SRI RAMA DARSHANAM 8
VADUVUR

Sarobhoji Raja installed the idol of Lord Rama and built this temple

Located 24kms South East of Thanjavur off the Pattukottai Highway and 14kms West of Mannargudi is the Kothandaramar temple at Vaduvur. This place is also referred to as Vakulaaranya Kshetram.

Sri Kodhandaramar at Vaduvur

Vaduvur is a place situated between Thanjavur and Mannargudi, where water from lakes, ponds and canals are used for cultivating both wet and dry lands, which one can find in abundance. Apart from being fertile, this place is famous for Sri Kodhandarama temple.

Here the main deity, Sri Kodhandaramar along with Sri Seetha Piratti, Lakshmanar and Hanuman appear in 'Thirukalyana kolam' and this temple is particularly special since the utsavars also appear in this same state. The original Perumal in this place is Sri Gopalan with Goddesses Rukmini and Sathyabhama. The other holy names for Vaduvur are Vagularanyam (magizhankadu), Bhaskara Kshetram and Dhakshina Ayodhi. Vagula maram (maghizha maram) is the sacred tree of this sthala.

This place called Vaduvur was once donated to the vidhwans by the kings of Thanjavur on an Ekadasi day and hence it is also called as 'Ekadasi' village. There is

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an interesting story about how the Rukmani-Sathyabhama samedha Gopalan temple gave place to Sri Kodhandarama temple.

When Rama spent 14 years in the forest and was preparing to leave for Ayodhya, the rishis prayed in earnest asking him to stay with them. The feeling of separation from His holy presence melted their hearts. Torn between duty and love, Rama sent them away for the time being and starts thinking about their request. He then created His own enchanting divine form as a deity and left it outside the ashrama.

The rishis who came to see Rama and Seetha the next day were spellbound by the beautiful deity. They were fascinated by its magnificence and went inside the ashrama to repeat their entreaty to Rama. Rama asked them wheather they wanted Him or the statue placed at the threshold. The rishis, enamoured by the deity's beauty and still under its spell, told Him that they wanted the deity.

Rama, with a smile, agreed to their request and leaving the statue behind, left for Ayodhya. Later, the natives of Thirukannapuram brought the deity and established it in their village. Time passed by and later they themselves, during a certain period, took the Ramar deity and the deities of Seetha, Lakshmana, Bharatha and Hanuman themselves and made it to Thalai Gnayiru, a village near Thiruthuraipoondi and buried them under a tree.

Years rolled by and it was the time when Sarabhoji Mannan ruled Thanjavur. One day, Lord Rama appeared in the king's dream and told him to unearth the deities from Thalai Gnayiru. He asked the king to establish and worship the deities. The king awoke and proceeded immediately, with his entourage, to Thalai Gnayiru and

unearthed the deities. When the king and his entourage were preparing to leave, the natives of the place prevented the king from taking the deities. The king managed to convince them and as compensation left the deities of Bharatha and Lakshmana behind with them. He took possession of Rama, Seetha and Hanuman statues and on his way rested at Vaduvur.

The people of the village (known for their unity) came to know about the idols and pleaded with the king to establish the deities in their Rukmani-Sathyabhama samedha Gopalan temple. Initially, the king refused but when the villagers threatened to jump from the tower of the temple and commit suicide, he relented. He allowed them to establish the idols and since then Rama has been the main deity in the Gopalan temple.

Later, the deity of Lakshmana was also sculpted by the people of Vaduvur. It appeared like a woman and so the villagers established it as Sundari Amman and built a separate temple for Her. They sculpted another deity of Lakshmana and today Rama with Seetha and Lakshmana stand majestically to bless the devotees at this temple.

It is said Kanva Maharishi worshipped in this temple and was blessed with the darshan of Sri Kodandaramar. Likewise, Kulasekara Perumal also was blessed with the Lord's darshan. Of the two Vaishnava holy religious scriptures, Pancharathram and Vaikanasam, the former is followed in this temple…

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The Brahmmothsavam of Lord Rama performed for 10 days every year commencing from Sriramanavami.Kalyanauthsavam of Lord Rama preformed every year by Vaduvur Sri Ramar Kalyana Uthsava Trust (www.vaduvurramar.com) with the support of devotees on Panguni Uthram or Chithra pournami day.

A beautiful kriti composed by Sri Thyagaraja on Lord Rama is "Bantureethi Kolu."

Veda Paatashala

To the North of the Kothandaramar temple is the Vedic Paatashala, started here in 2001. Vaduvur has a rich heritage and has been traditionally known for its strong Vedic Education. There is a family called 'Puraanathaarargal' who have been rendering 'Bhaagavatha Paaraayanam' for generations. About 400 years ago, the swami of Melkote is said to have come here and created his own vyakyanam of ThiruvaiMozhi (Divya Prabhandham). He was born on the same day as Ramanuja and hence was called 'Saakshaath Swami'.

The Vedha Paatashala in Vaduvur is an offshoot of the 85 year old Vedic Paatashala in Mannargudi. There are currently about 50 students (including from Vizag and Anantapur in Andhra Pradesh) in the Paatashala run by Srimad Andavan Ashram, Srirangam. Vaduvur Veera Valli Ganapadi Desikachari, who is well over 80 years, has been instrumental in imbibing Vedic knowledge into the young students for the last 50 plus years in Mannargudi and now Vaduvur.

Quick Facts

Deity : Kothandaramar with Sita, Lakshmanan, Hanuman
RajaGopalan, Rukmini, Satyabhama, Shengamala Thaayar

Time : 8 am – 12 noon, 4.30 pm-8.30 pm

Contact : Badri Narayana Bhattar @ 04367 225398

Festivals : Rama Navami- Brahmotsavam(Panguni, Karthigai 7 day Pavitrotsavam, Puratasi Desigan, Hayagriva Utsavam,Vaikasi- Vasantha Utsavam for Gopalan

Address : The Executive Officer

Arulmigu Kothandaramaswamy Temple

Vaduvur – Mannargudi Tk. – Thiruvarur District.

Pincode : 614 019   **Phone :** 04367 - 267110

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VADUVUR

How to reach Vaduvur

Buses every 10-15 minutes between Thanjavur and Mannargudi. It takes about 45minutes from Thanjavur.

Can also be reached via bus from Thiruvarur and Kumbakonam via Mannargudi

To enjoy photos of Vaduvur Ramar, pl log in to

http://picasaweb.google.co.in/ksjegan/VaduvurRamar#