

THOOTHUKUDI

(The PEARL CITY)

Places of interest in Thoothukudi District

Thoothukudi

Genral Information

Area: 4621 sq.km

Population: 17,38,376

STD Code: 0461

Access:

Air: Nearest Air Port at Vagaikulam 14 kms from Thoothukudi. Daily Flight to Chennai

Rail: Connected to Chennai, Mysore, Bangalore, Tirunelveli, and Tiruchendur,

Road: Good connectivity by Road. Frequent bus services to all important places.

Thoothukudi is traditionally known for pearl fishing and shipping activities, production of salt and other related business. This is a port city in the southern region of Tamilnadu. This is a natural port, from this place freedom fighter V.O.Chidambaranar operated the Swadeshi shipping company during the British rule. Now Thoothukudi is a bustling town with business activities.



Panimaya Matha Church (Shrine Basilia of Our Lady of Snow”) is a famous church built by the Portugese in 1711. Every year on 5th August the church festival is conducted in a grand manner which attracts a large number of devotees from all faiths.

Tiruchendur



Thiruchendur is one of the major pilgrim centres of South India. This Temple is situated at a distance of 40 kms from Thoothukkudi. The sea-shore temple is dedicated to Lord Muruga, is one of the six abodes of Lord Muruga. (Arupadi Veedu). The nine storied tier temple tower of height 157 feet belongs 17th century AD. Visiting Valli Cave, taking sea-bath, and bathing in Nazhikkinaru are treated as holy one. It is well connected by bus service to all over Tamilnadu and train services to Tirunelveli and Chennai.

Vallanadu Blackbuck Sanctuary



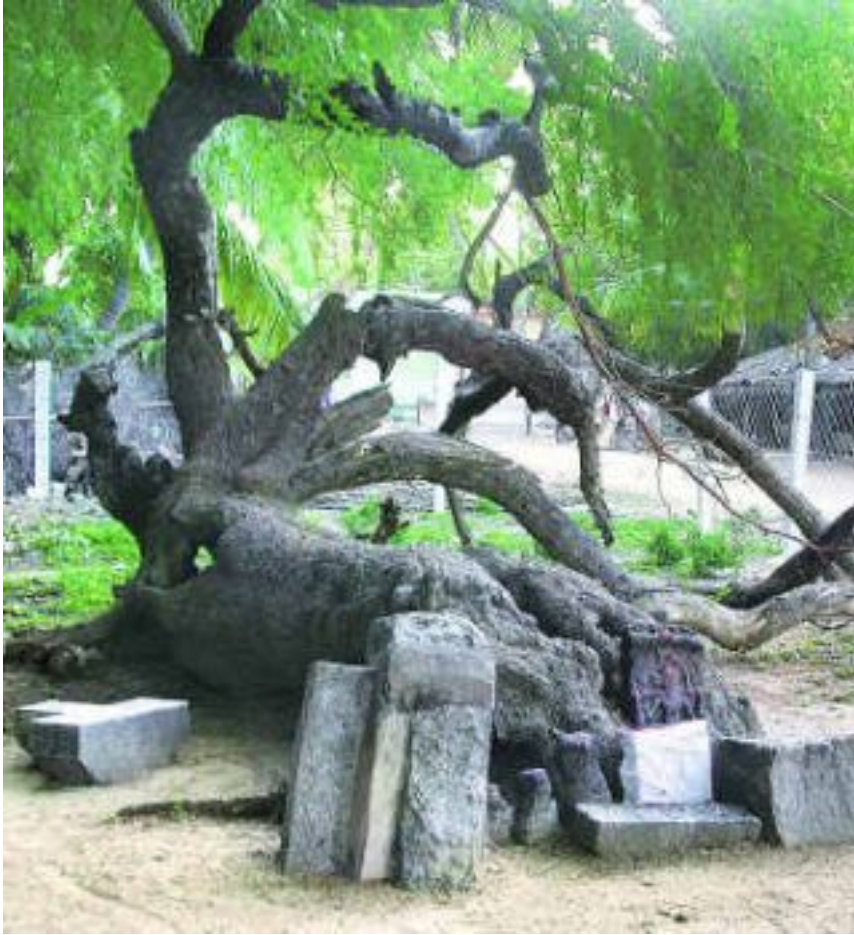
The Sanctuary is located in Vallanadu village of Srivaikundam Taluk on Tirunelveli – Thoothukudi road at a distance of 18Km from Tirunelveli. The Vallanadu Blackbuck sanctuary is an isolated hillock with scrub forest. Police shooting station (Arms Firing Training) here is one of the best in India.

