



Vellore

HISTORY

Vellore is part of Tondaimandalam (Tondai Nadu), a city and the administrative headquarters of Vellore District in the South Indian state of Tamil Nadu. Located on the banks of the Palar River in the North-Eastern part of Tamil Nadu, the city has been ruled, at different times, by the Pallavas, Medieval Cholas, Later Cholas, Vijayanagar Empire, Rashtra kutas, Carnatic kingdom, and the British. Vellore is located about 135 kms West of Chennai and about 210 kms East of Bengaluru. Vellore is about 100 kms. South West of Tirupati in Andhra Pradesh. It is Hotspot City of Bengaluru - Chennai National Highway.

Vellore City is the home of two of India's top ten educational institutions, Christian Medical College & Hospital and VIT University. It is also a major centre for

medical tourism in India.

Vellore region is the top exporter of finished leather goods in the country. Vellore leather accounts for more than 37% of the country's export of leather and leather-related products.

GENERAL INFORMATION

| | | |
|-------------|---|-----------------------------|
| Area | : | 2,030.11 Sq.kms. |
| Population | : | 1,614,242 (2011 census) |
| Altitude | : | 220 m above the sea level |
| Temperature | | |
| Summer | : | Max. 40.50° C Min. 25.20° C |
| Winter | : | Max. 28.70° C Min. 18.40° C |
| Rainfall | : | 997 mm - Average |
| Season | : | Throughout the year |
| Clothing | : | Tropical |
| Languages | : | Tamil, English and Telugu |
| STD Code | : | 0416 |

Vellore Fort

The Fort at Vellore is one of the great attractions in the District. It is said to have been built by Chinna Boomi Nayaka a subordinate under Sadasivaraya of the Vijayanagara Kingdom in mid of 16th Century A.D. The fort was occupied by the British in 1760 and used as a military garrison. The rectangular Fort with a circumference of 3 kms. is built entirely with massive granite cut stones. The fort contains both secular and religious structures including Tippu Mahal, Begum Mahal, Kandi Mahal, Jalakanteswara Temple, A mosque and a Church Museums are also recently established in this Fort by the Archaeological Survey of India.

Bommi Reddy & Thimma Reddy Nayakka are built by

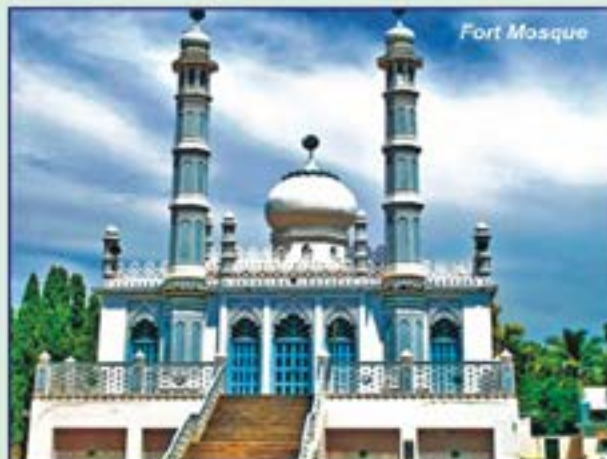


the Fort (Vijayanagara Kings - 16th century). The First Mutiny against the British in India broke out in Vellore Fort (1806 - Sippoy Kalagam). Tippu Mahal, Hyder Mahal, Condy Mahal, Badhusha Mahal and the Begam Mahal inside the Fort.

Contact: 0416 - 2220693.

Vellore Fort Mosque

At a distance of 1.5 kms. from Vellore Town Railway Station, Vellore Fort Mosque is situated inside the Vellore Fort.



This mosque is also known as Nawab Chanda Sahib Mosque. This Mosque was built in 1750 by Nawab Chanda Sahib. It is one of the important attractions in Vellore Fort. The entrance of the Masjid is on the northern side of the Vellore Fort. This mosque has been constructed using brick and lime and still stands in good shape. This Indo-Saracenic style mosque has a prayer hall and the dimensions of the hall are 40 feet in length and 15 feet in breadth. At the centre of the mosque there is a big dome with minars on the sides. The mosque is decorated with floral designs. Prayers are not conducted inside the mosque.

