

### Temples Dedicated to Folk Deities

- ⇒ Veyil Ugantha Amman Kovil
- ⇒ Malai Adi karupanaswamy Kovil
- ⇒ Mottai Arasu Muniandi Kovil
- ⇒ Pamban Swamigal Kovil

### Jeeva Samadhis in Thirukoodal Malai /

#### Kakabhiujangar Malai

- ⇒ Muttai Swamy Jeeva Samadhi
- ⇒ Irulappa Konar Jeeva Samadhi
- ⇒ Somappa Swamy Jeeva Samadhi
- ⇒ Mayandi Swamy Jeeva Samadhi
- ⇒ Nataraja Swamy Jeeva Samadhi
- ⇒ Mariappa Swamigal Jeeva Samadhi

### Others

- ⇒ Pancha Pandavar Kugai
- ⇒ Nakirar Kugai

### ACCESS

#### Airways

The nearest airport to Thiruparankundram is Madurai International Airport. It is connected with Chennai, Bangalore, Mumbai, New Delhi through Air India, Spicejet, Jet Airways. Sri Lankan Airlines and Spicejet offers international connections to Colombo and Dubai.

#### Roadways

Madurai is served by a good network of city buses, both government as well as privately run, based out to the three major bus stands, running to various points in the city and suburbs. Government buses like 48A, 48PT, 48Z, 5M, 22, 48AD, 48Y etc. are used to reach Thiruparankundram. Taxis operated by OLA Cabs and Fast Track are also available on call.

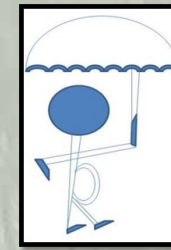
#### Railways

Following is the list of trains passing through Thiruparankundram- Mysore Express, Pear City Express, TCN-PGT PASSR, Punalur Pass, Madurai Passenger, TEN-ED/MV Pass, NCJ-CBE Passenger, Madurai- SCT Pass etc.

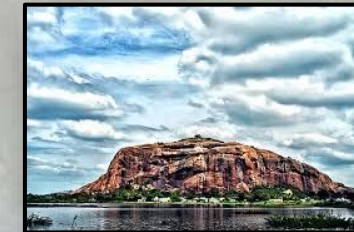
For hospitality, contact Heritage and Hospitality Group initiated by students (2016–2019) of Department of History Lady Doak College with the support of DHAN Foundation, Madurai as an outcome of the process of Life Frontier Engagement, service learning initiative of the College.

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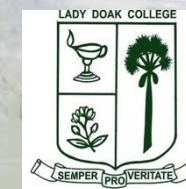
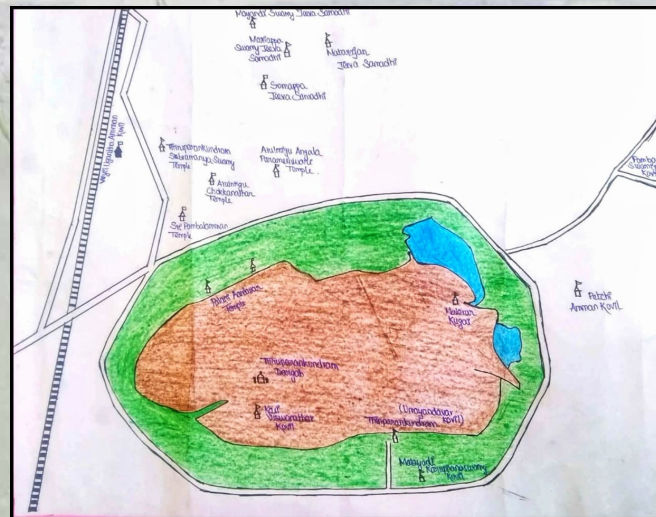
E.mail: tourism@dhan.org



## Majestic Hillock 'Thiruparankundram' – Historic & Heritage Wonder of Madurai



### MAPPING OF THIRUPARANKUNDRAM MONUMENTS



Department of History  
Lady Doak College, Madurai  
2018–2019

Designed by Group No. 1: Monuments in Thiruparankundram

## Majestic Hillock 'Thiruparankundram' – Historic & Heritage Wonder of Madurai

Thiruparankundram is one of the historic and heritage sites of Madurai. It is a hub of numerous monuments pertaining to various religions which carry historical, architectural, archaeological as well as artistic significance. Till today, the place stands as a testimony to the glorious events of past and adorn the majestic hillock, Thiruparankundram. The hillock is mentioned as *Parankundram* in Tamil literary works, Sangam Literature.