Manapad.



Manapadu is a Coastal village situated at 70 kms from Tirunelveli and 18 kms from south of Tiruchendur. This place was visited by St. Francis Xavier in 1542. The Holy Cross church built on a cliff attracts thousands of pilgrims throughout the year and during the month of festival (1st September to 14th September) thousand numbers of tourists assembles here.

Korkai



Korkai ancient port city of Pandian dynasty in the Sagam period is located on the main road from Tiruchendur to thoothukudi . It is 29km from Tiruchendur . The Tank of Korkai is said to be korkai kulam with a extent 250 acres. An ancient Vettrivelamman Temple is also situated here. Many a number of tourists visit this temple.

Kulasekaranpattinam



Kulasekaranpattinam is situated on the way to Kanniyakumari from Tiruchendur. It is 20 kms from Tiruchendur and 65 kms from Kanyakumari. This village is famous for Mutharaman Temple, which is located on the shore of Bay of Bengal. This temple is nearly 150 years old. The Dhasara Festival is celebrated in a grand scale every year during October. Folk dance artists from throughout Tamilnadu perform variety of programmes.

Kazhugumalai –Jain Temple



Kazhugumalai Jain Temple is 60Km from Tirunelveli and 21Km from Kovilpatti. This is basically a Jain temple where we can see images of Adinatha, Neminatha Mahaveera Parvanatha, Bahubali . There is also a monolithic Temple called Vettuvan Kovil. This is the only one of the monolithic Pandya Temple that still survive.

Panchalankurichi



Panchalankurichi is a small historic village located 25km from Thoothukudi and 55 km from Tirunelveli. From here the Great warrior Kattabomman popularly known as “Veerapandiya Kattabomman” raised his voice against the British regime in the 17th century AD.

The existing Memorial Fort was constructed in 1974, by the government of Tamilnadu. The Memorial hall, has beautiful paintings depicts the heroic deeds of the saga which give a good idea about the history of the period. Sri Devi Jakkammal Temple, the hereditary Goddess of Kattabomman, is located in the fort complex. Cemetery of British soldiers can also be seen near the fort. The rest of the old fort is protected by the Department of Archaeology. City bus services available from Thoothukudi. Kattabomman Festival is celebrated on January 15 and May second week every year which attract thousands of people. Small bullock cart race is the special attraction during festival.

Tourist can visit the fort from 8.A.M to 1 P.M. and 2 P.M. to 6 P.M on all days. The entrance fee for adult Rs.2 and Child Rs.1. A Tourist Rest house is available here for the benefit of the Tourists.

Meignanapuram .



It is 13km from Tiruchendur and said to be an ancient village. The Pari Pauvlin Church here was built in 1847. It is 110 feet long, 55 feet wide with steeple in the front soaring into the sky a height of 192 feet. This is one of the biggest churches with the tallest steeple in India.

Ettayapuram



Ettayapuram is the birth place of the revolutionary poet Subramaniya Bharathiyar and is located 76 kms from Tirunelveli and 22 kms from Kovilpatti and 35 kms from Thoothukudi. His home now became a monument. Umarapulavar Dhansha is also located here.

Kayathar.



Kayathar, is situated about 25 kms from Tirunelveli on the way to Madurai. Kattabomman, one of the earliest Freedom fighters of who fought against the British rule in India, was hanged by the British in 1799 at this place. A memorial has been built here by the Tamilnadu government to commemorate the memory of this great freedom fighter.