St. John's Church - Vellore Fort

At a distance of 1.5 kms. from Vellore Town Railway Station, St John's Church is an ancient church located inside the Vellore Fort. This church is one of the oldest Churches in Vellore.

St. John's Church is a part of the Churches of South India and is one of the biggest churches in South India. The church was started in 1846 by the Reform Church of America (RCA). The church was shifted from the Filterbed Road to its present location in the fort. The British soldiers who lost their life during the Sepoy Mutiny have been buried in the church premises. There are many inscriptions preserved in the church that provide

St. Johns Church

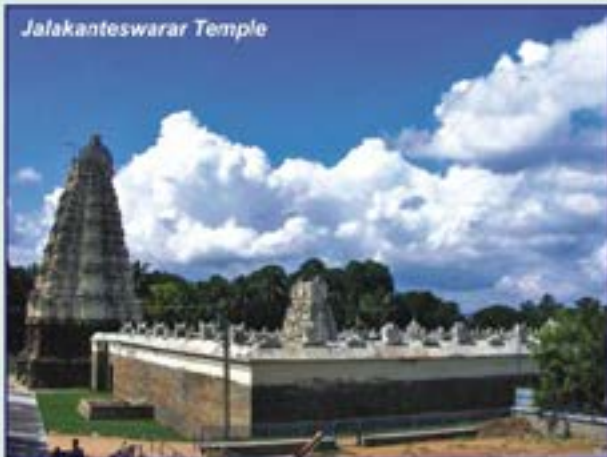


history of the shrine. Regular prayers are still held in this Church.

Jalakanteswarar Temple

The Temple inside the fort is dedicated to Lord Shiva (Jalakanteswarar) and is noted for its sculptures, which speak volumes of the exquisite craftsmanship of the highly skilled artisans of that period. The sculptures in the porch on the left of the entrance are master pieces appreciated by the connoisseurs. It has a big marriage hall adorned with elegant reliefs and monolithic sculptures. This temple was used for long as an arsenal and remained without deity. A few years back it has been sanctified with

Jalakanteswarar Temple



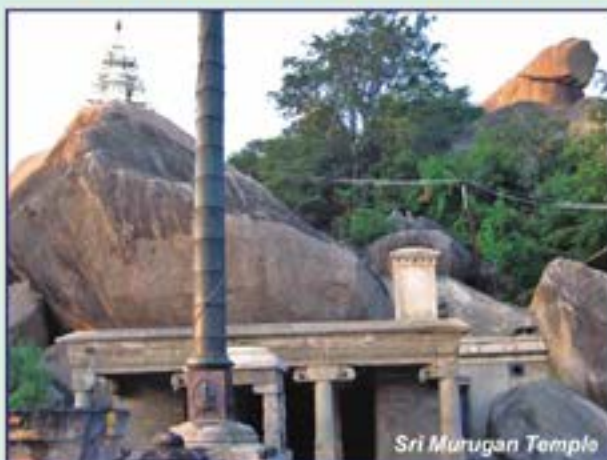
Jalakanteswarar Temple



a sculpture of Lord Shiva which is worshiped by pilgrims and tourists.

Contact: 0416 - 2223412 Timing: 7.00 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. and 3.30 p.m. to 8.30 p.m.

Sri Murugan Temple - Vallimalai



Sri Vallimalai Murugan Temple is located 30 kms. from Vellore. This is a Rock cut temple. Place where Valli performed penance on Lord Vishnu to have the Hands of Lord Muruga, hence the Sadari Blessing with Lord Vishnu Pada (feet) is offered to Devotees in the temple.

Contact: 04172 - 2252295. Timing: 7.00 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. and 3.30 p.m. to 8.30 p.m.

Golden Temple, Sripuram



The temple is located on 100 acres of land and has been constructed by the Vellore-based charitable trust, Sri Narayani Peedam, headed by its spiritual leader Sri Sakthi Amma also known as 'Narayani Amma'. The temple is 10 kms. from Vellore. The temple with its gold (1500 kg) covering, has intricate work done by artisans specialising in temple art using gold. Every single detail was manually created, including converting the gold bars into gold foils and then mounting the foils on copper. Gold foil from 9 layers to 10 layers has been mounted on the etched copper plates. Every single detail in the temple art has significance from the vedas.

