

Chitrasabha

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Kuttralanatha Swamy temple, at Kuttralam, Tamil Nadu



Kuttralam is a popular tourist resort in Southern Tamilnadu known for its waterfalls, amidst picturesque surroundings - and is a source of inspiration of many a literary work.

The Chitrasabha is a stand-alone structure that is located a few blocks away from the Kuttralanathar temple at Kuttralam in southern Tamilnadu.



Architecturally the Chitrasabha resembles that of the other Nataraja Sabhas elsewhere in Tamilnadu, and its interior is decked with hundreds of murals, depicting images from the Indian epics. The five dance halls of Shiva are Chidambaram, Madurai, Tiruvalankadu, Tirunelveli and

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<https://www.vallamai.com>

Kuttralam.





Chitrasabha is a wooden structure, every inch of these walls are lined with murals depicting scenes from the epics. Nataraja along with Tripura Sundari and Shri Yantra and 16 forms of Ganapathi , episodes from the lives of 63 Saivite saints, Nayanmars, based on the Tamil work called "Periya Puranam" sung by Sekkizhar are also depicted in these paintings. The story of Madurai Meenakshi is one of the masterpieces depicted in these murals.



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<https://www.vallamai.com>





The 400-year old murals, belonging to the Nayaka period, are located in a mantapa called Chithra Sabhai, in the temple.

They were originally painted using plant pigments and natural dyes. Art historians allege that most of these murals have now been repainted between 2010 and 2013, using modern garish colours, violating conservation norms. Many murals had been repainted by introducing new colours and even 3-D techniques. The faded portions of some murals had been re-touched and chemical cleaning had been done.

Photographs are strictly prohibited inside Chithra Sabha. Paintings courtesy through internet.

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