

# MANGALA

THIRUPUGALUR | TAMIL NADU





Front courtyard of Mangala

## 12 GUESTS | 4 BEDROOMS | 4 BATHS | RURAL & CULTURAL RETREAT

Experience the secret heart of Tamil Nadu at Mangala, a small, beautifully restored 4-bedroom village home in the hamlet of Thirupugalur, 2 hours east of Tanjore.

Welcoming curious travellers since 2016, Mangala in its new avatar, has transformed into a vibrant and contemporary interpretation of a rural Tamil home, while retaining the familiar, natural rhythm of the sounds, fragrances and textures of a peaceful, quiet agrarian village.

Buoyed by bold colours and contextual elements, the four bedrooms provide intimate spaces to retreat within. Outside, the two courtyards and the wide running *thinnai* (front verandah) allow you to commune as individual travellers or as a family group. You will enjoy luxury amenities and comforts, with the warm service of the same wonderful Mangala staff and backed by the great attention to detail from Luxunlock.

Mangala showcases life in Tamil Nadu's villages. It offers an authentic rural experience, and is ideally located, from where one can explore Tamil Nadu's multicultural heritage.



Front courtyard looking at the swings



Sunrise view of the Agneeswara Temple from Mangala

## A REASON TO EXPERIENCE MANGALA

To stay at Mangala is to be ensconced in a culture in which antiquity and the contemporary are both alive.

Mangala is ideal as a base to explore nearby Kumbakonam, Thanjavur, Thiruvarur, Tranquebar, Karaikal, Nagore and Velankanni. You can experience the unique traditions, local arts and crafts, architecture, village life and cuisine of Thirupugalur itself.

Mangala is the perfect retreat for curious travellers, long-stay workshops and residency programs for dancers, writers, artists, historians and others seeking immersive creative engagements. It is equally perfect for families seeking to explore their heritage and those who are on pilgrimage routes.

Nothing captures the essence of Mangala than the first rays of the sun as it lights up the gopuram (tower) of the Agneeswara (Fire) Temple. Watching this from across the temple's moat-like tank in the comfort of Mangala's *thinnai* (verandah) is a joy to behold. The setting provides you with a tranquil, welcoming experience that's very different from hospitality on the temple circuit.

Swings in the front courtyard and the indoor lounge





A water feature separates the front and rear buildings

## THE STORY OF MANGALA

Mangala is a 100-year old Chettiar merchant house that formed part of the fabric of the communities who lived in the immediate vicinity of the stunning Agneeswara Temple. Dedicated to Shiva, the temple has a unique U-shaped moat-like tank that wraps itself around it. The layout of the streets and houses follows the classical tradition with an inner & outer square grid.

The prosperous, original owners built their house on the inner grid in a prime location on the western side of the tank. With nothing but a water body separating the temple from the house, the first rays of the sun were blessed by the god of fire, before bathing the house and its occupants in its warmth and light.

Over the decades, the house changed hands. It had been abandoned for a long time and had run to utter neglect. In 2008, with the help of conservation architect Benny Kuriakose, the design inputs of Shanta Guhan and the skill of the local workforce the home was restored over a period of two years.

It initially opened in 2016 as a rural retreat welcoming travellers from around the world to experience the region with its great traditions in art, craft and music. Today, after an extensive renovation, it reopens its doors to welcome travellers once again.

