

Significant events

The Mayuranathaswami Temple complex was built during the time of the Medieval Cholas and is 719 ft (219 m) long and 520 ft (160 m) wide. The *gopuram*, the temple gateway tower, at the eastern entrance is 164 ft (50 m) high. Within the Mayuranathaswami temple, there is a carving of a devotee of Shiva trying to cut off his own head as an offering to the God.^[90] The oldest inscriptions in the shrine date back to the reign of Kulothunga Chola I (1070–1120 CE). The temple is maintained and administered by the Thiruvaduthurai Adheenam, a South Indian monastic institution.^[92]

The Vallalar Koil or Medha Dakshinamurthy (Guru Bhagawan) Temple on the northern bank of the River houses an idol of the God Dakshinamoorthi mounted on a Nandi. There is another idol of Nandhi at the Thula bathing ghat on the Cauvery River. Near by is Sri Kasi Viswanathaswami Temple on the southern bank of the river.

The Punukeeswarar Temple and Aiyaarappar Temple at Koranad, Mayiladuthurai are another important ancient Shiva temples in Mayiladuthurai.^[93] Anandathandavapuram Panchavatiswarar Shiva Temple is located 5 km (3.1 mi) from Mayiladuthurai.^[94]

The prominent Vaishnava temples in the town are Parimala Rangnathar Vishnu temple of lord Vishnu at Thiruvilandur on the northern banks of the Cauvery, a Divya desam and a Pancha rangam^[95] and Kolikutti Vanamutti Perumal temple.

Dharmapuram Adeenam Mutt with ancient temples of Dharmapureswarar, Gnanapureswarar, Ashta Dasapuja Durgadevi and Vana Durgadevi is located in the eastern suburb.

All the Hindu holy rivers in India are believed to converge in Mayiladuthurai every year on New moon day in the Tamil month of *Aippasi* (November–December). A bath at the bathing ghats on the banks of the river Cauvery on this day, according to Hindu belief, relieves a man of all his sins and misdeeds as the waters of the holy Ganges river mix with the Cavery on this day. Other important festivals celebrated at the temple

are Navarathri, Adi Pooram, Avani Moolam, Karthigai Deepam and Vaikashi Brahmavotsavam. An yearly dance festival called the Mayura Natyanjali is conducted within the precincts of the Mayuranathaswami Temple by the Saptasvarangal Trust during Maha Shivaratri on the pattern of the Chidambaram Natyanjali festival.

The town is considered the gateway to the Navagraha temple, the nine temples associated with planetary deities. The Periya Pallivasal mosque and TELC Church are other prominent worship places in the town. Tharangambadi, Pichavaram mangrove forest, Tirumullaivasal, Palaiyar and Karaikkal are the most prominent tourist attractions located around the town.