





# AYALUR RATHOLSAVAM

## AYALUR SIVA TEMPLE

 <b>LOCATION</b>	<b>Panchayath/ Municipality/ Corporation</b>	Nemmara
	<b>District</b>	Palakkad

 <b>ACCESSIBILITY</b>	<b>Nearest Town/ Landmark/ Junction</b>	S M High School Ayalur – 550 m
	<b>Nearest Bus station</b>	Ayalur Bus Stop -240 m
	<b>Nearest Railway station</b>	Kollengode railway station – 18 km
	<b>Nearest Airport</b>	Coimbatore International Airport- 92 km

 <b>CONTACT</b>	Ayalur Shiva Temple Nemmara Aylur Road Ayalur, Palakkad Kerala 678510
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TIME

DATES

December-January (Dhanu)

FREQUENCY

Annual

DURATION

3 days



### ABOUT THE FESTIVAL (Legend/History/Myth)

Ayiloor Temple is on the banks of Ayiloor river in Nemmara. The main deity of this temple is lord Shiva. This temple is more than 1000 years old. It is believed that the Siva Lingam in this temple was installed by Giant Kara. Giant Kara got three *shiva lingams*, after his prolonged *Thapas*, and he carried these *Lingams* one in his right hand, second in left hand and third one on the teeth. He installed the right hand *Lingam* at Ayalur, Left hand *Lingam* in Trippalore through his feet and the third one in Pallavur. All these temples are situated within five kilometers.

The temple was said to be under the ownership of Kodakara Nair. Kulangattu nair was the warrior of this family and they looked after the temple administration. The name of temple then was Akhileshwarapuram. The temple had a lot of *Akil*, hence the name Akiloor or Ayaloor or Ayiloor. Later for a couple of years the temple was under the ownership of various *Namboothiri* families and finally came under the rule of Cochin king. Now the temple is under the Cochin devaswon board.

The temple faces east and has three *poojas* and *sheeveli* on daily basis. The Shiva *pratishta* is believed to be *Parvathy Samethan*, is having presence of goddess Parvathy with him. Another specialty of the temple is that the *pratishta* of Nandi, the vehicle of Lord Shiva is situated in the southern direction close to the compound wall facing the east. The *upadevathas* are Ganapathy, Subrahmanyam and Ayyapan. On the right side of Nandikeshan along the *Pradakshina* path is located seven *Mathru swaroopams* namely Brahmnai, Maheswari, Vyshnavi, Kaumari, Indrani, Varahi and Chamundi. Goddess Pavathy is considered *Simhavahini* and lamp is lit on the western side of the temple behind *Nandikeshan*. There is a sculpture of Dakshinamoorthi at the southern side of the temple. *Nagapratishtha* is on the South-west corner of the temple, outside the *sreekovil*.



RELEVANCE-  
(Local / National / International)

Local



NO. OF PEOPLE PARTICIPATED

Approximately 3000

## EVENTS/PROGRAMS

*Dhwajaroohanam*  
Procession  
*Udayasthamana Pooja*  
*Makeera Vilakku*  
*Panchari Melam*  
*Pandi Melam*  
*Panchavadhyam*  
*Thayambaka*  
*Kathakali* and other  
artforms  
Music shows  
*Radham Ezhunnallippu*  
*Arudhra Dharisanam*  
*Poornabhishekam*

## DESCRIPTION (How festival is celebrated)

The arattu Grama Chaitanya Ratholsavam is conducted on *Karuthavaau* in the Malayalam month of thulaam. The festival is conducted by Kulangattu Nair nad arattu is conducted in the Ayiloor river. Near the riverside wher Aarattu festival is conducted ( arattu kadavu) thers is a banyan tree , a temple and a *pratishta* of lord Ganesha.

Ayiloor *ratholsavam* or car festival is conducted in Malayalam month of *Dhanu* (*Thiruvathira* star). More than 100 people participate in the *Pradosham abhishekam* and also many offerings are being performed in this temple.

Ratholsavam is celebrated for three days. First day *Udayasthamana Pooja* is performed to Lord Parthasarathy, second day *Udayasthamana Pooja* to Lord Akhileswara followed by in the night *Makeera Vilakku* and third day is Ratholsavam (Thiruvathira) day. Most of the people who left Ayalur used to assemble on this festival day to have *dharshan* of their Gods (Grama Devathai) and also to meet their old friends.

Procession by caprisoned five elephants with *Panchari Melam, Pandi Melam, Panchavadhyam, Thayambaka* and special programs like *Kathakali*, Music etc. are important on this day apart from *Radham Ezhunnallippu*. On Thiruvathira day, *Arudhra Dharisanam* is an important one. *Poornabhishekam* to Lord Akhileswara starts early morning at 3.00 am and concludes at 7.00 am with *japam* viz. *Mahanyasam, Rudram, Chamakam, Suktham* etc. *Arudhra Dharisanam (Jothi Dharisanam-Maha Deeparadhana)* will be around 5.30 a.m. At present this festival is conducting by Ayalur Grama Janam. This festival shows tamil-malayalam culture.