Kayalpattinam



Kayalpattinam was a famous port next to Korkai in the 12th and 13th Centuries, situated 30 kms from Thoothukudi and 18 kms from Tiruchendur between Thoothukudi and Tiruchendur highway. It has a fine beach on Bay of Bengal.

Adichanallur



Adichanallur is 20km from Tirunelveli on the way to Tiruchendur. From an Archaeological point of view, this place has a glorious past and it is located on the banks of river Tamirabarani. It is assumed that, in ancient times a civilized habitation flourished here. Urns (burnt-clay vessels which were used for burying dead bodies of the very old people) small mud vessel were found near the river Tamirabarani and they are supportive evidence, for the

civilization. This place is now under the supervision of Tamilnadu State Archaeological Department.

Ayyanarsunai



It is 10km from Tiruchendur and 40 kms from Tirunelveli . A natural water gushes out from the spring at this place. A temple dedicated to Village deity It is a good picnic / excursion centre.

Sinthalakkarai

Sinthalakkarai is one such pilgrim centre where Goddess Sri Vetkalamman of 42 feet height wonders the people. It is on the way of Thoothukudi to Madurai four way track road. (3km from Ettayapuram). The statue of Mahavishnu of 72 feet lenth with Rajasayanam on the snake in Thiruparkadal is also there.



Vanchi Maniyachi

It is a Railway Junction in between Kovilpatti and Tirunelveli at a distance of 31 kms from Thoothukudi. The Original Maniyachi Railway Station was renamed as Vanchi Maniyachi in memory of freedom Fighter Vanchinathan who revolted against the British and assassinated the then British Collector Ash in 1911 as vengeance against the Britishers' oppression.



Vanathirupathi

This beautiful temple is dedicated to Lord Vishnu and is situated in a small hamlet called Punnaiyadi. The temple is getting popular among the tourists and locals.



This Temple is about 45km from Tirunelveli and around 20 km from Tiruchendur. The nearest railway station is Kachanavilai on the Tiruchendur to Tirunelveli section. Frequent buses are available

The temple is opened from 6.00 A.M to 8 P.M.

Navathirupathi

The nine Vishnu Temples are located very close to one another. They are all in Thoothukudi District. The Vaishnava shrines are having an interesting legend. The shrines are notable for nine stone carvings and temple architecture.

Sl No	Name of the Place	Distance (Km)	Name of the deity	Dharshan Time
1	Srivaikundam	40km from Thoothukudi	Swami Kallapiran	6-12 A.M and 4.-8 P.M
2	Natham	1km Srivaikundam	Swami Vijayasanar	9 A.M To 6 P.M
3	Thirupuliyankudi	2km from Srivaikundam	Swami Kaisinivenda Perumal	9 A.M To 6 P.M
4	Perunkulam	8km from Srivaikundam	Swami Mayakoothan	7.30 -12.00A.M 5.00 -7.30 P.M
5	Erattai Thiruppathi 1	10.km from Srivaikundam	Swami Devarpiran	8 A.M To 5 P.M
6	Erattai Thiruppathi 2	10.km from Srivaikundam	Swami Senthamarai Kannan	8 A.M To 5 P.M
7	Thenthirupperai	12 km from Srivaikundam	Swami Maharanedungkuzhaikadar	7.30 -12.00A.M 5.00 -7.30 P.M
8	Thirukkolor	8km from Srivaikundam	Swami Vaithimanithi	7.30 -12.00A.M 5.00 -7.00P.M
9	Alwarthirunagari	5 km from Srivaikundam	Swami Aathipiran	7.30 -12.00A.M 5.00 -8.00P.M

Most of the Thirupathi are located on the main road from Tiruchendur to Tirunelveli. Among the nine, two temples i.e Alwarthirunagari and Srivaikundam are located on the main road between Tiruchendur and Tirunelveli. The other seven temples are located little interior from the main road. The pilgrims those who are visiting Thiruchendur they will pay a visit to Alwarthirunagari and Srivaikundam. These two temples are situated on the bank of the river Tamirabarani. In these two temples every year a festival is celebrated in the month of September for 10 days on large scale. Every year in the month of September to October (Tamil month Purataci) all Saturday 's the Tamilnadu State Transport corporation ply the special buses to these Navathirupathi Temples from Tirunelveli New Bus-stand. Advance booking also done.

