

THIRU UTSAVAM

MARUTHORVATTOM SREE DHANWANTHARI TEMPLE

LOCATION	**Panchayat/ Municipality/ Corporation**	Cherthala Municipality
	District	Alappuzha

ACCESSIBILITY	**Nearest Town/ Landmark/ Junction**	Cherthala – 3 Km
	Nearest Bus station	Cherthala Bus Station – 3.5 Km
	Nearest Railway station	Cherthala Railway Station – 4.5 Km
	Nearest Airport	Cochin International Airport – 64 Km

CONTACT

Maruthorvattom Sree Dhanwanthari Temple,
Maruthorvattom
Cherthala,
Alappuzha - 688539
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TIME

DATES	FREQUENCY	DURATION
April-May (*Medam)*	Annual	8 Days

ABOUT THE FESTIVAL (Legend/History/Myth)

The temple is dedicated to Lord Dhanwanthari, who is regarded by Hindus as the Master-God of Ayurveda. Lord Dhanwanthari is regarded as a part-incarnation of Lord Vishnu. Hindu Puranas mention that Lord Dhanwanthari made his appearance from *Palazhi* (the sea of milk) carrying the bowl of *Amruth* (the elixir of life and rejuvenation). In meditation, Sree Dhanwanthari is visualized as a four-handed, dark-complexioned God carrying *Sankha* (the holy bugle of Lord Vishnu), *Chakra* (the revolving blade), the bowl of *Amruth* (the potion of eternal life and rejuvenation) and *Jalooka* – the leach used by Ayurvedic practitioners to suck away vitiated blood from the body. Dhanwanthari temple has a copper-roofed round *Sreekovil* encompassing a square *Garbha Griha* in which the principal deity is installed. There is a *mandapam* in front of the *Sreekovil*, where the idol of *Garuda* is installed facing Lord Dhanwanthari. The temple faces westwards and has an outer square temple (*Nalambalam*) surrounding a spacious inner lawn. There is an *'Utsava Bali Mandapam'* on the right side of the Sreekovil. Idols of Lord Ganapati, Lord Sastha, and Bhagawathi are installed in the *Nalambalam* on the right side of the *Sreekovil* and Lord Siva on the left side. Outside the *Nalambalam*, in the Meenam Rasi, Nagaraja and other Nagar Gods are installed. On the northern side, is situated the temple dedicated to Sree Bhadra Devi. The name of the place Maruthorvattom is said to have been derived from *'Marunnu Oru Vattam'* which in malayalam means a single dose of medicine. This has reference to the famous Ayurvedic doctor, Vellodu Moos who lived here some 600 years ago whose medicines were enough to give relief even from chronic ailments. The annual festival at the temple is celebrated to pay obeisance to Lord Dhanwanthari.







RELEVANCE- (Local / National / International)	Local	NO. OF PEOPLE PARTICIPATED	About 25,000

EVENTS/PROGRAMS

Flag Hoisting
Uthsavabali
Sreebhoothabali
Annadanam
Cultural Programs and folk arts
Spiritual discourses
Seminars
Percussion Music
Musical Concerts
Kadhakali
Mohiniyattam
Ottanthullal
Drama
Bale
Pallivettah
Arattu

DESCRIPTION *(How festival is celebrated)*

An 8 day festival starting with flag hoisting and ending with *Arattu* on *Thiruvonam* day is held annually in the month of *Medam* (April-May).*Utsava Bali*, *Pallivettah*, *Vilakku*, *Arattu* are important items of festival days. Kathakali is of prominent priority amongst programs arranged for festival nights. In fact, in no other temple in Kerala, Kathakali is given as much importance as here. Other programs worth mentioning are temple arts such as *Ottam Thullal*, *Pathakam*, *Koothu*, *Koodiyaattam* etc. The weeklong festival is noted for various rituals. 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. There will be special poojas and offerings during the festival period. Also *annadanam* on all days. Caparisoned elephants, *melam*, fireworks and *sheevali* are part of the festival. The *Arattu* festival attracts thousands of devotees. The *utsava murti* of the deity is taken for ritual purification by water on the day. Caparisoned elephants, *melam* and percussion music are part of the ritual.







