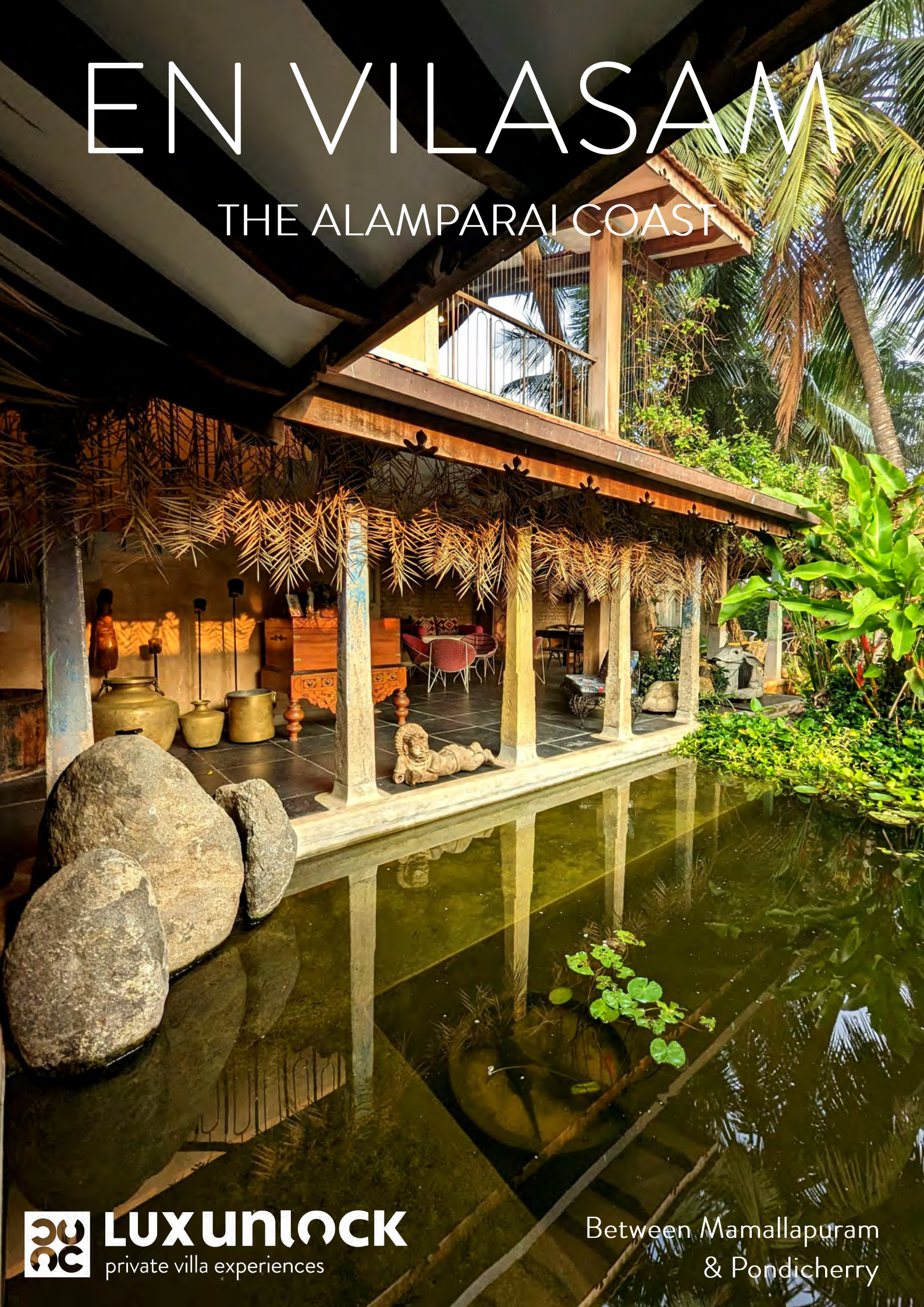


ENVILASAM

THE ALAMPARAI COAST



LUXUNLOCK

private villa experiences

Between Mamallapuram
& Pondicherry



LUXUNLOCK
private villa experiences

Unlock and gain privileged access to the most beautiful, unique private homes in South India & Sri Lanka for an exclusive & luxurious holiday with family & friends

PRESENTING

EN VILASAM

THE ALAMPARAI COAST | TAMIL NADU

The quirky vault-style entrance hides treasures within



6 GUESTS | 3 BEDROOMS | 3 BATHS | PET FRIENDLY | BEACH VILLA

Halfway between Chennai & Pondicherry, in the heart of an ancient fishing village overlooking the Bay of Bengal, come experience En Vilasam, a truly magical Tamil home filled with curated art, vintage furniture & artefacts of South India.

