

Mangai Bhagar Temple is 2000 years old and spiritual pastures enrich the temple at the foothills with prime gods Suyambu Thirukkula Kunranathan, Amman Kulai Mutha Nayagi. The core of the temple that finds a place for lord Muruga has been stranded by the eminent poet Arunagiri Nathar in his famous work Thirupugazh. A dargah is located at the top of the hills and every Friday and Sunday more than 1000 people visit. The crowd includes both Muslims and Hindus. "Urangapuli" a tree with never shrinking leaves. "Perilla Maram" a tree without name are some of wonder trees available in this hill.

Thiruppathur

Thiruppathur is 34 km from Sivagangai and 22 km from Karaikudi. An ancient Siva temple here is one of the fourteen great Pandiyan Temples. Thiruthalinathar and Sivakami Amman are the deities. Annual car festival is celebrated during Vaikasi. Maruthu Brothers who fought for the freedom for India, were hanged by the British rulers in this town.

Kambar Tomb

The tomb of Kambar, author of Kamba Ramayanam, is located in Nattarasankottai. The final days of the poet were spent in this area. The people of this region have a belief that the sand of this soil has got some miraculous power, that it could make a dumb to speak when placed on the mouth and also it increases the intellectual ability.

Other Important Tamil Poets :

1. Okkur-Masathiyar - A Women Tamil poet in sangam period who wrote poems in "Puranooru" an ancient Tamil Literature. Okkur is 7km from Sivagangai.
2. Allur Kilar - An ancient Tamil poet and he wrote poems in Purananooru. Allur is 5km from Sivagangai.
3. Kaniyan Poongunranar - An ancient sangam poet and he belongs to Mahiblanpatti. It is 25km from Thiruppathur. He wrote the famous poem "Yadum Oorae Yavarum Kaelir".

Madapuram

Adalkalam Katha Iyyanar

Sri Bathirakallyamman Temple

Sri Bathirakallyamman Temple is 20 km from Madurai. In this temple Kaliyamman is in standing position depicting the readiness of her to protect the world from any injustice. The Dias on which Goddess Kali standing is wide. On that is a horse, which stands on its back legs in lifted position showing its readiness for a war, its height is 13 yards and it is fully decorated. The pilgrims have the custom of breaking coins into half as a prayer to solve their grievances that cannot be done by human beings.

Sri Sorna Moortheswaran Temple

The story behind the name of the town Kanda devi is reminiscent of the events from Ramayanam. In Ramayana Sri Rama's wife

Seetha, was taken away by Ravana and was imprisoned in Ashoka Vanam. Hanuman returned from Srilanka and expressed this news to Rama as "Kanden Deviayi" in this place. Hence this place is called Kandadevi. Sri Sorna Moortheswaran Temple is situated here and people from various parts worship the Lord daily. This place is 2 km north of Devakottai. Kanda Devi car festival is very popular and large number of devotees participate in this festival.

Murugan Temple

Kundrakudi located 11 km west from Karaikudi on a small hill is famous for its ancient cave temple of Lord Muruga. It is also a place of considerable historical interest on the western side of the hill there are three excavated cave shrines at a ground level. These are in line and adjacent to one another. Later structures have been added to these shrines in the front. The temple is stunning with four Teppakulams on all the four sides of it. The carvings of 9th, 10th and 12th century are seen here.

Vetankudi Bird Sanctuary

Vetankudi bird's sanctuary is a natural habitat of winter migratory and residential birds. It provides a safe place for roost, in breeding and feeding for birds with considerable diversity in nesting and feeding behavior. This place is 8km from Thiruppathur and 51 kms from Madurai. The sanctuary receives nearly 20,000 birds, both local and migratory spoon bills, spot bill, White Lbis, Nilled stork, Painted Stork, Night Heron etc.

Visiting Hours: Morning to Evening. No holiday, Entrance free.

