



## UNVEILING THE BEAUTY OF KUMBAKONAM & NACHIYARKOIL

Jagadguru SriMan Madhwacharya Moola Maha Samsthana, Sri Uttaradi Matha is a significant Madhwa institution with various branches across BharataKhanda, that serves as a centre of spirituality, devotion, education and community activities.

### INSIGHTS ABOUT KUMBAKONAM & NACHIYARKOIL BRANCHES:

Kumbakonam, the temple city, known for its large number of temples is located in the Tanjavur district of Tamil Nadu. Nachiyarkoil is a small neighbouring town, located about 10 KM from Kumbakonam. The rivers Kaveri & Arasalar are located to the north and south of the cities respectively. Kumbakonam is also popular for the Mahamagham festival that is celebrated once in 12 years, attracting devotees in large numbers. It is also known for the many scholarly pundits who studied and lived here. The Kumbakonam branch of Sri Uttaradi Math was established by Sri Satyabhoda Teertharu.

The math premises has a Prana Devaru originally installed by Sri Satyabodha Teertha himself. Kumbakonam was the Karya Ksethra of Sri Vijayeendra Teertharu. This is where his moola brindhavan is present too. He is one of the most revered Gurus in guru parampara. Sri Raghavendra Swamigalu recieved his education and spent his early life in Kumbakonam.

The moola brindhavan of Sri Satyabhinava Teertharu is in Nachiyarkoil. Sri Satyabhinava Teertharu was ordained Sanyasashrama by his guru Sri Satyanatha Teertharu.

Nachiyarkoil is also known for Kalyana Venkateswara Swamy Temple. There is a pushkarani just besides the temple premises giving it a spiritual and peaceful ambience. The Uttaradi Math in Nachiyarkoil is right opposite to the temple.

The innumerable temples in and around this region makes it a treat for Hari bhaktas.

**Contact numbers: | UM Kumbakonam: 9498005708 | UM Nachiyarkoil: 7795379732 |**



**Sri Vijayeendra Teertharu, Kumbakonam**

**SRI SRI 1008 SRI VIJAYEENDRA TEERTHARU, KUMBAKONAM:**

Sri Vijayeendra Teertharu was known as Sri Vittalacharya in his poorvashrama. His vidya guru and ashrama guru was non-other than Sri Vyasarajaru. He, during his education, mastered all 64 art forms, like Sri Vadirajaru who was one of his friends and companion in the gurukula. He is the only saint to have written 108 granthas.

On the orders of his Guru Sri Vyasarajaru, Sri Vijayeendra Swamigalu worked on spreading the siddhanta of Srimad Madhwachararyaru. He debated and defeated many Shaivite scholars during his visits to the various parts of Vijayanagara Samrajya. However, he never captured or encroched the temples and maths after defeating the philosophers of the different sidhantas. This has been the standing principle of our Madhwa parampare. He like the many montiffs and philosophers of Madhwa Siddhanta only humbled the debators - never humiliating them. Wherever he went, he humbled the debators who were scholars in Meemamsa, Nyaya, Vyakarana, Jyothisha, Sahitya, Ayurveda and other subjects. He also played a pivotal role as the guru and guide for the Vijayanagara empire.

Besides establishing his wins in series of debates, he wrote one hundred and four books. Sri Raghavendra swamiji in his own works advises with all due reverence to refer to Sri Vijayeendra's Nyayamoukthikamala and other books to get wider and more profound knowledge of certain important aspects.



**Sri Satyabhinava Teertharu, Nachiarcoil**

**SRI SRI 1008 SRI SATYABHINAVA TEERTHARU, NACHIYAR KOIL:**

Sri Satyabhinava Teertharu was the pontiff of Sri Uttaradi Matha and was formerly known as Sri Narasimhacharya. His Guru Sri Satyanatha Teertharu chose him for peetha though there were many other scholarly people and said that by the sheer wish will make him a great saint.

Sri Satyatmateertharu, fondly says, that the brindavan of Sri Satyabhinava Teertharu is not made of stones but made out of bhakti towards his Guru. We as devotees learn this aspect of unstinted bhkathi towards our entire Guru parampare.

Soon after being initiated to pontificate thorne of Uttaradi Math by Sri Satyanatha Teertharu , Sri Satyabhinava Teertha made arrangement to regularize certain offerings to the daily worship of Sri Moola Rama, Sri Moola Sita, Sri Vedavyasa and other sacred deities of the Math. He appointed 64 sevaks for offering the ritual and worship to the samasthana idols in the Math.