Contact: 0416 - 2271202. Timings: 7.00 a.m. to 8.00 p.m.



Virinjipuram Temple



This magnificent Sri Margabandeeshwarar Temple dedicated to Lord Shiva is located on the southern bank of the river Palar. The main deity of this temple is Swayambu Lingam known as Margabandeeshwarar. It is popularly known as 'Bhaskara Kshethiram' because the Sun is said to worship the Linga when its rays fall on it in the month of Panguni. Around the basements and the pillars of the temple are a number of well executed figures singly and in lively groups in dramatic setting representing scenes in the social life of the people. There are several inscriptions here both in Grantham and Tamil. The lion faced Simmakulam tank is considered to be very sacred.

Contact: 0416 - 2914546 Timing: 7.00 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. and 3.30 p.m. to 8.30 p.m.

Government Museum

Government Museum, Vellore is situated within the premises of the historical Vellore Fort. This museum was established in the year 1985 as the 6th district museum to impart knowledge about erstwhile North Arcot District (Present Vellore & Tiruvannamalai) and its significance. Both the districts have rich flora and fauna and cultural heritage.

In early days Vellore district was ruled by Pallava, Chola, Sambuvarayas and Vijayanagaras. During the reigns of Sambuvarayas and Vijayanagaras Vellore district



played vital role in the history of Tamil Nadu. Vellore served as capital city during the last phase of the Vijayanagra empire. Later European settlers like English and French had rivalry for Capturing the power. In this juncture, Nawabs of Arcot supported either French or English. Vellore Fort was under the control and witness series attacks, alternately, by the forces of English and French. In 1806 the first part of freedom movement, i.e., Vellore Revolt was happen in this Fort. More over successors of Tipu sultan imprisoned in this Fort. Subsequently the Last King Sri Vikrama Raja Sinha was also jailed in this fort. Highlighting these Historical factors Government Museum, Vellore is having wide range of artifacts of Art, Archaeology, Anthropology, Geology, Botany and Zoological importance.

A fiberglass model of 16 ft. height life size Trynosaurs displayed at the entrance to attract visitors. Two cannons belong to 18th Century unearthed from Vellore fort are kept at entry level. This Museum has a Sculpture Garden where in Stone Sculptures, Hero Stones, Inscriptions from different places and Gunpowder flasks, cannon balls are in display.

Inside the Museum there are eight different galleries and nearly 3000 exhibits both displayed and reserved which attract more number of students and common public and Tourists.

Contact: 0416 - 2970088 Timings: 10.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m. Friday Holiday.

Amirthi Forest

At a distance of 27 kms. from Vellore Town Railway Station, Amirthi Zoological Park is situated under the Javadu hills of Tellai across Amirthi River. Established in 1967, the zoo park occupies an area of 25 hectares. It is named after the Amirthi River which flows next to the park.

This park is popular for its waterfalls, swing and animal habitats. Half of this jungle is cleared to serve as a tourist spot while the other half is developed as a wildlife sanctuary. One km trek in the park leads to a full view of Amirthi falls, a small cascading seasonal waterfalls. Visitors can play and swim in the pool formed by the falls here in monsoons.

Animals in the park include spotted deer, mongoose, hedgehog, foxes, reasen monkeys, red headed parrots, love birds, tortoises, peacock, crocodiles, wild cats, eagles, ducks, pigeons, wild parrots, rabbits and pythons. Many herbal and medicinal plants can be seen growing in the Park. A meditation hall and rest houses for stay are available at the Park premises. The Park is especially delightful for kids with children play area.

This zoological park has been recognized recently and



so the state Government has taken initiative to develop it. Amirthi Zoo can be reached from Vaniyambadi via Kanikkaniyan & Melmoil. The best time to visit the park is from October to March.

Contact: 0416 - 2220857 Timing: 10.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m. Tuesday Holiday.

