



- Golden Lodge ☎ : 252811
- Hotel Park ☎ : 222471
- S.A.S.A Lodge ☎ : 252293
- Hotel Arunachala Inn ☎ : 228300
- Sangeetha Residency ☎ : 251474
- C.S. Residency ☎ : 221751
- Ramana Residency ☎ : 252425
- Siva Residency ☎ : 233009
- ☎ : 8940999555

**LIST OF TRAVEL AGENTS IN
THIRUVANNAMALAI DISTRICT**

- VND Travels ☎ : 9443221272
- ☎ : 9740421272
- Iyyappan Travels ☎ : 9942186556
- ☎ : 9443814511
- Sri Vinayagam Travels ☎ : 9585516625
- Pichandavar Transport ☎ : 236643 / 238323
- Narayana moorthy Travels ☎ : 04183-225045
- ☎ : 04183-225656
- ☎ : 9500834446
- Hi Tech tours & Travels ☎ : 9787977189
- ☎ : 8668134938

- AI Nadeem Travels ☎ : 2500380
- ☎ : 9443227645
- Sri Mugambiga travels ☎ : 9894803024
- Arunachala Travels Highway ☎ : 238591
- ☎ : 9443423328
- Murugan Travels ☎ : 99441815888
- NS Travels (Bus service) ☎ : 9840464782
- Ganapathi Travels ☎ : 9443337343
- Lucky Travels (IATA)
(Air ticketing) ☎ : 253585
- ☎ : 9042162635
- ☎ : 9440722814
- Sri Patchaiyamma Travels ☎ : 9444262584
- ☎ : 9443685958
- New National Travels ☎ : 9442308358
- Aagna Travels (IATA)
(Air ticketing) ☎ : 223199
- ☎ : 9543324460
- Sri Jai Anchaneyar Travels ☎ : 9443144064
- ☎ : 9123509494

**Further details contact:
Tourist Officer**

Government of Tamil Nadu Tourist Office,
Thiruvannamalai - 606 601.
Phone : 04175 - 253020
Email : totvm2018@gmail.com

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.itdconline.com
Toll free No. 1800 4253 1111

30,000 Copies

March 2020

Incredible India

enchancing
tamil nadu
experience yourself

Thiruvannamalai
TAMIL NADU - INDIA



Arulmigu Arunachaleswarar Temple

Most important among them is the Rajagopuram that is 217 ft. high. This is believed to be the second highest Gopuram in India. According to the history of Thiruvannamalai, this temple is the largest temple in India built exclusively for Shiva and Parvathi.

Arulmigu Arunachaleswarar Temple

Thiruvannamalai is a world renowned pilgrim centre located at the foot hills of Annamalai hills. This temple city is about 82 kms. away from Vellore and 180 kms. From Chennai. Shiva is prayed here in the form of Agni, one of the panchaboothas that is used as an element to



Arulmigu Arunachaleswarar Temple

Thiruvannamalai

GENERAL INFORMATION

Area	: 6191 Sq. Kms.
Population	: 41,64,875 (2011 Census)
Altitude	: 171 mts. above the sea level
Temperature	
Summer	: Max. 34.93 0 C Min. 19.36 0 C
Winter	: Max. 30 0 C Min. 20 0 C
Clothing	: Tropical
Season	: Throughout the year
Languages	: Tamil and English
STD Code	: 04175

HISTORY

Thiruvannamalai is an ancient temple town in Tamil Nadu with unique historical back ground. It is one of the holy town that finds in the poems written by reputed Tamil saivaites poets. (padal petra sthalam).

The ancient Kings starting from the Chola Dynasty period read from the Tamil works and started reposing more faith on Lord Shri Arunachaleswarar. They started contributing their share by constructing many Gopurams, Mandapams and Shrines by making steady additions to the temple structure over the last one thousand years. During the reign of King Krishnadevarayar of Vijayanagaram, Lord Shri Arunachaleswarar temple saw many buildings and structures in the form of gopurams and mandapams came to be built, since King

incarnate this earth or universe. Shiva is known by devotees as Annamalaiyar or Arunachaleswarar.

The Arunachaleswarar temple has a unique structure with a 66 mts. high gopuram consisting of thirteen storey tier. The temple has seven prakaras and nine gopurams. The tallest gopuram was built by king Krishnadevaraya in the fifteenth century. Shri Arunachaleswarar temple is spread over 25 acres of land.

