

# Hamm

*Pilgrimage to the*



Sri Kamadchi  
Ampal Temple





## Pilgrimage to the Sri Kamadchi Ampal Temple

„Vanakkam“– that is how the Priest Arumugam Paskaran welcomes you to the Sri Kamadchi Ampal Temple. In Tamil „Vanakkam“ means „greetings, greet one another“. The Gods of the Temple are also greeted with „vanakkam“. On entering the Temple the faithful, with their hands folded, utter a short greeting, thus showing their respect, thanks and adoration to the Gods.

### How the Temple was founded

The Sri Kamadchi Ampal Temple has been in Hamm since 1989. In the first years it was situated in the west of the town, but in 1997 the Gods and the Temple moved to the district Hamm-Uentrop. The history of the Temple is closely connected with the flight of tens of thousands of Tamils. They left Sri Lanka from 1983 as the conflict between the Singhalesian majority and the Tamilan minority escalated. Around sixty

thousand Tamils from Sri Lanka are living in Germany at present; about forty thousand of them Hindus.

The worshippers celebrated the annual Temple festival with a public procession for the first time in 1993. The statue of the Goddess, Sri Kamadchi, has her big trip out at this festival and circulates the Temple in the adjoining streets. Thus she cannot only be seen by many people but can also bless the town and its citizens according to Hindu belief.

Around fifteen to twenty thousand visitors come to the annual public procession in May/June including worshippers from all over the continent. In July 2002 the big Temple was opened and blessed, accompanied by complicated rituals. The Temple is set out strictly according to ritual rules. The Goddess looks from the central shrine to the east, towards the rising sun. The inner room of the Temple is seven hundred meters square and the Temple entrance (Göpuram), built in the south Indian style, is seventeen meters high. The Temple measures twenty seven by twenty seven meters, making it the largest southern Indian Temple in Europe. The building costs will be financed entirely by donations and loans from Hindu supporters.

The parish is, of course, very grateful for visitors' donations.

Donation accounts:  
Volksbank Hamm, Kto.No.:  
5142304600,  
BLZ 410 601 20  
Sparkasse Hamm, Kto.No.: 24205445  
and 5070891, BLZ 410 500 95



### The Goddess Sri Kamadchi Ampal

The blessed statue of the Goddess Sri Kamadchi Ampal is in the central shrine. „Sri” is a respectful form of address. In Tamil „Ampāl” means „Goddess” and the name „Kamadchi” is the transcription of the Sanskrit name Kāmākṣī. Kamadchi is the Goddess with the eyes (Skt. akṣa) of love (kāma). The benevolent glance of the Goddess fulfills every request and wish brought to her. The Goddess is always dressed as if for a festival and decorated with garlands of flowers. In her four hands the Goddess holds a whip, a lasso, a bunch of five flowers, a bird and a piece of sugarcane. These are symbols of her deeds, protection, benevolence and fertility. The visit to the shrines of the Gods in the Temple follow a given order: Ganesha (Tam.: Vinayagar, Pillaiyar), the God with the head of an elephant, is always prayed to first. His shrine is to the left at the back of the Temple. Then one must walk in a clockwise direction around the central shrine and turn to the Goddess Sri Kamadchi. Next one moves on to the shrines of Shiva Lingam (to the right near Ganesha), then to Murugan and Lakshmi Narayana (at the back on the right) continuing to Somaskandar. From there one progresses to the shrine of Iyyapan

(near the main entrance) and the nine Gods of the planets and finally to Vairavar. Walk around the shrine of the Goddess again and go to the shrine of Candeshvara (directly next to the main entrance). If you book in advance visitors have the opportunity of tasting holy food – prasadam – in the small temple behind the Priest’s living quarters.



### Please note the following when visiting

A Hindu Temple is a blessed, holy place. Intricate rituals have called upon the power of the Gods (Sanskrit shakti) and the faithful believe it to be present in the granite statues depicting these Gods. According to the Hindu belief the Gods now reside in the Temple. Nothing that could defile or desecrate the place is allowed in or near the Temple.

### Therefore in the Temple you are requested:

- not to wear shoes
- not to drink alcohol
- not to enter the shrines of the Gods (only the priests are allowed to do so)
- not to fetch pets (dogs, cats etc.)
- to turn off mobile phones

For religious reasons, menstruating women are not allowed into the Temple, and are requested to respect this rule.

Photography and filming are allowed but not, however, during religious services (Puja)!



### Opening hours:

Daily 8.00 am to 2.00 pm and 5.00 pm to 8.00 pm.

