



THIRU UTSAVAM

KANDIYOOR MAHADEVA TEMPLE



LOCATION

**Panchayat/
Municipality/
Corporation**

Mavelikkara Municipality

District

Alappuzha



ACCESSIBILITY

**Nearest Town/
Landmark/ Junction**

Mavelikkara Town – 2 Km

Nearest Bus station

Kayamkulam Bus Station – 9 Km

**Nearest Railway
station**

Kayamkulam Railway Station – 10 Km

Nearest Airport

Trivandrum International Airport – 114 Km



CONTACT

Kandiyoor Mahadeva Temple
 Kandiyoor,
 Mavelikkara
 Alappuzha- 690103
 Phone : +91-479-2302218 (Mavelikkara Municipality)
 Website: www.kandiyoor temple.org



TIME

DATES

December-January (*Dhanu*)

FREQUENCY

Annual

DURATION

10 Days

ABOUT THE FESTIVAL (Legend/History/Myth)

Thiruvutsavam is a festival celebrated to pay obeisance to Lord Shiva, the presiding deity of Kandiyoor temple. Kandiyoor Mahadeva temple is one of the Mahakshetras of Kerala. This place is also known as *Dakshina Kashi*. Legend has it that Saint Mrikandu, the father and guru of the famous Markandeya, got a beautiful idol of *Kiratha Moorthy*, while taking bath in the holy Ganges. He heard a divine voice that suggested that the idol must be laid in a very holy and suitable place. The saint traveled far and wide and reached Kandiyoor which he found to be the apt place. Thus the temple was established. It is believed that centuries later Parasurama, the incarnation of Vishnu renovated the temple. He gave the *tanthrik* right to the family of Tharananallur. The temple has one of the biggest *Linga prathishta*, made by Chola Kings. The temple has got the specialty of an unusual compound wall of *Gajaprishta* style (back of the elephant) of architecture with a height about 10 feet. It is believed to be constructed by *Bhoothaganas* of Lord Shiva in a single night.



RELEVANCE-
 (Local / National /
 International)

Local



**NO. OF PEOPLE
 PARTICIPATED**

Over 40,000

EVENTS/PROGRAMS

Kodiyettu
Annadanam
Cultural Programs
Spiritual discourses
Percussion Music
Kathakali
Mohiniyattam
Ottanthullal
Chakyarkoothu
Pallivetta
Arattu

DESCRIPTION (How festival is celebrated)

Thiruvutsavam is an annual festival that starts in the Malayalam month of *Dhanu* (December/January). It is a 10 days spectacular event. The festival ends on the *Thiruvathira Nakshatram* day in the month of *Dhanu*. The beginning of the festival is marked by Kodiyettam or the flag hoisting ceremony. The shrine is traditionally decorated with plantain, coconut leaves, flowers, traditional lamps and lights. Special *poojas* and offerings are made during the festival period and *Annadanam* is also organized. Traditional performing arts like *Kathakali* and other events, music and dance are staged during the period. Caparisoned elephants, *melam*, fireworks and *sheevali* are part of the festival. *Pallivetta* is also a significant event of the festival which attracts many. The festival ends with *Arattu*. The *utsava murti* of the deity is taken out of the shrine for ritualistic bathing on the final day. Caparisoned elephants and *melam* are part of the ritual.