En Vilasam means 'My Home' and is a personal tribute by its late-owner to her traditional Chettinad roots. Her former calling as an antiques dealer is evident in every nook and cranny of this lovely dwelling. Three beautiful bedrooms face the ocean or the garden and are filled with a treasure trove of artefacts and splashes of colour. The open-air bathrooms are colourful, earthy and a feast for the eyes. The house is open, free-flowing, eclectic, and wrapped around an ornamental fish pond and quiet garden.

A fishing village within arms reach, the availability of water sports and a crumbling 18th century fort on the backwaters makes for an evocative experience. Whet your appetite with delicious coastal cuisine, where catch is sourced fresh off the beach. Experience a fully equipped luxury stay with modern amenities and a helpful efficient staff, that still preserves the old world charm that its former owner envisioned.



The palm-covered gardens at En Vilasam with the home in background



Ancient granite columns frame a stunning bridal chest brimming with heirlooms

THE STORY OF EN VILASAM

En Vilasam or 'My Home', is the story of one person's passion to return to the roots of her ancient past and create a calm, blissful home that reflected her love for art & design as well as a showcase of her testament as one of South India's most exciting antique curators. In doing so, she chose to buy a small piece of land in the heart of the ancient fishing village of Kadapakkam, and adjoining the forgotten and ruined 18th century fort of Alamparai. Here ensconced between emerald backwaters and aquamarine sea, she built a free-flowing ethnic Tamil home with colonnaded spaces wrapped around a central pond and overlooking palm-filled garden. But rather than follow a purist design tradition, she made bold and playful interpretations - from the vault like entrance doors flanked by policemen statues, that hide the wonders within, to replacing a central courtyard with a water body. Every aspect of this primary home represented what she stood for - a single woman and an entrepreneur who forged her own life's design while remaining true to her values — a rarity for a woman from her conservative background. En Vilasam is a celebration of her life extraordinary.



Ancient granite columns line the corridor



SPACES

The house is wrapped around the koi pond



EN VILASAM - SPACES

En Vilasam can be booked as a whole house rental for couples, families & small groups

- Villa sleeps a maximum of 8 guests.
- Three Bedrooms with ensuite bathrooms
 - Ground Floor Room - 1 King Bed
 - Ground Floor - 1 Four Poster King
 - First Floor Room - 1 King Bed with Large Sit-Out
- Partially Air-Conditioned Formal Living & Dining Area & Pantry
- Covered Open Lounge & Dining Area
- Entrance Lobby with Seating
- Powder Room & Shower
- Koi Pond & Garden
- Kitchen

SERVICES



Looking into the covered lounge from the tropical garden

Formal living, dining & open pantry



SERVICES AT EN VILASAM

- Breakfast & dinner included, tea & coffee service through the day
- Chef specializing in coastal Tamil cuisine; banana leaf lunches offered
- Complimentary local snacks in the Villa
- Pet Friendly
- Staffed with house supervisor & cook
- Daily Housekeeping services
- High-quality bed & bath linen
- Luxury bath amenities by Inara
- Individual air conditioners in the bedrooms; partial air-con & fans in formal living and dining area
- 4G Wi-Fi in the common areas
- 100% automatic power backup
- Laundry (wash & fold) available
- Curated experiences offered
- Holiday planning services
- Advance provisioning services
- LUX Concierge & Guest Relations

EXPERIENCE



Entrance lobby is flanked by Tanjore art and old family photos adorning hand plastered ochre walls.





EXPERIENCE EN VILASAM

About 45 minutes north of Pondicherry, off the East Coast Road, past farmland and a small backwater inlet, lies the fishing village of Kadapakkam. Here in close proximity to the crumbling 18th century coastal fort of Alamparai, lies En Vilasam, a divine three bedroom ethnic Tamil home.