The most significant factor in this temple is that Lord Shiva is worshiped in the form of fire. Every year during the month of Karthigai (Tamil month), the flame is lit on

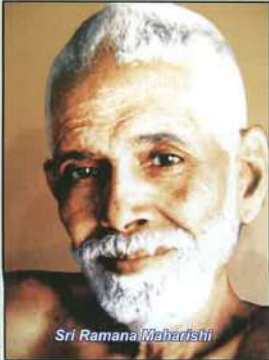
the hill top and this ritual is witnessed by millions of devotees who gather here from all corners of the world. This festival is widely called as 'Karthikai Deepam' in Tamil. Devotees consider greatly auspicious to witness this fire every year since Shiva or Shri Arunachaleswarar is prayed as Agni at Thiruvannamalai.

Five elements of Panchaboothas are associated to different places of worship in Tamil Nadu and Andhra. Water is associated with a temple in Thiruvanaikaval, Space is attributed to a temple at Chidambaram, Earth at Kancheepuram and Wind at Sri Kalahasthi in Andhra nearer to Tirupathi.

All devotees go round the hill and it is called Pradakshina and it is usually done during the full moon day (Pournami). About five lakh devotees go round this Annamalai hill every full moon day and it is around 14 kms. in distance. This practice of doing Pradakshina regularly helps the devotees to stay spiritually, mentally and physically fit.

Ramana Maharishi Ashram

Thiruvannamalai is also known for its Saint Ramana Maharishi Ashram. Ramana Maharishi was born in a simple and poor family at a small village near Madurai. He was born in the year 1879 on 30th December. Venkatramana was his real name. After his father's death when Ramana was only in his teens, he with his mother moved to his uncle's house in Madurai. It was here that Ramana met a person from Thiruvannamalai who came to



Sri Ramana Maharishi

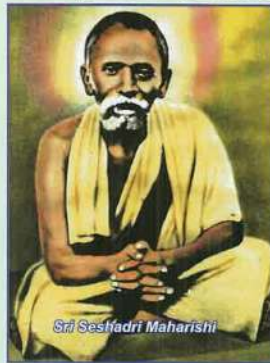
his uncle's house at Madurai. After hearing some news about Thiruvannamalai from that person, he was very impressed on going to see Lord Shri Arunachaleswarar at Thiruvannamalai.

Saint Ramana Maharishi's teachings drew many people towards him and today after 58 years after his nirvana, there are millions of followers. These devotees repeatedly visit his ashram to receive his immortal blessings. They particularly visit his ashram during the Maha Shivarathri day and many others visit throughout the year.

One can reach Ramana Maharishi Ashram that lies merely two miles from Thiruvannamalai railway station, lying between Villupuram and Katpadi route. Ramana Ashram can be easily reached via bus and private cabs.

Sri Seshadri Maharishi Ashram

Sri Seshadri Swamigal was born in the year 1870 at Kancheepuram. It is believed that he went to



Sri Seshadri Maharishi

Thiruvannamalai when he was in his teens. They were good friends even though their way of life was totally different from one another. Seshadri Swamigal's behavior was strange to the devotees.

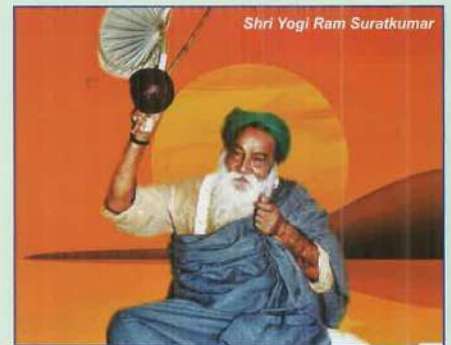
The Ashram of Seshadri Swamigal

is located near the Ramana Ashram at Thiruvannamalai.

Contact : 04175 - 236999.

Shri Yogi Ram Surat Kumar Ashram

Shri Yogiram Surat Kumar was also well known among his devotees as Visiri Samiyar especially with his followers from Tamil Nadu. Though he was born at a



Shri Yogi Ram Surat Kumar

village near Kasi, he spent his spiritual life at Thiruvannamalai, the abode of Lord Shri Arunachaleswarar. Shri Yogiram hails from a traditionally religious family. From his early childhood, he was spiritually inclined and was attracted towards the Saints and Yogis living near the banks of river Ganges. He was born in the year 1918 on the first day in the month of December. His birth place was a small village lying near the banks of the river Ganges.

People around child yogiram noticed in him a strong urge to seek God in various forms. And as he grew he had an inclination to pursue God and follow in the spiritual path of life. To achieve this goal he was eager to become a disciple of some saints, swamijis and yogis. He used to sit along with the meditating sadhus at the ganga river banks and engage himself in Nama Japam. This continued every day and Yogiram became too involved in his religious activities. In the process he became a good friend with all the sadhus and saints. He learnt from them all the spiritual teachings over the years. Seeing his enthusiasm to learn, the Swamijis were keen to teach him without hesitation.