For further Information, Contact :
TOURIST OFFICER
 Tourist Office,
 Mudiarasan Salai, Karaikudi Taluk,
 Sivagangai District - 630 001.
 Ph: 04565 232348 / Cell : 8939896400
 E-mail : touristofficekaraikudi@gmail.com



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SIVAGANGAI
TAMIL NADU - INDIA

SIVAGANGAI

History

Sivagangai District has many historical Linkages. This district has many traditional heritage sites which bear evidences of bygone kingdoms. Sri Sasivarna Periya Udayana Thevar was the founder and the First King of Sivagangai Dynasty. The places of former rulers exist throughout the district. The major part of Chettinad, the home land of Nattukottai Chettiars (Nagarathars) spreads over this ancient zone of Tamilnadu. The lakes and ponds over the district is an effort to increase the affluence of their locality inspite of scanty rainfall.



There are many places of tourist interest in Sivagangai District. Pillayarpatti and Kalayarkoil temples offer great spiritual places of the believers and breathtaking visual experience for the lovers of nature, culture and heritage. The chettinad Heritage houses, ancient temples, the fabulous Idaikattur church and Vettankudi Birds Sanctuary attract large number of tourists. A profile of the district :-

General Information

Area	: 41890 Sq. Km
Population	: 139626 (2011 Census)
Average Temperature	: Summer 38°C Winter 30°C.
Clothing	: Tropical
Rainfall	: 1906.20 mm
Languages	: Tamil, English & Telugu

District Collector

Office	: 04575 - 240389
House	: 04575 - 241455
Superintendent of Police	: 04575 - 240427

Karaikudi

Karaikudi is the main town, for the surrounding 75 villages. Karaikudi is located in between Tiruchirapalli and Rameswaram. It got its name because of the famous plant called "Karai" which is widely spread over this area. The famous temple Pillayarpatti is 12 km away from Karaikudi. The city is known for Sri Meenakshi Sundareswarar Temple, also known as Sivan Temple which was built in 1872. The temple here is with 108 statues depicting different aspects and forms of Ganapathy. Sekkalai is located at the North-East of Karaikudi, which was known as "Jain Kunda Puram" 50 years back. In North-West of Karaikudi is Muthu-Pattinam which is known for Muthu Mariamman Temple.

Timings: 5.45 AM to 8.45 PM.

Contact No: 044-27885303 (Hill Temple), 044 - 27885247 (Office). <http://www.tirutanigaimurugan.tnhrcce.in/>



Keezhadi

Keezhadi (also as Keeladi) excavation site is a Sangam period settlement that is being excavated by the Archaeological Survey of India and the Tamil Nadu Archaeology Department. This site is located 12 km southeast of Madurai in Tamil Nadu, near the town of Keezhadi in Sivagangai district. It comes under the Thiruppuvanam Taluk of sivagangai district. This is a large-scale excavation carried out in Tamil Nadu after the Adichanallur archaeological site. The settlement lies on the bank of the Vaigai River and it reflects the ancient culture of Tamil people.

After six phases of Excavation Ornaments have been found including sponges, marble, agate beads, green, yellow and blue glass beads. The rouletted, arretine-type ceramics, black and red parchment fragments and white-colored black, red papillae and reddish-pitted pieces have also been unearthed. The ASI sent two samples from Keezhadi to Beta Analytic, a Miami-based radiocarbon dating laboratory. The laboratory dated the samples to be about 2600 years old. This site was



estimated to be from the period between 6th century BCE and 1st century CE.

Pillaiarpatti

The best known of the Nagarathar cave temple is Pillaiarpatti. About 12km from Karaikudi off the road to Madurai, it attracts visitors in large numbers from all parts of India and aboard. Karpaga Vinayagar is a huge bas-relief in a cave hewn out of a hillock and is a splendid example of the south Indian sculpture. The 6 feet tall sculpture is dated to the 5th century A.D. The Rajagopuram towers over the Eastern entrance rises in five



storeys. The temple is rich in stone and terracotta sculpture. There are 30 bronzes in the temple dating from the 10th century. The celebration at Vinayagar Chaturthi festival birth of Lord Vinayaga is well known here.