As a part of the administration His Holiness used to oversee the day to day accounts i.e. income and expenditure in the night everyday. Further he used to supervise the daily routine in the Math. This practice is being carried out by the pontiffs of the Uttaradhi Math till date.

Shri Satyabhinava Teertharu composed two treatises: 1) Mahabharata Tatparya Nirnaya Vyakhyana 2) Guru Mahima Stuthi

He ordained sanyasa to Sri Satyapoorna Teertha. He also ordained sanyasa to Vidyadheeshacharya who was named Sri Satyadhiraja Teertha after coronation as saint.

#### **ABOUT THE KUMBAKONAM BRANCH:**

The math at Kumbakonam was established by Sri Satyabodha Teertharu. The math premises has a Prana Devaru whose pratishtapane was done by Sri Satyabodha Teertharu himself.

There is no moola brindavana in the Kumbakonam branch of Uttaradi Math. However, there is a small gurukula where students learn our shastra. The math is very close to Sri Vijayeendra Swamiji brindhavan in the Rayar math complex.

The Sri Math branch has very good accommodation facilities with AC and non AC rooms and halls. Teerthaprasada arrangements can also be made in the math.

Devotees can avail these by informing in advance. Sufficient parking is available in the math premises. Other than accomodations in the Sri Math, there are many hotels and lodges available in Kumbakonam.

Devotees can perform kshetra vidhi or kala shradha here. Devotees can bring their own cook and achar if desired so, for their functions or the math can take care of those as well.

#### **ABOUT NACHIARKOIL BRANCH:**

Nachiarkoil is about 10 Km from Kumbakonam. The only accommodation facility available here is a hall with clean toilets and washrooms. Devotees wishing to do seva can stay in the hall or make use of the accommodation facilities in Kumbakonam and travel to Nachiarkoil for seva and darshana. However, Teerthaprasada is available when informed in advance.

#### **LOCATION & HOW TO REACH:**

- Kumbakoam & Nachiarkoil are reachable by road. It is about 283 KM from Chennai and 384 KM Bengaluru.
- They are well connected by Buses.
- The Mysuru - Cuddalore Port Express runs daily between Bengaluru and Kumbakonam. Similarly, there are many daily and weekly trains from Chennai to Kumbakonam.
- Kumbakonam and Naciarkoil are internally well connected by buses with an approximate travel time of 30 mins.

#### **CONTACT:**

Kumbakonam: 09498005708

Nachiarkoil: 07795379732

## NEARBY PLACES TO VISIT:



Chakrapani Temple, Kumbakonam

**Chakrapani Temple:**

The Chakrapani Temple in Kumbakonam is one of the most important temples dedicated to Lord MahaVishnu. The Lord kills Jalandarasura using his Chakra, which lands here, in Kumbakonam. Lord Brahma worships the Chakra roopa of Vishnu here. As days pass, the brightness of the Chakra keeps increasing becoming much brighter than the brightness of the Sun. Surya deva, out of jealousy also keeps increasing his brightness too. However, Chakra swaroopi Narayana, absorbs the brightness of Surya deva, who learns his lesson and surrenders to the holy feet of Sriman MahaVishnu. On this holy place, Sri Chakrapani Swamy came out of shri Chakra and gave Darshan to Surya deva. Having been blessed by Sri Chakrapani Swami, Surya Deva built a temple for Him and requested a boon—that the holy city of Kumbakonam be named after him as 'Bhaskara Kshetra.' The boon was granted. **\*Temple Timing: 7.00AM - 12.00PM & 4.00PM - 8.00 PM.**



Sarangapani Temple, Kumbakonam

**Sarangapani Temple:**

Sarangapani, an incarnation of Maha Vishnu, appeared for the sage Hema Rishi, who performed penance on the banks of Potramarai tank. The penance was performed to obtain Lakshmi, the consort of Vishnu, as his daughter. Vishnu was pleased by the penance and he wished the sage to get Lakshmi as his daughter. Lakshmi emerged from the Potramarai tank among thousand lotuses and was thus named Komalavalli (the one who emerged from lotus). Vishnu descended to earth as Aravamudhan in a chariot drawn by horses and elephants from his abode Vaikuntam. He stayed in the nearby Someswaran Temple to convince Lakshmi to marry him and they eventually got married. The name Sarangapani ("one who has the bow in his hand") derives from the Sanskrit word Sarangam meaning bow of Vishnu and pani meaning hand.