# SPACES

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Superior Bedroom



Standard Room

## SPACES AT MANGALA

Mangala can be booked on an individual room basis or as a whole house for small groups

- Mangala sleeps **12 guests** including adults & children
- **Four Bedrooms** with ensuite baths
  - **02 Standard Rooms** - king bed
  - **02 Superior Rooms** - king bed
  - Standard rooms have thinnais for extra guests
  - Superior rooms have an extra single bed
- Front thinnai (verandah) with floor seating & fans
- Front courtyard with swing-seating
- AC indoor lounge adjacent to first courtyard
- Second courtyard with open space
- Dining area & lounge



Framed prints from Hindu epics

# SERVICES



Authentic local home-style banana leaf lunch



Second courtyard

## INCLUDED IN YOUR STAY

- Daily housekeeping services
- Two meals included comprising daily breakfast and dinner
  - All meals are authentic local cuisine of the region
  - All meals are vegetarian. Eggs to order
  - We have daily set menus for all meals which are advised in advance.
- High quality bed & bath linen
- Luxury bath amenities by Inara (Forest Essentials)
- Individual air-conditioners in all rooms
- Broadband Wi-Fi throughout the house
- 100% power back up with voltage stabilisation
- Laundry service at an extra charge with 24 hours turnaround. Iron & Ironing Board available
- Bicycles and self-guided trail maps
- Guided walks, cycling tours, local experiences & day trips offered at extra charge
- Transportation services
- LUX Concierge services

