

Muthupet Lagoon

Thiruvarur District,
Tamil Nadu, South India.

- An Ecotourist's Haven





Location:

Muthupet in Tiruvarur District is located between Thirutturaipoondi and Pattukkotai, and around 360 km away from Chennai. The town lies adjacent to the Bay of Bengal and is in the southernmost part of the Cauvery delta. Muthupet is bounded by Korayar and Pamaniyar rivers to the east and west to form the Muthupet Lagoon.

Mangrove Forest:

Muthupet is home to a natural mangrove forest, Alayathi Kadu - one of the largest of its kind in India. This mangrove is located at the southern end of the Cauvery delta, covering an area of approximately 12,000 hectares. The rivers Paminiyar, Koraiyar, Kilaithankiyar, Marakkakoraiyar and other tributaries of the river Cauvery flow through Muthupet and adjacent villages. At the tail end, they form a lagoon before meeting the sea.

The forest is maintained by the Tamilnadu Forest Department. The mangrove forest is divided into the Palanjur, Thamarankottai, Maravakkadu, Vadakadu, Thuraikadu and Muthupet reserve forests.

Muthupet reserve forest covers the lagoon, river creeks and the mudflats. Muthupet Lagoon (mullipallam) is a spectacular natural creation, which is 8 km from Muthupet town and can be reached only by boat. The lagoon is shallow with an average depth of 1 m. The bottom of the lagoon is formed of silt clay substratum.





The tidal fluctuations can be observed well with the exposure of oyster beds and roots during low tide.

Flora and Fauna at Muthupet Lagoon

The tidal fluctuations play a major role in dispersing mangrove seeds. Dense mangroves mostly cover the lagoon shore. The islets are found on western side which are submerged during high tide. The salinity is the major environmental factor, in the Muthupet mangrove forest.

Avicennia Marina popularly known as Alaiyathi is found as a single dominant species.

Spread over 11 sq kms of the lagoons, the *Avicennia Marina* serves as a natural barrier and saves the landscape from the impact of tsunami and other natural disasters.

As the region is a mixture of fresh and saline water and mudflats and have moderate waves due to the mangroves, they act as the best habitat for fishes and prawns. The lagoon boasts of having seventy species of fishes and six species of prawns. They thrive well around the roots of the mangroves. More than fifty species of migratory birds frequent the place.

This mangrove forest attracts seasonal migratory birds such as flamingos from far off countries such as Siberia, Australia, Russia and Europe in the monsoon season. Aquatic fauna include fin fishes, shrimps, mollusks, crabs and benthic invertebrates.

Tourist Attractions at Muthupet

There is a boardwalk at Chief Corner, in need of repair, from where one could take a 2 km walk upto Bat Garden, home to several hundreds of species of bats from the world over. There are two boats currently that ply from a jetty at Muthupet towards Chief Corner and from there further to Sallimunai, where another watch tower can be seen. Here one can see fishermen catching fish and crabs using aluminium vessels and small nets.

The exotic feature of this lagoon is that during the rainy months, when the water flows from the Cauvery there is fresh water flowing through the lagoon, pushing the salty water from the sea behind and during the other months, the sea moves forward, making the water salty. This enables different species to thrive seasonally in the lagoon.





Route Map



Nearest Railway Station :

Mannarkudi - 60 Kms

Needamangalam - 65 Kms

Distance from major cities /towns by rail

New Delhi > 2563 km

Mumbai > 1656 km

Chennai > 373 km

Karaikudi > 94 km

Mayiladuthurai > 92 km

Thiruvarur > 52 km

Nearest International Airport :

Trichy - 116 Kms

Plans for promoting tourism

The District Administration of Thiruvarur is planning to promote the Muthupet Mangrove Forest as an ideal location for Ecotourism.

It is being planned to develop a State-of-Art Tourist Information Center along with ticket counters, cafeteria and rest rooms at the Muthupet Jetty.

Tourists can drive in eco-friendly boats from the Jetty to the Chief's Corner, watching the aerial roots of the Alaiyathi plants and various species of Migratory birds, and jumping white fish. They can alight at the Chief's Corner and take the boardwalk upto Bat Garden. Further boat ride is possible upto Sallimunai Watch tower and Upputhoppu, the tip of the lagoon.

The advantage here is that due to the shallow water, chances of boat capsize or accidents are minimal.

By allowing tourists, students and researchers an experience through the mangrove forests, awareness can be created about the marine and botanical life here and various studies about these species may be promoted.

The district administration is also planning to create a small meeting hall with eco-friendly materials to be used for official purposes.



For further details, Please contact

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