This temple is along the river Kaveri and is one of the Pancharanga Kshetrams. The Rajagopuram (the main gateway) has eleven tiers and has a height of 173 ft (53 m). The Potramarai tank, the temple tank, is located opposite to the western entrance of the temple. The central shrine of the temple is in the form of a chariot drawn by horses and elephants, with openings on either side, showing the descent of Sarangapani from heaven in the chariot. There is a sculptural representation of the sage Hemarishi in the western part of the temple. **\*Temple Timing: 6.30AM - 12.30PM & 4.00PM - 9.00PM**



**Kal Garudan and Venkateshwara Swamy Temple, Nachiarkoil**

**Kal Garundan and Kalyana Venkateshwara Swamy Temple:** This temple is dedicated to Lord Venkateshwara. It has a serene pushkarni in its premises and is very famously known for the Kal Garudan Seva, which is done twice a year. The kal Garuda (made of stone), carries the deities through the streets, twice a year. The interesting part of this procession is that, as the garuda is carried out of the temple, the number of people required to carry it increases by twice the earlier number. However, as the garuda is being carried back to the temple, the number of people required to carry decreases by half. **\*Temple Timings: 7:30 am–12:30 pm, 4:30–9 pm**



**Ramaswamy Temple, Kumbakonam**

**Ramaswamy Temple:** The Ramaswamy temple in Kumbakonam is considered the Ayodhya of the South. The temple was built during the period of Thanjavur Nayak king Achuthappa Nayak (1560–1614) and completed during the reign of Raghunatha Nayak (1600–34). On the walls of the prakaram, Ramayanam is depicted in pictorial format in three segments. One can read through Ramayana pictorially while taking pradakshinams of the sanctum. The paintings are believed to have emerged from the Thanjavur Nayak period and were subsequently enhanced during the Thanjavur Maratha kingdom. The paintings of Ramayana are considered one of the major depictions of the epic in art form in India. **\*Temple Timings: 6.00AM-1.00PM, 4.00PM-9.00PM**



**Uppiliappan Temple, Nachiarkoil**

**Uppiliappan Temple:** The temple is dedicated to Lord Vishnu & Bhoodevi and was built using Dravidian style. In this temple, to this day, the prasadam doesn't have any salt in it. This practice is based on the story of Lord Vishnu, who appeared as an old man and married the daughter of Markandeya Rishi - Tulsi Devi (Bhoodevi). Tulsi Devi (Bhoodevi), who had yet to learn to cook properly, cooked food without any salt. However, Sriman MahaVishnu declared her "saltless food" would be nectar to him and hence, saltless food is prepared here everyday. **\*Temple Timings: 6.00AM–1.00PM, 4.00PM–9.00 PM**



**Koothanuru Maha Saraswati Temple,  
Koothanur**

**Koothanur Maha Saraswati Temple:** The temple is dedicated to Maha Saraswati. Temples dedicated to Saraswati devi is rare and this is one among them.

**\*Temple Timings: 7.30 AM - 1.00 PM, 4.00PM - 8.30 PM**



**Adi Kumbeshwara Temple,  
Kumbakonam**

**Adi Kumbeshwara Temple:** It is the largest Shiva temple of Kumbakonam in Thanjavur District. This temple has a 9-storeyed rajagopuram, soaring 125 feet high, and is gracefully spread across a vast expanse of 4 acres in the heart of the town.

This temple is believed to have a history dating back 1200 years, dedicated to Lord Shiva. The city of Kumbakonam derives its name from the principal deity of this temple, Adi Kumbeshwarar.

Lord Shiva at this temple is called Adi Kumbeshwara. “Adi” signifies ‘first and foremost,’ while “Kumbam” alludes to ‘pot.’ It is in this temple that the first pot, the very foundation of human existence, was created. Notably, the Linga within the temple takes on the shape of a cone. The divine consort of Lord Shiva in this sacred abode is Mangalambigai.

Sri Vijayeendra Swamigalu did tapas here and received the darshana of Mangalambigai devi. Many among his 108 granthas were written here after attaining devi’s darshana.

Spanning an expansive area of 30,181 square feet, the temple complex extends over four sprawling acres, encompassed by stunning Gopurams or temple towers on all sides. The nine-storeyed Rajagopuram stands as a magnificent testament to Lord Shiva. The temple boasts several corridors adorned with intricately carved pillars. Its carvings, statues, and murals are exquisite, bearing intricate designs. A temple tank provides the sacred water required for rituals. Within the temple’s precincts, you’ll discover shrines dedicated to Lord Ganesha, Lord Muruga, Goddess Saraswati, and Goddess Lakshmi. One of the architectural highlights is a single stone sculpture featuring the 27 stars and 12 zodiac signs.

