

- Goswamy Mutt (221108
- Sankara Madam (221661
- Baba Anna Chatra (221021
- Bharath Sevasthram (221215
- Ramakrishna Mutt (221019

ACCESS

- Air** : Madurai is the nearest Airport 174 kms. away connecting Chennai, Mumbai and Bengaluru.
- Rail** : Train services are available for Rameswaram from Chennai, Mumbai, Tiruchirapalli, Kanniyakumari, Varanasi, Bhubaneswar and Okha.
- Road** : State Transport Corporation and State Express Transport Corporation buses connects Rameswaram with the rest of the state.

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

- Ramanathaswamy Temple (221223
 - State Express Transport Corporation Ltd (221263
 - Tamil Nadu State Transport Corporation Ltd (221251
 - Taluk Office (221252
 - Municipal Office (21264
 - Fire Service (221273
 - Govt. Hospital (222003
 - Railway Station (221226
 - Tourist Office (221371
 - State Bank of India (221282
 - Indian Bank (221234
 - Police Station Town (221227/221246
 - Central Marine Fisheries & Research Institute (241443
- Water Sports**
- Holy Island, Rameswaram (221585
 - Guest Academy, Ramanathapuram (8657195551



FESTIVALS

Thai Amavasai (January), Maha Sivarathiri (Feb-March), Brahmotsavam (Feb-March), Thirukalyanam (July-August) and Mahalaya Amavasai (September), Pradosham (every month), Navarathiri (Sep-Oct) Pongal Pilgrim Festival (Jan) Organised by the Department of Tourism, Arudhradarshanam (at Uthirakosamangai) (December).

FOR WILDLIFE VIEWING ASSISTANCE

Wildlife Warden, Gulf of Mannar Marine Biosphere Reserve, Mandapam Salai, Ramanathapuram. Ph: 04567-230079.

For further details contact:

Tourist Officer
Government of Tamil Nadu Tourist Office,
Near Bus Stand, Rameswaram.
Phone : 04573 - 221371

Tourist Information Centre:
Ramanathaswamy Temple Premises,
Railway Station Phone : 04573 - 221373



DIRECTORATE OF TOURISM

Government of Tamil Nadu
Tamil Nadu Tourism Complex,
No.2, Wallajah Road, Chennai - 600 002.
Phone : 91-44-2533 3333 / 444 / 857 / 286
Fax : 91-44-25333385 Email : dotdepartment@gmail.com
Website : www.tamilnadutourism.org / www.tndconline.com
Toll free No. 1800 4253 1111