Thiruparankundram is a region with historical monuments, holy tanks (*teerthas*), festivals all round the year, pleasant climate, a green atmosphere and these are the reasons due to which tourists throng here from far and wide.

### GENERAL INFORMATION

Area	:	16 Sq.kms
Population	:	48, 810 (2011 Census)
Altitude	:	101 mts asl 300 ft. (hillock)
Temperature	:	Max      Min
Summer	:	37.1°C    25.0°C
Winter	:	29.0°C    20.0°C
Ward	:	14
Zone	:	IV
Rainfall	:	88 cms. Average
Season	:	Throughout the year
Households	:	12934

### ATTRACTIONS

#### Subramanya Swamy Temple

First of the six holy abodes of Tamil God, Muruga is a grand legacy of Pandya kings. This rock hewn temple is similar to the Pallava cave temples. The presiding deity of this temple is Lord Subramanya found in cave no. 2, graces in a sitting, wedding form with his consort Devayani and adjoining it four caves are found in which Pavalakanivai Perumal, Durga Devi, Karpaga Vinayagar and Sathyagreesvarar are present. An interesting feature of this temple is that the shrines of Lord Shiva and Lord Vishnu face each other.

Pandya king Parantaka Nedunchadaiyan is accredited for erecting this wonderful work of art in 73 A.D. under the supervision of his able minister Sattan Ganapathy. A Jesta Devi shrine is also another predominant cave temple located on the way to Lord Subramanya Swamy cave temple which was raised by Nakkan Kotrai (wife of Sattan Ganapathy).



#### Thenparankundram

Thenparankundram is an early Pandyas rock hewn temple of 8<sup>th</sup> century A.D. It is under the protection of ASI. Thenparankundram can be split into two separate words. "Then" denotes beauty and the other half "Paran" refers to Lord Shiva. This rock cut cave temple is about 1.8 kms from Subramanya Swamy temple and forms the other side of the hillock. The rock cut cave temple is popularly known as Umai Andavar Koil (Lord Shiva in the form of Arthanareeswara). This was originally a Jain monument but later converted to Saivism site and named after the king as Sundara Pandian Eswaran temple by Prasanna Deva.



#### Thiruparankundram Dargah

Thiruparankundram Dargah is a religious as well as pilgrimage site of Muslims and is located on the top of Thiruparankundram hillock. It is the famous shrine of Islamic saint Sultan Sikandhar Badushah Shaheed. Irrespective of religion, people visit the Dargah from far and wide. The Dargah is referred to as Mustajab Ad Du'aa Sikandhar Badhushah. Mustajab Ad Du'aa in Arabic which means "a saint whose prayers are answered immediately by Allah". *Santhanakoodu* is a prominent festival celebrated here annually.



#### Jain Panels

Beautiful Jain panels are seen in two places in Thiruparankundram. One Jain panel is found backside the Palani Andavar Kovil and another panel is found on the way to Kasi Viswanathar temple. The Jain *Trithankaras* like Parsavanathar (Jain monk with snake hood above his head), Lord Mahavira (seated in *simhasana*) sculptures are found along with *Vattezhuthu* inscriptions. They stand as a testimony to the prevalence of this predominant sect in the land of Thiruparankundram.



#### OTHER ATTRACTIONS

##### Temples in Thiruparankundram

- ⇒ Sokkanathar Aalayam
- ⇒ Angalaparameshwari Sametha Gurunadha Swami Kovil
- ⇒ Palani Andavar Kovil
- ⇒ Utchi Pillayar Kovil
- ⇒ Baladhandayutha Swamy Kovil