

Once upon a time...

This was a land of magnificence. Temples stood in silent solemnity, surrounded by the myriad colours of flowers, spices, bazaars and traders that made this a truly spectacular civilization. And many stories were born, rich in character and plot. Stories that were shaped by local life, that have spawned many a tradition... Stories that remain, gathering colour, waiting to be retold. What better way to discover a city than through its stories?

Come, join us on our walks, as we take you through the by-lanes of this city. Take in the sights and hear the stories. You'll leave with much more than just beautiful pictures; we hope to leave you with a slice of the local life...



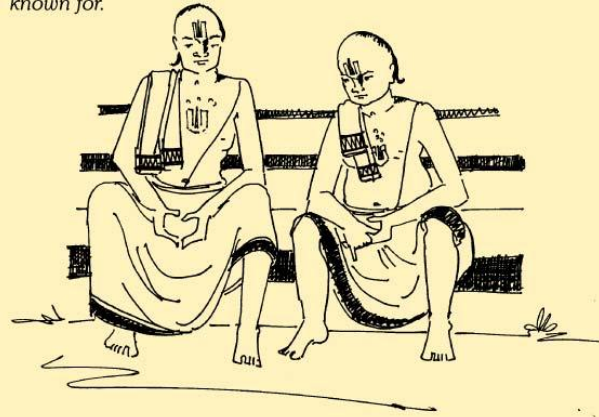
Ever wondered why there are so many Gods in India? Or what the stars have to do with your future? Didn't think the ubiquitous banana leaf had anything to do with the caste system in India?

Think again...

There are many such stories hidden away in the mundane rituals of daily life. And as you walk through Mylapore, you'll discover that each sight you behold has a story to tell.



Mylapore, an ancient town in the heart of modern Chennai, pre-dates the city by at least 2000 years. Widely considered the nub from where the rest of the city grew, it has kept alive many traditions and arts that Chennai is so well known for.

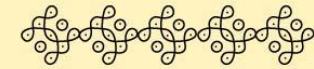


Watch the Brahmin priests, the interpreters of ancient Hindu texts, as they go about their duties at the 400-year-old Kapaleeshwara Temple. The temple itself is a thousand stories carved in stone.

Turn your gaze around, and read the symbolism behind some everyday activities on the streets and in households, and you'll realise that spirituality here doesn't just start and end in holy places.

And while the names of a million Hindu gods are still swirling in your head, we'll tell you how Christianity was brought to India by Doubting Thomas, the Apostle himself, whose tomb you can see in the beautiful San Thome Basilica.

From Ptolemy to Marco Polo, sea-farers from afar have visited Mylapore and written accounts of it, observing how the locals wouldn't take up any work during some 'inauspicious' hours of the day. These are living stories, practices that are still alive in most households in India.



We have a story in everything – from why we decorate our doorsteps with colourful kolams to why women here wear a bindi on their foreheads. We'll show you how you should drink degree kaapi, and just which of our many gods you should please to get good fortune or just a good husband.



And maybe you
would like your fortune told
by a parrot?

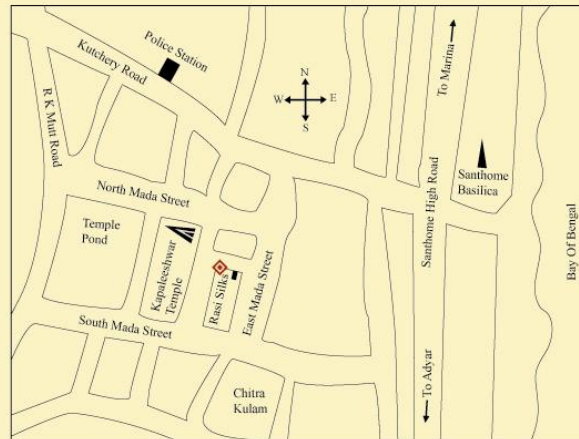
The catch is, you
might not want us to stop.
Like Scheherazade's king, you
might demand a thousand and
one stories or more. But we won't complain really. So keep
listening. And then you can go home to re-live these memories
happily ever after...



To book:

- Mail us at contact@storytrails.in
- Call us on (+91 44) 4212 4214 / (+91) 99400 40215
- Book through our web-site www.storytrails.in
(at least three days in advance)

Please mention the date of the tour, your contact details in India and the number
of persons taking the tour.



◆ Reporting Venue

Map not to scale

Reporting time: 7:30 AM. (The tour would end with breakfast by 10:00 AM)

The trail can also be organized in the evenings if so requested in advance

Reporting Venue: Rasi Silks, outside Kapaleshwara Temple, Mylapore,
Chennai – 600004

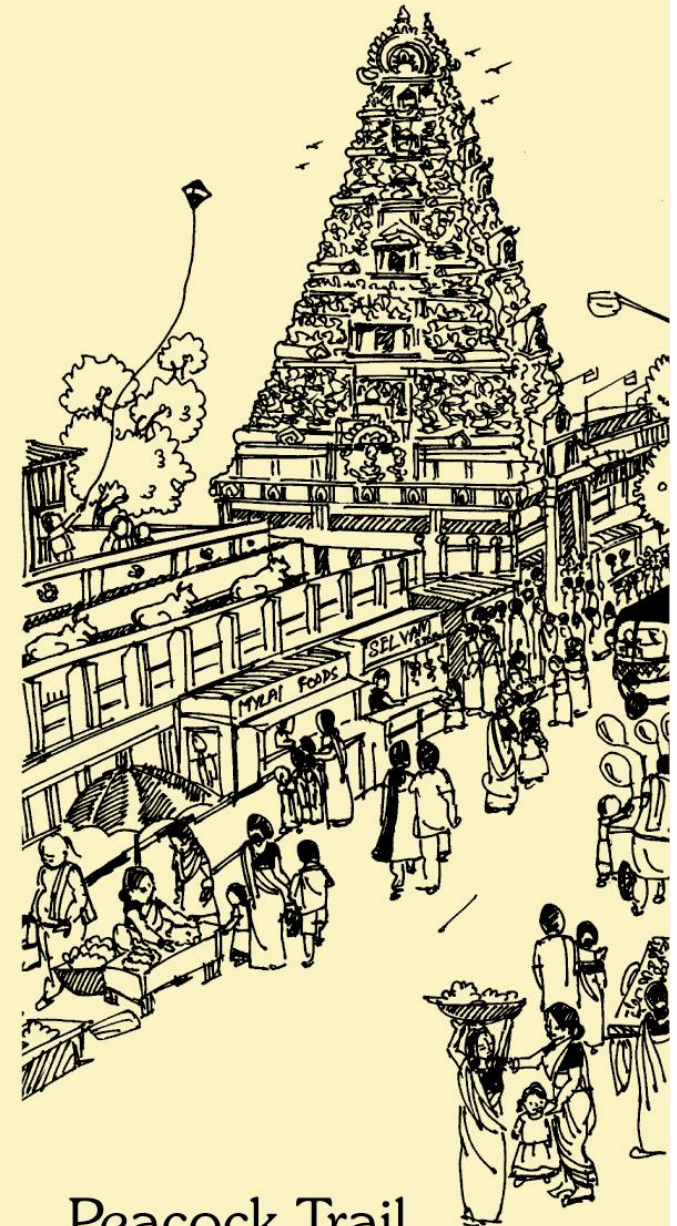
Days of operation: The tour will take place on most days, but please do call
us at least three days in advance to confirm and register.

Note: Some of the places we visit will require you to remove your footwear, so we
would recommend footwear that you can put on and take off easily



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Peacock Trail

A walk through Mylapore...