



MANNARASALA AYILYAM

MANNARASALA SREE NAGARAJA TEMPLE



LOCATION

Panchayat/
Municipality/
Corporation

Haripad Municipality

District

Alappuzha



ACCESSIBILITY

Nearest Town/
Landmark/ Junction

Town Hall Junction – 1.6 Km

Nearest Bus station

Haripad KSRTC Bus Stand – 2.4 Km

Nearest Railway
station

Haripad Railway Station – 2.7 Km

Nearest Airport

Cochin International Airport - 103 Km



CONTACT

Mannarasala Sree Nagaraja Temple
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Email: info@mannarasala.org
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TIME

DATES

October-November (Thulam)

FREQUENCY

Annual

DURATION

3 Days

ABOUT THE FESTIVAL (Legend/History/Myth)

The legend of the Mannarasala Nagaraja Temple is associated with the story of how Lord Parasurama cleaved out the land known as Kerala. As he found the land infertile and infested with snakes, he is said to have invoked Nagaraja. The Snake God agreed to move and settle at a place that came to be known as Mannarasala. Lord Parasurama installed an idol of the Serpent King along with *Sarpayakshi* and assigned a scholarly Brahmin to carry out daily rituals for Nagaraja. Once when hundreds of snakes perished in a forest fire, others who got hurt are said to have crawled into pits near the place which are part of the temple premises now. The childless wife of the Brahmin anointed them with turmeric powder, milk, honey and tender coconut water. Pleased with her selfless service, Nagaraja is said to have appeared in her dream promising to be soon born as her son. The Brahmin lady gave birth to a five-hooded serpent child and a male child. When the two brothers grew up, the five hooded elder brother disappeared into the underground cellar of the *Illom* (the Brahmin ancestral home) for meditation after assigning the family responsibilities to his brother. He also requested his mother to do certain rituals without fail. He is said to have conveyed that the *poojas* have to be performed by the female members of his mother's family. This custom is followed to this day. Ever since, *Mannarasala Amma* has been venerated as the mother of Lord Nagaraja and devotees from all over the world come to the place for her blessings.



RELEVANCE-
(Local / National / International)

Regional



NO. OF PEOPLE PARTICIPATED

Over 50,000

EVENTS/PROGRAMS

Ayilyam Ezhunellathu
Maha Deepakazhcha
Noorum Palum
Feast
Musical Renditions
Cultural Meeting

DESCRIPTION (How festival is celebrated)

The festival is celebrated in the Malayalam month of *Thulam* to seek the blessings of the Serpent King, Nagaraja and other snake deities at the place. Special prayers and offerings are made at the *Illam* (the Brahmin ancestral home). A special procession in which all serpent idols in the temple and sacred grove are taken to the *Illam* is the highlight of the festival. Nagaraja, the presiding deity of the temple is carried by the priestess or *Mannarasala Amma*. Various rituals like *Uruli Kamazhthal*, *Noorum Palum* etc. are performed.

