



ARATTU MAHOTSAVAM

NALPATHANEESWARAM SREE MAHADEVA TEMPLE



LOCATION

**Panchayat/
Municipality/
Corporation**

Panavally Grama Panchayat

District

Alappuzha



ACCESSIBILITY

**Nearest Town/
Landmark/ Junction**

Panavally Junction – 700 m

Nearest Bus station

Cherthala Bus Station – 17.5Km

**Nearest Railway
station**

Cherthala Railway Station – 18.5Km
Alappuzha Railway Station – 43Km

Nearest Airport

Nedumbassery International Airport – 50Km



CONTACT

Nalppathenneeswaram Sree Mahadeva Temple
Nalppathenneeswaram
Panavally
Alappuzha - 688566
Contact: Panavally Grama Panchayat
Phone: +91-478-2522250



TIME

DATES

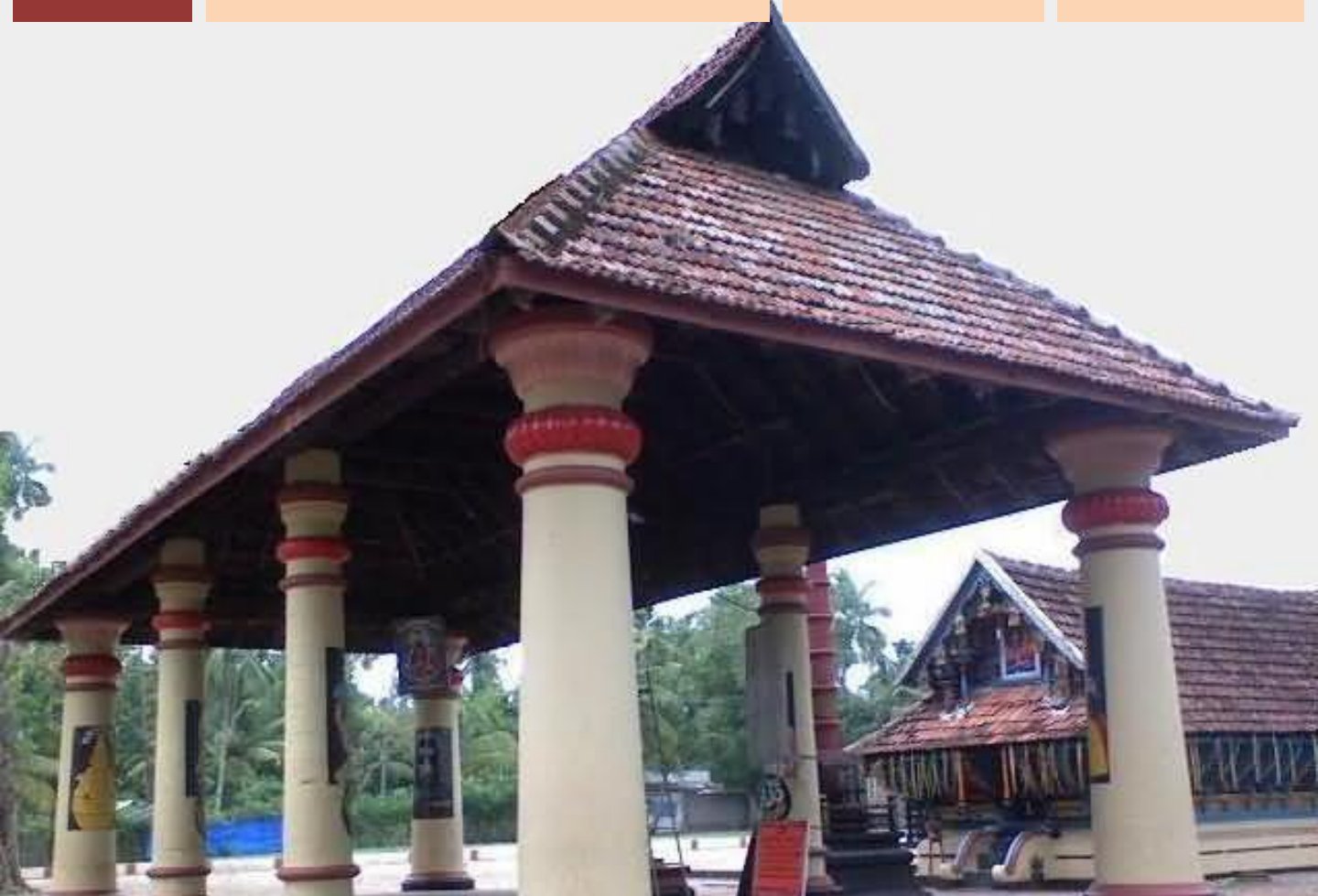
February-March (*Kumbham*)

FREQUENCY

Annual

DURATION

7 Days



ABOUT THE FESTIVAL (Legend/History/Myth)

Nalpathaneswaram Sree Mahadeva Temple, an ancient shrine echoing the legends of Lord Shiva, is situated in Alappuzha District. The pilgrimage centre is located in Nalpathaneswaram in Panavally village of Cherthala Taluk. Nalpathaneswaram Sree Mahadeva Temple, exhibiting the architectural magnificence of the ancient period, is dedicated to Lord Shiva in *Kiratha Bhava*. It is the 48th founding of Saint Khara. The temple celebrates an annual festival in the month of *Kumbham* i.e. during the months of February-March for almost 7 days. During these days several traditional rituals are observed. The presiding deity of the temple is referred to as *Nalpathenneswarathappan*. Besides this, the temple also houses several other deities such as Lord Ganesha, Goddess Durga, Varahamoorthy, Rakshassu, Nagayakshi, Chovva Bhagavathi, Ayyappa and Nagaraja. Recently performed *devaprasana* led by late legend Sri Chorodu Narayanappanicker and his team found that, the temple is more than 1000 years old and the deity likes art performances, *Annadanam* etc. The temple is under the administration of three ancient Kaimal families named Kozhisseril, Payippattu, Mullakkeril.



RELEVANCE-
(Local / National /
International)

Local



NO. OF PEOPLE
PARTICIPATED

Approx. 15,000

EVENTS/PROGRAMS

Flag Hoisting
Utsavabali
Koodi Ezhunallathu
Annadanam
Cultural Programs and
folk arts
Percussion Music
Musical Concerts
Kadhakali
Arattu

DESCRIPTION (*How festival is celebrated*)

The temple celebrates festival in *Kumbham* i.e. during the months of February-March for 7 days. During these days several traditional rituals are observed such as *Utsavabali*, *Koodi Ezhunnallathu* and *Araattu*. A flag hoisting ceremony marks the beginning of the festival. The shrine is traditionally decorated with plantain, coconut leaves, flowers, leaves, traditional lamps and lights.

Apart from special *poojas* and offerings, traditional performing arts, music and dance are staged during the period. This is one of the oldest temples still proceeding under Raja Sassana Chepped. Main offering to the deity is Kathakali. Because of this, the temple is famous for Kathakali.

Caparisoned elephants, *melam*, fireworks and *sheevali* are part of the festival. *Arattu* (holy bath) marks the culmination of the festival. The *utsava murti* of the deity is taken out of the shrine for ritualistic bathing on the final day.