Timing: 5.00 a.m. to 12.00 noon and 4.00 p.m. to 8.00 p.m.

Contact : 04175 - 237567 Mobile : 9443383557.

Brahma Kumaris Ashram -

12 Jothir Linga Darshan, Kosalai

This place is located very near to the Holly hill with abundant powerful spiritual vibrations, 8 Kms. from Thiruvannamalai and half a km. away from Adiannamalai village. Here Devotees can have the darshan of all the ancient 12 powerful Jothir Lingams of India such as Somnath, Mallikarjuna, Maha Kaleshwar, Omkareshwar, Beemashankar, Vaidyanath, Rameshwar, Nageshwar, Vishwanath, Triambakeshwar, Kedarnath, Grishneshwar at one place.



There is also a pictorial exhibition of spiritual knowledge for meditation. There is a sound proof meditation experiencing room with latest digital technology. A wide range of spiritual books are also available.

Since 1936 the Brahma Kumaris World Spiritual University has taught the ancient art of Rajayoga Meditation to hundreds of thousands of people worldwide. The University has a network of 5400 branches in more than 147 Countries. Course in meditation is taught to people of all ages and cultural backgrounds. Ph: 04175-298111, 235047.

Timings : 7.00 a.m. to 12.00 p.m. & 5.00 p.m. to 8.00 p.m.

Endhira Saneeswarar Temple, Erikuppam

This is a famous Navagraha Temple dedicated to Sani Bhagavan (Planet Saturn). It is located 9 kms. from Arani on the Padavedu route. Usually Sri Sani Bhagwan appears in the idol form, but in Erikuppam temple, Sri Sani Bhagwan graces in the form of the Shivalinga.

The temple is in the midst of green fields. The entrance sculpture shows Sani Bhagwan in a Rath which is driven by the crows. There are also paintings of all planets with their vahana in the front hall.



Timings : 6.00 a.m. to 9.00 p.m. on all Saturdays without break.

Week days : 6.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m. and 3.00 p.m. to 7.00 p.m.

Contact : 04173 - 229273, 9360223428.

Renugambal Temple, Padavedu

This Padavedu is one of the most important 'Sakthi Sihalas' in Thondainadu. Padavedu is 8 kms. far from the branch road of Vandavasli lying on the Thiruvannamalai highway. This place is 52 kms. from Thiruvannamalai, 150 kms. from Chennai and 23 kms. from Polur. Nearest Railway Station is located at Kadambur. Goddess Renugambal is self-manifested in this place, indicating

Renugambal Temple



'Sakthi is everything in this world' and offering her blessings along with Brahma, Vishnu and Lord Siva. In this place a number of sages performed penance & attained salvation. The existence of Banalingam and Nanakarshna Chakra consecrated by Adi Sankarar is the speciality of this place.

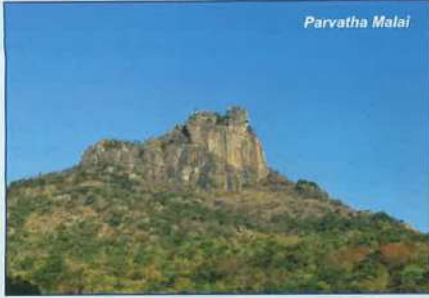
To prove that everything is under the power of Shakti, it is believed that three Lords, Brahmma, Vishnu and Shiva are in the sanctum sanctorum as formless. Worshipping Ambica means worshipping all the Gods and 30 crores Devas of the celestial world.

Ph: 04181 - 248224, 248424, 9443540660.

Parvathamalai

Parvathamalai is located at Thenmathimangalam village which is about 20 kms. from Polur. Polur is some 35 kms. north of Thiruvannamalai. Kadaladi which is about 25 kms. north of Thiruvannamalai is another route to reach the base of the hill. There's a very powerful Lord Shiva temple at the top of the Parvathamalai hill. Devas and spiritual beings from other lokas worship here every night. During the Pournami full moon, this hill attracts a lot of devotees.

Atop the hill are a Shiva temple apparently 2000 years old and an Ashram which is quite recently constructed. The presiding deity of the temple is Lord Mallikarjuna Swamy. One of the most popular theories attributed to the



Parvatha Malai

origin of Parvathamalai is that it was formed when a part of the Sanjeevani mountain that Lord Hanuman carried, fell down to form this existing hill. The hill is also popular for its medicinal plants. Devotees mentioned the hills hosts 119 varieties of medicinal herbs.

