



# CHINAKKATHUR POORAM



## LOCATION

Panchayath/  
Municipality/  
Corporation

Ottapalam Municipality

District

Palakkad



## ACCESSIBILITY

Nearest Town/  
Landmark/ Junction

Kinfra park Ottapalam- 1.1 km  
Mangalam junction -2.4 km

Nearest Bus station

Santhi Nilayalam bus stop– 550m

Nearest Railway  
station

Lakkidi Railway Station – 3.9 Km

Nearest Airport

Calicut International Airport – 82 Km



## CONTACT

The Executive Officer  
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TIME

DATES

February/March (*Makam naal of Kumbham*)

FREQUENCY

Annual

DURATION

2 days



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

It is believed that King Zamorin ordered Land Lords to start the festival in Chinakkathoor in 18th Century. It can be seen that the Horseplay indicates the significance of Zamorin Dynasty (AD 825-1766). The heritage of Mamankam reflects the glorious past in the Horseplay.

Mamankam. (Mahamagham/Jubily) used to be celebrated once in twelve years on Makam day. In the ancient times Perumal kings were the authority of this gala. After the departure of last Perumal, the leadership was taken by valluvanad King. Till 12th century Valluvanad Kings were in-charge of this festival which was celebrated in Thirunavaya, the river bank of Perar. King Zamorin of Kozhikkode conquered Valluvanad King (Valluvakkonathiri) and captured the leadership of Mamankam. All local kings and lords consisting war troops could participate in this festival which would be celebrated for 28 days. Mr. William Logan, who was the Collector of British Malabar, says that the last Mamankam was held in 1743. A suicide squad of Valluvanad consisting four elegant fighters could challenge Zamorin for a war. Zamorin would sit in the War stand with the accompaniment of 40,000 Nair Troops. Suicide squad belonging to the four families namely Chenthrattil Panicker, Verkkottil panicker, Puthumana Panicker & Kolkkat Panicker who were the Nair chieftains would be ready to fight against Zamorin's troop of Mamankam courageous and radiant people of Valluvanad had to perform their undying thirst for freedom and satisfaction of making a rebellion against Zamorin. They knew that they would not return to their families. Thousands of ill-fated fighters of Valluvnad had lost their lives during this festival.

In the Horseplay of Chinakkathoor, the name of main horse is Zamorin (Pandaarakuthira). They are controlling the war-like play of Horses. It is seen that there is a Horse namely Kochi Raja participating in the Horseplay of Chinakkathoor. There were incessant battles between the Kings of Kerala from 12th century to 18th century. But at any rate it may be noted that Zamorin was the entire authority of temple celebrations in Malabar and also in Kerala.



RELEVANCE-  
(Local / National / International)

Local



NO. OF PEOPLE PARTICIPATED

Approximately 30000

## EVENTS/PROGRAMS

Poothan  
Thira  
Pulikali  
Kumbhakali  
Kudakkali  
Theru  
Thattinmelkooth

## DESCRIPTION (*How festival is celebrated*)

The spectacular procession of 27 caparisoned tuskers with the accompaniment of *panchavadyam* and *pandimelam* provide a colourful show to the viewers of Valluvanad. We can see a torrential flow of traditional arts and folklores like *Poothan*, *Thira*, *Pulikkali*, *Kumbhamkali*, *Kudakkali*, *Theru* (chariot), *Thattinmelkooth* (Dance on the platform) on the same day. The swashbuckling performance of *pulikkali* & Ox Play (*kaalakali*), ear-breaking sound of *para* (drum) of *Thira* & Pootham, variety of attractive illuminated *Panthals*, intensive movement of jubilant mob to Chinakkathoor neglecting the penetrating heat of kumbham which reveals that nothing else can substitute this festival. There are 7 desams (areas) participating in this festival which includes Ottapalam, Pallarmangalam, Palappuram, Erakkottiri, Meetna, South Mangalam & North Mangalam who are striving hard for making the festival a grandeur occasion which shows Keralas rich and vibrant culture.

After the Pooram ,*molayidal Poothan* and *Thira* will visit each and every Hindu houses of Valluvanad. *Poothan Thira* has also got some myth behind them. This is what it says “A typical *Poothan Thira* performance comprising mostly shouts and wild gestures. The duo is immensely popular amongst the natives and an essential part of the village festivals of the region. *Poothan* player usually wear in bright (usually red), tightly woven costumes embellished with gold-colored trinkets. Their larger than life headdresses with peacock features and imposing masks with stick out tongues and eyes are sure to leave an unbelievable imagination to the viewer. *Thira* player wears semicircular black crown mounted on his head with symbols of the goddess embossed on the same. *Thira* players with extra ordinary acrobatic skills make the performance a real treat to watch.” *Nayadis* a particular tribe of people also visit the houses, singing their tribal songs.



## EVENTS/PROGRAMS

*Kaalakali*  
*Parayeduppu*  
*Kuthirakku thalavetta*  
*Kuthirapooram*  
*Annapooram*  
*Pakalpooram*

## DESCRIPTION (*How festival is celebrated*)

The next custom is Parayeduppu. Velichappaadu who is believed to be the revealer of light, is a mediator between the deity and the devotees. Possessed by the deity, *Velichappaadu* dances in frenzy at the festivals in *Bhagavati* temples. *Velichappaadu* visits each and every house to accept para( which is a vessel used to measure cereals) filled with paddy, plantain, sweets,etc.

The ceremony that comes next is *Kuthirakku Thalavekkal*. Many huge stuffed horse models are built using bamboo sticks (framework), Plantain leaves (stuffing). Each horse depicts a soldier of army. Valluvanad is divided into different Desams or villages and all of them have their own troupes of this horse armies. On the pooram day people carry these horses to Chinakkathoor Temple and perform the Kuthirakali. These horses compete with each other at the pooram ground. The one who throws or lifts the horse the highest is believed to be the best player. *Pooram* starts with the horse rally. The Horse rally or *Kuthira pooram* is followed by the *Aanapooram* or Tusker Rally. Fireworks is followed by *kuthirapooram* and *Aana pooram*. Though majority of people leave after the fireworks, all of them return to the ground by early morning for the *pakalpooram*.