30,000 Copies

March 2020

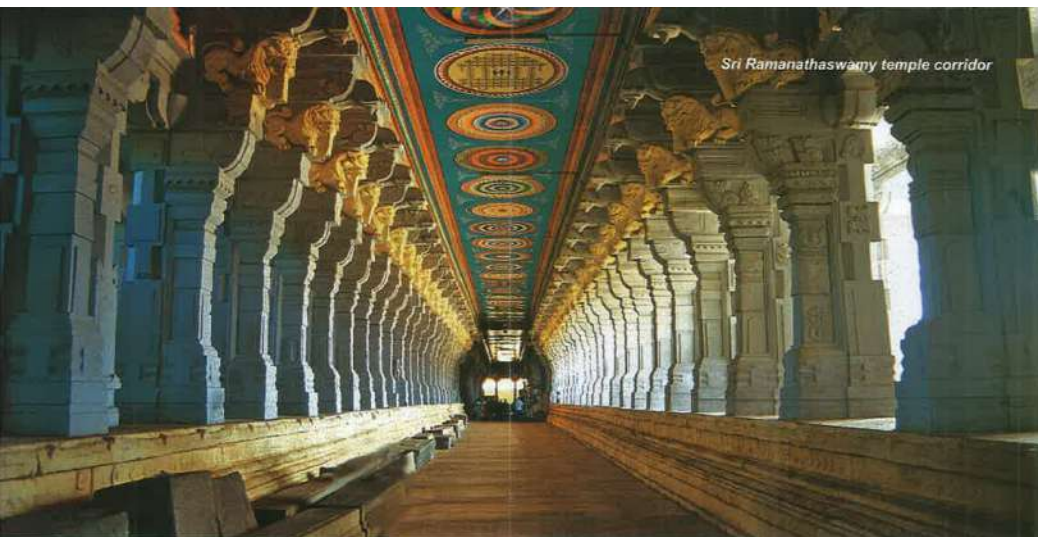
Incredible India

enchanting
tamil nadu

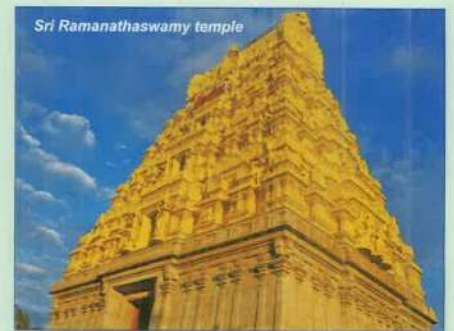


Ramanathapuram

TAMIL NADU - INDIA



Sri Ramanathaswamy temple corridor



Sri Ramanathaswamy temple

Ramanathapuram

In 1910, Ramanathapuram District was formed by clubbing portions from Madurai and Tirunelveli districts. Shri J.F. BRYANT I.C.S. was the first collector. During the British period this district was called as Ramnad. The name continued after independence. Later the district was renamed as Ramanathapuram to be in conformity with the Tamil Name for this region. Ramanathapuram is also known as Mugavai (face) as the River Vaigai ends its journey here in the Palk Strait. Ramanathapuram District was trifurcated on 15.03.1985 as Sivagangai District and Virudhunagar District.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Area	: 4123 sq. kms.
Population	: 1,353,445 (2011 Census)
Altitude	: Sea level
Temperature	: Summer 38° C - 30° C
	: Winter 30° C - 25° C

Rainfall	: 82 cms. Average
Season	: Throughout the year
Clothing	: Tropical
Languages	: Tamil, Hindi and English
STD Code	: 04567

SPIRITUAL DROPS

Ramanathaswamy Temple

A fine example of Dravidian Architecture - Sri Ramanathaswamy temple is located at the heart of Rameswaram Island. According to legend, after killing Ravana Lord Rama returned to India with his consort Goddess Sita, first stepped on the shores of Rameswaram. To expiate the 'Dosha' of killing a Brahmin, Lord Rama wanted to offer worship to Lord Shiva. Since there was no shrine in the island he ordered Sri Hanuman to bring an idol of Lord Shiva from Kailash. When Hanuman was delayed in bringing the lingam, Sita the wife of Rama, built a small lingam out of the sand available in the sea

shore, which is believed to be the lingam in the sanctum. There are two lingams inside the sanctum - one built by Sita, by sand, residing as the main deity Ramalingam, and the one brought by Hanuman from Kailash called Vishwalingam.

A. Longest Pillared Corridor in the world

The special feature is the longest pillared corridor in the world and the Chokkattan mandapam a unique structure like a chess board which gives a frowning wonder to the visitors.

B. Theerthams

The pilgrims can enter the temple with holy bath in 22 theerthams not just special for different taste and temperature, but for the curative power.

C. Jyothirlinga

The Almighty Shiva in Rameswaram is one among the twelve other Jyothirlingas in India.

Agni Theertham

A sacred visit to Rameswaram start with holy dip in the Agni theertham hardly present 100 meters in front of the magnificent temple Gopuram. Legend says that the sea where Agni (God of fire) appeared before Rama to express the purity (Chasity) of sita who underwent to the Agnipravesam. Devotees believed that a dip in the



Agni theertham

Agnitheertham is supposed to cure the sins of the Human being. The other 22 theerthams around the temple are also important to pilgrims which distinctly differ in its temperature and taste.