Muthu Mandapam

This is a memorial built around the tombstone of



Vikramraja Singh, the last Kandy Nayak ruler situated on the bank of Palar river it is just one km. North of Vellore town at a walking distance.

CMC Hospital

In 1900, the Christian Medical College was started by



Ida S. Scudder, an American missionary, as a one-bed clinic to serve women. In 1902, she built the 40-bed Mary Taber Schell Memorial Hospital for women and children, named after the donor's wife. The site is now CMC Schell Campus, which houses the Eye Hospital and Low Cost Effective Care Unit (LCECU). The main hospital moved to the present location in the Thottapalayam area of Vellore in 1924 and treatment was extended to men as well. At present CMC has 2300 beds on four sites, with all specialities. Patients from all over India and the world come for treatment.

Contact: 0416 - 2281000.

ACCOMMODATION

Vellore (STD Code: 0416)

- SGRT Regency ☎ : 2206466
- Fortune Hotel ☎ : 2207777
- Hotel Benzz Park ☎ : 663 3555
- Hotel Darling Residency ☎ : 2213001
- Hotel Aavanna ☎ : 2215073
- Poppys Annukula Residency ☎ : 2666666
- Sri Annamalaiyar Residency ☎ : 2229999
- Baby Residency ☎ : 2226484
- Hotel Surabi ☎ : 2216399
- Hotel Grand Krishna ☎ : 2258189
- Hotel Kanna ☎ : 2225555
- Hotel River view ☎ : 2225251
- Sri Srinivasar Residency ☎ : 2232725
- Hotel Mount Paradise ☎ : 2228631
- Hotel SMS Grand ☎ : 2255444
- Siva AVM Grande ☎ : 2211464
- Hotel Ranga ☎ : 2223034
- Hotel Arthy ☎ : 2224113
- Hotel Rangalaya Royal ☎ : 2242135
- Hotel Millennium ☎ : 2245500

TOURS AND TRAVEL AGENTS

Vellore & Elagiri

- Sri Renugambal Travels ☎ : 9787773069
- Yathra tours and travels ☎ : 7867000777
- MKM Tourist Bus Vellore ☎ : 8610110638
- YSR Travel Agency ☎ : 420 0613
- Geethanjali Tours & Travels ☎ : 2227491
- Royal tours & travels ☎ : 9791517554
- Sri Ramajayam Bus Service ☎ : 8668031391
- Orange Travels Vellore ☎ : 9490577799
- R.S.Travels ☎ : 4203900
- Vellore Travels ☎ : 9944783578
- Yelagiri Travels ☎ : 7708090770
- Nadiya Travels ☎ : 9092147678
- Shri Krishna Travels ☎ : 4200696
- Ambika Bus Service ☎ : 2242833
- Hotel SMS Grand ☎ : 2255444
- SLS Travels ☎ : 9443430006

Important Government Offices at Vellore

- District Collector office ☎ : 2252345 / 2252501
- District Superintendent of Police Office ☎ : 2255999
- District Tourist office ☎ : 2217974
- Vellore Bazar, police station ☎ : 2220002
- District forest office ☎ : 2220857
- Vellore corporation office ☎ : 2220578
- Katpadi Railway Station ☎ : 2242611
- New Bus Stand ☎ : 9445456027
- Archaeological Survey of India ☎ : 2220693
- Government museum ☎ : 2970088
- District Library ☎ : 2220814
- TNEB Vellore ☎ : 22422969
- BSNL ☎ : 2225000

- Deepam Co-Optex Showroom ☎ : 2220730
- State Bank of India ☎ : 2221562
- Canara Bank ☎ : 2221080
- Indian overseas bank ☎ : 2223242
- Indian Bank ☎ : 2222933
- HDFC Bank ☎ : 9840673333

ACCESS

- Air** : Nearest Airport is at Chennai (140 kms.)
Rail : Katpadi Railway Junction (5 kms.)
Road : Buses are available to and fro Chennai and Bengaluru.