**\*Temple Timings: 6.00 AM - 12.30 PM & 4.00 - 9.30 PM**



### Brihadeeshwara Temple, Thanjavur

**Brihadeeshwara Temple:** One of the largest temples in India, the Brihadeeswara Temple also known as Peruvudaiyar Kovil is located in Thanjavur. Dedicated to Lord Shiva represented as a huge 'Lingam', the temple was built around 1010 AD by the Chola king Rajaraja Chola I. Considered as one of the three 'Great Living Chola Temples' along with the Gangaikondacholeeswaram Temple and Airavasteswara Temple, the complex is also listed as a part of the UNESCO World Heritage Sites.

One of the main attractions of the temple is a big statue of Nandi, the sacred bull of Lord Shiva. 13 ft high and 16 ft wide, the statue is sculpted out of a single rock. Fortified walls rich in elaborate rock art works surround the temple and give a grand look to the entire complex. The main temple tower is 216 ft high and the tallest of its kind in the world. The complete structure of the temple is made out of granite. The main 'Gopurams' or gateways to the temple are splendid structures with detailed sculptures.

The temple's inscriptions and frescoes narrate the tale of the rise and decline of the city's fortunes. The Shiva lingam or the idol is covered by the tower and is built with stones that are bonded without the use of mortar. Yet another wonder can be seen above - the stone at the top which weighs nearly 80 tons.

The temple stands as a fitting example of the might and power of the Chola dynasty that once ruled over the region. It is believed that the construction of the massive temple complex took only 7 years for completion, which is a huge accomplishment considering the scale of the sculptures, art and the complex itself.

**\*Temple Timings: 6.00 AM - 12.30 PM, 4.00PM - 8.30 PM**



### Lalita Tripura Sundari Temple, Tirumalachur

**Lalita Tripura Sundari Temple:** This temple is dedicated to Goddess Lalithambikai. The temple is renowned for its historical significance, architectural beauty, and association with the powerful Lalitha Sahasranama, a sacred text listing a thousand names of the goddess. The architecture blends styles from the Chola, Pandya, and Vijayanagara periods, featuring intricate carvings.

**\*Temple Timing: 6.00AM - 12.00 PM, 4.30 PM - 8.30 PM**



### Adi Vinayaka Sannadhi, Tilatarpana Puri

**Adi Vinayaka Temple:** This is one of the most unique temples dedicated to Lord Vinayaka who is in Naramukha Roopa here.

The folklore of the town states that Sri Rama gave Tarpana for Jatayu in this place - resulting in the name Tilatarpana puri. Main God is Shiva and the sannadhi of Ganesha has a human head.



Navagraha Temples

The Navagraha temples near Kumbakonam are dedicated to the nine celestial bodies of Hindu astrology. There are several government and private buses that operate single day or 2 days trip to all the navagraha temples. Devotees can make use of these facilities to visit all the navagraha temples.

Devotees can book for this facility here: <https://www.tnstc.in/OTRSONline/jqreq.do?hiddenAction=Package>

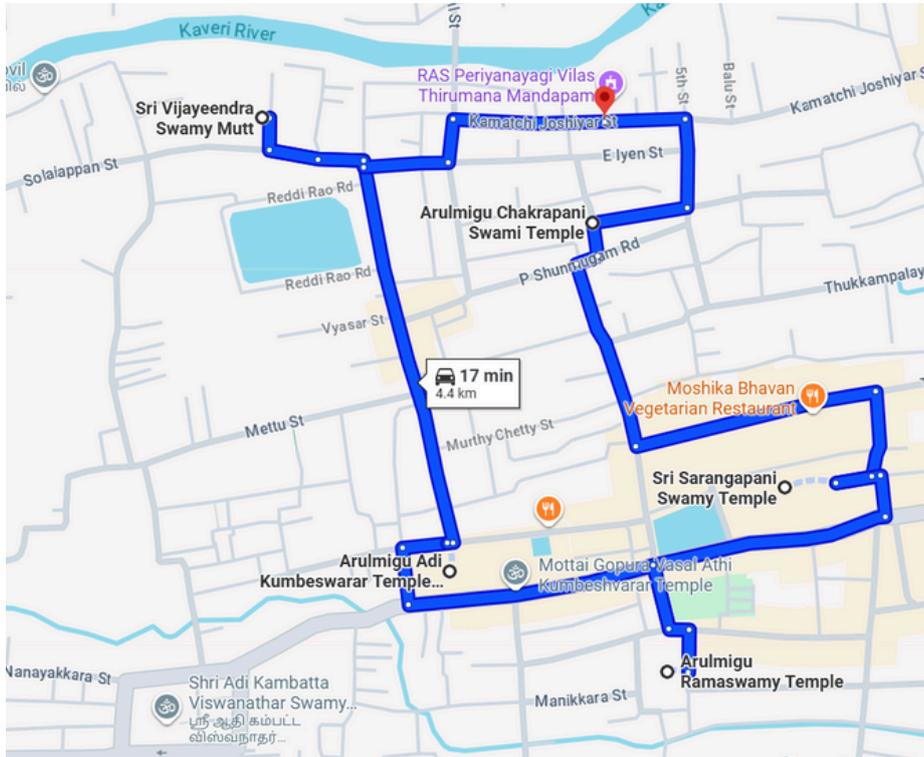
The navagraha's and the name of the temples are as follows:

