

Svatma

An introduction to Svatma,

SVATMA, is a restored traditional hundred-year-old family mansion in Thanjavur. It is a 34-room boutique hotel – the first luxury offering in Thanjavur–home to the great Chola Temples of Tamil Nadu, South India.

SVA – ‘one’s own’ and ATMA – ‘Soul’ has been conceived as an immersive destination retreat which will offer a unique insight into Thanjavur rich heritage through carefully curated range of cultural, architectural, culinary experiences and a vibrant schedule of art performance

Heritage Accommodation

Each of the 34 rooms and suites have been individually designed to have the feel of a spacious private accommodation within a large elegant family home. Each bedroom is unique and encompasses the art and architecture of Tamil Nadu, with a contemporary edge. Details include high ceilings with traditional wooden beams, polished wooden floors and white washed wall as well as locally sourced paintings and objects d’art. Furniture has been handmade by local artisans and recreates the bygone era of the Chola dynasty. All are ensuite with state-of-the-art shower rooms. The seven rooms and suites with verandas are in the main heritage building; each room is a really good size and has an ensuite, state of the art but traditionally furnished shower room.

The SVATMA Experience

Guests are invited to choose from eight signature experiences to give them a deeper insight into the culture and heritage of the city:

- **Temple Site excursion** escorted by an academic expert on restoration, architecture and iconography
- **Culinary Class** offering an introduction into the simple vegetarian Tamil cuisine.
- **Bronze casting demonstration** of the famous ‘cire perdue’ or lost wax technique by master craftsmen
- **Vedic Chanting** of the Gayathri Mantra and Shanti Mantra with local priests
- **Carnatic Chamber Concert (South Indian Classical music)** performed by vocalists, percussionists, flautists with a discussion on mood evoked by the Raga renditions
- **Lecture & Dance Demonstration** on Thanjavur style of Dance or the graceful Bharatanatyam Temple Dance
- **Thanjavur Painting** demonstrating the art of the local technique, which incorporates gemstones and glass
- **Hand loom weaving techniques** of silk textiles artisans, for which Thanjavur is renowned

Cuisine

SVATMA highlight Thanjavur's longstanding vegetarian traditions offering guests an authentic taste of Tamil home cooking at **Aharam**— is an all day fine food restaurant overlooking the pool with a unique menu . **Nila** is a rooftop resto-bar that serves a collection of handpicked wines, cocktails,& mocktails along with delicious snack. At **Palaharam** – a casual café , for light snacks in the veranda.

Wellness & Recreation Facilities

Soukyam signature siddha spa offers unique and revitalising treatment without altering the conventionality through a blend of naturopathy and organic herbal products, The Siddha science is a traditional treatment system generated from Dravidian culture.

Arogyam well-being and Yoga centre has trained tutors to guide the body to a path of fitness with traditional asanas & meditative breathing technique.

Events and Private Dining

Divyam hall is a 150-seated hall with a colonial ambience ideally suited for luxury weddings and retreats or events of the discerning. The experience will be tailor made with expert event planners, decorators, designers, and culinary experts to make it most unique. There are gardens and patios for semi outdoor ambience. **Gautama** is the grand hall of the heritage building that can accommodate a group of 20 for small gatherings or private chamber concerts' along with the private meetings room adjoining it.

Shopping at Sri

An in-house boutique - Sri will offer a range of indigenous art, artefacts and home ware. Handpicked from the artisans of the region these can be shipped internationally.

How to visit

SVATMA is best experienced as part of a Tamil Nadu itinerary and can be accessed by air from Trichy (Tiruchirappalli- TRZ) Airport – 50 km (50 min) drive , by train to Thanjavur (10 minute drive) and from Madurai, 190 kms (2 hrs, 30 mins drive).