



# KODIYETTUTHSAVAM

## MANKOMBU BHAGAWATHY TEMPLE



### LOCATION

**Panchayat/  
Municipality/  
Corporation**

Pulinkunnu Grama Panchayat

**District**

Alappuzha



### ACCESSIBILITY

**Nearest Town/  
Landmark/ Junction**

Alappuzha Town – 21.400 Km

**Nearest Bus station**

Changanassery Bus Station – 18Km  
Alappuzha Bus Station – 21.5Km

**Nearest Railway  
station**

Changanassery Railway Station – 19Km  
Alappuzha Railway Station – 22Km

**Nearest Airport**

Nedumbassery International Airport – 104Km



### CONTACT

Mankombu Bhagawathy Temple,  
Mankombu  
Alappuzha - 688502  
Contact: Pulinkunnu Grama Panchayat  
Phone: +91-0477-2702267



**TIME**

**DATES**

April / May (*Medam*)

**FREQUENCY**

Annual

**DURATION**

10 Days

### ABOUT THE FESTIVAL (Legend/History/Myth)

Legend associated with this temple is that, during the reign of king Marthanda Verma of Travancore, one official named Pavvathil Kaimal requested the king to allot him some forest wood so that he could build his own house. The king gives permission to Kaimal to cut trees. Kaimal cut the required logs and when he was trying to transport the logs by the river, three very pretty women approached Kaimal and requested for a lift. Kaimal informed them that he would allow them to travel with him provided they became ugly. They then transformed themselves into ugly women and travelled along with the logs. When the boat reached the present location of Mankombu, it stopped there and refused to move further. Then the pretty women revealed to Kaimal that they were goddesses and wanted temples to be built there for them. They then changed themselves into idols. For the first Goddess a temple was built in Koyikkal, the second in a place called Vadaiattu. When they were considering where to consecrate the third goddess, she possessed one of the people assembled there and that person threw a branch of a mango tree and requested them to build a temple where it fell. They conceded to the wish of the Goddess and since it was the place where the branch of the mango tree fell, it was called Mankombu, meaning "Branch of a mango tree". Till this day the descendents of the man who threw the mango branch have a say in the affairs of the temple. The goddess faces the west direction. A keda-vilakku meaning an eternal lamp is kept lit all the time in front of the Goddess, since it is believed that she likes light. Lighting lamps is one of the very important worship forms in this temple. In the south-eastern corner of the temple of the Goddess, another one for Lord Shiva can be seen. It is customary that perambulations around the sanctum sanctorum are done four times. The idol of the Goddess is made of Jack wood and is in a roudra-bhava (fierce form of Mahishasura Mardini). However a golden mask having a peaceful feature is adorned on the face of the goddess. This idol has a crown with 15 serpents carved on it, as also a symbol of an elephant as her right ear piece and a lion on the left ear. She also wears an Erukku Maalai (garland of the Erukku flower).



**RELEVANCE-**  
(Local / National / International)

Local



**NO. OF PEOPLE PARTICIPATED**

About 15,000

## EVENTS/PROGRAMS

Flag Hoisting  
*Sreebhoothabali*  
*Annadanam*  
Cultural Programs and  
Folk Arts  
Spiritual Discourses  
Seminars  
Percussion Music  
Musical Concerts  
Kadhakali  
Mohiniyattam  
Ottanthullal  
*Arattu*

## DESCRIPTION (*How festival is celebrated*)

Kodiyettutsavam starts in the Malayalam month of *Medam* (April). It is a 10 days spectacular event. There will be a flag hoisting ceremony marking the beginning of the festival. The shrine is traditionally decorated with plantain, coconut leaves, flowers, leaves, traditional lamps and lights. The first eight days of festival is celebrated as *Mankombu Mala kettam* (Moncombu mountain climbing). *Irumudi* which is similar to the Sabarimala Irumudi is taken and people go round the temple while chanting *saranam*. Then the night *pooja* is performed in the south east of the temple in a place called Malai Nadai. There will be special *poojas*, offerings and *Annadanam* during the festival period. Traditional performing arts like *Kadhakali*, *Chakyar Koothu*, *Nangyar Kooth*, *Villadichan Paattu*, *Harikadha*, *Kadhapresangam* etc. can be seen. Caparisoned elephants, *melam*, fireworks and *sheevali* are part of the festival. On the 8th day of the festival *Arattu* (holy bath) ceremony takes place during which the *utsava murti* is taken out of the shrine for ritualistic bathing.