There is no transport to reach the top of hill which is 3500 ft. (approx.) from sea level. Kanchi Shri Shankaracharya saw the hill in the shape of Shivalingam. He saw the hill as God and doesn't want to keep his foot on the hill and just went around the hill worshipping it. Ramana Maharishi said there is no need for Guru for people in and around 30 kms. of Tiruvannamali and he will guide them as Guru. So people interested in spirituality can come here every month and attain bliss and enlightenment.

Reaching the top of Parvathamalai is an arduous task. It is a vertical mountain over 4,000 ft. in height that has iron rod steps, track steps, ladder steps, and sky steps (Agaya padi) not found at other such sacred mountains. The Kadapaarai Padhai section of the climb up the Hill is considered to be the toughest part of the trek. This part which is punctuated by iron rods drilled into the rocks and chains to assist during the sharp ascent is also only wide enough to accommodate one - way traffic. Thus one has to raise one's voice from the bottom of this section and wait for acknowledgment from the other end before starting to climb the Kadapaarai Padhai section.

There are 3 routes to Parvathamalai:

Chennai, Chengalpet, Melmaruvathur, Vandavasi, Polur, Parvathamalai.

Chennai, Kancheepuram, Arcot, Arni, Polur, Parvathamalai.

Chennai, Chengalpet, Tindivanam, Gingee, Thiruvannamalai, Parvathamalai.

Ph: 9442672283.

Jain Temple - Tirumalai

Jains have an ancient and influential history in Tamil Nadu, dating back to the Sangam era, 2,300 years ago. They have a small population, about 85,000, mainly in northeastern Tamil Nadu. Carol found out that there is an ancient Jain Temple near Thiruvannamalai, about 50 kms. on the way to Vellore.

Arihant Giri Digambar Jain Temple is in Thirumalai, about 50 kms. north of Thiruvannamalai, near Polur. There are two main Jain sects, the 'Sky - clad' (Digambara) of South India, and 'White - clad' (Svetambara) of West India. Tamil Nadu Jains have long held the Sky - clad teachings, so the Thirumalai Digambar temple features a big Sky - clad idol in the front. To Western eyes, the frontal male nudity of this Sky - clad holy man is a bit shocking.

Thirumalai is an ancient hillock, featuring an 18 ft. high idol of a Jain Tirthankara, enlightened saint, Neminath, one of the last Tirthankaras, and a temple to Mahavir, the



Jain Temple - Tirumalai



last of the 24 Jain Tirthankaras. It is not clear how old the temples are here. They must be pretty old, since the name of the place, Thirumalai means 'Temple Hill'. There are some indications that the roots go back more than 2000 years.

Contact : Manager - 9840715227.

Pachaiamman Temple, Vazhapanthal

This Munugapet Pachaiamman temple is 1000 years old. This temple is situated in Thiruvannamalai district near Vazhapanthal, Seiyar circle near Arani. It is a beautiful village surrounded by greenery of fields and small villages.

Ph: 04182 - 244441, 8608999572.



Pachaiamman Temple

Panduranga Temple, Thennangur

Thennangur is one of the villages of Vandavasi Taluk in Thiruvannamalai. It is located 70 kms. away from Thiruvannamalai and 110 kms. away from Chennai. The village was earlier known as Dakshina Halasyam and it is famous for its uniquely designed Hindu temple, Raghumayi Sametha Pandurangan Kovil. According to the Hindu puranas (myths), this village is the birth place of the Hindu Goddess Lakshmi.

The village was given rebirth by Shri Haridas Giri Swamigal, a disciple of Swami Gnanananda Giri, who decided on Dakshina Halasyam as the home for spreading



Panduranga Temple

Sanathana Dharma through Namasankeerthanam, because he strongly believed that one can easily reach the feet of God through music.

Ph: 04183 - 225997.

Sathanur Dam

This magnificent Sathanur dam was built in the year 1958. It is located near the Tiruvannamalai. One can reach from Lord Shri Arunachala temple by road which takes about half an hour drive by car. Sathanur dam is built across the Pennaiyar river that originates at the



Sathanur Dam

benefitted through water stored in this dam. Roughly it irrigates around 8000 hectares of lands. The total storage capacity of this dam is 7321 million cubic feet when the water stands at the full level of 119 ft. The other added attraction of this Sathanur dam is its picturesque location. This nature's beauty draws millions of tourists every year from all over the World. And people who visit Thiruvannamalai never fail to visit this dam. There is also a beautiful garden and a children's park as part of this dam. A small zoo is maintained here near this dam with some wildlife varieties.

Contact : 9994695911.