Nattarasankottai

Nattarasankottai is situated 9km from Sivagangai and 55 km from Madurai. Nattarasankottai is an ancient village and it is believed that the Nagarathar community migrated to this place in Pandia Kingdom. The fame and popularity came to this place mainly due to Sree Kannudaya Nayaki Amman Temple. On realizing the displeasure of Kannathal, the village people constructed a separate temple for Kannathal facing North with a water tank in the front. In this temple many Festivals are celebrated. The annual ten days festival in the Tamil month of Vaikasi include a silver chariot procession on the eighth day and grand wooden chariot procession on the ninth day. This temple Mahamandapam is known for its magnificent structure and



aesthetically carved pillars. The Kaliyattam festival is celebrated for 48 days once in 12 years. A Siva Temple and a Vishnu temple are also popular here.

Kalaiyarkovil

It is located 15 km from Sivagangai. Kalaiyarkovil was the seat of the freedom fighters like Muthu Vaduga Nathar and Marudhu brothers. Sorna Kaleeswarar Temple was the stronghold of the rulers of Sivagangai with a well-built extensive Sundarar Appar temple and Arunagiri Nathar who visited this temple praised the God with sacred poems. Vaikasi Festival (May-June) and Thai-poosam Festival (January-February) are celebrated here every year.

Thirukostiyur



Soumlya Narayana Perumal Temple

It is located 10 km southwest of Thiruppathur on the Sivagangai Thiruppathur highway. Sowmya Narayan Temple is a famous vaishnavaita pilgrim place. The halls used for accommodating the destitutes were built by kings from the community of Pandias Vanathirayars and Nayakkars of Tanjore. People used to take part in large numbers during the traditional functions like Masi Pournami Theppa Thiruvizha and Panguni Uthira Oonjal Thiruvizha. These are celebrated in the last two Tamil months. "Thiru" means "sacred", "Koshty" means "assembly" and "Ur" means "Place" (ie. Place of sacred assembly). All the Gods are



supposed to have assembled here and discussed how to kill the demon Irayniyan.

Koviloor

Sri Kotravaleeswarar Temple

The Elegant and Artistical sculpture of 3rd century are seen here, that affirms the existence of ancient culture. The Tamil scripts of that time are engraved on the stone. It is located 2 kms from Karaikudi. Music and Sculpture schools are also located here.

Terracotta Dolls

Terracotta horses, dolls and pots are prepared at Manamadurai.

Horn Craft

The art of making beautiful birds and animals out of horn is practiced by a few families in a hamlet at Kalla Block.

Dellcacles

Wide variety of delicious Chettinad food is very popular in restaurants and hotels all over the state. The well balanced combination of spices, pulses, vegetables and quality rice enhance the palatable taste of the preparations. Chettinad food culture provides a varied diet for both the vegetarian and the non-vegetarian. The fluffy, soft idles are served with numerous varieties of colourful chutnies. The Pepper chicken, mutton, uppukari, etc. of Chettinad are all time favorites. Chettinad cuisine is really a gourmet's dream come true. Apart from the main stream food, there are lists of snacks items on the menu that are delicious, colorful and irresistible. Vaazhai Poo Vadai, Kuzhi Paniyaram, Beetroot Halwa, Seepu Seedai are specially prepared during Feasts.

Kanadukathan

Kanadukathan is located at about 15 kms from Thirumayam and 16 kms from Karaikudi. The people of this town played an important role in the development of education and trading in Tamilnadu. Chettinad Palace, Heritage houses and Island bungalow are the monuments that attract foreign tourists. The Chettinad palace in Kanadukathan was built in 1912 with Burma Teak, Granite Pillars, stained glass and imported Italian tiles. The palace is not allowed for visitors.

Arulmigu Sivaloganathasamy Temple

Arulmigu Sivaloganathasamy Temple also called big temple is situated on Karaikudi - Trichy Road. A large number of pilgrims visit this temple daily. The structure of the city and quarters reflect their style, attitude and their eagerness to provide food and shelter to their guests and travellers. Their hospitality and kindness are well known.