### Religious services:

Daily 8.00 am, 12.00 am and 6.00 pm

### Special opening and visiting hours:

Sundays 2.00 pm to 4.00 pm (By appointment)

### Appointments and information:

**Hindu Shankarar Sri Kamadchi Ampal Tempel e. V. (Europa)**

Siegenbeckstrasse 4

59071 Hamm

fon: 0 23 88/302 223

fax: 0 23 88/303 224

e-mail: [info@kamadchi-ampal.de](mailto:info@kamadchi-ampal.de)

Internet: <http://www.kamadchi-ampal.de>

Further information can be had at the „insel“-Verkehr und Touristik,

at the square in front of the railway station, fon: 0 23 81/23 400,

e-mail: [info@verkehrsverein-hamm.de](mailto:info@verkehrsverein-hamm.de)



## Bus connections:

Mondays to Fridays / Bus number 33 from the railway station /Willy Brandt Square to **Kranstrasse** (destination) - departure 7.47 am / 8.22 am to 6.22 pm hourly / 7.16 pm and 8.16 pm  
Return 8.18 am / 8.53 am to 6.53 pm hourly / 7.47 pm and 8. 47 pm from **Kranstrasse**

Saturdays / 8.22 am to 1.22 pm hourly / return / 8.53 am to 1.53 pm hourly.

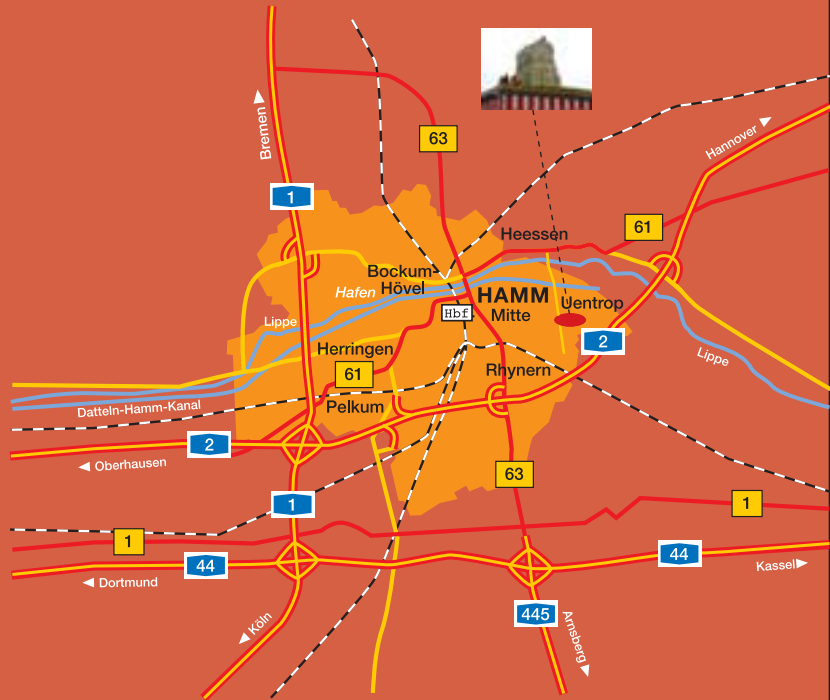
Saturday afternoons, Sundays and public holidays it is possible to book a taxi-bus to Hamm-Uentrop at the connection Bus number 1/3. The journey has to be booked at the Traffic office (Verkehrsbetrieb der Stadtwerke Hamm) at least half an hour before the time of departure shown on the timetable.

**fon: 0 23 81/274 - 2488.**

On Saturdays the taxi-bus goes from the turning space Bus number 1 / 3 to Uentrop Church from 3.12 pm to 8.12 pm hourly, returning from there from 3.19 pm to 7. 19 pm hourly and at 7.58 pm.

Sundays and public holidays; Departure: 10.20 am to 8.20 pm every two hours / return: 9.58 am to 7.58 pm every two hours.

The turning place in Werries can be reached by bus on Saturday afternoons, on Sundays and on public holidays by Bus number 3, from the bus-stop **Neue Bahnhofstrasse**. The times of departure can be seen on the timetable.





Publisher: The Lord Mayor of Hamm, Department Town Marketing and Tourism 2003

Photos: Spectrum Photodesign, Soest / BSW Group, Hamm / Arno Weber, Hamm

Lay-out: Advertising Service, Grafik and Design, Arno Weber, Hamm

Print: B+B Druck Ltd, Hamm

Edition: 10.0/D/09.03

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