

Vikkiramangalam

During the reign of Rajendra-I this village came into existence and was called as Vikkiramacholapuram, after a surname of the king. Inscription of Vikramachola, Kulothunga-II and Kulothunga-III indicate that this place was a sub capital for the chola kings who resided in the royal place in this place and issued royal orders granting lands to many temples in the chola country. During the chola period Vikramacholapuram was also a famous trade and mercantile centre of the itinerant trade guilds. Beautiful Jain and Buddha sculptures of Chola period is also preserved in this village.

FOSSIL Museum

Ariyalur district is noticed for its badland topography, which is the contemporary of other parts of the world, especially badland topography of National Park, United States. These two parts have most of the similarities. Both locations have a very good collection of Cretaceous Fossils. Geologically Ariyalur has undergone marine transgression and regression some 65 million years ago. Because of this marine transgression and regression marine organisms of that time were trapped into the Ariyalur land and created this land as badland topography. The fossil assemblages, rocks and minerals present in Ariyalur were very much important. In order to preserve this contemporary



Holidays : Every Friday, National Holidays & 2nd Saturday
Timings : 9.30am to 5pm Cell : 8248534565 / 8189965485



topography of the United States, Geologists from various parts of Tamil Nadu wanted to be preserved this location as fossil zone.

Important Hotels and Travel Agents

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Hotel Geetha Grand

04329 220819/8870810101 | E-mail :
gm.ariyalur@pergamonthotels.com

Tirumala Travels

Muniyappar St, Ethraj Nagar, Ariyalur, Tamil Nadu 605402
Phone: 096555 54557

Cheliyan air Travels

Trichy Main Road, Mia Nagar, Ariyalur - 621704
98845 75887

Balu Cabs & Auto Consultant

No: 34, Near Perumal Koil South Madavilagam Street, Ariyalur,
Tamil Nadu 621704 Phone: 098424 42327

New Super Air Travels

No: 5/A-2, Vellala Street, Opp Annalakshmi Marriage Hall, Near
Water Tank, Ariyalur, 621704 Phone: 098434 42712

Sun Air Travels

Seenivasan Pillai St, Ethraj Nagar, Ariyalur, Tamil Nadu 621704
Phone: 099654 43287

Emergency Help line

Fire - 101 | Ambulance - 108 | Police - 100 | NH - 1033
Blood Bank - 1910 | Child Care - 1098 | Women - 1091

for further details contact :

Tourist office

2nd Floor, Collectrate Camps, Ariyalur - 621704
Mob : 7397715685, Phone : 04329 - 228450
Tourist office, Thanjavur : 04362 - 230984



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ARIYALUR
TAMIL NADU - INDIA

Ariyalur District

Area (59. Kms)	: 1933.9 Sq. Kms.
Population	: 75489 (2011 Census)
Temperature	: 18.3°C - 39.10°C
Rainfall	: 52.8 cms
Season	: Throughout the Year
Language	: Tamil / English

How to get there?