# EXPERIENCES



Open-air lounge in the rear block

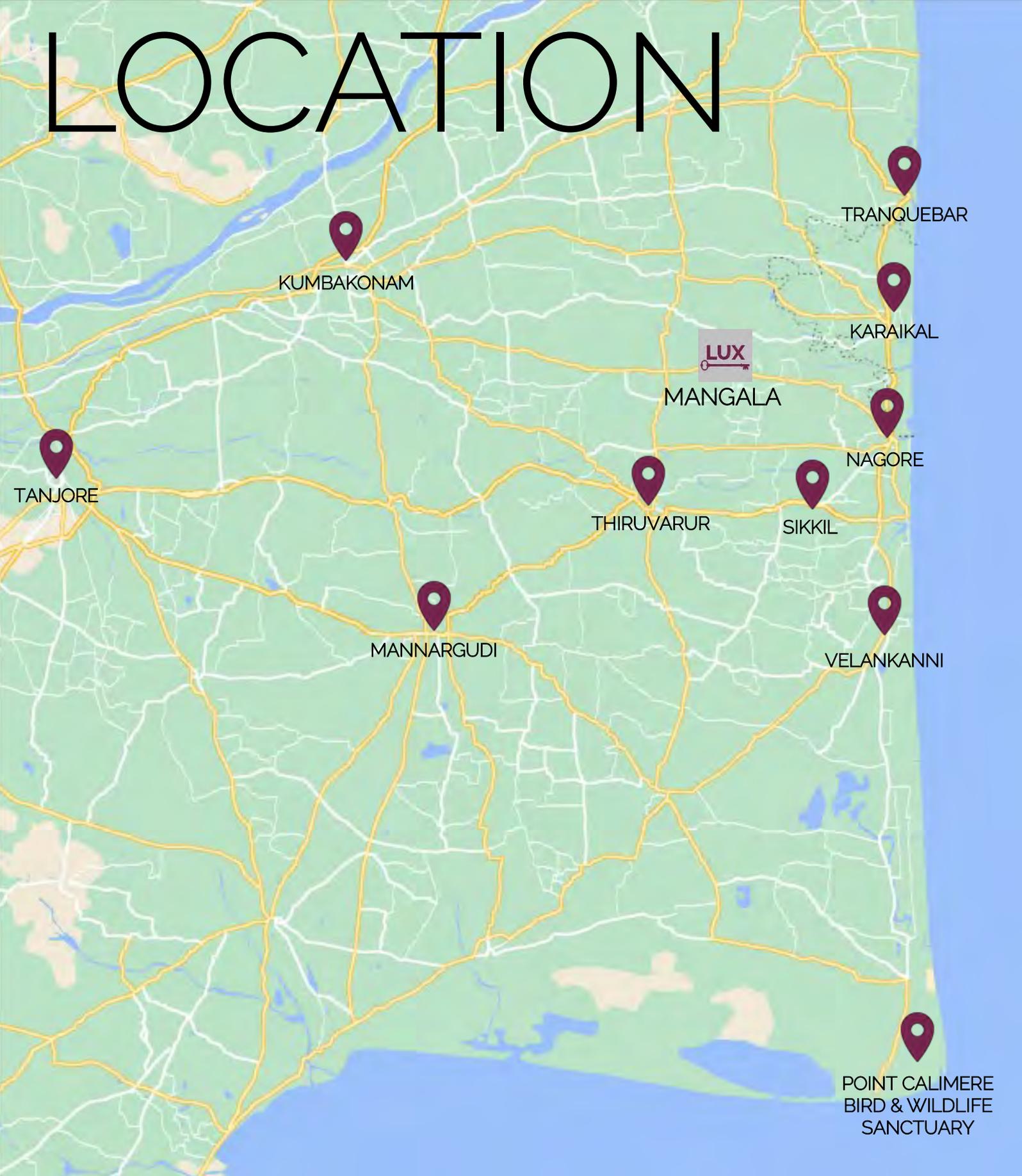


Front entrance and thinnai

## HOW TO SPEND YOUR TIME AT MANGALA

- Visit the **Agneeswarar Temple** located across from Mangala, with its unique Vaastu tradition.
- The highlight of Mangala - a guided tour of the Devasiriya Mandapam at the Thyagaraja Temple. See the stunning **Muckunda ceiling murals** restored by INTACH with the support of the Prakriti Foundation. Witness daily evening rituals at the **Thyagaraja Temple** in Thiruvavarur and listen to some of the world's unique musical instruments being played.
- Take a **guided village walk** in the afternoon in the environs of Mangala.
- Use Mangala's **bicycles** and explore the quiet countryside around Thirupugalur on your own. Guided bicycle rides on request.
- Meet the **craftsmen behind the magnificent temple chariots (Vahanas)** that are an intimate part of all temple festivals.
- For the deeply spiritual or curious, immerse yourself into the important **temples at Mannargudi, Sikkil, Thirunallar, and Keevalur**
- Take the **half day trip to Kumbakonam** to explore the **UNESCO Site of Darasuram**. Learn all about degree coffee, get comatose on banana leaf lunches, and wander through the bronze makers workshops in Swamimalai
- Make a half-day exploration of **Tranquebar**, the former Danish colony on the Bay of Bengal
- Visit the 15th century **Nagore Dargah** that welcomes all faiths. Witness evening Sufi concerts. Equally close is **Velankanni**, one of India's most important Christian sites in India.
- For birders, you can spend the day at the **Point Calimere Wildlife Sanctuary**
- Do a full day tour of the **Brihadeeswara Temple** and other sites in Tanjore

# LOCATION



- Thiruvarur, Karaikal, Nagore: 40 mins
- Tranquebar, Sikkil: 45 mins
- Kumbakonam, Velankanni: 60 mins
- Mannargudi: 90 mins
- Thanjavur, Point Calimere: 2 hrs
- Chettinad: 3.5 hrs
- Pondicherry: 4 hrs
- Madurai: 5 hrs
- Tiruchirappalli Airport & Station: 3 hrs



