



PUTHUR VELA

THRIPURAKKALBHAGAVATHY TEMPLE



LOCATION

**Panchayath/
Municipality/
Corporation**

Palakkad Municipality

District

Palakkad



ACCESSIBILITY

**Nearest Town/
Landmark/ Junction**

Puthur Post Office- 90 m

Nearest Bus station

Puthur Bus Stop– 25 m

**Nearest Railway
station**

Palakkad Railway Station – 4 Km


Nearest Airport

Coimbatore International Airport –67 Km



CONTACT

Puthur Shri Thirpuraikal Bhagavathi Temple
Puthur
Palakkad- 678001
Phone : +91-491 -253 1712
Website : puthurtemple.org

 TIME	DATES	FREQUENCY	DURATION
	March-April (<i>Meenam</i>)	Annual	7 Days

ABOUT THE FESTIVAL (Legend/History/Myth)

Puthur Shri Thirupuraikal temple is one of the ancient and powerful temples of *Shakthi* in the whole of Malabar. Bhadrakali is the main deity worshipped here. Along with her, the sanctum sanctorum also has the divine presence of Lord Vishnu, Durga and Lord Ganesha. This 100 year old temple which is located 2 km away from the town of Palakkad is of much historical importance.The enthusiasm of the people of this small place called Puthur resulted in the present day shrine built some 75 yrs. back around the old banyan tree where the goddess was believed to be residing earlier.

It is believed that the Devi fulfills all the wishes of her true devotees. A heartfelt prayer never goes unanswered here. Many true life stories of her divine blessings from times of yore are a proof to it. With every passing year the story of her benevolence crossed the boundaries of the of the district of Palakkad further and further and today people from far and near throng the shrine for a glimpse of her divinity.

The main festival of this temple called the Puthur Vela commences in mid March and the curtain falls on the month long celebrations in mid April. The main ritual that takes place during this festival is the *Thol pavaduthu*. It is a form of puppet show wherein the story of Ramayana is depicted .The belief goes that *devi* enjoys the divine story of Lord Rama every year through this form of recital. Very few temples of Kerala still retain this art form. Apart from this all other temple art forms of Kerala feature during the celebrations. The highlight of this month long festivity is the Music and Dance festival that has grown into one of the prestigious cultural events of the state.



 RELEVANCE- (Local / National / International)	Local	 NO. OF PEOPLE PARTICIPATED	Approximately 6000
---	-------	--	--------------------

EVENTS/PROGRAMS

Kodiyettam
Thalapoli
Tholpavakoothu
Panchavadyam
Chendamelam
Thayambaka
Pandimelam
Traditional dance forms
Music festival
Elephant procession

DESCRIPTION (*How festival is celebrated*)

Puthur vela occupies a very significant place among the festivals of Kerala. The temple rituals and festivities have made this event gain a class of its own. 15 beautifully caparisoned elephants, the best available in Kerala and world renowned artists of percussion music add to the grandeur of this festival.

The celebrations of the Puthur vela commence on the first Friday of the Malayalam month of *Meenam* (March-April) every year with the ritual of *kodiyettam* (hoisting of the temple flag). The festivities come to an end on the last Friday of the same month with the ritual of *thalapoli*. The most important ritual that is performed every year during this time is the *tholpavakoothu*. Through this very rarely performed shadow puppetry the story of Ramayana is recited to the Devi who is very pleased to hear it in this manner.

On the last day of the festival (*thalapoli*) people in tens and thousands throng the temple precincts to watch the 15 magnificent, caparisoned elephants and the colorful exchange of umbrellas atop them to the tune of the *panchavadyam* performed by renowned artists. The *chendamelam*, *thayambaka* and *pandimelam* also are great crowd pullers. Of this *pandimelam*, performed under the temple banyan tree is the highlight of the *thalapoli* day. It is watched by enthusiastic crowd in thousands coming from far and near. As a part of the month long celebration Kerala's very own art forms like *kathakali*, *nangiarkoothu*, *krishnanattam*, *theyyam*, *ottanthullal*, *kanyarkali*, *chakyarkoothu* and the like get staged in the temple. The music and dance festival staged as part of this festival has by now created a niche for itself in the cultural calendar of Kerala.

