



UTSAVAM

BHARANANGANAM SREE KRISHNA SWAMI TEMPLE



LOCATION

**Panchayath/
Municipality/
Corporation**

Bharananganam Panchayathh

District

Kottayam



ACCESSIBILITY

**Nearest Town/
Landmark/ Junction**

Pala

Nearest Bus station

Mary Giri Bus Stop – 1.1 km

**Nearest Railway
station**

Kottayam Railway Station – 31.6 km

Nearest Airport

Cochin International Airport – 79.8 km



CONTACT

Sree Krishnaswami Temple
Bharananganam – 686578
Phone: +91-4822-237078



TIME

DATES

January - February (*Makaram*)

FREQUENCY

Annual

DURATION

8 days



ABOUT THE FESTIVAL (Legend/History/Myth)

Bharananganam is also known as *Dakshina Guruvayoor* (*Guruvayoor* of South) because of the presence of *Sree Krishna Swami Temple*. The place name is closely associated with this temple. During their *vanavasa* (exile) *Pandavas* and *Panchali* stayed here for some days. On those days *Yudhishtira* performed *Vishnu Pooja* here. *Yudhishtira* decided to perform *Dwadasi Pooja* on *Shukla Paksha Dwadasi* day in the Malayalam month of *Kumbham*. But he had no idols of Lord Krishna to worship. Understanding the difficulty of His devotee, Lord Krishna gave a beautiful idol of Lord Vishnu to *Vedavyasa Muni* and *Narada Muni* and asked them to perform the *pooja* for *Yudhishtira*. *Narada Muni* and *Vyasa Muni* reached the place on the bank of holy *Gauna* (now *Meenachil*) river and installed the idol of Lord Vishnu in a suitable place and performed *Vishnu pooja* for *Yudhishtira*.

The sages performed *abhishekam* with *Gauna* river water. *Pandavas* and *Panchali* conducted the *Paranaveedal* ritual to end their *vratha*. They stayed there for some more days and later left to another place. While leaving that place they appointed a local Brahmin to conduct daily *poojas* and gave him the wealth to construct a temple. On that occasion there were not enough water in the river to conduct daily *poojas*. So *Bhima* dugged a well near to the Lord's idol using his *Gada*. Later this place became famous as *Paranaaranyam* means forest where *Paranaveedal* was conducted. *Paranakananam* is the equivalent Malayalam word and later became *Paranamkanam* and after hundreds of years it became *Bharananganam*. Since the first *abhishekam* was conducted using *Gauna* river water, even today the first *abhishekam* in the early morning is conducted with river water and later with well water. The Annual festival of *Bharananganam Sree Krishna Swamy Temple* is conducted in remembrance of this incident.



RELEVANCE-
(Local / National /
International)

Local



NO. OF PEOPLE
PARTICIPATED

Over 6000

EVENTS/PROGRAMS

Flag Hoisting
Utsava Bali
Processions
Arattu
Cultural Programs

DESCRIPTION *(How festival is celebrated)*

The 8 day long annual festival in *Makaram* (January) is a very vibrant event in the whole region commencing with the hoisting of the temple flag on *Makara Samkramam* day, and concluding with *Arattu* (Ritual Bath of the deity) on 8th day. Besides the regular daily rituals the festivities include Processions of the deity on elephant's back to the suburban villages like *Kizhapparayar*, *Keezhambara*, *Chittanappara* and *Bharananganam* (on 5 days) the precious *Utsava Bali* (for 6 days) and art and cultural programs every day. The *Arattu*, typical of the *Arattu* in almost any temple, is a magnificent night-long ceremony including procession of several elephants and performances by major percussion teams. The slow-moving procession of the caparisoned elephants carrying decorative silken umbrellas and other paraphernalia, illumined by multi-tongued oil torches, is a gorgeous spectacle, a delightful experience for the participants.

