

Thiruchirappalli (Rock Fort City)

INTRODUCTION

Situated on the banks of the River Cauvery the fourth largest city in the state was a citadel of the many dynasties like early Cholas, Pallavas, Pandyas, Vijayanagar dynasty Nayakas, Marathas including French, Nawabs and British Colonial rulers. Tiruchi flourished and prospered in its own right and grew to be the city. Tiruchi is a fine blend of tradition and modernity built around the Rock Fort. Apart from the fort there are several churches, colleges and missions dating back to the 1760s. With its excellent infrastructural facilities Tiruchi will serve as a good base to see central Tamilnadu.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Area	:	5,114 Sq.km
Altitude	:	75m above the sea level
Population	:	27,13,858 (As per 2011 census)
Temperature	:	Summer -Max 37.1°C Min 26.4°C Winter -Max 31.3°C Min 20.6°C
Average Rainfall	:	43.4cms
Season	:	Throughout the year
Clothing	:	Tropical
Languages	:	Tamil, English, Hindi

I Interpretation Centre at Main Guard Gate (By ASI) ph:0431-2711258.

HOW TO GET THERE

Air: Thiruchirappalli has an airport (7km). Indian Airlines connects Tiruchi with Chennai, Dubai, Kuwait, Colombo and Singapore/Malaysia.

Rail: Railway connects all important cities within all state and other states.

Road: Good network of roads link all cities and towns.

Local Transport: City Bus service to all places of tourist interest from Central Bus Stand and from Chinthamani-Main Guard Gate Bus Stand. Tourist Taxis, Autos, Tourist friendly Autos and Rickshaws are available.

PLACES OF INTEREST

ROCK FORT(1 KM)



Tiruchi's most famed landmark is an 83-mtr.tall rock fort which is the only outcrop in the otherwise flat land of the city. The most amazing fact about the rocks is that it is one of the oldest in the world-approximately 3,800 million years, which makes it as old as the rocks of Greenland and older than the Himalayas. The sheer abruptness of its rise is an attention grabber itself, but the temple at the summit,427 steps hewn out of rock lead to the top where there are inscriptions dating back to the 3rd Century B.C. Hardly anything remains of the ramparts but the Main Guard Gate is still intact. The fort played an important role during the Carnatic Wars and according to an inscription mainly contributed to lay the foundations of the British empire in India.

Atop of the rock is the UchipillaiyarKoil a temple dedicated to Lord Vinayaka from where one can enjoy a panoramic view of Tiruchi. A flight of steps leads to the Thayumanavarswami Temple, dedicated to Lord Siva where the lingam is a projection of the rock itself. Below the Siva Temple there are two Pallava cave temples that have beautiful sculptures of the 6th and 7th centuries A.D. At the foot of the Rock Fort is a tank and a pavilion which are used during the float festival of the temples. Near the tank is the house where Robert Clive lived when he was in Tiruchi and an 18th century Christ Church built by Reverend Schwartz of Denmark .The house is now part of Tiruchi's famous St.Joseph's College.Ph:2704621.

SRIRANGAM(3 KM)



The District's most important pilgrim centre is located in an island just 10 km from Tiruchi. Srirangam ,surrounded by the waters of River Cauvery on one side and its tributary Kollidam on the other side is a 600 acre island-town enclosed within the seven walls of the gigantic Lord Ranganathaswami Temple There are 21 gopurams, among which the Rajagopuram is the tallest in South India. The 72 mtr high 13-tiered Rajagopuram was built in 1987 and dominates the landscape for miles around, while the remaining 20 gopurams were built between the 14th and 17th centuries. Originally ,there was just a small shrine where the temple is today ,but is was added on to and expanded by the Cholas, Cheras, Pandyas, Hoysalas the Vijayanagar Kings and Nayaks of Madurai, and today Srirangam stands as the biggest temple complex in the country.Ph:2432246.

TIRUVANAIKKAVAL(1 KM)



Situated 2 km east of Srirangam this beautiful Siva temple steals the show from the larger Ranganathaswami temple due to its excellent architectural design. The temple is named after the elephant which is believed to have worshipped Lord Shiva here and installed under an ancient jambu tree. The Lingam is partially submerged by water and is meant to represent Water, one of the five elements. Ph:2230257.

ST.LOURDES CHURCH (1 KM)



The church located near the Rockfort Teppakulam based on the French architecture is the oldest one of its kind. Church of Our Lady of Lourdes is the replica of the Basilica of Lourdes, the world famous place of pilgrimage in south France.

NADHIRSHA DHARGA (5 KM)

The Dharga built 1000 years ago, stood as a holy place for Muslims. The Festival of 'urs' is celebrated in the mosque every year with a great boom. Many devotees from various parts of Tamilnadu visit this mosque during the festival rituals.

SAMAYAPURAM (8 KM)

This is a very famous Pilgrimage centre dedicated to the Goddess Mariamman. It is one among the abodes of Shakti in India. Panchaprakaram, Poochorithal Vizha nad Brahmotsavam are some of the festivals that attract many devotees. Ph:2670460,2670807.

VAYALLOOR (8 KM)

A very fine picnic spot located on the outskirts of Tiruchirappalli having a temple dedicated to Lord Murugan in the midst of lush green vegetation. Ph:2607344.

THIRUVELLARAI (15 KM)

A Vaishnava Temple known as Pundareekasha Perumal Temple is situated here. This Temple is one among the 108 Divyadesams by the songs rendered by Azhwars. It has the pride of Mangalasanam made to the shrine by the Periazhwar and Thirumangai Azhwar. This is also a noted Archaeological site having cave temple and swastika tank. Ph:2562246.

UTHAMAR KOIL (7 KM)

Here one can worship Lord Brahma (the creator), Lord Vishnu (the protector), Lord Shiva (the destroyer) within the same temple complex. So this place is called Trimoorthishektram or Kadambavanam. Uthamarkovil in Karumbanur is one of the most famous shrines denoted in 108 vaishnava Divyadesam's Paadal Sthalam. Ph:2591466

GUNASEELAM (20 KM)

Gunaseelam, located on the northern bank of River Cauvery in between Tiruchirapalli - Musiri Road. A Vaishnava Temple dedicated to Lord Prasanna Venkatesha Perumal attracts many devotees to this place.

PLANETORIUM (6 KM)

Planetorium / Anna Science Center is located on Pudukottai Road near Airport. Programmes in Tamil and English Versions are shown daily. Tamil Version : 10.30am, 1.00pm, 3.30 pm, 4.45 pm. English Version: 11.45 am, 2.15 pm. Entry Fee: Adult -Rs 12/-, Child- Rs.6/-(below 12yrs.). Environmental Gallery Entry Fee: Adult -5/-, Child-Rs.2/-(below 12yrs). Science Park entry Fee: Re.1/-. Ph:0431-233192/2332190. Timing: 10.00am to 5.45 pm (all days except three National Holidays)