



# KUNISSERRY KUMMATTI

## POOKULANGARA BHAGAWATHY TEMPLE



### LOCATION

**Panchayath/  
Municipality/  
Corporation**

Kunissery

**District**

Palakkad



### ACCESSIBILITY

**Nearest Town/  
Landmark/ Junction**

Kunissery post office –700 m

**Nearest Bus station**

Kunissery bus stop –900 m

**Nearest Railway  
station**

Kollengode Railway station – 15 km

**Nearest Airport**

Coimbatore International Airport- 90km  
Cochin International Airport- 92km



### CONTACT

Pookulangara Bhagavathy Temple  
Erimayoor  
Kunisseri  
Palakkad  
Kerala - 678 681



### TIME

#### DATES

March/April ( Meenam)

#### FREQUENCY

Annual

#### DURATION

7 days



## ABOUT THE FESTIVAL (Legend/History/Myth)

Pookulangara Bhagavathy Temple structure includes *sreekovil* with *mukha mandapam*, sub-shrines, *namaskara mandapam*, *chuttambalam* with *agramandapam*. *Navagrahas* are carved on the ceiling of the *agramandapam*.

According to the legends, during the military invasions of Zamorin of Calicut, many places of Palakkad came to be under his rule. While the Zamorin's army came to capture Kunissery desam, all the men folk of Kunisesry courageously fought with them, but succumbed to death.

The helpless womenfolk had prayed to the Pookulangara Bhagawathy who in turn retaliated fiercely and saved her 'children' from disgrace. The benevolent Goddess heard their prayers and advised them to jump into the warfront with brooms and winnows in hand. When they ran to fight the Zamorin's army, they saw Goddess Durga in her fierce form in each woman, and retreated quickly. On hearing this incident, the Zamorin Raja consulted his astrologers and he was informed that the Raja has earned the wrath of Kunissery Bhagavathy for his wrong deeds. The King soon reached the abode of Pookkulangara Bhagavathy and prayed for forgiveness. The Zamorin also bestowed many of his Kingly symbols to the Goddess and became an ardent devotee of Her.

The king arranged around five hundred soldiers (*Nair pada*) from Kolakanadu for the protection of orphaned ladies according to the order from Pookkulangara Bhagavathy . These soldiers asked the permission to participate in the *mamangam* festival which they used to attend every year at Thirunavaya on the banks of Bharathapuzha. The king ordered to conduct a similar mamangam during Malayalam month of *meenam* in *punaratham* star, the birthday of Devi. This incident gave birth to *Kummatti maholsavam* which is celebrated every year. People from three *deshams* participate soulfully in the Kummatti maholsavam.



**RELEVANCE-**  
(Local / National /  
International)

Local



**NO. OF PEOPLE  
PARTICIPATED**

Approximately 5000

## EVENTS/PROGRAMS

*Kummatti*  
*Kannyarkali*  
*Ponnani kali*  
*Elephant procession*  
*Panchavadyam*  
*Fireworks*  
*Darikavadam*  
*kalampaattu*

## DESCRIPTION (*How festival is celebrated*)

The Kummatti festival started by Zamorin is the biggest annual festival held at the temple. It is held in Punartham star of Meenam month (March/ April) on the birthday of the goddess.

On the day before the *Kummatti*, the *Kannyarkali* is performed. On the day of the festival, ten caparisoned elephants participate in a procession. *Kannyar Kali* owes its origin to the practicing of martial arts in the region, which was under the constant threat of attack from neighbouring Kongu Nadu. At the high point of the celebration, the villagers who have assembled near the temple are asked if they will defend the village. Only upon getting a positive answer can the celebrations proceed. If any one of the villagers dissents, the celebrations are held up. During the commencement of Kummatti mamangam, villagers sing “*kummoo...Kumu kumukummoo...*” along the premises and harvested paddy fields to inform everyone about the start of mamangam. The devotees from the temple take bath in the temple pond reciting devotional hymns praising the goddess by using a large bamboo poles which is brought from the sacred forest in Nelliampathy, which marks the start of the festival celebrations. They circumambulate around the temple with these huge bamboo poles in hand. These bamboo poles are placed at their respective positions in Vadakkethara, Thekkekara and Kizhakkethara.

Another attraction of Kummatti is a folk art called *Ponnani Kali*. For this the performers undergo vigorous training under an expert. The Kummatti celebration is a colorful and eventful one which includes elephant procession (*ezhunallath*), *panchavadyam*, fireworks, etc. *Darikavadam kalampaattu* lasting for 18 days is a main event in the Kummatti Mamangam.