Javvadu Hills

Beeman Falls are located at a distance of 5 kms. from Jamanamarathur village. Jamanamarathur is situated 40 kms. from Polur. Generally the water flows in the cascade for more than 8 months in a year. The tourists enjoy bathing at the pool beneath the waterfall. The Beeman falls is a part of a reserve forest which is renowned for sandal wood and fruit bearing trees. A 12 kms. trek in the woods leads to the Beeman falls, which is the adventurous part of the visit to the falls.

The altitude of Beemanmadavu Falls and its surroundings ranges from 300 mts. to 1000 mts. Other



Eco Park - Javvadu Hills

Boating. One can make a weekend tour of the neighboring attractions in Thiruvannamalai such as Kavalur Observatory, Amirthi Forest, Glass House, Gingee Fort, Sathanur Dam, Padavedu, Parvathamalai and Devikapuram.

Karthigai Deepam

Karthigai Deepam is the major festival of Tamil Nadu and is also referred as Annamalai Deepam. The festival is celebrated for nine auspicious days with each day having its own special importance. There are special celebrations organized at Shri Arunachaleswarar Temple amidst Annamali Hills in Thiruvannamalai.

The celebrations begin with the flag hoisting on the Uttradam day and the festivity continues for nine days. The popular Bharani Deepam in five 'agantams' is lit in Shri Arunachaleswarar's Sannithi in early morning hours of the tenth day. Devotees move to the Annamalai Hills to worship the Bharani Deepam on the final day of the festival. It is believed that the flame of the lamp does not sputter on this day and divulge into the form of Lord Muruga, reaching up to the sky.

In the evening, the Pancha Murthis are brought to the Katchi Mandapam. At dusk (Pradosham), with the Karthigai day harmonizing with full moon day, the deity, Ardhanareswarar, is taken in a grand procession on the decorated vehicle to this place with the five deepams



Karthigai Deepam

which are put in a big receptacle near the flag staff. At the same time, the guiding light on the hill is lit and huge crowd raise cry in a loud voice "Annamalaikku Arogara". It is a sight for the Gods! The lighting of the beacon on the top of the hill is the finale of ten days of merriment in the town.

Chitra Pournami

This is also one of the Full Moons (Chitra Pouranami) during the year that attracts the most people to make the sacred walk around the holy mountain, Arunachala. Most people walk on the roads that circle Arunachala, making pradakshina (or girivalam in Tamil) to Arunachala.



Chitra Pournami

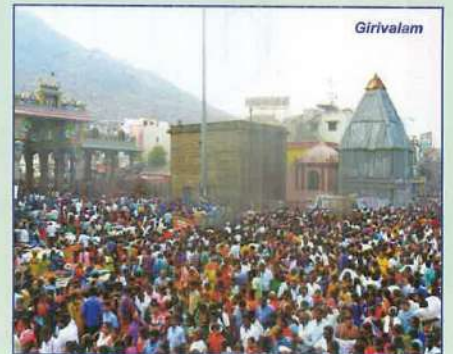


Arulmigu Arunachaleswarar Temple

Girivalam

Shri Arunachaleswarar temple has six prakarams around the temple. Every full moon day of the month Girivalam is undertaken by the pilgrims. Lakhs of devotees participate every month in this healthy ritual. This word Girivalam is the origin of the tamil word giri meaning hill and valam means coming around. Hence coming around the hill is called as Girivalam in Tamil.

To come one full round (Girivalam) the road round the hill, it is around 14 kms. It is said to bring in abundant peace or calmness for the mental wellbeing and also refreshing for the physical fitness.



Girivalam



ACCOMMODATION

Thiruvannamalai (STD Code: 04175)

- Hotel Tamil Nadu**
 Polur Road, Thiruvannamalai - 606601.
www.ttdconline.com
- Hotel Himalaya ☎ : 255255
 - Hotel Nala Residency ☎ : 252399
 - Hotel Arpana ☎ : 254755
 - R.R. Residency ☎ : 252601
 - Udupi Hotel ☎ : 222693
 - Arunai Anandha Hotel ☎ : 237275
 - Hotel Ashreya ☎ : 9445470180
 - Hotel Ashreya ☎ : 235655 / 235622
 - Sunshine Guest House ☎ : 850817712
 - Lakshmi Residency ☎ : 9566559159
 - Hotel Ramakrishna ☎ : 236099 / 235245
 - Annamalai Guest House ☎ : 250003
 - Akash Hotel ☎ : 253565
 - Kalaimagal Lodge ☎ : 252150 / 252151
 - Swathi Lodge ☎ : 254215
 - Swathi Lodge ☎ : 251426 / 222426
 - Swathi Lodge ☎ : 9442614126