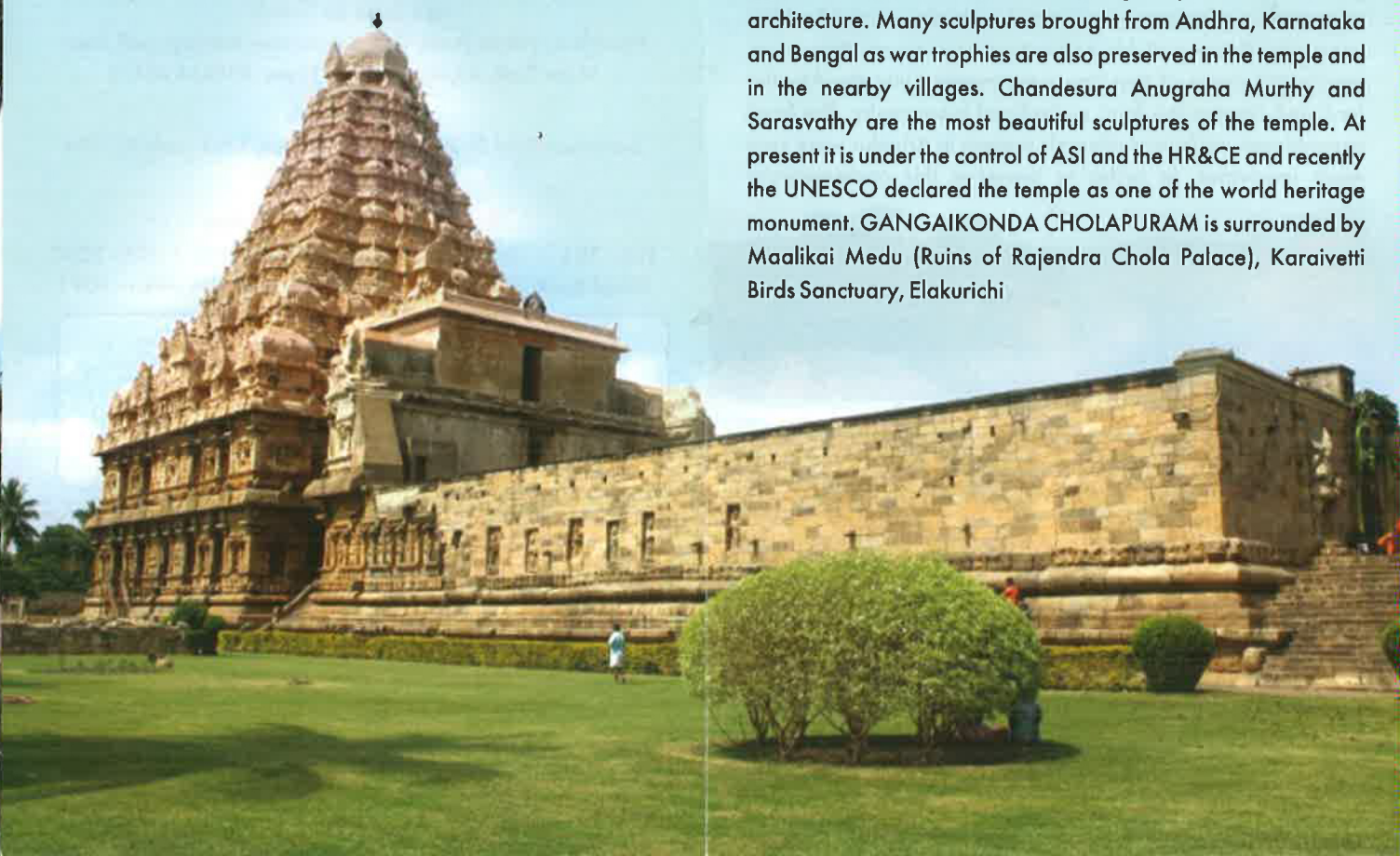
Air	: Nearest Airport is at Trichy
Rail	: Railways Connect all important Cities
Road	: Good Network of Roads link all Cities and Towns.



Gangaikonda Chozhapuram

Ariyalur is best known for the Gangaikondacholisvarar temple in Gangaikondacholapuram, the biggest temple constructed during the reign of Rajendra-I in Ariyalur region. Following the conquest of the Gangetic plains in A.D. 1023 Rajendra-I built a great city called Gangaikondacholapuram and a Siva temple Gangaikonda cholisvarar and a lake Chola Gangam in commemoration of his victory.

The place, the temple and the lake (Chola Gangam) are the living embodiments of the heroism of the Tamils who unfurled the Chola's Tiger flag on the banks of the River Ganges. He also shifted his capital from Thanjavur to this newly built town. From his period to the end of the Chola family rule in A.D. 1279 this city was the capital for the Chola Empire for a period of 256 years. The gigantic stone temple which he built in this place is rich repository of beautiful sculptures of middle Chola period.



This city is celebrated in the literature of Muvar ula of Ottakuttar and Kalingattuparani of Jayankondar. Rajendra's Gangetic expedition was over by his 11th regal year (A.D.1023). The earliest reference which mentions the city of Gangaikondacholapuram is a record of A. D. 1027 of him. Hence it is evident that the city was built in memory of his great victory between A.D. 1023 and 1027. The recently discovered Esalam Copper plates of A.D. 1036 of Rajendra-I give concrete evidence that he built the Gangaikondacholisvarar temple. Another record of A.D. 1068 of Virarajendra in Gangaikondacholapuram which is the earliest record in the temple mentions about the grant of villages to the Gangaikondacholisvarar temple by Rajendra-I in his 24th year (A.D.1036). These evidences indicate that the siva temple was built between A.D. 1023 and 1036 although the earliest extant record in this big temple belongs to A. D. 1068 of Virarajendra.

