

Dodda Sampige Mara, meaning 'Big Champak Tree' in English, is believed to be more than 2000 years old. The tree rises to a height of approximately 34 m, and is about 20 m broad. It stands within a temple, which is located 4 km away from B R Hills.

With many lingams close to the tree, the site is considered to be holy. It is mainly worshipped by Soligas, the tribals of that area. From the trunk of this big champak tree flows a tributary of river Cauvery, called River Bhargavi. Natives believe that this stream is an incarnation of Renuka, the wife of Jamadagni, a famous Hindu sage.

The ancient temple on top of the white cliff situated at 5091 feet above sea level is dedicated to Lord Sri Ranganatha. The idol was installed by sage Vashishtha and it is in a standing posture dressed as a hunter complete with a dagger in the belt. The idol is very appropriate to a place surrounded by forests with wild animals roaming free. You can either drive up to the temple or climb 150 steps to reach the beautiful and quaint temple. The annual car festival is held during the Hindu month of Vaishakha i.e., April – May according to Gregorian calendar.

The Biligiri Ranga Hills wildlife sanctuary is spread over an area of 540 sq. km around the temple and the bio diversity found in this region is unique as this is place where the western and eastern ghats meet. The hills are adjacent to Satyamangalam and Male Mahadeshwara hill ranges. The highest peak is the Kattari Betta, which is 5400 feet above sea level.