Ranipettai

GENERAL INFORMATION

- Area : 2234 Sq.kms.
Population : 1,210,277 (2011 census)
Altitude : 220 m above the sea level
Temperature
Summer : Max. 40.50° C Min. 25.20° C
Winter : Max. 28.70° C Min. 18.40° C
Rainfall : 997 mm - Average
Season : Throughout the year
Clothing : Tropical
Languages : Tamil, English and Telugu
STD Code : 04172

Ranipet district is one of the 38 districts of Tamil Nadu, India, formed by trifurcating the Vellore district. The Government of Tamil Nadu has announced its proposal on 15th August 2019, together with Tirupattur district. However it was officially declared on 28th November 2019. The town of Ranipet would serve as the district headquarters. The district shares borders with districts of Vellore on the West, Kancheepuram on the

East, Tiruvannamalai on the South and Tiruvallur on the Northeast. River Palar passes along the district bordering Ranipettai and Arcot towns. The largest taluk in the district is Arakkonam.

Sri Balamurugan Temple - Rathnagiri

Sri Balamurugan Temple is 15 kms. from Vellore. Rathnagiri is famous for the Murugan temple situated on

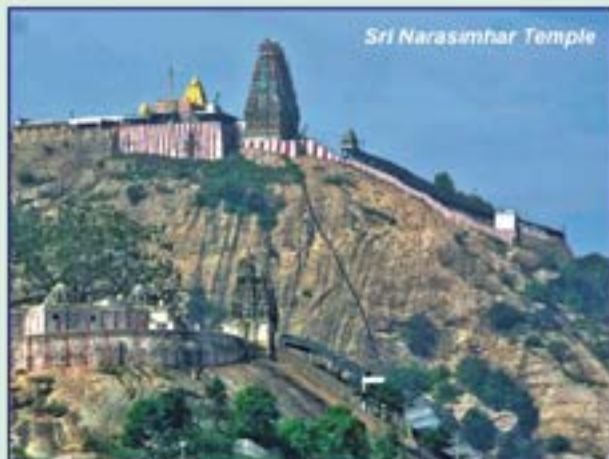


a small hillock. It is said that the temple was built in the 14th Century A.D. But renovations were made recently.

Contact: 04172 - 266330. Timing: 7.00 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. and 3.30 p.m. to 8.30 p.m.

Sri Narasimhar Temple - Sholingur

The Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy Temple is 50 kms. from Vellore. There is an inscription of 14th century in the Big Hill and another of 17th century in Small Hill and also a inscription in Telugu Language. There is a small window opposite to Lord Narasimha Shrine at Big Hill, through which the Lord give darsan to Yoga Anjeneya at Small Hill. Yoga Narasimhar is facing east and the Small Hill is at the Eastern side of the Big Hill. Swamy Dhottachar used to worship Lord Varadaraja Perumal of Kanchi on the third day of Brahmotchavam every year. Once he was not able to visit Kanchi and thus missed the seva. The worried Dhottachar offered prayers to Lord Varadharajar sitting on

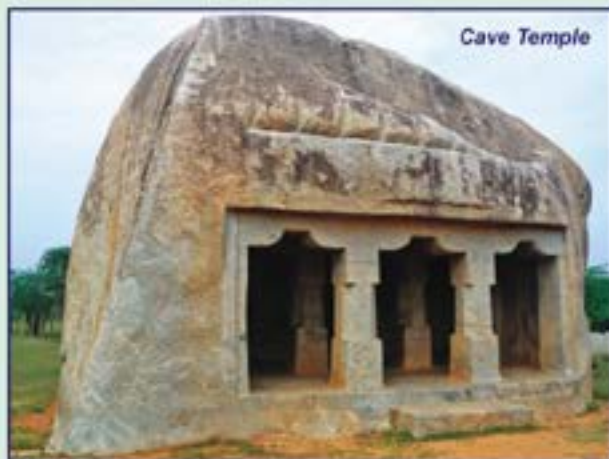


the banks of Brahma Theertham at Sholingur.

Contact: 04172 - 262225, 262226 Timing: 7.00 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. 3.30 p.m. to 8.30 p.m.