Ramar Theertham & Laxmana Theertham

Ramar and Laxmana theerthams situated one km. from Rameswaram Bus stand towards temple.

Villundi Theertham

Villundi Theertham situated near Dr. A.P.J. Abul Kalam's Memorial, former President of India.

Jada Theertham

Jada Theertham, about 5.5 kms. from Rameswaram on the Dhanushkodi road. Legend has it that Lord Rama, on his way back after killing Ravana, Worshipped Sri Ramalinga (believed to be installed by him). Before doing so, he washed his hair (jada) in this theertham to purify himself.

Gandhamadhana Parvatham

Also known as RAMA FOOT, it is the highest point in Rameswaram island, which bears the imprints of Lord Rama on a Chakra. This is a two storeyed mandapam. Sukreevar temple and Theertham are situated on the way to Gandhamadhana Parvatham. The whole of Rameswaram islands is visible from this temple. Sukreevar

is the elder brother of Vaali, a mythical character in Ramayana, who helped Lord Rama to free his consort Sita from Ravana.

Five faced Hanuman Temple

Situated at half a km. from Rameswaram Bus stand. Here one can witness the Human sculpture with five faces covered by Senthooram (vermilion).

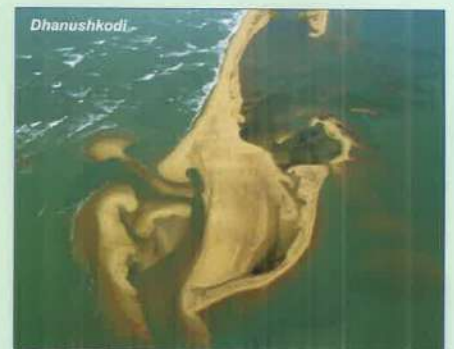
Idols of Rama, Sita and Hanuman brought from Dhanushkodi during 1964 devastating cyclone are kept here. Floating stones called 'Sethu Bandanam' supposed to be used in the Mythological Sethu Bridge is worth seeing event.



Five faced Hanuman Temple

Dhanushkodi

Dhanushkodi is 20 kms. from Rameswaram. Now a day's Dhanushkodi being emerged as a fine beach having a strip of land at about one km. and wide of 18 kms. on the eastern end of Rameswaram. Large number of Tourists congregates here to enjoy the beauty of tidal waves and bird watching. It is a place where the rough water of Indian



Dhanushkodi

Ocean and the calm sea of sacred place to performing religious rites for the well being salvation of their ancestors.

But Tourist mainly travels to this area to see the serene remnants of a once prominent and bustling tourist hotspot. There are few buildings like post office, church and Railway station and Railway hospital that stands still in the ghost town having survived the aftermath of 1964 Sri Lanka. Dhanushkodi was a flourishing tourist and pilgrimage town before 1964. There were many ferry services between Dhanushkodi and Talaimannar of Sri Lanka, transporting travellers and goods across the sea. There were hotels, textile shops and dharmasalas to cater the pilgrims and travellers. The mute evidences remain in this place are the fine example for ruined Tourism which attracts many tourist.

Kothandaramasamy Temple

The Southern most tip of the island is called Dhanuskodi. It was completely washed away by a cyclone in 1964. But the Kothandaramasamy temple here remains intact. Kothandaramar temple is where Vibhishana, Ravana's brother surrendered before Lord Rama.

The temple is estimated to have been constructed about 500 - 1000 years ago. Rama, the main idol, is depicted as having a bow (Kothandam), and hence the



Kothandaramasamy temple

name Kothandaramaswamy for the idol. The temple has the deities of Rama, Lakshmana, Sita, Hanuman and Vibhishana. The temple is surrounded by sea and remains a tourist attraction.

