

ERUMELI CHANDANAKUDAM

ERUMELI VAVAR MOSQUE



LOCATION

**Panchayat/
Municipality/
Corporation**

Erumeli Panchayat

District

Kottayam



ACCESSIBILITY

**Nearest Town/
Landmark/ Junction**

Erumeli Town Junction – 40 m

Nearest Bus station

KSRTC Bus Stop, Erumeli -300 m

**Nearest Railway
station**

Tiruvalla Railway Station – 40.2 Km

Nearest Airport

Cochin International Airport -119 Km



CONTACT

Vavar Mosque
Erumely – 686509
Phone: +91- 9447366986



TIME

DATES

December -January

FREQUENCY

Annual

DURATION

11 Days



ABOUT THE FESTIVAL (Legend/History/Myth)

Erumeli is famous for Hindu Muslim religious harmony . The Mosque at Erumeli about 60 Km from north-east of Kottayam town is dedicated to Vavar, a contemporary and companion of Lord Ayyappa, a Hindu deity. Every year the unique sight of multitudes of Hindu pilgrims worshipping at this mosque before they trek to Sabarimala to worship

Lord Ayyappa. There are many legends about Vavar and his association with Ayyappa. Some believe that Vavar was a Muslim saint who migrated from Arabia to India with the intention of spreading Islam. Others suggest that he was a warrior who reached the shore of Kerala as a pirate in a ship to loot and plunder. During his encounter with Lord Ayyappa, he was defeated. Impressed by the youth's valour, Vavar became close associate of Lord Ayyappa and helped him in the wars in the mountainous region. As time passed, Vavar too became an ardent devotee of Ayyappa just like Kaduthaswami and came to be known as Vavar swami. The old sword on the wall of the Vavar shrine symbolises the eminence of Vavar as a great warrior. It is believed that the Lord Ayyappa himself instructed the King of Pandala Desam to build a mosque for Vavar at Erumely in Kottayam District. Sabarimala shrine is about 50 km away, deep in the Forest in Pathanamthitta Association. Erumely is the gateway to Sabarimala, the hillock shrine of Lord Ayyappa. This place is very famous for Pettathullal, a kind of mass spiritual dance perform by Ayyappa devotees. Pettathullal is performed in the Makaravilaku season, i.e., from mid December to mid January every year to commemorate the annihilation of a Mahishi by Lord Ayyappa. It is believed that the aim of the incarnation of Lord Dharmasasta as son of Shiva and Vishnu was the annihilation of the Rakshasi Mahishi. Since Ayyappa is considered as a human incarnation of Dharmasasta, Erumenly is an important place of worship for Ayyappa devotees. After killing the Mahishi at Erumely, Dharmasastha performed a dance on her dead body. In order to commemorate this event, the devotees perform the ritual called pettathullal in Erumely.



RELEVANCE-
(Local / National / International)

Local



NO. OF PEOPLE PARTICIPATED

3000

EVENTS/PROGRAMS

Petta Thullal
Malisa Procession
Chandanakudam
Procession
Ganamela
Shinkari Melam
Kottakavadi

DESCRIPTION *(How festival is celebrated)*

The *Chandanakudam* festival which is conducted as a prelude to the ceremonial mass dance (*Petta Thullal*) will be held at *Nainar Mosque (Vavar Palli)* under the aegis of *Mahalla Muslim Jama-ath*. The festival commences with *Malisa Procession* that starts from the mosque's premises. The procession passes through several places before returning back to the starting point in the evening. Later, the *Chandanakudam* Procession accompanied by caparisoned elephants, *Ganamela*, decorated vehicles, *Shinkari Melam*, *Kottakavadi*, band and *chenda melam* starts. This is a grand festival in *Erumeli* town.

