



KUZHALMANNAM RATHOLSAVAM

LEKSHMI NARAYANA TEMPLE



LOCATION

**Panchayath/
Municipality/
Corporation**

Alathur

District

Palakkad



ACCESSIBILITY

**Nearest Town/
Landmark/ Junction**

Chami Iyer High school- 450 m
Periyapalam Mosque – 1 km

Nearest Bus station

Chandrapura bus stop – 1.9 km

**Nearest Railway
station**

Pudunagaram railway station – 13 km

Nearest Airport

Coimbatore International Airport- 72km



CONTACT

Kuzhalmannam Agraharam,
Kuzhalmannam gramam,
Kuzhalmannam,
Palakkad Dist.
Kerala -678702



TIME

DATES

October (*Kanni*)

FREQUENCY

Annual

DURATION

7 days



ABOUT THE FESTIVAL (Legend/History/Myth)

Kuzhalmannam Agraharam, a Kerala Iyer Tamil Brahmin gramam is one among *agraharam* s (gramams) of Palakkad district. The residents of this *agraharam* are mainly Tamil Brahmins, commonly called as Kerala Iyers who migrated from Tamilnadu more than 300 years ago. Situated in the heart of the *agraharam*, this ancient temple is considered as the jewel for its beautiful workmanship. The entrance to the temple is through a Mukha Mantapam. The carving of GajaLakshmi, the pillars and various scroll work on the ceiling give an elegant look.

The main Prathishta is Lord Narayana along with Lakshmi, the goddess of plenty and prosperity. Here Lakshmi is sitting on Lord Narayana's left thigh. Lakshmi Narayana Swami the presiding deity of the *agraharam* has been showering on his devotees with beautiful blessings. He is reputed for the blessings for *Santhanabhagyam*. The floors of the Namaskara Mantapam are built in white marble. The temple *SreeKovil* wears a decorated look with Granite flooring. The front side of the *SreeKovil*, *Sopanam* and *Sreekovil* doors is covered with beautifully designed brass sheets. *Sreekovil* doors are covered with Ashtalakshmi figures.

In April 2004, the temples of this *agraharam* were renovated and a Kumbhabhishekam was conducted in a grand way. Also a new chariot used for Ratholsavam (Car Festival) is also is made. Metal covering of the main *Sreekovil* area has been completed. Presently an initiative has been taken to construct a guest house cum common function hall.



RELEVANCE-
(Local / National / International)

Local



NO. OF PEOPLE PARTICIPATED

Approximately 5000

EVENTS/PROGRAMS

Kalbham
Abhishekam
Kalabham
Deeparathana
Nadaswaram
Chendamelam

DESCRIPTION *(How festival is celebrated)*

The most colourful festival of this Agraharam is Uriyadi-Ratholsavam which comes in the Ekadasi day in the Malayalam month of Kanni (October).

For this function a special *pandal* is put up in front of the Mukhamandapam doorways and pandal are well decorated with palm leaves, Mango leaves and colour paper. Kolam is drawn in the Namaskaramandapam and on the doorstep with rice flour.

Abhishekam and *kalabham*, installation of *uriyadi kaal*, installation of three *uris* (earthen pots) on the poles, Ratholsava of the *Uthsava moorthis*, *swamy oorvalam* (divine procession) on the *Ratha*, breaking of *uris* in the evening, *deeparadhana* in the twilight, night procession of the deities in a palanquin, night *deeparadhana* and distribution of *prasadam* are the salient features of this festival.

Lord Lakshminarayana and Goddess Lakshmi are richly decorated that day with sandal paste, silk clothes, garlands and various ornaments. Seeing the deities that day is considered to be very auspicious. Ratha is used to be part of almost every Agraharam and here also there is a small four wheeled Ratha. For the Ratholsavam the Ratha is well decorated and kept in front of the temple in the morning.



EVENTS/PROGRAMS

Uriyadi
Pradshinam of rathas
Chanting of vedic hymns
Nivedyam
Fireworks

DESCRIPTION (How festival is celebrated)

On the auspicious time the *Uthsavamurthis* are brought out from the temple and installed in the *Ratha*. The Rathayathra begins in the afternoon when volunteers pull the *Ratha*. The *Rathyathra* is accompanied by *Nadaswaram* and *Chendamelam*. In front of the *Ratha* procession two persons carry two oil lamps to illuminate the route of the divine procession. The *Uriyadimannan* (one who breaks the uris) with a stick in his hand and children around him comes in the prefund of procession. The Vedic priests follow the *Ratha* chanting Vedic hymns.

Ratha is stopped in front of the houses where householder wishes to offer *Nivedyam* to the deities. The temple priest dressed in double dhoti draped in the traditional style, his *angavasthram* hitched around the waist, his forehead marked with a broad *namam* goes to the houses to do the *Nivedyam* and *Harathi*.

The *Ratha* stops in a particular place for the *Uryadi*. Three *Uris* containing turmeric water, milk and curd are hung up high from a rope stretching between two opposite poles. The rope connecting the three *Uris* is kept on a pulley and the temple authorities draw this rope high and low standing at a distance. The *Uryiadimannan* comes in for breaking the *Uris*. At this time young folk surround him and sprinkle water on his face and eyes by means of hand pumps and plastic mugs in order to divert his attention. The *Uriyadi* will be completed when *uriyadimannan* breaks all the *uris* with a stick. People assemble in large numbers to witness this event.

After the *Uriyadi* function, the *Ratha* resumes its journey to the single street and returns to the temple. Fireworks and crackers are set off at different intervals to celebrate various events of this function.

