

A landscape of rolling green hills under a cloudy sky. The hills are covered in dense green vegetation, and the sky is filled with soft, white clouds. The overall scene is peaceful and natural.

In search of prehistory

**World Heritage Day (18th April) events on
Apr16th & 17th**

Apr 18th, World Heritage Day Events in Chennai, India

- **Background:** April 18th is the [World Heritage Day](#) as declared by International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS). The 2016 theme is: **The Heritage of Sport**. Events are being planned.
- **Objective** of event is to create awareness among students, general public and tourists about prehistoric sites near chennai. **Plan** covers
 1. Trek to Stone Age site [Gudiyam caves](#) and visti to [prehistoric museum](#).
 2. Documentary screening on ‘**Gudiyam Caves**’ that was screened in [Cannes Film festival 2015](#)
 3. Talk with domain experts (Archaeologists, Historians and Geologists) covering prehistory and **the heritage of Sports**.

Please refer to www.gudiyamcaves.in/ for detailed plan later

Organizers & contact details

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Prehistoric sites near Chennai, India

Geologist Robert Bruce Foote first discovered a Hand – axe in the year 1863 from a ballistic pit in Brigadier ground near Chennai, South India. Foote's discovery revolutionised the study of India's prehistory. It was **the first paleolithic tool found in India** though some pre-historic tools were found earlier in other parts of India from 1856.

Subsequent studies helped to identify [Gudiyam caves](#), natural open cave where **prehistoric paleolithic age** humans seem to have lived.. One has to trek around 7 Kilometers up and down from the village Gudiyam to reach [Gudiyam caves](#). Gudiyam village is situated around 75 Kilometres from Chennai, capital of Tamil Nadu State in India. In the nearby Allikuli Hills, 16 caves are located. However, 14 of them are inaccessible as they are situated at higher altitudes.

Prehistoric sites near Chennai, India (Continued..)

Palaeolithic tools of this region are named as “Madras Hand-Axes”. This type of tools used for hunting includes Hammer, Scraper, Cleaver, Chopper and Discoid. The source rock for making these tools is Quartzite rock encountered in the form of Conglomerate. The tools fall in a class of artefacts called Acheulian that scientists believe were invented by the *Homo erectus* — ancestors of modern humans — in Africa about 1.6 million years ago. Archaeologists have discovered India’s oldest stone-age tools, up to 1.5 million years old, in these sites in South India. This discovery may change existing ideas about the earliest arrival of human ancestors from Africa into India.

Prehistory museum

An exclusive site museum of prehistory was instituted in Poondi Village in the year 1985 by Tamil Nadu State Department of Archaeology to create awareness among general public. The display includes Palaeolithic, Mesolithic, Neolithic stone implements and Megalithic appendages which consists of Sarcophagus and Urns. These antiquities throw light on the prehistoric and protohistoric culture of this region.