This temple is a living history of the Cholas in stone from the period of Rajendra-I and a beautiful gallery of Chola art and architecture. Many sculptures brought from Andhra, Karnataka and Bengal as war trophies are also preserved in the temple and in the nearby villages. Chandesura Anugraha Murthy and Sarasvathy are the most beautiful sculptures of the temple. At present it is under the control of ASI and the HR&CE and recently the UNESCO declared the temple as one of the world heritage monument. GANGAIKONDA CHOLAPURAM is surrounded by Maalikai Medu (Ruins of Rajendra Chola Palace), Karaivetti Birds Sanctuary, Elakurichi

Maalikai Medu

(Ruins of Rajendra Chola Palace)

The emperor Rajendra Chola (1012 A.D - 1044 A.D) built a big palace in the place of Utkottai, where a mound even now called Maalikai Medu (Palace mound) in Gangaikondacholapuram - the capital of chola dynasty. The base of the palace is found in Maalikai Medu which is 1.5km away from the Brihadeeswara Temple, Gangaikondacholapuram. The breadth of the palace wall is 1m and built by using only the bricks. Now the palace is maintained as a protected monument by the Tamil Nadu Archaeological Department, telling that the palace had two floors including some sculptures, paintings on the wall. Some of the beautiful handicrafts made up of elephant ivory, bones and Chinese style painted things were also found in the palace, prove that the Chinese accompanied with Tamil people in the period of Chola.

The things used in the palace by the period of chola are kept in the museum of Gangaikondacholapuram.



SRI KALIYAPERUMAL Temple



Sri Kaliyaperumal temple is a major attraction of Ariyalur. It is situated at 6 km away from Ariyalur.

This temple is famous for its "Car festival" (March / April) which is conducted every year. The people of Ariyalur celebrate the festival with pomp and vigour. The temple is also famous for the Purattasi Saturdays.

Every year in the month of 'Purattasi' (September), special Pujas, 'Arathanai', 'Abishekams', etc. are done on the four Saturdays.

This also is a major attraction of the Kaliyaperumal temple. This Varadharaja permal blesses with prosperity, wealth, health and a long life.

Elakurichi

Elakurichi is one of the most famous places of Ariyalur district. It is a sacred pilgrimage place for the Roman Catholics. Constantine Beschi popularly known as Virama Munivar) came from Italy to Ariyalur region and spread Chirstianity between A.D. 1710 to 1742. The Adaikala Matha temple here was built by him.

With the blessings of the Holy Mother Mary he cured a dangerous disease of the Ariyalur Palayakarar.

Pleased by the service of Virama Munivar the Chief granted 60 acres of land to the temple. An inscription engraved on a stone slab written in A.D. 1763 is preserved in this Church makes a mention of this grant.



Karaivetti Birds Sanctuary

Vettakudi - Karaivetti Bird Sanctuary



The Karaivetti Birds Sanctuary with an area of 453.71 ha. is home for migratory birds.

The sanctuary is about 25 kilometres from Thanjavur. This freshwater lake is fed by Pullambadi, Kattalal canal and attracts thousands of birds every year. About 200 birds species are recorded from this sanctuary. Karaivetti Bird Sanctuary is one of the Important Bird Areas (IBA's) of Tamil Nadu.

The sanctuary is basically an irrigation tank that receives water from the Mettur dam from September onwards which is supplemented by the North East monsoons from October till January.

The sanctuary is one of the most important fresh water feeding ground for migratory water birds in the State of Tamil Nadu. One of the largest tanks in the State, it has recorded the largest congregation of water birds among all the tanks in the State of the 188 species of birds recorded in the sanctuary, 82

are water birds.

Among the important visitors to the tank is the endangered Bar Headed Goose. The best time to visit the sanctuary for bird watching is April-May.



TOURIST MAP OF ARIYALUR



Karaivetti Bird Sanctuary is home to migratory birds such as Bar-headed goose, Northern pintail, White Stork, Northern shoveler, Garganey, Blue-winged teal, Osprey and common sandpiper. The sanctuary is a large irrigation tank located in the northern alluvial plains of the Kaveri river. It is fed during the northeast monsoons by the Pullambadi canal. It is also referred to together with another nearby tank and called Vettakudi - Karaivetti Bird Sanctuary. Farm lands especially paddy, sugarcane, cotton, castor and maize are surrounded by this lake and irrigated from this lake. Acacia nilotica planted inside the lake is serving as a major nesting site for birds.

Thirumazhapadi Vaitthyanatha samy Temple

Thirumazhapadi Vaidyanathaswami temple is located here. The temple is dedicated to Lord Siva, as the moolavar presiding deity, in his manifestation as Vaidyanathaswami. His consort, Parvati, is known as Sundarambikai.



It's situated on the banks of Kollidam. 30 km from Ariyalur and 25 km from Thanjavur. legendary anecdotes say that Lord Nataraja Promised to give another cosmic dance at Dhalavanam, the Original name of this place on full moon day in the Tamil month of Vaikasi for the benefit of the sage Markandeya who reached Chidambaram.

This temple is famous for its "Nandikesvarar Thirukalyanam" in March / April which is conducted every year. Timing 6.30 am to 12.30 pm 4 pm to 8 pm. Ph : 9626948978