Mahendravadi

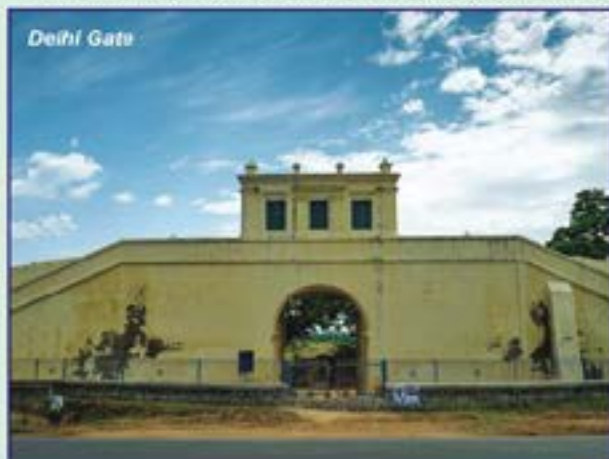
The village Mahendravadi or ancient Mahendrapura is seem to have been established by Mahendravarmam I (580 - 630 CE) of Pallava dynasty. According to his inscription, this cave temple was excavated by Gunabhara on the bund of a large tank called Mahendra tataka in the city of Mahendrapura. In the inscriptions the temple is referred as Mahendra Vishnugriham. The cave temple scooped out of a large standing boulder faces east. The garbhagriha cut



behind the ardhmandapa oblong in plan enshrines stucco image of Narasimha. On either side of its entrance are sunk two niches, containing dvarapalas.

Delhi Gate, Arcot

The Delhi Gate is only extant principle gates of the fort



at Arcot. The Delhi along with its Fort on the bank of river Palar, was built by Daud khan, the nawab of Arcot in the beginning of 18th century CE. The gateway is a fine and memorable relic of the Nawab of Arcot. It is said that Robert Clive of East India Company had entered this town through the gateway in 1751 CE.

ACCESS

- Air** : Nearest Airport is at Chennai (115 kms.)
- Rail** : Arakkonam Railway Junction (50 kms.)
- Road** : Buses are available to and fro Chennai and Bengaluru.

Tirupattur

Tirupattur is one of the 38 districts of Tamil Nadu, India, separated from Vellore district. The Government of Tamil Nadu has announced its creation on 15th August 2019, together with Ranipettai district. The town of Tirupattur serves as the district headquarter. The

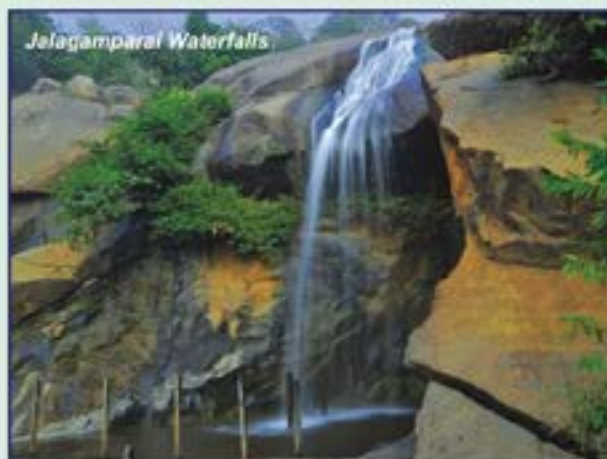
district shares borders with districts of Vellore in the East, Krishnagiri in the West, Tiruvannamalai in the South and Chittoor district of Andhra Pradesh in the North.

