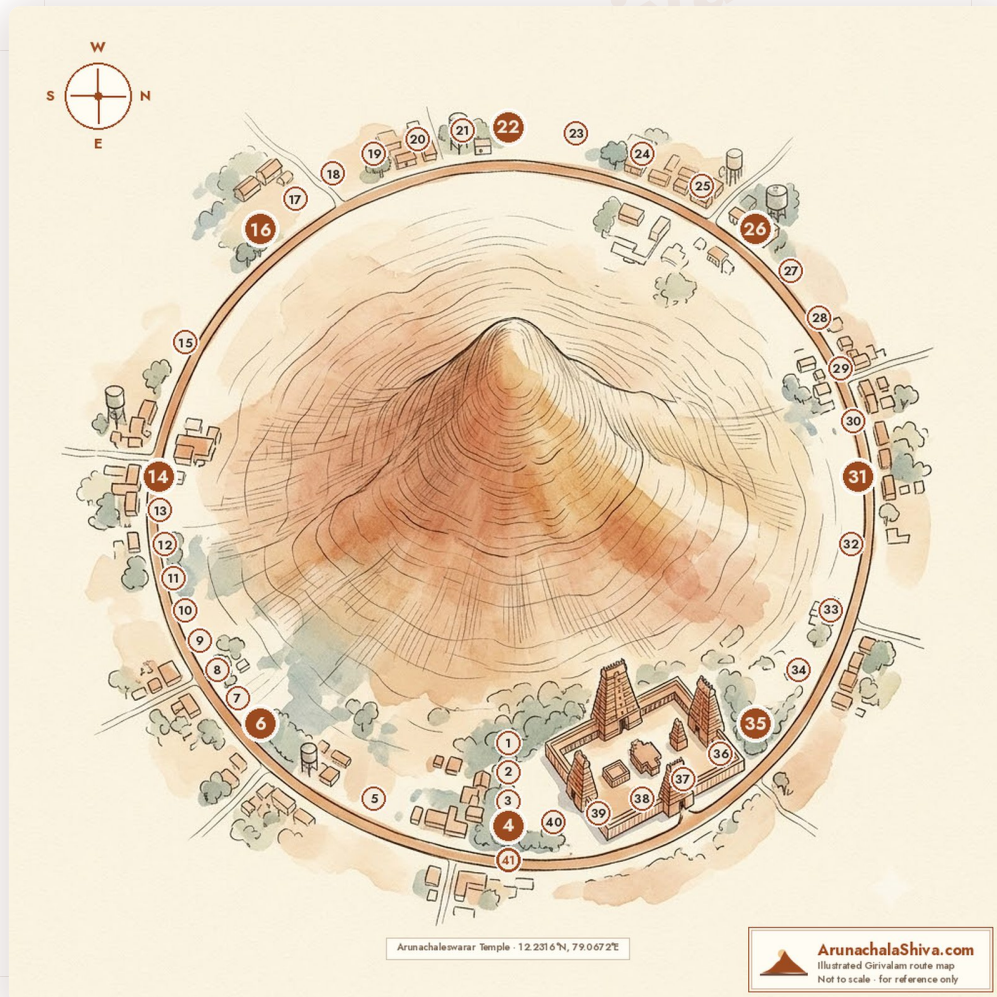


The Girivalam Route ~ All 41 Stops

The complete 14 km circuit around Arunachala, Tiruvannamalai ~ every lingam, temple, tank and shrine, in the order you meet them walking clockwise.



Start & finish at the Arunachaleswarar Temple, East Rajagopuram. Walk **clockwise**, keeping the hill on your right. ~14 km · 3–5 hours at an unhurried pace.

-  One of the eight directional lingams
-  Other landmark on the route
-  Journey's end

Pilgrim tradition counts as many as forty-one landmarks along the circuit ~ the eight Ashta Lingam give the walk its structure; ashrams, tanks, Nandi images and shrines fill it out. See the reverse for the full list in walking order, or the complete write-up at arunachalashiva.com for the story behind each one.

GIRIVALAM · THE FULL LIST

All 41 stops, in walking order

Clockwise from the Arunachaleswarar Temple. The eight highlighted numbers are the Ashta Lingam.