- Sun (Surya): Suryanar Kovil Temple, Thirumangalakudi
- Moon (Chandra): Kailasanathar Temple, Thingalur
- Mars (Angarakan): Vaitheeswaran Koil Temple
- Mercury (Budha): Swetharanyeswarar Temple, Thiruvenkadu
- Jupiter (Guru): Apatsahayesvarar Temple, Alangudi
- Venus (Sukra): Agniswarar Temple, Kanchanur
- Saturn (Shani): Tirunallar Darbaranyeshwara Temple
- Rahu: Naganathar Temple, Thirunageswaram
- Kethu: Naganathaswamy Temple, Keezhperumpallam

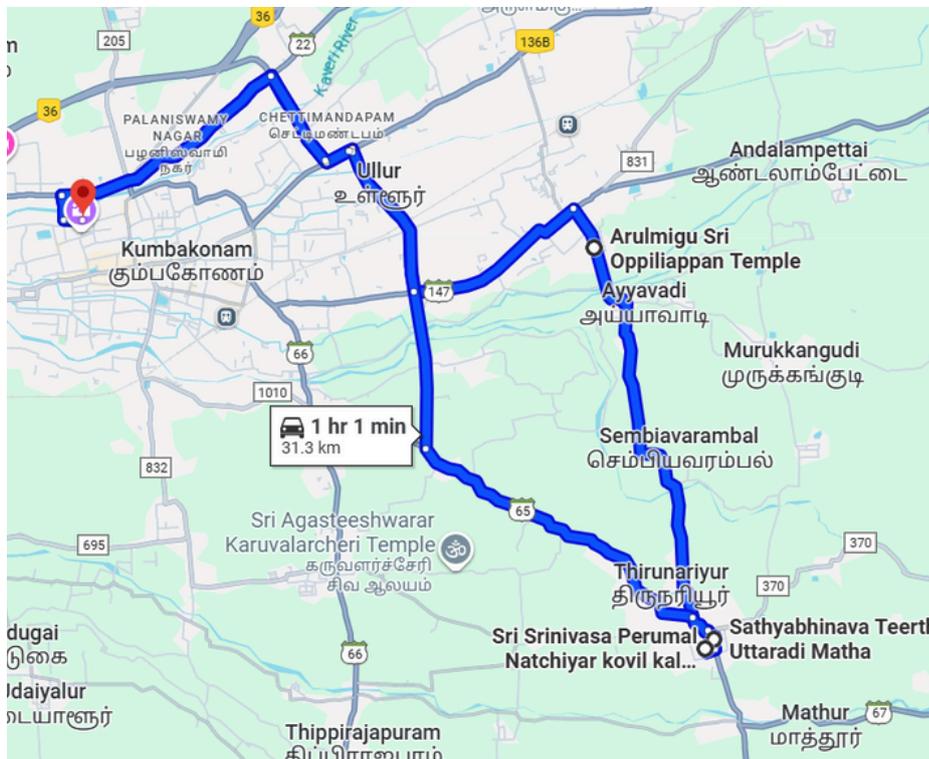
### \*Disclaimer:

The description of temples is given as per local sthala puranas / beliefs. Also verify the temple timings before your visit, as they may change.

# MAPS FOR KUMBAKONAM & NACHIARKOIL



**Temples in Kumbakonam**



**Kumbakonam → Nachiarcoil → Kumbakonam**



**Represent Sri Uttaradi Math, Kumbakonam**

