

Chennai Packing List

What to pack for Chennai's coastal heat and humidity, temple-town dress codes, and long evening walks along Marina Beach.

WHY CHENNAI PACKING IS DIFFERENT

Chennai runs hot and humid for most of the year, with the heat peaking April–June and a northeast monsoon bringing heavy rain October–December. The city's temples, including Kapaleeshwarar and the wider Mylapore neighborhood, expect modest, conservative dress more strictly than many other Indian cities. Add Marina Beach's long, shadeless promenade and a coastal climate that barely cools at night even in winter, and Chennai packing leans almost entirely toward heat and humidity management.

CLOTHING

- Lightweight, breathable cottons — Chennai's heat and humidity rarely let up
- Conservative, full-coverage clothing for Kapaleeshwarar Temple and other Mylapore-area temples
- A light rain layer for the October–December northeast monsoon
- Quick-dry fabrics that hold up to humidity and occasional rain
- A breathable cover-up for sun protection during long Marina Beach walks
- A light cotton dupatta or stole, useful both for temple visits and sun protection

FOOTWEAR & ACCESSORIES

- Easy slip-on sandals — footwear comes off at every temple entrance
- Comfortable walking shoes for exploring Mylapore's streets and Fort St. George
- Sunglasses and a wide-brimmed hat for Marina Beach's shadeless promenade
- A compact umbrella for sudden monsoon-season showers
- A small crossbody bag for evening beach walks and temple visits
- A reusable water bottle for hot, humid sightseeing days

HEALTH, DOCUMENTS & TECH

- Sunscreen SPF 30+ — humidity doesn't lessen UV exposure
- Rehydration salts or electrolyte sachets for peak summer heat (April–June)
- Hand sanitizer and wet wipes
- Basic stomach medication for travel days and street-food stops
- Power bank for full-day sightseeing between temples, the beach, and museums
- Cash in small denominations for temple offerings and smaller vendors, alongside UPI