Chairman Arunachalashamy Temple –Eral: This Temple is dedicated to an ordinary man called Arunachalam who lived in this town and dedicated his life for the welfare of the people. People of this village believed that he is the incarnation of god and thereby began to worship him after his death. A Temple was constructed in the village. In due course of time this temple town began to attract large number of devotees. The festival is celebrated in a grand manner for 12 days before Adi Amavasai and Thai Amavasai every year (Tel: 04630-271281)

Ottappidaram: This is the birth place of Freedom fighter Thiru. V. O Chidambaram. This place is located at a distance of 25 kms from Thoothukudi and 2kms from Kattabomman Memorial Fort Panchalankurichi. The house in which he lived has been converted in to a Memorial. He was instrumental in the freedom struggle in the district and operated the Swadesi shipping Company during the rule of the British.

Karkkuvel Ayyanar Temple – Kuthiraimozhitheri –Therikudiyiruppu: The famous Karkkuvel Ayyanar Temple is situated in the forest in the Kurthiraimozhitheri –Therikudiyiruppu village near Kayamozhi. It is believed by the people of this region that a notorious thief was killed by a king called Vanniyaraja as ordered by the village deity Karkkuvel Ayyanar. and saved the people. Annual “Kallar Vettu” (Killing the thief) festival is held during the Tamil Month of Karthigai (November/December) which attracts thousands of pilgrims from all over Tamil Nadu.

Navakailayam

Nine Lord Siva shrines highlight as Navagrahas which gives health and wealth to the pilgrims. Among the nine temples five are situated in Thoothukudi district and rest of them in Thirunelveli district. The following Temples referred as Navakailayam shrines (Nine Shiva Temples)

1 Papanasam

It is 45km from Tirunelveli. Presiding deity of the temple is Pabavinasar alias Kailasanatha and Mother goddess is Ulagammai . A good picnic spot a large number of tourists. Agasthiar water falls is 2 kms from here.

picnic spot. From here just 2km a famous Agasthiar Falls is located.

2 Cheranmahadevi

It is 22km from Tirunelveli and is located on the bank of river Tamirabarani. presiding deity of the temple is Sri Ammainathar alias Kailasanathar and Goddess Avudinayaki. Frequent city buses available from Tirunelveli Junction.

3 Kodaganallur

It is 15km from Tirunelveli on the way to Cheranmahadevi and the temple is located near Nadukallur village. Presiding deity is Kailasanathar and Goddess Sivakamiammai . City buses available from Tirunelveli Junction Bus stand.

4 Kunnathur

It is 2km from Tirunelveli Town railway station. And also very near to Thiruvengadanathapuram Kunnathur is located in small hillock. Presiding deity is Kothai Parameswaran. Goddess Sivakamasundari.

5 Murappanadu

It is 17km from Tirunelveli and 40km from Thoothukudi on the National Highways. It is also situated on the banks of river Tamirabarni. Presiding deity is Kailasanathar Goddess Sivakamiammal.

6 Srivaikundam

It is 30km from Tirunelveli and 40km from Thoothukudi it is also located on the river Tamirabarni. Presiding deity is Kailasanathar Goddess Sivakamiammai. The first Navathirupathi temple is located here.

7.Thenthirupperai.

It is 38km from Tirunelveli on the way to Tiruchendur. Presiding deity is Kailasanathar .Goddess Allakiyaponamal One of the Navathrupathi temple also located here.

8 Rajjapathi

It is 38km from Tirunelveli on the way to Tiruchendur near Thenthirupperai. Presiding deity is Kailasanathar Goddess Alagiya ponnamal and Sivakamiammai.

9 Senthapoomangalam

It is 20km km from Thoothukudi on the way to Tiruchendur near Athoor and Ponnakayal. Presiding deity is Kailasanathar Goddess Sivakami Ammai. City bus available from Thoothukudi Old bus stand.