HOP & STOP

Ariyaman Beach

On the Palk Bay sides of Ramnad district where the waters are calm and the waves are gentle, the ariyaman beach is a much sought after tourist spot. The beach is clean and fringed by casuarina trees, that offers shelter to the visitors. It is also known by the name of Kushi Beach.

This calm beach also has umpteen choices of water sports, giving tourists entertaining ways to spend their time. There is a children's park at the beach with ample spaces and rides for kids to play. There is also a watch tower located here, offering mesmerizing view of the vast ocean and the surrounding areas.

Kunthukal Beach

Kunthukal beach is located in a small fishing village named Kunthukal, which is nearly about 12 kms. from the Rameswaram main land. The crystal clear blue sea water with moderate tides makes this beach awesome. One can have the view of Pamban bridge and the nearest islands around Rameswaram from this beach.

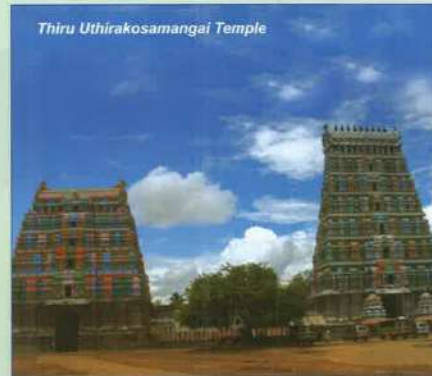
Thiru Uthirakosamangai Temple

Three deities Mangalanathar (Lord Shiva), Mangaleshwari (Parvathi devi Ambal), Natarajar (Emerald Statue) serves the main attraction among pilgrims.

The life-size 5.5ft tall statue of presiding deity Natarajar statue made of emerald called as Maragatha Natarajar is covered with sandal paste throughout the year and unveiled for just one day during Arudhra festival in Dec-Jan. To witness this sacred event, thousands of pilgrims come from all over the country and abroad.

This temple is specially worshiped by devotees for marriage and child related problems. It is one of the rarest Shiva temple, as it displays the three forms of Lord Shiva viz., Moorthi, Virutcham and Theerttham.

It is also believed that worshipping god and goddess of Uthirakosamangai temple on the various occasions of a day gives relief from various sins.



Thiru Uthirakosamangai Temple

Thirupullani

Believed to exist from time immemorial is this Vaishnavite temple dedicated to Adi Jagannatha Perumal of Thirupullani, 12 kms. from Ramanathapuram. The daily pujas here are conducted to live traditional music, a



Thirupullani

veritable delight of sight and sound. The story goes that Dasharatha performed a yagnam in the temple praying for children and the Lord blessed him with Lord Rama and his three brothers. Even today, the childless worship at this temple for a similar boon.

Sethukarai

A place of puranic importance, Sethukarai is an important pilgrim centre having religious significance owing to the belief that Lord Rama is said to have constructed a bridge from here over the sea water to reach Sri Lanka.

There is a temple for Sethu Bandhana Anjaneya right on the sea shore. Hindu rituals are performed here.



Sethu Bandhana Anjaneya Temple

Kanjirankulam and Chitrangudi Bird Sanctuary

Kanjirankulam Bird Sanctuary is a 1.04 sq.km protected area near Mudukulathur in Ramanathapuram District, declared in 1989. It is adjacent to Chitrangudi Bird Sanctuary. It is notable as a nesting site for several migratory heron species that roost in the prominent growth of babul trees there.

The breeding population of migratory water birds arrive here between October and February which includes painted stork, white ibis, black ibis, little egret, great egret. The best time to visit the sanctuary is during the months from October to February.

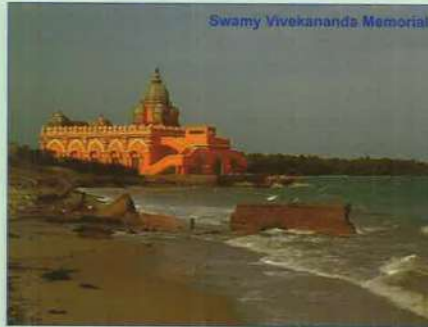


Swamy Vivekananda Memorial

A magnificent memorial has been constructed at Kundhukal in Rameswaram island, where Swami Vivekananda landed on his return after attending the Parliament of World Religions at Chicago in 1893.

