



AYYAPPANKAVU-ARATTU

CHERPULASSERY AYYAPPAN KAVU TEMPLE



LOCATION

Panchayath/
Municipality/
Corporation

Cherpulassery

District

Palakkad



ACCESSIBILITY

Nearest Town/
Landmark/ Junction

Cherpulassery Grama Panchayat- 350 m

Nearest Bus station

Cherupulassery Bus Stand -750 m

Nearest Railway
station

Kulukkatur railway station – 8 km

Nearest Airport

Calicut International Airport- 61 km



CONTACT

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TIME

DATES

February-March (Kumbhom)

FREQUENCY

Annual

DURATION

10 days



ABOUT THE FESTIVAL (Legend/History/Myth)

The Ayyappa Temple of Cherupulasseri is very ancient and more than 1000 years old. Cherpulassery Sri AyyappanKavu is also known as Women's Shabarimala, Malabar's Shabarimala , Valluvanad's Shabarimala, etc. As these names indicate, it is a very major Ayyapa temple. *Mandala Pooja* and *Theeyattu* from first vrichikom. Main *ulsavam* is celebrated for ten days in the Malayalam month of *kumbham*. Main *Prathista* or diety is Sree Ayyappan. Upaprathistas include Sree Ganapathy, Navagrahangal, Sree Brahma Rakshassu, Nagaraja ,etc.. Event called *Theeyattu* starts on 1st of *Vrichikam* month of malayalam calendar. It lasts for 40 days. *Aarattu* is on 10th day of Uthram in Kumbham month. Also used to have Kalam Paattu on these days.

During November to January, tens of thousands of devotees from Palakkad, Malapuram and Thrissur districts reach Ayyappan Kavu to wear the Ayyappa *mudra* and to start their pilgrimage to Sabarimala. During this season, a number of Ayyappan Vilakku are also performed in front of the temple. Cherpulassery Ayyappan Kavu is one of the few temples where marriages are performed in the presence of Lord Ayyappa. A traditional temple art called *Thiyyattu* is also performed at the temple during the 10-day festival season. A swayambu kshethram and covered with a gold *kavacham*. *Ilayada nivedhyam* is the speciality of this temple.



RELEVANCE-
(Local / National / International)

Local



NO. OF PEOPLE PARTICIPATED

Approximately 8000

EVENTS/PROGRAMS

Flag hoisting
Thiyattu
Special programmes
Chendamelam
Panchavadyam
Parayeduppu
Traditional art forms
Music shows
Arattu

DESCRIPTION (*How festival is celebrated*)

The annual festival is observed in Malayalam Kumbham month (February – March). Cherpulassery Ayyappan Kavu festival starts with flag hoisting and ends with *Arattu* on the last day.

The annual festival is noted for various rituals including *Thiyyattu*. Thousands of people arrive on the day to witness various rituals and festivities. Special *poojas* are held during the festival days in which thousands of devotees participate. *Chendamelam* and *panchavadyam* also forms a part of this festival. *Parayeduppu* and elephant procession provides a visual treat to the devotees.

Traditional performing arts, music and dance are staged during the period. The temple is traditionally decorated with plantain, coconut leaves, flowers, leaves, traditional lamps and lights.

