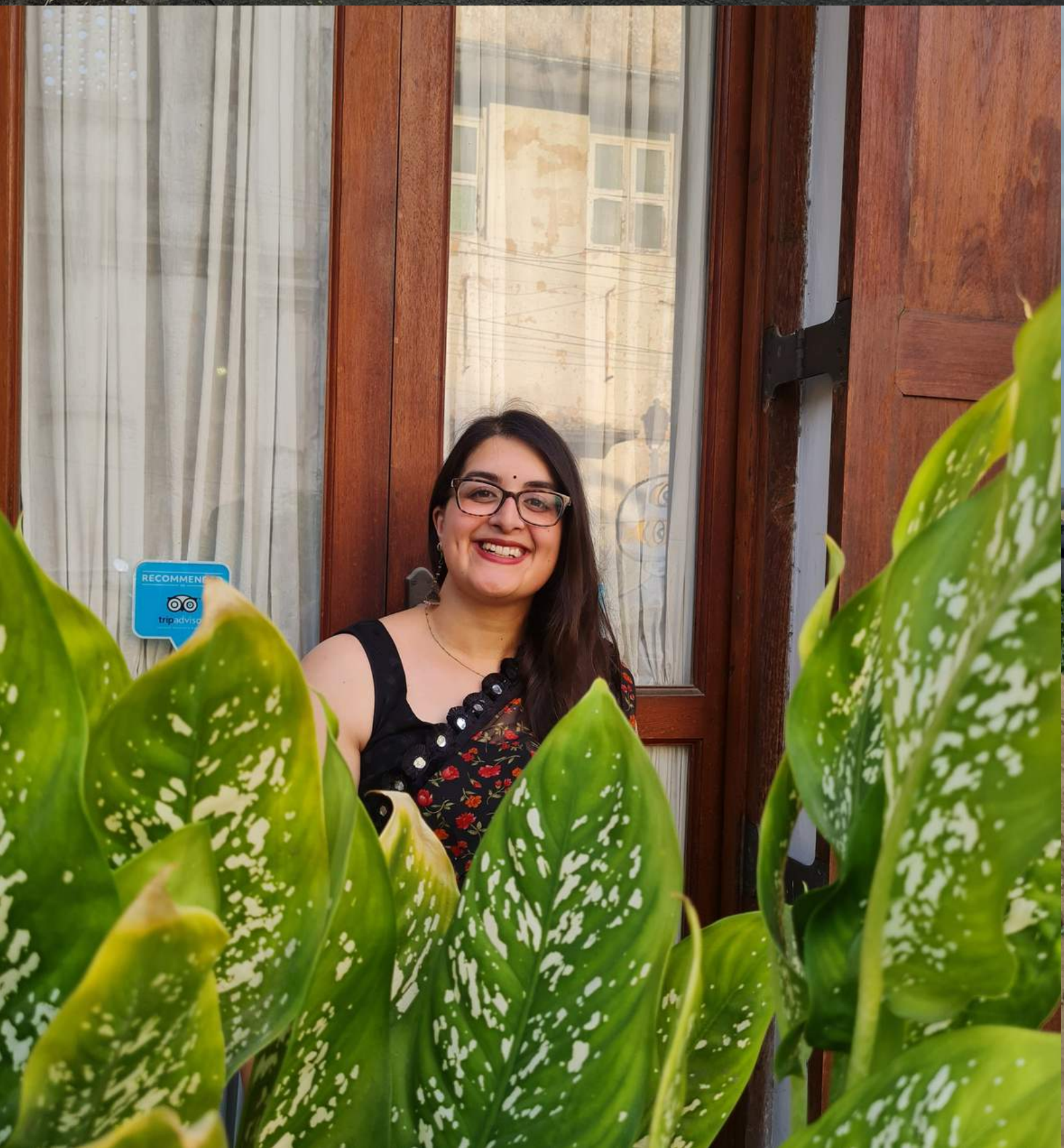
9 cool cafés in Pondicherry for food lovers (India)

Pondicherry is a mix of Indian Tamil and French influences; You can see this resonate in the food. Street food or going to a cafeteria is both delicious (if you can handle street food). In this article, I will tell...

Read even more about Pondicherry on my blog



Some of my favorite shots



Enjoy Pondicherry!

Any questions or want to reach out?



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[instagram.com/a_born_traveller/](https://www.instagram.com/a_born_traveller/)



I hope I helped you out! If you used this guide, please make some pictures and/or make sure to tell me which tips you found most useful. I would love that :)