Much like the fort whose ramparts guarded a Mughal silver mint, the walled villa of En Vilasam greets you with a pair of quirky sentries - uniformed statues of policemen flanking a vaulted door that reveals nothing of the secrets that lie within. You are greeted by the En Vilasam team with the age old Hindu ritual of welcoming guests - flowers, flame and sacred ash, before walking through the doors.

Immediately the earthy ochre plastered walls of a foyer envelope you. On your right a majestic Tanjore painting of great vintage captivates you. On your left, the walls hold old family photographs. In front of you, the foyer opens up into the heart of the open-plan free flowing home, wrapped around a central koi pond and a large coconut garden. The effect is magical - spaces flowing seamlessly into each other and filled with beautiful decor, art, sculptures and a myriad collection of antique artefacts, all coming together in a beautiful symphony of ethnic and contemporary design.

On your right the passage leads to an open shower, perfect for rinsing off when you are back from the beach. Adjacent is a powder room with a beautiful brass wash basin. Leading off left from the foyer, you enter a large open plan living and dining space.

The large six seater dining table is accompanied by a crystalware cupboard and a large buffet cabinet filled with memorabilia from the homeowners travels across the world. A large tower air conditioner blasts cold air into this space, perfect for sultry summers. The dining table continues to see the most delicious feasts - banana leaves overrun with bright coastal curries, topped with delicious mangrove crab, fresh kingfish and juicy prawns. Fresh seasonal vegetables, lentils, poppadums and steaming



piles of short grain rice, shining with dribbles of ghee create an aroma that brings alive the memories of family meals eaten together in a time forgotten. Everything comes fresh off the fishing boats, purchased by the villa team, straight off the nets in quickfire auctions or by haggling with fishmonger women in a language whose currency is timeless!

Stagger out of your lunch and make your way to the comfortable confines of the living room with deep sofas that are perfect for that afternoon shot of strong decoction filter coffee. Help yourself from the lovely little open kitchenette lined with heirloom cooking vessels, that once held the contents of secret family recipes.



Cool granite floors wrap themselves around the pond.
Another treasure chest holds secrets

Step outside and find yourself in the garden lounge. This space is covered with a bamboo reed roof and is dominated by a large rough hewn dining table built from reclaimed fishing catamaran logs and old railway benches. A small sitting area, a chaise lounge, and a divan offer up several ways to spend some tranquil time surrounded by the lush foliage and the sounds of the surf breaking onto the beach or the palms rustling in the summer breeze.

In the late afternoon it is time for a refreshing swim in the ocean or a game of beach volleyball. Walk out of your villa and across the sand and you find yourself on a pristine wild stretch of coast away from the fishing village. Here the only company is carpets of goats-foot morning glory, sand dunes and sea gulls. The villa team will fry up some potato fritters and hot tea and set up your beach picnic.



Freshen up for the evening. Little candles light up the alcoves and the koi pond. Your bar is set up for you in the garden lounge where a lovely intimate evening unfolds. Your curated dinner is set up for you in the lounge.

Early morning rise and walk to the backwater inlet near the lighthouse. Here step onto a local fishing boat and welcome the sunrise as you cruise slowly in mangrove and casuarina lined backwaters. Around a quiet bend in waterway, you are surprised by a group of paddleboarders. If you choose to enjoy the backwaters and it's bird life in a more ecologically friendly way, then shed the fishing boat and join them or take your own kayak from a nearby watersports center.



A huge carved wooden bull nestled in the foliage





On your way back to En Vilasam, as you sail past the once majestic, but now crumbling 18th century Alamparai Fort, you can visualise a past when this celebrated Mughal era bastion with its almost perfect natural harbour, was a major gateway for salt, pepper and textiles to the world. There is a feeling of nostalgia, of a moment in history, once alive, now fading.

But as you step into the heart of En Vilasam, that fleeting melancholic feeling is replaced by one that elevates the mood. You are back home - a place to rejoice life and renew bonds; a sanctuary that celebrates our roots and keeps it firmly relevant in the present.



