



THRIKARTHIKA FESTIVAL

KUMARANALLOOR DEVI TEMPLE



LOCATION

**Panchayathh/
Municipality/
Corporation**

Kumaranalloor Grama Panchayathh

District

Kottayam



ACCESSIBILITY

**Nearest Town/
Landmark/ Junction**

Kumaranalloor Junction – 1.2 km

Nearest Bus station

Kumaranalloor Bus Stop – 1.3 km

**Nearest Railway
station**

Kottayam Railway Station – 5 km

Nearest Airport

Cochin International Airport – 83.3 km



CONTACT

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TIME

DATES

November – December (*Vrischikam*)

FREQUENCY

Annual

DURATION

10 days

Kumaranalloor Devi temple is said to be more than 2400 years old, as per historical and mythological evidences as well as other sources of information.

Cheraman Perumal was the ruling emperor of Kerala when the construction of a temple at *Udayanapuram* to install the idol of goddess *Durga* began; while he commenced the construction of another temple at a place (which is later known as *Kumaranalloor*) to install the idol of lord Kumara or Subramanian. Meanwhile, a disturbing incident took place at *Meenakshi* temple, Madurai in Tamil Nadu. The gem-studded nose ring of *Devi* was stolen or went missing. The king ordered an enquiry. At the same time, he ordered to kill the priest of the temple unless he could solve this problem within 41 days. Because, the nose ring would not be misplaced without his knowledge. However, the priest was innocent. He was confused and perplexed in this dilemma. He took refuge at the feet of *Devi*. As days and weeks progressed, the grief-stricken priest spent his days and nights crying and praying. On the night of the 40th day, he slept at the doorsteps of temple, meditating and contemplating his fate that his life would reach an end on the next day. However, he had a dream that night. *Devi* appeared before him and ordered him to quit the place at once. The perplexed and bewildered priest winked his eyes. He had seen a *thejas* (divine light) moving forward. He followed it without being aware of where he was going. The *thejas* led him a long distance and finally reached the place which latter became known as *Kumaranalloor*. At *Kumaranalloor*, the temple was under construction to install the idol of lord Subramanian or *Kumaran*. The *Thejas* entered into the *Sreekovil* (sanctum sanctorum) of the temple. Moreover, it was at the *Prathista* time (suitable time of installation) that the *thejas* entered the *Sreekovil*. Then there was an *Asareeri* (an *Inerporeal* and divine voice), *Kumaran Alla Ooril* (this place is not for kumara, This is *Kumari's* or *Devi's* place). Hence it got the name *Kumaranalloor*. *Perumal* was disappointed and frustrated. He travelled to *Udayanapuram* to install the idol of Kumara, at the temple, which was under construction. On the way, *Perumal* encountered some obstacles but finally managed to reach *Udayanapuram* and install the idol of Subramanian at the *Sreekovil* of the temple. Later, *Perumal* returned to *Kumaranalloor* with the *Devi's* idol and began the preparation for installing it there. Yet another thought struck him that the idol has to be changed.

There was an idol lying in water at *Vedagiri* a nearby place. *Perumal* brought the idol from *Vedagiri*. *Maharshi Parasurama* had supposedly made and worshipped the idol in past. At the time of installation, a Brahmin sage with matted hair, came and entered the *Sreekovil* and installed the idol in a second. As soon as the installation of idol was done he vanished. To this date people believe that the Brahmin sage was *Maharshi Parasurama*. The Brahmin priest, who followed the *thejas* from Madurai, became the priest of the temple. His residence is known as Madurai *illam*. His successors worship the *Devi* even today. *Thrikarthika* Festival is conducted to celebrate the birthday of the Goddess.



RELEVANCE-
(Local / National /
International)

Local



NO. OF PEOPLE
PARTICIPATED

Approximately 10,000

EVENTS/PROGRAMS

Kodiyettu
Special Poojas
Thrikkarthika
Arrattu

DESCRIPTION *(How festival is celebrated)*

The yearly main festival comes in the Malayalam month of *Vrishchikam*. The main festival is of ten days starting with hosting of holy flag (*Kodiyettu*) on the first day. From the second day onwards *Devi* has *Special Poojas* and *Arrattu* (holy bathing) in the nearby river (*Meenachil*). Eighth day is on Malayalam astrological star *Bharani* and the next day; ninth day is *Karthika*. *Karthika* and is the most important day for *Devi* and hence is known as the great *Thrikkarthika*. On the tenth day the *Devi* goes for the final holy bath in *Nattassery* a nearby place and comes back with all the happiness and prosperity for the people of this village. After the *Arrattu* the hosted holy flag is removed and the festival completes here. During the festival days, folk and traditional arts conducted in the temple premises. The famous group percussions like *Panjavadyam* and *Chenda Melam* with the *Devi's* processions like *Arrattu* in the morning and *Villakku* in the evening are majestic.

