

XXV. TOURISM

1. Number of Tourists visited & Accomodation available

Sl.No	Item	2008 **	2009 **	2010 **	2011 **	2012 ***
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	Foreign tourist arrivals	60,309	54,038	50,964	52,298	52,931
2	Domestic tourist arrivals	8,27,799	8,51,192	8,35,872	8,97,896	9,81,714
3	Accomodations available:					
	I) No. of AC rooms	3580*	3505*	3505*	2,866	2,892
	II) No. of Beds	7288*	7634*	7634*	6,359	6,709
	III) No. of Non-AC Rooms	--	--	--	1,916	1,765
	IV) No. of beds	--	--	--	3,547	3,543
	V) No. of Dormitory	45	44	44	52	62
	VI) Dormitory beds	365	176	176	347	478

Source : Directorate of Tourism, Puducherry

* (includes AC and Non-AC)

** Puducherry and Karaikal

*** Puducherry, Karaikal, Mahe, Yanam

XXV. TOURISM
2. WHERE TO GO AND WHAT TO SEE

Sl. No.	Place of Interest	Location / Importance	Seasons / Festivals	Accessibility	Also Visit
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Aurobindo Ashram	The ashram was founded by Sri Aurobindo in the year 1926. It houses the Samadies of Sri Aurobindo and the Mother. Visitors from all over the world throng to pay homage to the samadies. The Ashram is dedicated to cultural, educational and spritual activities.	All round the year. Timings : 08-00 am - 12.00 noon 02-00 pm - 06-00 pm		
2	Auroville	It is an International Community Centre rising above all barriers of caste, creed and nationality. It is also known as City of Dawn. It was founded by the Mother in the year 1968. It sprawls over 800 acres of land. The imposing structure of Matri Mandir is the centre of attraction.		Located on the Tindivanam road. By bus from Puducherry.	Photographic exhibition put up by auroville authorities portraying their various activities.
3	Raj Nivas	It is the official residence of the Lieutenant Governor of Puducherry. Formerly it was Dupleix's palace.			Government Palace

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4	Botanical Garden	This Garden is located at the junction of West Boulevard and Lal Bahadur Street. It was planned by C.S.Perrotet in 1826. It houses varieties of flora, preserve plants collected all over from India and abroad, an aquarium with a large variety of fish.			Bharathi, Bharathidasan and Ananda Rangapillai Memorials.
5	The French Institute	It was founded in 1956 and is financed by the French Government . It highly contributes services in the fields of religion, language, philosophy, history, art and culture. The institute also conducts research in ecological and biological sciences.			
6	Romain Rolland Library	It is one of the oldest public libraries in India. It has a vast collection of French books and manuscripts.			
7	Ananda Ashram	This ashram situated at about 5kms west of Puducherry is said to be the ancient land of sage Agastya. Training in Yoga is imparted here.			

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8	Aayi Mandapam and Bharathi Park	The park facing the Governor's bungalow reflects the French influence. Once called as "Place du Pantheon" now turned as Aayi mandapam - the embalam of the Puducherry Government. The park surrounded by aayi mandapam has been restructured by preserving its heritage.			
9	Arikamedu	Arikamedu has a long history dating back to the 2nd century B.C. It was used as a port for trade with the Greco-Romans. Wine, garum sauce and olive oil were imported and textile, beads, semi precious gems, glass and shell bangles were exported. But now we can see only the perpendicular walls and amission house, as the excavated trenches have been filled up. To know more about Arikamedu and its ancient culture one can visit the Pondicherry Museum where pottery, beads, shell bangles, ear studs etc are preserved.			
10	Chunnambar Water Sports Centre	Facilities for boating are available at the Boat House on the river Chunnambar, 8 kms from Pondicherry. The backwater and the lush greenery on both sides of Chunnambar provide an ideal setting	Timings: 9 am - 5 pm, all days		
11	Heritage Walk	It is beautiful to take up the walk around the boulevard, showcasing three different architectures in 3 - 4 square kms. The White town or the French square. Tamil square and the Muslim square.			