SLEEP



En Vilasam has three bedrooms, two of which are located on the ground floor and open out into the koi pond and garden lounge. A third bedroom is on the first floor. All rooms have wall-to-wall louvred French accordion doors, salvaged from colonial mansions and preserved in a distressed finish. You can choose to open all the doors and let your bedroom commune with the outdoors, or keep the doors closed for privacy and cool off with air conditioning.

Adjacent to the garden lounge, is the larger of the two ground floor rooms. An elegant four poster bed forms the focal point of the room.



A large wooden chest faces one wall and is topped with little brass artefacts collected over the years. Ornamental Tanjore art lines a wall. Doors lead into the ensuite open air bathroom themed in an royal blue.

Walls are hand plastered in bright emerald green, alcoves are filled with luxury toiletries and bright brass buckets and brass fixtures contrast beautifully with the rusticity of the space. The showstopper is the hand carved granite wash basin set on a granite pedestal embedded into the masonry. The open to sky section of the bathroom is filled with tropical plants.



The magnificent blue bathroom of the first bedroom





The second of the ground floor bedrooms

Opening up into the passageway and the Koi pond, the second ground floor bedroom is has a concrete queen bed with a masonry partition wall that acts as a headboard on one side and a wardrobe and storage area on the other side.

A mirror work tapestry from Gujarat adorns the headboard and the bed dressing is a riot of Chettinad patterns and colours. Behind the partition, a pair of louvred doors lead you into the magical open air emerald bathroom with a sunken bath.



Rivalling the blue bathroom in inspired design, the green bathroom embodies rustic luxury with elements of stone and brass. The showstopper granite washbasin sitting on its own stone pedestal is embellished with an unusual mirror and bric-a-brac. There are little touches such as the woven-baskets from Chettinad. A collectors cabinet lines one wall. This is a space to linger in and enjoy.

Stairs lead you upstairs to a covered verandah and the third bedroom of En Vilasam.

Hand carved granite pedestal and wash basin is the highlight of the green bathroom





First Floor Bedroom

The first floor bedroom spills out onto a covered verandah with views of the sand dunes and the ocean beyond. Painted botanical murals bring alive the tropics inside. A fixed in-place King bed is adorned with ethnic Tamil fabrics. Salvaged windows from old Chettinad mansions bring in afternoon sunshine. A smaller enclosed bathroom in a romantic hand plastered plum colour enhanced by a bare-breasted female portrait lends a certain naughtiness to the space.



