GETTING TO AND GETTING AROUND PONDICHERRY

Most people arrive in Pondicherry by road. If you are coming from the north (Chennai/Madras), you can connect with the East Coast Road and be here in less than three hours. You won’t find better engineering and smoother roads at a lower cost. And affordable buses connect the city town with all major cities in Tamil Nadu and Kerala.

If you love traveling by rail, you could consider taking the train from Chennai, via Vellore or Villuppuram, which pass within 20-30 kilometers away, but it takes about 4 hours. The nearest train stations, national and international, are in Chennai, 55 kilometers away, but it takes about 3 hours.

Once in Pondicherry, you may choose various modes of transport, including – best of all – your own feet. The spirit of Pondicherry is best captured in walking through the old town’s greenery and charming architecture. The historic old city is small, steep, red lines, and easy to get around. And the Indian National Chalamitie (INTACH) has suggested the best routes on the map included in the book.

Cycling is another enjoyable way to see things at a leisurely pace. You can rent bicycles at several shops around the city, or you can rent bicycles and two-wheeled vehicles. Rented cars are subject to a standard 25% VAT.

THE FRENCH INFLUENCE

French dreams of true empire began and ended in Pondicherry. The contact with the British was also a major space in Pondicherry, a major scene of the siege and destruction of the town in 1787 and 1791, when the British took it. The French had built the Pondicherry, the most important and the largest of all the French settlements in India.

The enclosed Indian city of 30 years before, and the French, who were not interested in making things, or even in changing things, had a clear advantage in the modern, Westernized world, where making things up makes a difference. The language and culture were very different, but the French were. The local food was rich, and the French were. The language and culture were very different, but the French were. The local food was rich, and the French were.