

A Study on Tourist Places in Nagapattinam District-Tamilnadu

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Abstract: Tourism is travel for recreational, leisure, or business purposes, usually of a limited duration. Tourism is commonly associated with trans-national travel, but may also refer to travel to another location within the same country. The World Tourism Organization defines tourists as people "traveling to and staying in places outside their usual environment for not more than one consecutive year for leisure, business and other purposes". Tamilnadu rich with scenic beauty is located at the southern part of india. Resourceful with all kind of verities including temples, wild life sanctuaries, waterfalls, cosmopolitan cities, valleys, hill resorts, beaches etc..., tamilnadu is a must visit state in india for all tourist enthusiasts and will not get disappointed. From chennai to kanniyakumari, tamilnadu has the most beautiful and amazing coastal landscape (Especially, marina beach, nagapattinam (kodikkarai), thanuskodi and kanniyakumari). This research Paper focus on the tourist places in nagapattinam district.

INTRODUCTION

Nagapattinam is a unique District with all its historical and cultural significance. Nagapattinam is one of the constituents of chola mandalam, acclaimed as the most prominent among the ancient Tamil Kingdoms. Its salient features more than anything else have contributed to the glory of the Cholamandalam. Coastal town Nagapattinam was the Headquarters of a region during the period. This region has been named after Kshathiriya sigamani, one of the titles of Raja Raja Cholan. Nagapattinam was also known as 'Cholakula Vallipattinam'. The Heritage of the town is found in the Burmese historical text of 3rd century B.C. The same text gives evidences of a Buddha Vihar built by the great Ashoka. The Chinese Traveler Hiuen Tsuang Also mentioned the Buddhavihar in his book. Nagapattinam is mentioned as Padarithitha in ancient Buddhist literature. According to scholars 'avurithidal' the name of the part of Nagapattinam might have been derived from the word Padarithitha is the name of the fruit tree "Bhirtee" very common in this region. District was carved out by bifurcating the composite Thanjavur district on 18.10.1991)

Ananthamangalam

On the East coast between Nagapattinam and Chidambaram, 3 km from Thirukkadaiyur. People from all over Tamilnadu visit the temple of Lord Anjaneyar for His grace. Special worship of Anlaneya is held on Saturday and on the days of Amavasya. Timing 8 am to 1 pm & 4 pm to 8 pm.

Ettukudi Velavan Temple

Lord Murugan with Valli and Deivanai blesses his devotees here. Soundhara Nayagar and Ananatha Valli Thayar are also placed with Muruga. He is otherwise known as Velavan. Festival : During Chitra Full moonday, Pramotsavam is held every year. In Aiyypasi Kanda Sashti is held. Time : 4.30 am to 12.30 Noon, 4.30 pm to 9 pm. Location : Ettukudi is 20km from Nagapattinam on the way to Thiruthurai poondi.

Govt. Museum

District Introduction Gallery Bronzes and metal-ware Gallery, Paintings Gallery (contemporary paintings), Natural History Gallery, Anthropological Gallery (Musical Instruments, Palaeolithic tools), Working models on Natural History. The educational activities include Guide service, Competitions, popular lectures, seminars etc. Located in First Line Beach, Nagapattinam.

Keelaperumpallam

3 km from Poompuhar, Keela-perumpallam receives a stream of devotees every day for worshipping Shri Naganatha Swami. This temple is the seat of the Ninth Navagraha, the Kedhu.

Masilamaninathar Temple

On the sea front, fighting a losing battle against the sea is the last monument in this village, Masilamani Nathar temple, built in 1305 by Mahavarma Kulasekara Pandya. Some parts of the temple are still intact and locals still use the temple.

Kodiakkarai (Point Calimare)

11 km from Vedaranyam. 55km from Nagapattinam. Sanctuary boasts of mammals like blue buck, spotted de wild bear, semi wild ponies, bonnet macaque, water bird like flamingoes, herons, and spoonbills.

Mahalakshmeswarar Temple

This temple was built by a chola king. Located 7 km on the way to Seerkazhi from Mayiladural. Time 6 – 11 am, Evening 04 to 08 pm.

Mayiladuthrai

Situated on the banks of river Cauvery. Mayurananth Swami temple, Parimala Ranganatha Swamy temple, Kasi Vishwanatha Swamy temple, Punukeeswarar temple, Vadhaneswarar temple and Ayyarappar temple are some of the famous temples in Mayiladuthurai. Timing : 5 am to 12 noon & 4 pm to 9.30 pm.

Melapperumpallam

Situated very near Poompuhar and Thiruvengadu. The Valampuranathar temple at Melapperumpallam has Chola inscriptions. It is noted for the famous Nayanmar's hymns. Keezhapperunpallam is at distance of 2 Kms fr Poompuhar. It is the temple where the famous "Kethu" h.. a separate thalam.

