



ARATTU MAHOTSAVAM

THRIKKUNNAPUZHA SREE DHARMASASTHA TEMPLE



**Panchayat/
Municipality/
Corporation**

Thrikkunnappuzha Grama Panchayat

District

Alappuzha

**Nearest Town/
Landmark/ Junction**

Haripad – 13.7 Km

Nearest Bus station

Haripad Bus Station – 15 Km

**Nearest Railway
station**

Haripad Railway Station – 15.5 Km
Kayamkulam Railway Station – 23 Km

Nearest Airport

Nedumbassery International Airport – 108 Km



Sree Dharmasastha Temple
Thrikkunnappuzha

Alappuzha - 690515

Phone : +91-479-2482150

E mail : info@sreedharmasastha.org

Website: www.sreedharmasastha.org



TIME

DATES

November- December (*Vrischikam*)

FREQUENCY

Annual

DURATION

10 Days

ABOUT THE FESTIVAL (Legend/History/Myth)

This is one of the ancient temples in Kerala. The idol of Swamy here is said to be over 5000 years old. The 21 inch rare *Panchaloha* idol of Dharmasastha together with the idols of his wife and son are being worshipped here. Dharmasastha is believed to be the 'guarding god' of Thrikkunnappuzha and four other adjacent villages. Lord Ayyappa and Dharmasastha are the incarnations of the same infinite power. Legends say that after achieving his birth goals, Lord Ayyappa merged into Dharmasastha. Thrikkunnappuzha Sree Dharmasastha temple is believed to be the '*moolasthanam*' of Sabarimala Ayyappa. Devotedness to Dharmasastha is believed to fetch one peace, prosperity and harmony. The fact that people from even far distant locations come and offer their prayers from time to time, stand evidence to the divine radiance and might of the deity at Thrikkunnappuzha. The festivals are conducted in the Malayalam month of *Vrischikam*. One has to climb 18 steps to get a glimpse of the divine idol. The measure of 108 *angulas* corresponds to the 108 divine names of Lord Vishnu. A wall surrounding 18 acres of land around the temple too was built. This shrine is also known as *Padinjare Pathinettampadi*.



RELEVANCE-
(Local / National / International)

Local



NO. OF PEOPLE PARTICIPATED

About 25,000

EVENTS/PROGRAMS

Kodiyettu
Utsavabali
Koodi Ezhunallathu
Annadanam
Arattu
Cultural Programs
Percussion Music
Musical Concerts
Folk Art Performances

DESCRIPTION (How festival is celebrated)

The main festival at Thrikkunnappuzha Sree Dharmasastha temple is observed in the Malayalam month of *Vrishchikam*. The celebrations are devised in such a way that *Araattu*, the holy bath of the deity on the last day of the festival is on *Uthram* in the month of *Vrishchikam*. It is a ten day grand and spectacular event. People from different parts of state visit the temple on the festival days. During these days several traditional rituals are observed. The shrine is traditionally decorated and illuminated with lamps and lights. There are special pujas and offerings during the festival period. Traditional performing arts, music and dance are staged during the period. Caparisoned elephants, *melam*, fireworks and *sheevali* are part of the festival. The *utsava murti* of the deity is taken out of the shrine for ritualistic bathing on the final day.

