



MAHA UTSAVAM AND AARATTU

THIRU KACHAMKURISSI MAHA VISHNU TEMPLE



LOCATION

**Panchayath/
Municipality/
Corporation**

Chittur

District

Palakkad



ACCESSIBILITY

**Nearest Town/
Landmark/ Junction**

Dharmi Shiva Temple Payyalore- 950 m

Nearest Bus station

Payyalore junction – 2 km

**Nearest Railway
station**

Kollengode railway station- 5.4 km

Nearest Airport

Coimbatore International Airport- 90km



CONTACT

Thiru Kachamkurussi Maha Vishnu temple
Payallur
Kollengode
Palakkad dist
Kerala 678506
Website : kachamkurissi.com



TIME

DATES

May-June

FREQUENCY

Annual

DURATION

10 days

ABOUT THE FESTIVAL (Legend/History/Myth)

Thirukachamkurissi, an ancient place of worship, is located at the foot of the Anamalai range of the Western Ghats, at Payyalur, on the fringe of Kollengode, in Kerala. Located mid way between Palakkad (Kerala) and Pollachi (Tamil Nadu), life in this area typifies that of a frontier town, a mixture of two cultures.

The legends of the temple speak of a time, long ago, when Kashyapa the Sage chose to meditate at the hill of Govindamala, in the hill ranges of the Palakkad Gap. Pleased by the Sage’s devotion, Sri Narayana appeared before him, to grant him a boon – and yielded to Kashyapa’s wish that He remain with him always, in the calm and tranquil surroundings of the countryside of the region. Kashyapa consecrated the idol of the Lord in the same form that he had perceived him – seated on Anantha. This place of worship - at Payyalur, Kollengode - then came to be known as Thiru Kachamkurissi.

The Vighram of Maha Vishnu, has the same kingly bearing as Sri Rama at his Pattabhishekam. Due to this regal stance, he is renowned as ‘Perumal’, the literal meaning of which is ‘Sovereign’. Devotees approach him, both as Sri Narayana and Lord Rama. And while his two consorts, Sri Devi and Bhoodevi are present at His side, they are not within direct vision of the Bhakta. Due association with the Sage, the Temple is often referred to as ‘Kashyapa Kshetram’. And at precipitous Govindamala, where the Sage did penance, those pilgrims who hazard the arduous climb vow to have seen the indentations of Vishnupadam and the Holy Conch, where the Lord gave his Vision to Kashyapa.

Historically, for many centuries, the erstwhile Rajas of Vengunad have taken their Ariyittuvazhcha oaths before Perumal. Since this erstwhile kingdom held Custodianship of the sacred Somalata plant, Thiru Kachamkurissi, over ages, has played a pivotal role in one of the most important Srauta rituals of Kerala – the Soma Yaaga. To this day, whenever a Soma Yaaga is performed in Kerala this sacred plant, so essential to this ritual, is proffered from within the precincts of the Temple, as formal assent to the performance of the Yaaga. This then is the distinctive **Spiritual** facet of Thiru Kachamkurissi – that through aeons of association with a rite that is conducted for the well-being of all humanity, the energies of this Temple call out and appeal to one’s Higher Nature – that of selflessness.



RELEVANCE-
(Local / National / International)

Local



NO. OF PEOPLE PARTICIPATED

Approximately 8000

EVENTS/PROGRAMS

Sopana Sangeetham
Thayambaka
Panchavadyam
Chakiyar Koothu
Ottam Thullal
Nangiyar Koothu
Kathakali
Carnatic music.
Palli Vetta
Manjal Neerattu
Kadavu puja
Araattu

DESCRIPTION (How festival is celebrated)

Maha Utsavam and *Aarattu*, which is the major festival of the temple, lasting ten days. Rituals, *Homams* and *Pujas* are conducted with the strictest conformity to Tantric rites, accompanied and partnered with a range of sacred music and dance that is associated with the temple arts of Kerala - *Sopana Sangeetham*, *Thayambaka*, *Panchavadyam*, *Chakiyar Koothu*, *Ottam Thullal*, *Nangiyar Koothu*, *Kathakali* and *Carnatic music*.

The *Palli Vetta* takes place on the penultimate day of the celebrations. The tenth day begins pre-dawn, with the *Manjal Neerattu* ceremony of the Deity. After a procession commencing late afternoon, the religious rites culminate in a *Kadavu puja* and *Araattu* dip at the *Kshetra Kulam*, after which the *Tantri* lowers the *Utsava Kodi*.