Museum (Church)

Situated opp. to the Basilica has a very rich variety of exhibits. The precious offerings made by the devotees a on display here. Biblical incidents are depicted on both sidewalls. Festivals are celebrated here with all pomp an gaiety every year. 6.30 am to 8 pm.

Pillai Idukki Amman Temple

When Thirugnanasambandar reached the borders of Thiruvengadu, the whole place looked Sivaloka and the sands Sivalingas. He hesitated to place his legs on this holy land and cried Amma. There will be flag hoisting of Tamil Masi Month (Feb-Mar) on the Punarvasu star day and continues for 10 days. 6 am to 12 am & 5.30 to 9.30 pm are the Puja timings. It is 10 Kms southeast of Sirkali on t Poompuhar road.

Sikkal

3 km from Nagore. A beautiful Murugan Temple dedicated to Lord Singaravelar is housed in a large complex. T pillars of this temple are adorned with intricate a exquisite carvings. The beautiful paintings of a bygone eia are amazing in colour and portrayal. Beside this tempi has the shrine of Siva, Vishnu and Hanuman it is a r combination, indeed that is is believed. Timing : 6 am t.. 12.30 pm & 4 pm to 8 pm.

Poompuhar

It was the capital & port city of Cholas, also called as Kavirippumpattinam, as the river Cauvery drains into the Bay of Bengal here only. Kovalan and Kannagi of the great epic Silappathikaram, written by Ilangovaligal, lived in this town. "Silappathikara Kalaikoodam" a panorama of sculptures depicting scences from Silappathikaram. Timing : 9 a.m to 8 p.m.

Nagapattinam Beach

A pristine beach has been developed to attract people. Main attractions are beach volleyball, Joyfull catamaran rides, children's amusement park and other recreational facilities.

A beautiful seven tired building of great sculptural value has been built as Sillappathikaram Art Gallery. The 'Magara Thoranavayil' at the entrance of the Art Gallery imparts an imposing and beautiful look to the whole structure. Timing 8.30 am to 8.30 pm.

Swedaranyeswarar Temple, Thiruvengadu

14 km from Sirkazhi. There are six holy places equal to Kashi. Thiruvengadu is one among them. Here everything is three-the presiding Deity, Holy Water and the Holy Tree. This is one among the 51 Sakthi Peethas. This is also called Adhi Chidambaram. Vishnu was place near the Nataraja here as in Chidambaram. Indira, Iravadha, Vishnu, Sun, Moon, Agri (fire) worshipped the Lord. It is in Thiruvengadu Pattinathar had Sivadiक्षा, asceticism. Timing : 5 am to 12.30 pm & 4 pm to 8 pm.

Semponarkoil

The antique temple referred to as Thirusumponpalli in Devaram hymns is situated in this place. It is on the bus route between Tranquebar and mayiladuthural. It is a temple of historical significance.

Sirkazhi

It is near Chidambaram has one of the most revered Shiva Temples of Tamilnadu. Lord Siva is otherwise known as Sattanathar, Goddess is called Thirupurasundari. It is also home to the Saiva saint Tirugnanasambandar. And the famous Camatic Music exponent Sirkali Govinda Rajan. Timing : 6 am to 1 pm & 4 pm to 8.30 pm.

Nagore Dargah

One of the popular pilgrimage centres for Muslims and symbol of religious harmony. The Nagore Dargah shrines are situated at three locations, Nagore, Vanjur and Silladi. The golden dome building houses three tombs in three separate chambers, inside the compound of the main campus. In the tombs lay buried the mortal remains of Meeran Sahib, his son Syed

Mohammed Yusuf and his daughter-in-law Syed Sultana Biwi.

Adjacent to the golden dome building is the 'Peer Mandap' where the 'Peer of the Dargah' stays fasting for three days during festive season of the Dargah. A mosque is located some distance away from here where regular prayers are held. The Friday congregations in this Mosque are massive. The second part of the dargah, the Vanjur Shrine where Meeran Sahib reportedly stayed in meditation for 40 days inside an underground cave, is about 2 km from the main Dargah.

The third campus Silladi Shrine is located about a km east of the main dargah. The main festival 'Kandhuri Urs' falls in the month of May.

Sri Swarnapureswarar Temple, Semponarkoil

Devotees offer in particular clothing to the Lord and his Consort. Important festival in the month of Chithirai (April-May). There will be car festival for 9 days called Sowramhotsavam. Semponar Koil is situated at 8 kms from Mayiladuthurai on the Tharangambadi road. Timing 7 am to 12 noon & 5 pm to 8.30 pm.