Swamiji was very particular that he should express his sense of gratitude to Raja of Ramnad on his return to home. Swami Vivekananda reached Colombo on 15th January 1897 and was accorded a warm reception. On 26th January 1897 when Vivekananda reached Pamban, he set his foot at Kundukal.

The Raja of Ramnad was there to receive him in



person. The Raja knelt before Swami Vivekananda and prostrated before him in veneration. A public reception was accorded to Swami Vivekananda with Raja of Ramnad taking the lead in drawing the state carriage with Swami seated in the middle.

Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam Memorial

The memorial is built in memory of the late President of India Avul Pakir Jainulabdeen Abdul Kalam by DRDO. Architecturally, it has taken inspiration from several national landmarks. The front entrance looks similar to India Gate, while the two domes are on the lines of Rashtrapati Bhavan.



The memorial has four main halls each depicting the life and times of Dr. Kalam. Hall 1 focuses on his childhood and educational phase, Hall 2 the Presidential days, Hall 3 his days in ISRO and DRDO, and Hall 4 his post-Presidential days, till he breathed his last at Shillong.

Ramalingavilasam Palace - Ramnad

This palace was built during the reign of Kizhavan Sethupathi (1674-1710 CE) the most popular among the Sethupathi Kings. The murals found in this building representing the life pattern of the Sethupathi Kings, scenes depicting their battles with the Maratha Kings of Thanjavur and their European contacts are quite exquisite. Antiquities on display are iron spear, sword, dagger, gun, and Valari (Boomerang) and antiquities collected from Alagankulam excavations.

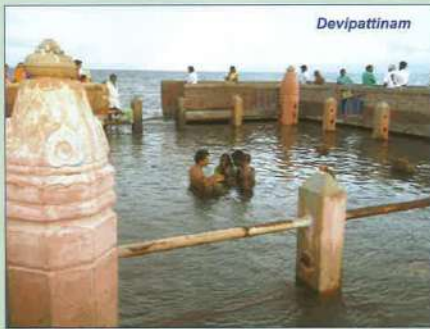


Besides antiquities, beautiful paintings depicting royal warfare, scenes from epic Ramayana particularly the birth of Rama (Balakandam) with description in colloquial language, Bhagavatham, and erotic scenes found on the ceiling and walls of this Palace are archaeologically significant.

Historians point out that the palace would have been one of the very few buildings in the south, including the Danish fort at Tranquebar in that period.

Devipattinam

A coastal village also known as Navabashanam is famous for the temple dedicated to Devi, who killed the demon Mahishasura at the spot. Rama worshipped in Navagrahas (9 Planets) here. Pilgrims perform religious rites for their forefathers here.



Kurusadai Island

4 kms. from Mandapam, a beautiful Island that's rich in marine biosphere. A Paradise for nature lovers. You get a chance to see Coral reefs, Dolphins and Sea - Cow (Dugong) by a glass bottom boat cruise (on permission).

Karangadu

On the Palk Bay sides of Ramnad district where the waters are calm and the waves are gentle, the Karankadu beach is a much sought after tourist spot. The beach is clean and fringed by casuarinas trees, that offers shelter to the visitors.

This calm beach also has umpteen choices of water sports, giving tourists entertaining ways to spend their time. There is a children's park at the beach with ample spaces and rides for kids to play. There is also a watch tower located here, offering mesmerizing view of the vast ocean and the surrounding areas. It is controlled by Forest Department.