Accomodation

Chettinad Manson : 04565 - 273080
 Chettinad Court : 04565 - 283776
 Visalam : 04565 - 273301 to 272302,
 273354 to 273357

Mahalakshmi Handloom

Weaving Centre : 04565 - 273286
 Venkatraman Handloom : 94420 47995

Athangudi

It is situated 12 kms away from Thirumayam. There are numerous fabulous fore like houses in Athangudi as in other parts of Chettinad. The tall single or twin teak wood pillars on the corridors catch the attention of visitors. The painted pillars are smoothly polished. The inner walls are finished with the smooth Chettinad Plaster a mix of eggs and eggshells. The architecture of a typical Chettiar home is a study in how human dwelling can be in harmony with nature.

Pattamangalam

Dakshinamurthy Gurusthalam

This place is 5 km south of Thiruppathur and 5 km east from Thirukostiyur. A familiar sight in this place is a wide Banyan tree. The sculptures of ancient people and damaged statues of 9th century are seen 1 km west from here. Unlike other temples of Dakshinamurthy this temple faces east. Lord Shiva appears at Pattamangalam as Dakshinamurthy, to give eight kinds of power to Six Karthigai Women, those who parented Lord Muruga.

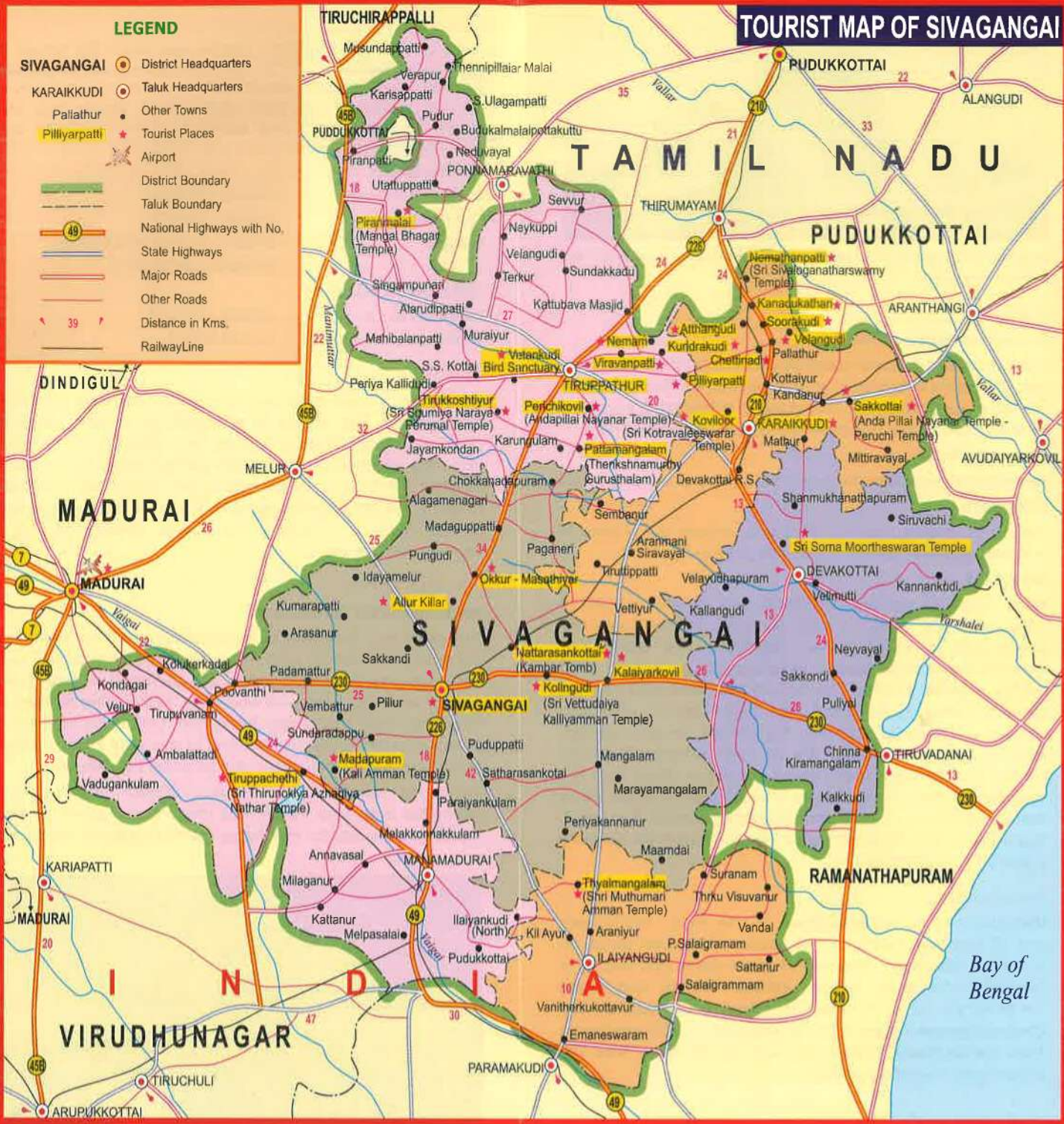
Navarathiri Thiruvizha and Panguni Uthiram Thiruvizha are celebrated every year People visit the temple regularly to seek blessings of the God for their happy married life and to be blessed with children.



