



# THIRUVATHIRA MAHOLSAVAM

## SRI MOONNUMOORTHY TEMPLE , THRIKKADEERI



LOCATION

Panchayath/  
Municipality/  
Corporation

Kongad

District

Palakkad

Nearest Town/  
Landmark/ Junction

Sree Thiruvilayanadu Bhagavathy Temple- 950 m

Nearest Bus station

Trikkatiri Bus Stop – 350 m

Nearest Railway  
station

Ottapalam railway station – 13 km

Nearest Airport

Calicut International Airport- 66 km



ACCESSIBILITY



CONTACT

Sri Moonnumoorthy Temple  
Ottapalam-Cherppulassery Rd  
Thrikkadeeri –I  
Palakkad -679502  
Phone : 04912847302; 04912845486



TIME

DATES

December/January (*Dhanu*)

FREQUENCY

Annual

DURATION

3 days



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

The temple of Moonnumoorthy temple is about 300 years old. The main deities are Shiva, Vishnu and Brahma. As per the legend, once a lady working on the field, being tired and disappointed, sat on a rock where the Temple stands today and started sharpening her sickle on the rock. While sharpening the sickle, drops of blood started to ooze out from the rock. Got frightened, lady called for the help and started running with fear. When people gathered, they saw an idol of god standing on the rock. It was an idol of three faces representing Lord Vishnu, Lord Brahma and Lord Shiva. Later a temple was built on this rock. This is the only temple of its kind having three gods in the same *Sree Kovil*. *Jaya bhali* and *Shiva rathri* are the important festivals being celebrated here.

Thrikkattiri temple originally belonged to Trikatiri Nair *veed* at Trikatiri. As the story further goes, once a very old Brahmin came to visit Trikatiri Nair *Veed* Mooppil Nair (the senior most person in the family). After the lunch they were engaged in discussing various places travelled by the Brahmin during his pilgrimage. As the discussion progressed, the Brahmin expressed an interest in buying the Moonnumoorthy temple. The Mooppil Nair laughed at his proposition and challenged him. He told the Brahmin that if he can give 1000 gold coins immediately it can be given. The Brahmin took his walking stick, opened the lid at one end, and emptied the gold coins kept hidden inside. The Mooppil Nair has to stand by his word and he has to hand over the temple to the Brahmin. That is how the ownership of Moonnumoorthy temple was transferred to Moothrigrkot Mana, one of the oldest and wealthy Brahmin families of Kerala.

Another story is that, one hungry Brahmin came to the temple hoping to have *prasadam* and lunch. Just before having his food, he asked to whom the temple belonged, When he heard that the owners were the Family of Nair *Veedu*, the Brahmin got up without eating, telling that he, being a Brahmin, cannot eat from a temple owned by any Nair family. When the mooppil Nair (the senior most member of the family) heard it, he immediately rushed to meet the Brahmin to persuade him not to leave without food. To ensure that he met the condition of the Brahmin, the *tharavad karanavar* on the spot gifted the temple to the nearest Brahmin family, the Moothringode mana, the temple by taking an oath in front of the temple lamp. The Brahmin was pleased and left after eating his lunch. That's how the ownership got changed to the Moothringode mana.



RELEVANCE-  
(Local / National / International)

Local



NO. OF PEOPLE PARTICIPATED

Approximately 2000

## EVENTS/PROGRAMS

Thiruvathirakali  
Thiruvathira pattu  
Special poojas

## DESCRIPTION (How festival is celebrated)

Thiruvathira is an important traditional festival. It is largely a festival for women; unmarried women observe a partial fast on this day to get good husbands and married women take a fast from the preceding day (*Makayiram nakshatra*) and on the day of Thiruvathira for the well being of their husband and family. The first Thiruvathira of a newly wedded woman is her *poothiruvathira*.

The fast essentially involves abstaining from rice-based food. The typical meal includes cooked broken wheat and Thiruvathira puzhukku, a delightful mix of tuber vegetables: colocasia (*chembu*), yam (*chena*), Chinese potato (*koorka*), sweet potato (*madhurakizhangu*) with long beans (*vanpayar*) and raw plantain fruit (*ethakaya*), cooked with a thick paste of freshly ground coconut. The dessert is *koova payasam*, a sweet dish made of arrow root powder, jaggery and coconut milk.

On this day, special *poojas* are performed at the temple. *Thiruvathirakali* is a dance form performed by women on the day of Thiruvathira to the accompaniment of *Thiruvathira paattu*, folk songs telling tales of lovesick Parvati, her longing and penance for Lord Shiva's affection and Shiva's might and power. The sinuous movements executed by the group of dancers around a *nilavilakku* embody *lasya* or the amorous charm and grace of the feminine. The dance follows a circular, pirouetting pattern accompanied by clapping of the hands and singing. Thiruvathirakali is a female group dance made up of simple yet very attractive steps. Lore has it that Thiruvathira Kali is in memory of Lord Siva taking Parvathi as his wife. A group of women dressed in typical Kerala style with *mundu* and *neriyathu* and the hair bun adorned with jasmine garlands perform this dance during festival seasons. *Kaikottikkali* spreads the message of joy and also illustrates the emotions of a married woman towards her beloved and of the unmarried woman longing for one. *Thiruvathira* is also known as the Kerala's own version of *Karva Chauth*.

