



THIRUNAKKARA ARATTU

THIRUNAKKARA MAHADEVA TEMPLE



LOCATION

**Panchayat/
Municipality/
Corporation**

Kottayam Municipality

District

Kottayam

**Nearest Town/
Landmark/
Junction**

Kottayam Central Junction – 400 m

Nearest Bus station

Thirunakkara Bus Stop – 250 m

**Nearest Railway
station**

Kottayam Railway Station - 1.9 Km

Nearest Airport

Cochin International Airport- 81.6 Km



ACCESSIBILITY



CONTACT

Thirunakkara Mahadeva Temple
Temple Rd, Thirunakara - 686001
Website: travancoredevaswomboard.org
Phone: +91-481-2583898



TIME

DATES

March-April

FREQUENCY

Annual

DURATION

10 Days



ABOUT THE FESTIVAL (Legend/History/Myth)

This region was earlier ruled by *Thekkumkoor* kings. One king of this absolutism used to visit the *Vadakkunathan* temple at *Trichur* every month. When he became old he told the God that now he cannot undertake this journey due to old age, he cannot see *Vadakkunatha* and he would like to die now. God told him in his dream that he would accompany him to *Kottayam*. On his way back the king happened to meet a learned Brahmin priest in *Vaikom* acceptance to the *Pereparambu* family. On the king's appeal the Brahmin accompanied the king to *Kottayam*. Accidentally in an abode alleged *Samiyar Madam*, this Brahmin was able to balance a *Shiva Linga* abysmal aural the earth. According to the admonition of the Brahmin, the king built a temple for this *Linga*. Besides the *Linga* (which is commonly kept covered by a gold cover), there are idols of Lord *Subramanya*, Lord *Ganesa*, a *PanchaLoha* idol of the Goddess, and Lord *Ayyappa* also. Besides these there is another temple for *Vadakkunathan*, *Subrahmanya*, *Durga* and *Brahma Rakshas*. The abode is a hill known as *NakkaraKunnu* in the local regional language Malayalam. *Thirunakkara Mahadeva* Temple situated on the hill and the hill is believed to be a pious hill by Hindus, for this reason the hill is admired as *Thiru* and *Nakkara* literally meaning Sacred *Nakkara* Hill.

Thirunakkara Arattu Utsavam is one of the reputed temple festivals of the state of Kerala and it is observed from the very first day of the month of *Meenam* to celebrate the divine presence of *Thirunakkara Mahadeva*.



RELEVANCE-
(Local / National / International)

Local



NO. OF PEOPLE PARTICIPATED

Approximately 1500

EVENTS/PROGRAMS

Elephants' Parade
Percussion Music
Kathakali
Velakali
Mayilattom
Cultural Programs

DESCRIPTION (How festival is celebrated)

The *Thirunakkara Arattu Utsavam* lasts for a period of 10 days and ends with the ceremonial bathing of *Mahadeva* known as *Arattu*. During the time of noon, a series of nine beautifully adorned and embellished elephants are ushered along with Lord *Mahadeva* for the rite of bathing. Several dancers and drummers accompany the procession of nine elephants that follow *Mahadeva*. The traditional dance-form of Kerala, which is *Kathakali* is performed at the festival of *Thirunakkara Arattu Utsavam* and is a crucial part of all the celebrations. The *Kathakali* dancers deliver beautiful dance performances throughout the night, particularly on the third and fourth nights. *Velakali*, *Mayilattom* or peacock dances and motif processions are the other social events which brighten up this regional festival of Kerala. They all take place in the grounds of the temple. Numerous pilgrims throng this part of the country, irrespective of their caste, creed, age and sex, to take part in the festivities. The *Mahadeva* Temple which plays an important role in the festival is located on *Thirunakkara* Hill in Kottayam town. This temple is known for its ornate architecture. In this festival, different types of agricultural and industrial artifacts are exhibited. Various cultural events are observed through the festive days which add to the glory of this festive event.

