

Places of Interest

Pallavaram Longest Week santhai

Formerly, the place was called as “*Cattle market*” aka “**மாட்டு சந்தை**” (mattu sandhai), where only cattle are placed for sale. In later days, the market has been slowly developed and has almost all the needs of the customers. The Chennai’s iconic Pallavaram Market is almost **180 years old**. This market is still a favorite spot for shopping for many people all over TamilNadu. “The market has all the things for sale except a girl for marriage!”, says the old man selling different plant seeds. He says he is selling seeds and plants in this market for almost 10 years. This market is roughly spread for 2 km which starts from the morning around 8 am and wraps up by the night 10 pm. This market is only opened on Fridays. Do you know why?

The Pallavaram market is opened only on Fridays. Why? For this question comes an interesting answer. Let’s jump a little back in time to the Nawab’s era. Nawabs are the ones who ruled Arcot and they had some palaces in Madras too. As *Fridays are the Day of Feast for the Nawabs*, they bought cattle and meat in large amount on Fridays, which effectively increased the sales and the economy of the seller those days. This encouraged the sellers and traders to open their shops on Fridays. Since then, this market is opened only on Fridays. This market is the best place for buying second-hand electronics items

Those market sold almost all kinds of vegetables, fruits and meat, seafood and other groceries at the lowest price ever. Those markets sold

1. Fresh vegetables
 2. Different fruits
 3. Exotic flowers
 4. Dried herbs, spices
 5. Cereals, pulses
 6. Flowers
 7. Bakery biscuits and
 8. Other groceries
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1. Vintage items like old coins, old badges, stamps
 2. An old typewriter, vintage telescope.
 3. Very old paintings, mirrors, lanterns
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1. Iron tools, Tawas, pans
 2. Knives of different kinds
 3. Construction tools
 4. Clothes
 5. Deodorants, perfumes
 6. Belts and shoes
 7. Furniture, sofas

8. Cupboards.

1. Old CDs
2. Damaged and old Mobiles, laptops
3. Old TVs ranging from the vintage fat TV to LCD flat screens.
4. ACs for second hands sale

Finally the animal's zone

1. Pet animals from fishes to dogs
2. All the requirements for the pets like food, little cages, etc
3. Hens, chickens, goats for meat too.

TIPS

1. ***Don't go alone*** – If you are going to buy things on a larger amount or many items, do not prefer to go alone. As you cannot lift all the items you bought, alone. Also, the parking area is a little further from the shopping area. Instead, go with family or friends. They will help you to lift things and help in bargaining.
2. ***Don't hesitate to Bargain!*** – You may get things cheaper or for a good deal when you bargain with the sellers. So, try to develop the bargaining skills.
3. ***Bring Bags*** – Carry jute bags or any other bags on your own to avoid the plastic covers from the sellers.
4. ***Wear flip-flops*** – You have to walk to explore the entire market and it will be crowd too. So prefer wearing flats, flip-flops or shoes whichever comfortable for the good shopping experience.
5. ***Check the Quality*** – Always inspect the items for its quality, before you buy. There may be some fraud too selling quality-less products at a high cost. Also, you should not expect a guarantee or warranty.
6. ***Prefer to go in odd timings*** – To avoid crowds, try to go to the markets either early in the morning or in the afternoons. Because, in the evening or at the peak times, the market will be very crowded and busy.