TOURIST MAP OF SIVAGANGAI

LEGEND

- SIVAGANGAI** ● District Headquarters
- KARAICKUDI** ○ Taluk Headquarters
- Paliathur ● Other Towns
- Pillayarpatli ★ Tourist Places
- ✈ Airport
- ▬ District Boundary
- - - Taluk Boundary
- 49 National Highways with No.
- State Highways
- Major Roads
- Other Roads
- 39 Distance in Kms.
- Railway Line



Thayamangalam

Muthumariamman Temple

Thayamangalam is situated 30 km from Sivagangai and 20 km from Paramakudi and it is very near to Iliyangudi. Muthumariamman Temple Pankuni Urchavam festival is celebrated here every year (March-April) for 10 days. During this festival, nearly 2 lakh visitors and pilgrims come here to offer their prayers. In 1914, the idol of Amman was made with sacred stone and the shrine and Vimanam were constructed. In 1935, the Rajagopuram was built.

Kollangudi

Arulmigu Vettudaiya Kalliamman Temple

The temple is small but beautiful. The paintings on the walls and ceiling of the temple depict the fame and eminence of deity Kalidevi. A chemical known as POONEER essential for the preparation of siddha medicine is found growing occasionally on the soil around the temple. The history reads that the Marudhu Pandian brothers worshipped this deity with their battlefield coins. War weapons and coins were manufactured here during the reign of the Sivagangai rulers.

Festival season

August - Vinayagar Chaturthi (Birth of Lord Vinayaga)

October - Vijayadasami

January & July, Last Friday - 108 Thiruvilakku Poojai

Thirunokiyazhagiya Nathar Temple, Thirupachethi

This temple is located 10 km away from Manamadurai and was constructed and opened for worship during Pandia's rule at Madurai. Here Chithirai festival is celebrated for 10 days.

Sakkottai

Veera Sekara Umaiyambigai Temple is here. Sakkottai is next to Puduvayal village on Karaikudi - Aranthangi Bus route. This Temple is a very popular pilgrim centre. The south facing Gopuram is tall and sharp as it goes up and looks like a sword. All the temples speak of history and legend.

Anda Pillai Nayanar Temple, Peruchi Kovil

This temple is 2 km South from Kandra manikkam village and it dates back to the sixth century. Lord Saneeswara is worshiped individually for relief from unfortunate events and augury.

Piranmalai

Mangai Bhagar Temple

Piranmalai is 60 km from Sivagangai and 65 km away from Madurai. The historical Piramalai depicts the fragrance of the magnificent legend king "Vallal Pari" who reigned justice and generosity in this province of prosperity. The chariot given by King Pari to a creeper plant to grow upon is an evidence for his benevolent generosity towards all living kinds. The exotic flower "Kurunji" that blossoms once in 12 years exhilarates the tourists.

Cartography: P.Seminarasan, 0444957716, 9444637716