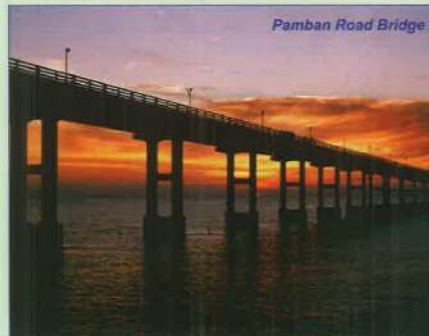
Arulmigu Veilugantha Vinayagar Temple - Uppoor

The presiding deity is Veilugantha Vinayagar. The name itself signifies the importance, that is, Veil (sun) rays will fall on the deity in the morning and evening. The rays fall on the southern side during dhaksinayana period (Aug-Jan) and on the northern side during utharayana period (Feb-Jul).

The historical importance of the temple is closely associated with Ramayanam as Sri Rama himself installed the presiding deity and worshiped for his success for rescuing Sita Devi from Sri Lanka. This was the first deity installed by Lord Rama in Rameswaram island. Vinayaka Chaturthi festival is celebrated in this temple in a very grand manner for 10 days during which the deity will be taken out in procession in silver rathams.

Pamban Road Bridge

Pamban Road bridge also known as Annai Indira Gandhi Road Bridge stands on the palk strait between the shores of Mandapam and Pamban island. It was inaugurated by former Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi on October 2, 1988. This 2.2 kms. long Bridge took close to 14 years to get completed. The bridge has a clearance of 24.4 mts., and is supported by 79 pillars of which 64 pillars are erected in the sea.



Pamban Rail Bridge

It is an engineering marvel that evokes awe! Few can forget a train journey on the Pamban bridge, connecting Rameswaram island to the mainland. Spanning over



2.06 kms. between the mainland and pamban island, it is the second longest sea bridge in India. The railway bridge is located 12.5 mts. above sea level and it consists of 143 stone pillars and a double-leaf bascule section with a Scherzer rolling type lift span, that can be raised to let ships pass. The construction began in August 1911 and was opened on 24 February 1914.

Aadhirethineswarar Temple Thiruvadanai

The presiding deity here is Lord Siva known as Aadhirethineswarar (Swayambhu Lingam) and his consort is Snehavalli Amman. The temple is estimated to about 1000-2000 years old. The Aadhirethineswarar Temple situated in Thiruvadanai, is one of the 14 temples in South India praised in the Thevaram hymns.

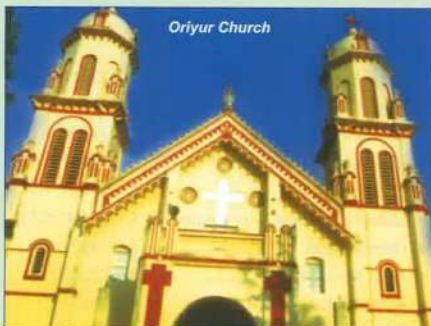
Legend has it that Vaaruni, the son of Varuna, the God of rain, once stayed in the Ashram of Sage Durvasa who was in deep meditation. Vaaruni's friends played there using the fruits and flowers in the ashram and disturbed the penance of the sage. The angry sage cursed Vaaruni for his deed to become a strange creature with the head of a

goat (Aadu) and body of an elephant (Yanai). He regained his normal form after worshipping Shiva at this temple. The name of the town is believed to have been derived from this mythological incident.

Saint Arulanandar Church - Oriyur

Oriyur Arulanandar Church known for its magnificent shrine with Portuguese façade, is a limelight for most of the Christians. The Church is home to the martyrdom St. John de Britto, a Portuguese Jesuit better known as 'Arulanandar'.

It was in this place that the saint was beheaded in 1693 and the sand dune is said to have turned red, believed to be stained by the blood of the saint. Here, one can see a magnificent shrine that contains a captivating statue of Arulanandar offering his neck in humble submission to



the executioner.

