



VAIKATHASHTAMI FESTIVAL

VAIKOM MAHADEVA TEMPLE



LOCATION

**Panchayat/
Municipality/
Corporation**

Vaikom Block Panchayat

District

Kottayam

**Nearest Town/
Landmark/
Junction**

Thekkenada Junction – 5 m

Nearest Bus station

K S R T C Bus Station, Vaikom – 1 Km

**Nearest Railway
station**

Cherthala Railway Station – 19.7 Km

Nearest Airport

Cochin International Airport – 56.3 Kms



ACCESSIBILITY



CONTACT

Vaikom Mahadeva Temple
Vaikom – 686141
Phone: +91-4829-215812
Website: vaikomtemple.org



TIME

DATES

December

FREQUENCY

Annual

DURATION

13 Days



ABOUT THE FESTIVAL (Legend/History/Myth)

The legend behind this festival is that years ago a saint man named *Vyaghrapada* prayed to God *Siva* for years after many years God *Siva* and his wife *Parvathy Devi* appeared in front of him. It is believed that god *Siva* appeared in front of him in the day of *Krishna Ashtami*. So as a memory of this *Vaikathashtami* is celebrated. 12th day of 13 days festival is celebrated as *Vaikathashtami*.



RELEVANCE-
(Local / National /
International)

Local



NO. OF PEOPLE
PARTICIPATED

Above 2000

EVENTS/PROGRAMS

Thrikkodiyettu
Sreebali
Vilakku
Poothalam Varavu
Ashtami Vilakku
Udayanapurathappante
Varavu
Panchavadyam
Gajapooja
Aanayoottu
Koodipooja Vilakku
Thrikkarthika
Athazhamoottu

DESCRIPTION *(How festival is celebrated)*

The festival starts with *Thrikkodiyettu* (Holy Flag Hoisting ceremony). *Sreebali* and *Vilakku* will be held in the following days. On Fifth, Sixth and Seventh day, *Poothalam Varavu* is held. One of the major highlights during the festival is the *Ashtami Vilakku* or lamps. Another major ritual during the festival is the *Udayanapurathappante Varavu* (arrival of Lord *Murga* (*Subrahmanya*) from the nearby *Udayanapuram Subrahmanya Temple*) to pay respects to his father Lord Shiva at the *Vaikom Temple*. *Panchavadyam*, *Gajapooja*, *Aanayoottu* etc will be held as a part of the festival. Colorful processions are carried out from one place to another, joined by different deities. The festival celebrations also include Dance Performances and Musical Shows spreading throughout the night. Popular dance forms like *Kathakalli* are also performed here. The most important day is the *Ashtami* day which is the eighth day after full moon. On the final day of festival there will be *Koodipooja Vilakku*, *Thrikkarthika* and *Athazhamoottu* in addition to *Arattu*.