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## VILLA PORTFOLIO

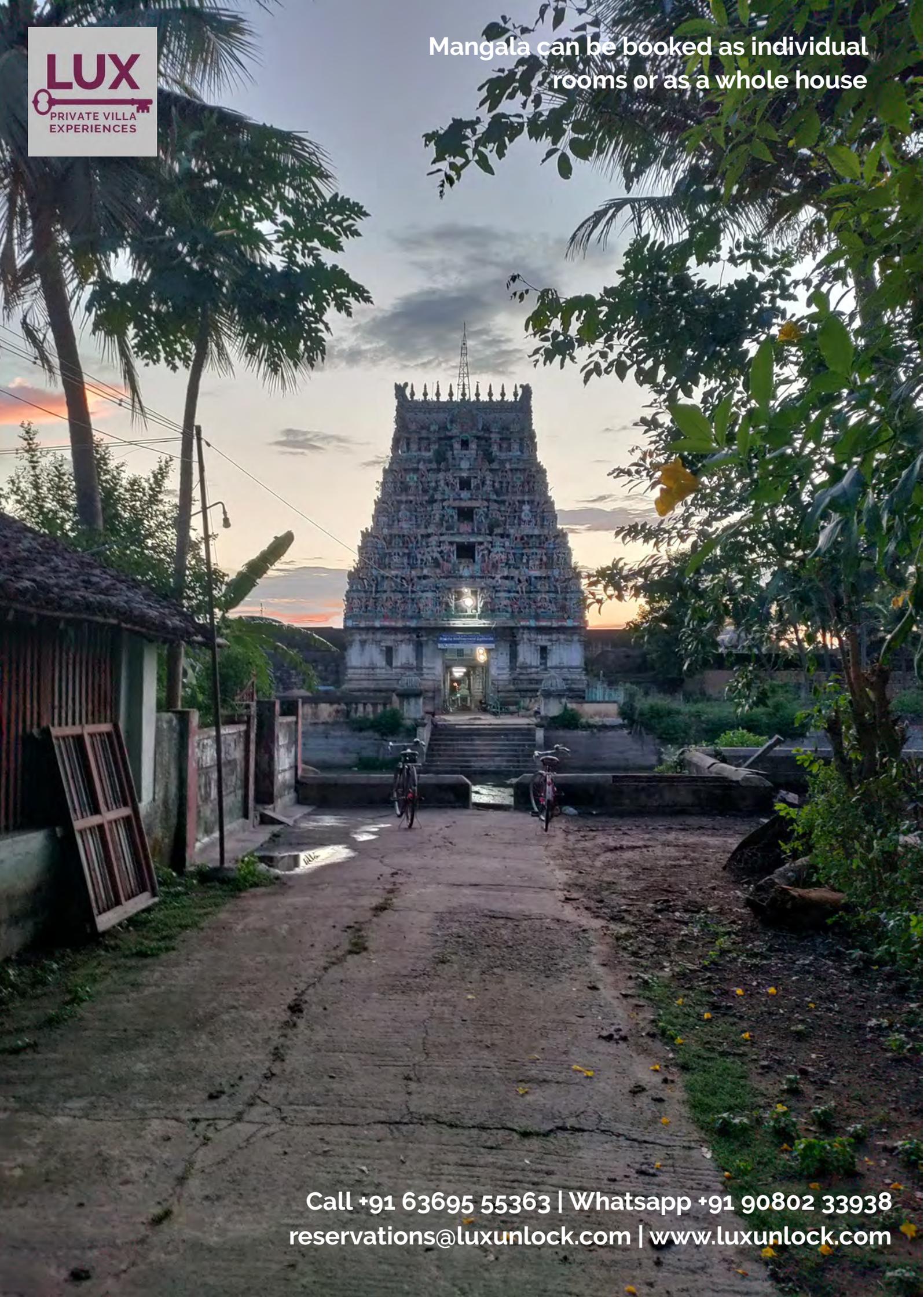
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The Palmyrah, Mamallapuram  
En Vilaasam, Marakkanam  
Maison Twenty Six, Pondicherry  
Mangala Heritage, Thirupugalur  
Vayal, Chettinad  
Salt, Gulf of Mannar  
Gramercy House, Kodaikanal  
Skyfall, Kodaikanal  
Chloe Cottage, Nilgiris  
Hideaway, Nilgiris  
House of Joy, Nilgiris  
The Observatory, Nilgiris  
Deja View, Wayanad  
Casa Beleza, Goa  
Victoria Villa, Talpe, Sri Lanka





Mangala can be booked as individual rooms or as a whole house



Call +91 63695 55363 | Whatsapp +91 90802 33938  
reservations@luxunlock.com | www.luxunlock.com