GENERAL INFORMATION

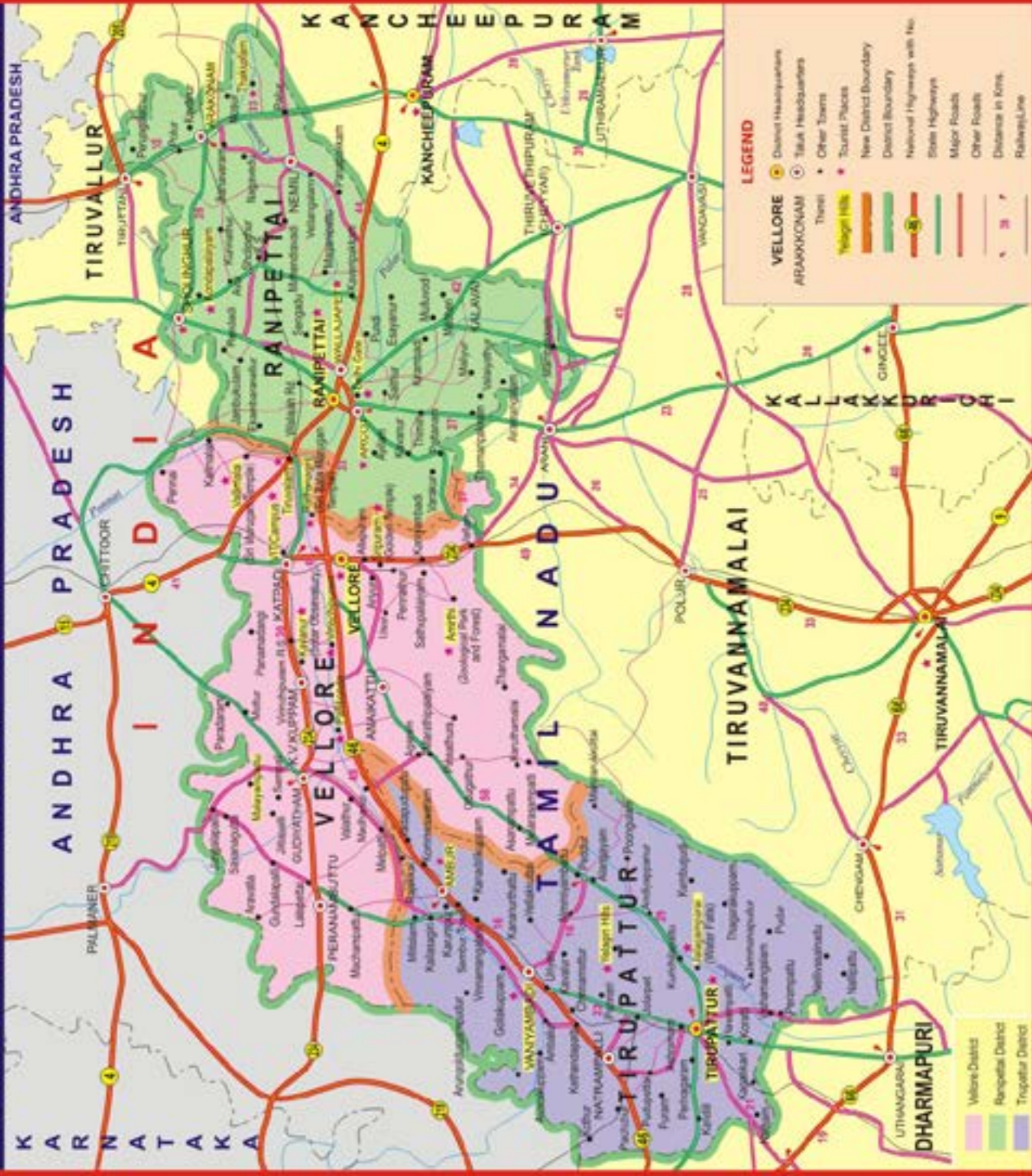
| | |
|-------------|-------------------------------|
| Area | : 1,797.92 Sq kms. |
| Population | : 1,111,812 (2011 census) |
| Altitude | : 220 m above the sea level |
| Temperature | |
| Summer | : Max. 40.50° C Min. 25.20° C |
| Winter | : Max. 28.70° C Min. 18.40° C |
| Rainfall | : 997 mm - Average |
| Season | : Throughout the year |
| Clothing | : Tropical |
| Languages | : Tamil, English and Telugu |
| STD Code | : 04179 |

Jalagamparai Waterfalls

'Attaru' river passes through the Elagiri hills and waterfalls forms a height of 30 mtr. and Jadaiyanur on the other side of the hills. This could either be reached from Tirupattur (15 kms.) or by an hour's trek from the hills Adjacent to the Jalagamparai waterfalls. There is a Murugan temple located within a building constructed in the shape of a Lingam.



