



AARATTU UTSAVAM

ETTUMANOOR MAHADEVA TEMPLE FESTIVAL



**Panchayat/
Municipality/
Corporation**

Ettumanoor Municipality

District

Kottayam



**Nearest Town/
Landmark/ Junction**

Peroor Junction -600m

Nearest Bus station

Ettumanoor Central Bus Stop – 800m

**Nearest Railway
station**

Ettumanoor Railway Station - 2.2 Km

Nearest Airport

Cochin International Airport – 75 Km



Ettumanoor Mahadevar temple

Ettumanoor Temple Road,

Ettumanoor - 686631

Phone: +91-481-2719375



TIME

DATES

February- March

FREQUENCY

Annual

DURATION

10 Days



ABOUT THE FESTIVAL (Legend/History/Myth)

The major attraction in this temple is *Ezhara Ponnana* or Seven and half elephants. These are the statues of seven elephants of two feet height and one with one foot. These statues are made with wood and covered with gold plate. Total fifty eight kilo gold is being used to create these eight idols. It is believed that the King of Travancore has made these idols to present at the *Vaikom* Temple and it was being carried out to *Vaikom* from Thiruvananthapuram by water. When it reached near *Ettumanoor*, the boat got struck on the sand bund in the river and did not move further even after a lot of hard work by a group of people. Then an astrologer came there and told them that, *Ettumanoorappan*, the presiding deity of *Ettumanoor* temple got attracted with these statues and will not part with it. Hearing this King donated those statues to *Ettumanoor*. The *Aarattu* Festival is conducted to celebrate the divine presence of the deity.



RELEVANCE-
(Local / National / International)

Local



NO. OF PEOPLE PARTICIPATED

About 2000

EVENTS/PROGRAMS

DESCRIPTION (*How festival is celebrated*)

Ezhara Ponnana
Procession
Arattu
Performing Arts
Temple Rituals

One of the elegant sights associated with the temple festivals of Kerala is the *Ezhara Ponnana* procession held during the festival at *Ettumanoor Sree Mahadeva Temple* in Kottayam. '*Ezhara*' means seven-and-half and '*Ponnana*' means golden elephant. Each of the seven elephants is two feet high and the eighth one is of one foot only. Hence they are together called seven-and-half elephants. These elephants were offered to the deity by the then ruler of Travancore, *Anizham Thirunal Marthanda Varma*. The *Ezhara Ponnana* procession is a memorable spectacle to behold on the eighth and tenth day of the festival at *Ettumanoor*. *Ettumanur Shiva Temple Arattu* is held on the night of the tenth day of the festival. Ten caparisoned elephants accompany the *Murti* or idol of Lord Shiva in a procession to a pond nearby for *Arattu* (holy bath). During the ten days of the festival, various performing arts and temple rituals are staged in the temple premises. *Kathakali* and *Velakali* attract enthusiasts from all places in Kerala.

