



MAKARA UTSAVAM

EVOOR SREE KRISHNA SWAMY TEMPLE



LOCATION

**Panchayat/
Municipality/
Corporation**

Cheppad Grama Panchayat

District

Alappuzha

**Nearest Town/
Landmark/ Junction**

Haripad Town – 7.4 Km

Nearest Bus station

Haripad Bus Station – 7 Km

**Nearest Railway
station**

Haripad Railway Station – 7.2 Km
Kayamkulam Railway Station – 10.2 Km

Nearest Airport

Trivandrum International Airport – 111 Km



ACCESSIBILITY



CONTACT

Evoor Sree Krishna Swamy Temple
 Cheppad Railway Station Road
 Cheppad – 690507
 Contact: Cheppad Grama Panchayat
 Phone: +91-479-2412264
 Website: www.evoortemple.org



TIME

DATES

January –February (*Makaram*);

FREQUENCY

Annual

DURATION

10 Days

ABOUT THE FESTIVAL (Legend/History/Myth)

Evoor Sreekrishna Swami Temple, also known as Onattukara's Guruvayoor is one of the major Krishna temples in Kerala. It is said to have originated thousands of years ago following *Khandava Dahanam*. The temple in its current form was built by Moolam Thirunal. The deity of the Lord at at Evoor is the unique *Prayoga Chakra Prathishta*. It is presented in the four armed Vishnu form with *Panchajanya Shankha*, *Sudarshana Chakra* and butter in three hands and the fourth arm held on hip. *Raktha-pushpanjali* is a special offering at the temple which is unavailable in Vishnu temples elsewhere. The Makara Utsavam starts with the hoisting of the *Garuda* printed flag and following various rituals and cultural events is pulled down after the *Aarattu* ceremony as the Lord proceeds for *Pallikkuruppu* (Holy Sleep).



RELEVANCE-
 (Local / National /
 International)

Local



**NO. OF PEOPLE
 PARTICIPATED**

Over 50,000

EVENTS/PROGRAMS

Flag Hoisting
Utsavabali
Sreebhoothabali
Annadanam
Kala kettu
Jeevatha Ezhunellathu
Cultural Programs
Percussion Music
Ottanthullal

DESCRIPTION (How festival is celebrated)

Evvoor festival lasts for ten days. The temple and its premises are decked up with arches, festoons and decorated with lights, plantain trunks and bunches of coconut and areca nuts. The *gopuram* and courtyards are decorated with illuminations. Flag hoisting ceremony (*Kodiyettam*) marks the beginning of the festival. Thousands of oil lamps are lit around the temple in the evening. The priest carries the *utsava murti* (direct manifestation of the deity) atop a male elephant. Various traditional cultural and ritualistic events like *Kathakali*, *Velakali* etc. are organized. One can also get to see *Kala-kettu*, is a thanksgiving offering to the Lord by farmers. Small *Kala* (bull) effigies are hand carried whereas the big ones are mounted on wheels. *Pallivetta* is a traditional yearly event, whereby the Lord proceeds to a distant banyan tree (300 m away at the entry point) to hunt down evil forces



EVENTS/PROGRAMS

Kathakali
Velakali
Kala Kali
Pallivetta
Kettukazhcha
Fire works
Arattu
Kodiyirakkam (Lowering of Flag)
Pallikkuruppu (Holy sleep)

DESCRIPTION (How festival is celebrated)

According to the tradition, *Jeevatha Ezunnallathus* of two nearby Bhagavathy temples (Kannamballil and Kalloorath) arrive together. They are believed to be the Lord's sisters. When they arrive in front of the *Sreekovil* (sanctum sanctorum), they are accorded a traditional welcome. As *Jeevatha Ezhunellathus* of the Lord's sisters return after jubilantly welcoming him when he returns from Pallivetta, the Lord is believed to become sad and silently return to his *Sreekovil*. Later, the utsava deity is shifted to the *Ardhamandap* inside the temple for *Pallikkuruppu* (sleep). A small calf (young cow) is tied to the pillar and the main temple is closed. The Lord is believed to wake up only after hearing the cry of the calf. When the calf cries, *Tantri* and *Melsanti* enter the temple to transfer the Lord's 'living aura' (*chaithanyam*) from the *utsava* deity to the principal deity. Then the temple door is opened to allow *darshan* to devotees. After the *Aarattu* procession, *Kodiyirakkam* (lowering of flag) marks the culmination of the festival.

