



CHERTHALA POORAM

SREE KARTHYAYANI DEVI TEMPLE



LOCATION

Panchayat/
Municipality/
Corporation

Cherthala Municipality

District

Alappuzha



ACCESSIBILITY

Nearest Town/
Landmark/ Junction

Cherthala Town - 500 m

Nearest Bus station

Cherthala KSRTC Bus Stand - 50 m

Nearest Railway
station

Cherthala Railway Station - 3 Km

Nearest Airport

Cochin International Airport - 63 Km



CONTACT

Sree Karthyayani Devi Temple
Near Cherthala Bus stand
Kodathikavala
Cherthala – 688524
Contact: Cherthala Municipality
Phone: +91-479-2450544



TIME

DATES

May-June (*Edavam*)

FREQUENCY

Annual

DURATION

8 Days

ABOUT THE FESTIVAL (Legend/History/Myth)

Cherthala Karthyayani Devi is famous as *Mangalya Dayani*, the one who bestows welfare and prosperity on her devotees and helps to remove obstacles in marriage. The etiquette and rituals followed at the temple differs a lot from those at other temples in Kerala. Legend has it that while Vilwamangalam Swamiyar was returning to Guruvayur after consecrating the Ananthapadmanabha temple in Thiruvananthapuram, he stopped to take rest below a *Thambaka* tree. He noticed several swans swimming in several ponds in the place. Suddenly he saw a divine lady swinging in a swing, tied to the *Thambaka* tree. He recognized her as Goddess Karthyayani and approached her whereupon she jumped into a nearby pond. Though Swamiyar searched for her in the pond, he could not locate her. The next day also he saw her in the same place and this time she jumped into a second pond. This continued for six days. On the seventh day, Swamiyar managed to catch hold of the hair of the Goddess and pulled her up before she could submerge. He could only pull up her head (thala) exposing her neck. Also, several strands of her hair got uprooted in the process. Swamiyar is said to have got angry trying to catch the Goddess in vain. The Pooram festival commemorates this and people playfully abuse the Goddess during the festival.



RELEVANCE-
(Local / National /
International)

Local



NO. OF PEOPLE
PARTICIPATED

Over 1,00,000

EVENTS/PROGRAMS

*Kodiyettam
Aarattu
Thalappoli
Vela Thullal
Padayani*

DESCRIPTION *(How festival is celebrated)*

Cherthala Pooram starts virtually two days prior to the *Kodiyettam* or flag hoisting. On these two days *Thalappoli* (plates decorated with oil lamps and flowers) is carried by women and girls and offered to the Goddess. The *Aarattu* ritual is held twice every day during the festival. The ritual is performed in seven different ponds unlike in other temples. The temple is beautifully decorated and special ritualistic prayers are held. Hundreds of devotees throng the temple premises during the festival days.