Thilliyadi Valliammai Memorial

She was born on 22.02.1898. As a patriot she fought the British to get freedom in her young age. She died on 22.02.1914. As a mark of respect her memorial was opened on 13.08.1971. Her statue, life history and photographs displayed here. A Library also is functioning here. Situated in Thilliyadi Valliammai Village at Tharangambadi Taluk. Thilliyadi Temple 27 km from Myiladuthurai. One more thing is to be noted in the history of Thilliyadi. The prime deity in this temple is 'Sarangantha Ratchagar'. The Goddess of this temple is Periya Nayagi Amman.

Thirukkadaiyur

Thirukkadaiyur is one the bus route between mayiladuthurai and Trariquebar. It is one of the eight temples glorifying the heroic deeds of Lord Siva. The great poet and devotee Abirami Pattar in this place had sung the holy hymn of Abirami Anthathi.

Thiru Nangore

10 km from Sirkzhi. One of the most sacred places of Vaishnava Temples. Shri narayanaperumal Temple, Purushothama Perumal temple, Kudamadum Kootha Perumal Kovil, Semponnarangar kovil, Pallikondaperumal Kovil, Varadharala Perumal Koil which had been performed Mangala Sasanam by Thirmangal Azhwar are located in this small town. Timing : 6 am to 12 noon & 4 pm to 8 pm

Thirusaikkadu (Sayavanam)

It is situated 2 Kms away from Poompuhar estuary. The Temple is for Thirusayaneswarar and Iruivi Kuyilinam Nanmozhi Ainamai. Timing : 8 am to 12 noon & 5 pm to 7.30 pm.

Thiruvengkadu (Budhan Temple)

Thiruvengkadu, one of the navagraha sthalam, is the Budhan Sthalam deviated to planet mercury. It is situated 15 kms away from vaitheswaran koil. on the sirkali poompohar road. Here be lor is shwetaranyeswarar and hir consort is Brahman Vidyambal.

Thiru Vikraman Temple at Sirkazhi

In order to rue over the king Mahabali Lord Vishnu came to the earth as Vamana. He appears as Thiru Vikraman at Sirkazhi which is birth place of Thirugnana Sambandar. The prime deity of this otherwise called ad "Jhadalan" which means the who measured the whole world. The Godde's in this temple is called as Loga Nayagi Amman. Festival Bramotsvam in June (Vaigasi). Timing : 7.30 to 11.30 am. & 4.30 pm to 8 pm Location : 2km from Sirkazhi Bus Stand.

Tranquebar (Tharangambadi)

35 Km north of Nagapattinam. The Danisconstructed fortifications on the coast at Tranquebar. It was used as a Public Works Department Travellers Bungalow for government servants and colonials till 1977 AD. This fort was declared as a protected monument by the Department of Archaeology.

Vaitheeswaran Kovil

5 km from Mayavaram Bus Stand. Vaitheeswaran, Thalyal Nayagi, Muthukumarasamy an ancient temple dedicated to Shiva-as Vaitheeswaran literally meaning the divine provider of cures. Adorned with imposing towers, Mandapams and pillars, this well visited shrine has been sung by the Saivite Saint Poets. This shrine is also referred to as an Angarakasthalam. Timing 5.30 am to 1 pm & 4.30 pm to 9 pm.

Zion Church (Tranquebar)

The Dutch settlers built Zion Church in 1701. The British renovated in 1782-84 and again in 1839 the Church. It is still in good condition and you can appreciate the Dutch architectural designs of the renaissance era that is very evident in its construction.

Vedaranniyam

45 km from Nagapattinam. Here "Salt Sathagaraha" was staged in 1930 during the freedom struggle.

The site of an important Roman catholic Shrine dedicated to Our lady of Good Health

It is a famous pilgrimage destination for Christians and also for people of other faiths. Velankanni is one of the most visited pilgrim centers of India. Our lady chose this place to dispense her miracles to mankind.

A strong oral tradition attests to Our Lady's apparitions at Velankanni. Hundreds of miraculous cures are reported every year. Velankanni church was raised to the status of basilica by His Holiness Pope John XXIII in 1962.

Anyone who goes to Velankanni can visit The Shrine Basilica, comprising of three Churches, Our Lady's Tank, Church Museum, Priest's Residence, Offering Center, Stations of the Cross, Stations of the Rosary, Shrine Mega Hahal and Velankanni Beach.

People can have accommodation at Nagapattinam. The unique feature of the church is its Gothic architecture.

Velankanni church was built in late 16th century and had many expansions later on due to increasing number of pilgrims.

Church is located about 350 km south of Chennai, on the Coromandel Coast, 12 km south of Nagapattinam.

Velankanni Church Festival

The main festival here is the feast of our lady. The festival commences on 29th August to 8th September every year. A large crowd, about 1.5 million people visit the place at this time. Holy masses are conducted in at least eight languages, Tamil, English, Malayalam, Kannada, Telugu, Konkani, Hindi and Marathi.

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