

Srimathey Sri Lakshiminrusimha Para Brahmane Namaha.

Divya desa Yatra experiences of Smt Shakuntala Ragunathan of Chennai (Thirunangur based temples)

Day one: January, 7, 2008: we, (10 ladies, 6 of us are senior citizens) went to Thirunangur Divya Desam. I looked into Srivaishnavam.com and read various people's summaries of their trips to various Divya Desams. Since we were planning a trip to Thirunangur, I tried to find some information about that place.

I personally know one Sri V.Seshadri Battachar who is Hereditary Sthanigam Trustee of Parthanpalli. Since he was busy in the festival of Sri Sarangapani Temple of Kumbakonam, he provided me a phone number of Sri Madhava Battar of Annan Koil. When I talked to him over the phone, he assured us of accommodation and food.

On the 7th Jan. 2008, we travelled to Thirunangur by a Tempo Traveller. Sri Madhava Battar advised me that we should have darshan of Lord Vikrama Narayanan of Seerkhazhi on our way to Annan Koil. Here Lord Vikrama gives darshan to everyone with his left foot in the air. In Thirukkuviloor, the Lord has his right foot in the air. Sri Badri Narayana Battachar explained the situation to us. We arrived at Annan Koil (from Seerkazhi, one has to take the road to Karaikal and turn in at the Annan Koil arch which comes after 7 km.) and Sri Madhava Battar was waiting for us. We went to Annan koil first and then with a guide went to Thiru Mani Mada Koil and darshan of Lord Narayanan. It was Satthumurai time and we were given Prasadam, Puliodharai and Thayir sadam. Then went to Thiruvan Purudothamam Koil, there was a death and the temple was closed. It was late by the time we went to Ariyameya Vinnagaram and Thirutheriyambhalam and both the temples were closed and so returned to Annan Koil and Sri Madhava Battar showed us our accommodation, There are 4 rooms with a double steel cot sans bed. One common bath and toilet. The rooms have fan and two lights. We have taken some bedding like pillow and bedsheets. Then he provided us Thayir sadam prepared in the temple. Then he said the Sakkara Pongal of this temple is very famous and unique. So we ordered Sakkara Pongal Thaligai for the next morning. We were quite comfortable and went to bed.

The next morning, we were ready by 6.00 am. (Battar asked us not to make it too early) and went to Annan Temple. While walking down the street, we have to go round the Pushkarani and the morning was quite pleasantly cool and birds chirping, it was so peaceful. And to see the lotus in full bloom in the Pushkarani, we felt like puckering them an offer to Lord Narayanan. It is Ponn Vilainda Bhoomi and we had no words To praise the Bhooma Devi. As we entered the temple, the Deeparadhanai was on and We were thrilled to have been lucky to be there at that time. Sri Madhava Battar was doing Chodasa Upasaram to Lord Narayanan and with Allavattam and Thattoli. My Aunty told us that it is surpring to see all this happening in a temple in far off village less visited by people. She said we should really appreciate Battar for his Bakthi and honesty. We felt elated to have had Viswaroopaa Darshan and Satthu murai and we also recided Thiruppaavai and had Pongal Prasadam. There was quite a crowd, all the school children attired in their uniforms. When enquired, they told that they will have Prasadam and then go to school. Suddenly Battar walked with his Jalra in his hand singing

**Hare Rama Hare Rama, Rama Rama Hare Hare,
Hare Krishna Hare Krishana, Krishna Krishana Hare, Hare**

and the children followed him singing along With them and came one round of the temple. They were also given Pongal Prasadam along with us in Badam Tree Leaves. Prasadam was given out in sufficient quantity . My sister-in-law who had retired as a teacher admired all the happenings and talked to Battar appreciating his work and he said the children would not go to school without saying the bhajans with him. By the time the guide came, it was almost 9.00 and he took us to all the temples one by one (The guide has cell numbers of the Archagars and call them about our arrival at the temple. Sri Madhava Battar does not have a cell phone) Parthanpalli was our last temple and Lakshmana Battachar said there are only two temples for Lord Parthasarathy, one at Triplicane and other is here. Parthanpalli Lakshmana Battachar said all the temples except Annan Koil need funds for daily pooja. He humbly asked us for donation for Kaikaryams and also for a Kutthuvillakku at the sannadhi. By the time we returned to Annan Koil, it was almost 2.30 and we were served lunch and also Sakkara Pongal. It was really very nice and Battar told us that it is one part rice and 3 parts Kalkandu (crystalised sugar). We decided we would try this receipe when we were back at home. By the time , we left the place it was 4.00 pm . Thirunangur is not in easy reach and we were happy we made it satisfactorily. Annan Koil is supposed to have enough funds and the rest of the temples are in need of Funds and Kutthuvillakku. The temples are not kept clean. Sirkali temple is in good shape.

I wish to furnish a few details which may be useful to others. The guide name is Mr.Kannan and he has the cell numbers of few archagas.

The address of Sri. S.R.Madhava Battar is Annan Perumal Koil, Sirkali Taluk, Pin. 609 109, Nagai Dist. Tamil Nadu, India.

Ph. No. 04364 - 266534, This is landline and not cell number.

The address of Sirkali Temple Battachar is Sri. S. Badrinarayana Battachar, 6, South Madavilagam, Thadhalan Sannadhi, Sirkali - 609 110.

Ph. No. 04364 - 270207 , He has a mobile phone and the number is 9442419989. He can arrange accommodation in Sirkali, if contacted early. Sri Madhava Battar says it would take 4 hours to go to all temples (about 14) in and around Thirunangur.

Shakuntala Raghunathan from Kodambakkam, Chennai