



# KUMBHA BHARANI MAHOTSAVAM

## CHETTIKULANGARA DEVI TEMPLE



### LOCATION

**Panchayat/  
Municipality/  
Corporation**

Chettikulangara Grama Panchayat

**District**

Alappuzha



### ACCESSIBILITY

**Nearest Town/  
Landmark/ Junction**

Mavelikkara – 6.4 Km

**Nearest Bus station**

Kayamkulam Bus Station – 6.2 Km

**Nearest Railway  
station**

Kayamkulam Railway Station – 6 Km

**Nearest Airport**

Trivandrum International Airport – 110 Km



### CONTACT

Chettikulangara Devi Temple  
Chettikulangara. P.O  
Mavelikkara  
Alappuzha - 690106

Phone : +91-479-2348670

Email : [amma@chettikulangara.org](mailto:amma@chettikulangara.org)

Website: [www.chettikulangara.org](http://www.chettikulangara.org)



**TIME**

**DATES**

February-March (*Kumbham*)

**FREQUENCY**

Annual

**DURATION**

10 Days

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

This temple dedicated to *Bhadrakali* or *Bhagavathy* or *Jagadambika* (Goddess of 'Oodanadu'), is believed to date back to over 1200 years. There are contradictions regarding its origin. While some believe that it is one among the five temples established by Lord Parashuram, others believe that this temple was consecrated by Padmapadacharyar, a leading disciple of Adi Shankara. There are many myths associated with the temple.



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

Local



**NO. OF PEOPLE PARTICIPATED**

Over 25,000

## EVENTS/PROGRAMS

Utsavabali  
Annadanam  
Cultural Programs  
Percussion Music  
Musical Concerts  
Kathakali  
Kuthiyottam  
Kettukazcha  
Trade Fair

## DESCRIPTION (How festival is celebrated)

Kumbhabharani festival is one of the major events in Kerala. Kumbha Bharani is the day when the *Bharani Nakshatram* falls in the Malayalam month of *Kumbham*. The day is of great significance at the Chettikulangara Temple. This festival celebrated with pomp and gaiety is now widely known as the *Kumbhamela* of South. The highlight of the festival is *Kuthiyottam* and *Kettukazha*. *Kuthiyottam* is performed as an important offering to the deity. This is a ritualistic dance practiced and perfected through several centuries. It can be witnessed in several houses of Chettikulangara and in neighboring areas. The houses are decorated and the portrait of the deity is installed in temporary structures. *Kuthiyottam* starts a week before *Bharani* day. It is a type of folk dance performed by youths with the accompaniment of folk music and other musical instruments. Young boys between 8 to 14 years are taught this ritualistic dance in the house amidst a big social gathering before the portrait of the deity. Early in the morning on *Bharani*, after the feast and other rituals, the boys whose bodies are coiled with silver wires, one end of which is tied around the neck and an arecanut fixed on the tip of a knife held high over the head are taken in procession to the temple with the accompaniment of beating of drums, music, ornamental umbrellas and other classical folk art forms and richly caparisoned elephants. All through the way to the temple tender coconut water will be continually poured on the body. After the circumambulation, the boys stand facing the *Sreekovil* (Sanctum Sanctorum) and begin to dance. This ceremony ends with dragging the coil pierced to the skin whereby a few drop of blood comes out. The highlight of the *Kumbha Bharani* Festival is the display of huge decorated forms of temple cars known as *Kuthiras*. *Therus* (Chariots) and two huge idols of Bhima and Hanuman complete the *Kettukazhcha* which is a visual spectacle which attracts many people. The residents of the locality bring huge decorated effigies of Bhima Panchalia, Hanuman and extremely beautiful tall chariots in wheeled platforms and after having *darshan*, they take position in the paddy fields lying to the east of the temple. During the night, the image of Devi is carried in procession to the effigies stationed in the paddy fields. On the next day these structures are taken back. A big *bazaar* is also held at Chetikulangara as part of this festival.