First quarter · the temple through Indra Lingam

- ① **Arunachaleswarar Temple** ~ darshan and the guardians' blessing before you begin
- ② **Brahma Lingam shrine** ~ a guardian shrine inside the temple walls
- ③ **South gopuram** ~ first view of the hill, framed by the tower
- ④ **Indra Lingam (E)** ~ first of the eight; king of the gods, the Sun
- ⑤ **Karpaga Vinayaka temple** ~ Ganesha's blessing for an unobstructed walk

Second quarter · Agni through Niruthi

- ⑥ **Agni Lingam (SE)** ~ fire's lingam; purification, on the mountain of fire itself
- ⑦ **Indra Theertham** ~ a holy tank and shelter to rest
- ⑧ **Seshadri Swamigal Ashram** ~ home of the saint who found the young Ramana
- ⑨ **Sri Ramanasramam, the gate** ~ the ashram that grew around Ramana Maharshi
- ⑩ **Further into Ramanasramam** ~ deeper into the grounds, past the main hall
- ⑪ **The far side of the ashram** ~ where the grounds meet the road again
- ⑫ **Nandi Mandapam** ~ a shaded shelter with a Nandi image
- ⑬ **Prithvi Nandi** ~ first of the four elemental Nandis; earth
- ⑭ **Yama Lingam (S)** ~ lord of death; prayed to for freedom from its fear
- ⑮ **Appu Nandi** ~ second elemental Nandi, water; tradition's place of reunion
- ⑯ **Niruthi Lingam (SW)** ~ protection; its own tank, the Sani Theertham
- ⑰ **Siva Raja Singan tank** ~ a tank with a Nandi at its edge
- ⑱ **Kama Kadu** ~ the forest stretch; the most rural part of the road

The far side · the walk's still heart

- ⑲ **Theyu Nandi** ~ third elemental Nandi, fire; a clear view of the hill
- ⑳ **The Gayatri vantage point** ~ named for Gayatri, Savitri and Sarasvati
- ㉑ **The Shakti—Shiva vantage point** ~ said to reflect their union
- ㉒ **Varuna Lingam (W)** ~ the waters; emotional balance, a good place to rest
- ㉓ **Unnamulai mandapam** ~ near its own tank, close to Adi Annamalai
- ㉔ **Adi Annamalai Temple** ~ among the oldest temples here; the walk's midpoint
- ㉕ **Manivaasaga mandapam** ~ named for the saint-poet Manikkavachakar

Final quarter · Vayu through Esanya, and the return

- ㉖ **Vayu Lingam (NW)** ~ wind and breath; devotees often feel a breeze here
- ㉗ **Vayu Nandi** ~ fourth and last of the elemental Nandis; air
- ㉘ **Abaya mandapam** ~ "fearlessness"; tradition's relief from worry
- ㉙ **Sri Lobha Matha Ashram** ~ one of the road's smaller hermitages
- ㉚ **Adhikara Nandi** ~ a well-known Nandi marking the way
- ㉛ **Kubera Lingam (N)** ~ wealth; refreshment stalls grow frequent again
- ㉜ **Idukku Pillaiyar** ~ a Ganesha tucked beside the road
- ㉝ **The Pancha Mukha vantage point** ~ a five-faceted view, on the approach to Esanya
- ㉞ **The old cemetery ground** ~ renunciation; a sober, reflective stretch
- ㉟ **Esanya Lingam (NE)** ~ the last of the eight; peace and clarity
- ㊱ **Durga Temple** ~ especially potent, tradition says, on full-moon nights
- ㊲ **Pavazha Kundru Murugan** ~ said to carry something of a Palani pilgrimage
- ㊳ **Bootha Narayana shrine** ~ the guardian met again, near journey's end
- ㊴ **Irattai Pillaiyar** ~ the twin Ganesha; sent you off, welcomes you back
- ㊵ **Surya & Chandra Lingams** ~ the Sun and Moon, honoured before the close
- ㊶ **Return to the temple** ~ the circuit complete; a final darshan and thanks

Following the documented record preserved by Sri Ramanasramam and his devotees, cross-checked against pilgrim accounts of the wider circuit; the eight lingams are well documented, the exact naming of smaller shrines varies somewhat between sources ~ confirm details locally. Full write-up, history and sourcing for every stop: arunachalashiva.com/articles/girivalam-route-in-detail