Main significance of this place is the healing power of the 'red sand' and the faith of the devotees. People are said to be cured of incurable diseases after applying the sand on their bodies. Couples are said to be blessed with children on visiting the shrine and praying to the saint. During festivals, pilgrims from Tamil Nadu and Kerala—Hindus, and Muslims jostle with Christians and through the shrine in thousands in their eagerness to honor a holy man who shed his life blood in Tamil Nadu.

Erwadi Dargah

The Erwadi dargah is a holy Islamic sacred tomb turned shrine of Seyyad Ali, who came from Arabia about 800 years ago. The main dargah which came to be established is dedicated to Seyyad Ali. There are three other dargahs here dedicated to Shahids mother, wife and his son.

The saint was a gifted child, born to the King of Madurai in 1137 AD. He went to central Asia in 1162 AD to spread Islam and returned to Madurai after the death of his father.

The dargah is well known for healing mentally deranged people. The cure offered to the sick people here is only the holy water from the dargah twice a day.



Santhanakoodu festival, the most important event of the dargah, when the tomb of the saint is given a coat of sandalwood paste, begins on the tenth day from the new moon in January and ends on the 22nd day. It provides an outstanding example of religious amity.

Gulf of Mannar

The world's richest marine biosphere. It's home to nearly 3600 rare species of marine organisms. The Islands are located 8 kms. from the hinterland. The biosphere is spread over 10,500 sq.km of which 560 sq.km forms the



Gulf of Mannar. The Reserve consists of 21 Islands, each formed 10,000 years ago. Tourists can take a ride from Thonithurai. Glass bottom boat from the same point will take you on a tour of the coral wealth.

Museum

Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute and Bio-Zoological Marine Exhibition, Mandapam. Ph: 04573 - 241443.

ACCOMMODATION

(STD Code : 04573)

- Hotel Tamil Nadu, Near Agnitheertham ☎ 221277/221064
- Arulmigu Ramanathaswamy Temple Cottages ☎ 221223/221292
- Govt. Guest House ☎ 222337
- Railway Retiring Room ☎ 221226
- Hotel Tamil Nadu ☎ 241512
- Hotel Vinayaga ☎ 222361
- The Hotel Royal Park ☎ 21680/221321/221323
- Hotel Venkatesh A/c ☎ 21296/221135/221753
- Hotel Maharaja ☎ 22127
- Hotel Island Star A/c ☎ 22147
- Hotel Sunrise View ☎ 23434/222453/222424

TOURIST MAP OF RAMANATHAPURAM



- Sri Palani Andavar Lodge A/c (221042
- Hotel Sri Saravana A/c (22336
- Chinnsamy Lodge (22117
- Sri Ramanathaswamy Tourist Home (22121
- Hotel Shanmuga Paradise A/c (22984/222945/221860
- Agrsan Bhavan (221514
- Sri Kumaran Deluxe A/c Lodge (221410/222410
- Sri Hotel Guru Lodging A/c (221531/223206
- Hotel Siva Murugan A/c Lodge (222888
- Sweet Little Home : Karthick Lodge A/c (22377
- Lodge Sanhya A/c (221329
- Anandha Lodge A/c (222652
- Milan Lodge (222190
- Sumathi Lodge A/c (223427
- Hotel Ramesh Park A/c (222227
- Hotel Eswar A/c (221794
- Santhosh Lodge (221199
- Geetha Lodge A/c (222023
- Hotel Queen Place A/c (221229
- Santhana Lodge (223500/22311
- Hotel Hare Rama Hare Krishna (223222
- Daiwik Hotel (222262
- Pearl Residency (223234
- Hyatt Palace (222233
- Rameswaram Grand (221450
- Brahma Kumaris Center (7200087772
- Coral Casita Beach Resort (7200087772

OTHER ACCOMMODATION (Mutts)

- Gujarat Bhavan (221301
- Bangur Dharmasala (223168
- Sringeri Madam (223567
- Udupi Chatram (221004
- Kasi Madam (222258

Scale : 1 cm = 5.9 km. Approx.