TOURIST MAP OF VELLORE - RANIPETTAI AND TIRUPATTUR DISTRICTS





Elagiri hills

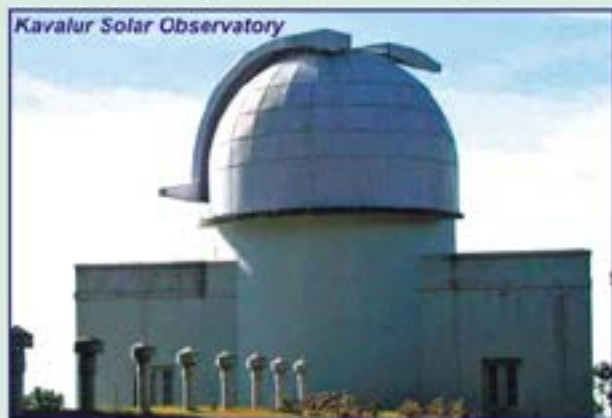
Elagiri hills is one of the hill stations of Tamil Nadu situated amidst four mountains in a serene atmosphere, it is well known for its salubrious climate prevailing throughout the year. Elagiri hills can be reached by a winding ghat road, that has 14 hairpin bends. The hairpin bends offer panoramic and breath taking view. The seventh hairpin bend is significant, since it offer the view of the slope of mountain and the green forest covering as a carpet of the hill.

Elagiri comprises of 14 small villages where the tribal are engaged in agriculture, horticulture, forestry, etc. as a means of living their customs habits, and the structure of their houses are very unique and they could attract the tourists. Places of tourist interest include Punganur lake which is an artificial lake made in area of 56,706 square meters. Boating on the water of this lake can be an enchanting experience. Other attraction are a Children's park, Velavan temple, a herbal farm and a telescope house, there are avenues for organising adventure tourism activities like trekking, mountaineering, rock climbing and hanggliding in the hills and slopes. Trek routes are: Athanavur - Mangalam - Jalagamparai Athanavur Y.M.C.A campus - Samimalai and back.

Contact: 04179 - 220015.

Kavalur Solar Observatory

The biggest Solar Observatory is Vainu pappu situated in Kavalur, 25 kms. from Elagiri and it could also be accessed from Vaniyambadi (30 kms.). Prior permission is



required to visit the Observatory. All are welcome on Saturdays from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. without seeking prior permission. A large variety of deer roam around the Observatory.

ACCESS

- Air** : Nearest Airport is at Chennai (220 kms.)
- Rail** : Tirupattur Railway Junction
- Road** : Buses are available to and fro Chennai and Bengaluru.

ACCOMMODATION

Elagiri (STD Code: 04179)

- Hotel Yatriniwas ☎ : 9442357659
- Hotel Elagiri ☎ : 8098323111
- Hotel Land Mark ☎ : 9444990325
- Hotel Hills ☎ : 9655554100
- Rithams Lake view ☎ : 9442192203
- Zeenath Taj Gardens ☎ : 9003723648
- Roy's Kozee kaves ☎ : 9884486858
- Hotel Nigress ☎ : 9786667968
- Hotel Golden Nest ☎ : 9080898108
- P.A. Resorts ☎ : 9444033440
- Peters Park ☎ : 9442357711
- Ags Holiday Resort ☎ : 9655585118
- Hotel Hill Breeze ☎ : 7094300713
- Prajay inn ☎ : 9840462394
- Mahathi Resorts ☎ : 9786667968
- Jains Royal Palace ☎ : 6926011226
- Sterling Holidays ☎ : 245320
- Belle Vue Castle ☎ : 9443492969
- O Nila ☎ : 9884484440
- Hotel Kumara Raja Palace ☎ : 9551599299

For further details please contact:

Tourist Officer

Government of Tamil Nadu Tourist Office,
Vellore Fort, Vellore - 632 004.

Phone: 0416 - 2217974.

Email: to.vellore@gmail.com



DEPARTMENT 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.tnedeonline.com

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