

KODUVAYUR RATHOLSAVAM

KODUVAYUR TEMPLE



LOCATION

Panchayath/
Municipality/
Corporation

District

Koduvayur

Palakkad



ACCESSIBILITY

Nearest Town/
Landmark/ Junction

Keralapuram Agrahatram Post office- 15 m

Nearest Bus station

Koduvayur bus stop – 300 m

Nearest Railway
station

Pudunagaram railway station – 4.1 km

Nearest Airport

Coimbatore International Airport- 71 km



CONTACT

Keralapuram St Rd,
Koduvayur,
Palakkad district
Kerala 678501



TIME

DATES

December-January (*Dhanu*)

FREQUENCY

Annual

DURATION

6 days

ABOUT THE FESTIVAL (Legend/History/Myth)

Koduvayur is a small village in Palakkad. It was a trade commercial village from olden days. Brahmins from Thanjavoor and Kumbhakonam in Tamil Nadu has shifted here due to drought. They began to settle down in Agraharams and continued to follow their traditional art forms, music, Vedas and various other rituals and customs. Koduvayur ratholsavam or *koduvayur theru* is celebrated in the Malayalam month of *Dhanu* during *thirvuthira naal* at Sree Vishalkshi Sameth Viswanathaswamy temple.

The temple has a 650 year old history connecting to its puranas and chariot festival .The temple has various myths regarding its origin.

The villagers believe that Venkittarama Ayyer and his wife Lekshmi Ammal from Kollengode brought a shiva linga after their visit to Kashi to Koduvayur. Later they built a temple and did the *pratishta* of *shiva linga*.

According to the temple priest, Sundaresha gurukkal, Lekshmi Ammal approached Ittikombi achan ,the king of those times to hand over the administrative rights of the temple. Different *deshams* of the region contributed to the financial upliftment of the temple and revenue was made free for these deshams. This custom was followed by other kings like Tipu Sultan and other British rulers. Even now the management of the temple is done by the Temple trustee.



RELEVANCE-
(Local / National /
International)

Local



**NO. OF PEOPLE
PARTICIPATED**

Approximately 5000

EVENTS/PROGRAMS

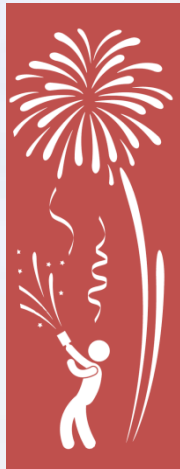
*Muhurthakaal erection
Grama Santhi
Dwajorohanam
Rudra abhishekam
Ardradarshanam*

DESCRIPTION *(How festival is celebrated)*

Koduyavur Ratholsavam includes three *Rathas* passing through four surrounding villages. People from different regions of Palakad gather to participate in the festival. The proceedings begin with the *Muhurthakaal Ceremony* exactly 18 days before the festival, where a decorated bamboo is adored and erected on the south-west corner of the temple, depicting the beginning of the festival season. The whole village gets ready in the festive mood by cleaning their premises and decorating the households.

The ritual of *Grama Santhi* takes place at the twilight, which according to mythology, is intended to engage the bad spirits which are wandering around the village. After *Gramashanthi*, *Dwajorohanam* or *kodiyettam* or flag hoisting takes place in the next day. This is the hoisting of the holy flag (*dhwajam*) in the *Dhwajasthambam* of the temple. *Rudra abhishekam* follows the next day early morning from 2 am till 7 am. *Ardradarshanam* is the next function in which thousands of devotees join.

The *ratharohanam* occurs at nearly 6-7 am with the thousands of devotees gathered around the temple. Three idols or *utsava moorthis* revolve thrice around the temple and 9 times around the holy banyan tree and are adorned to the respective chariots. The sounds of *panchavadhyam*, *chendamelam* and *nadaswaram* echoes with the mob dancing in joy.



EVENTS/PROGRAMS

Vedikettu
Ardra Darshana
Panchavadyam
Thirumanjanam
Ezhunnallath
Annadanam
Deeparadhana
Pradakshina of Radhas

DESCRIPTION (How festival is celebrated)

Fireworks or *Vedikkettu* and *Karimarunnu prayogam* decorates the sky which provides a visual treat to the devotees. During the time of *Ardra darshana*, Eagle (*Garudan*) which is known as the vehicle of lord Vishnu appears in the sky which shows the presence of Vishnu in the temple premises.

Next is Elephant procession with Poorna Kumbham with panchavadyam, which is called *thirumanjanam ezhunnallath*. Next attraction of the Ratholsavam is the grand feast (*anna danam*) for two days for the devotees in the temple premises. The *predakshinam* of the three *radhas* to different parts of the village starts by noon with *chendamelam* and ends at *Gokulam theruvu* at the first day. The village premises are filled with prayers of lord Shiva. *Deeparadhana* marks the end of first day of festival. In the second day rathas travel from *Gokulam theruvu* to *Mukku Therevu* and *Iratta Theruvu*. Main speciality of the Koduvayur ratholsavam is that the rathas do not travel in the same path already covered. *Vedikettu* and *Karimarunnu prayaogam* occurs at night.