ENGAGE

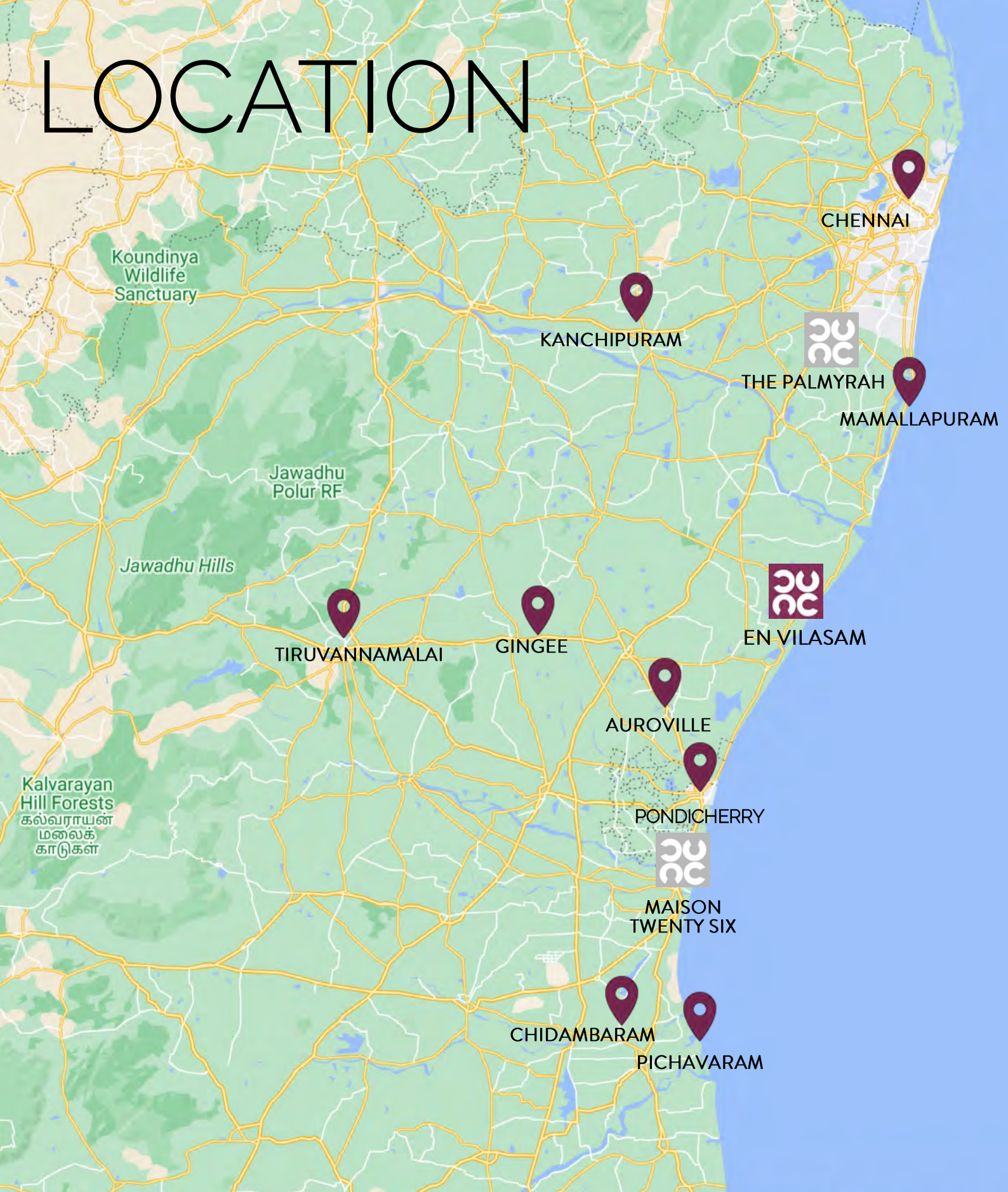




HOW TO SPEND YOUR TIME AT EN VILASAM

- Delight yourself with our **curated lunch special** – a complete coastal Tamil feast, cooked by our team
- Walk on the beach, swim in the ocean; play beach volleyball - the villa staff pack a **coffee & snack picnic basket** for you.
- Go on a **self-guided visit** of the **Kadapakkam fishing village** and take-in the morning catch.
- Take a **sunrise or sunset motorized boat ride** on the backwaters with a local fisherman
- Explore the **17th century Alamparai Fort**.
- Spend a morning or afternoon at a partner glamping **watersports centre** - kayaking, paddle-boarding
- Go on a **guided visit** of the **Kaliveli Bio-Region** visiting the salt pans, temples, & wetland restoration projects.
- Spend an evening in nature and enjoy a curated **meal** under a luxurious bamboo hut on a **25-acre farm**.
- Take a half-day trip to the **UNESCO World Heritage Site of Mamallapuram**
- Spend a day in **Auroville led by an expert insider** as you are introduced to the concept, community and food.
- Visit the quaint former French colony of **Pondicherry on a guided walk** of its history and architecture.
- Go on a full day trip to the impressive **forts of Gingee**.
- Visit the **Vedanthangal Bird Sanctuary** between Oct-March

LOCATION



- Mamallapuram, Auroville & Pondicherry: 60 mins
- Vedanthangal Bird Sanctuary: 1.5 hrs
- Gingee Fort: 2 hrs
- Tiruvannamalai: 2.5 hrs
- Chidambaram & Pichavaram: 3 hrs

- Chennai: 2.5 hrs
- Bangalore: 6.5 hrs
- Pondicherry Airport: 60 mins
- Chennai Airport: 2 hrs
- LUX The Palmyrah - 45 min;
- LUX Maison Twenty Six - 60 mins



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VILLA PORTFOLIO

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
Nakshathra Mana, Kerala Backwaters
Deja View, Wayanad
Victoria Villa, Talpe, Sri Lanka



Fisherman sets off for an early morning trip



The Alamparai Fort, Coromandel Coast



Photo credits: Sundeep Kumar & Ashish Gupta

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