



ANAYADI POORAM

ANAYADI PAZHAYIDAM SREE NARASIMHA SWAMI TEMPLE



**Panchayath/
Municipality/
Corporation**

Sooranad North Grama Panchayat

District

Kollam

**Nearest Town/
Landmark/ Junction**

Karunagappally Town

Nearest Bus station

Karunagappally Bus Stop - 18Km
Kollam Bus Stop – 35Km

Nearest Railway station

Karunagappally Railway Station – 16Km
Kollam Railway Station – 33Km

Nearest Airport

Trivandrum International Airport – 88 Km



Anayadi Pazhayidam Sree Narasimha Swami Temple,
Sooranad North,
Kollam - 690561
Phone: +91 – 0476 - 2851341(Sooranadu North Grama Panchayat)



DATES

January-February (Malayalam month
Makaram); Annual

FREQUENCY

Yearly

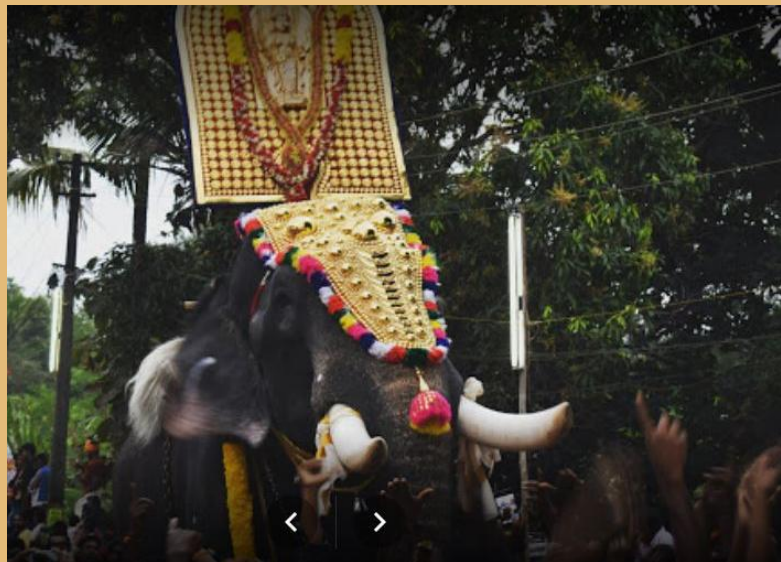
DURATION

10 days



ABOUT THE FESTIVAL (Legend/History/Myth)

Anayadi Pazhayidam Sri Narasimha Swami Temple at Sooranad is a major pilgrim centre in Kollam district, Kerala. Anayadi literally means the footsteps of the elephant. The main deity in this temple is Narasimha Moorthy - Fourth Incarnation of Lord Vishnu among the *Dhasavathars*. There is only one important temple in India which has Narasimha Moorthy as main deity. The ten days long festival is celebrated in the Malayalam month of *Makara* (January - February). *Anayadi Gajamela* is one of the most important *Gajamela* held in Kerala which is loved and revered by all. *Anayadi Gajamela* is famous by the grant Elephant pageantry alone In order to please the god; Elephant are offered to the temple deity and later lined up for procession. Celebration is regarded incomplete without the participation of elephants. Elephants are worshiped as an incarnation of the Sree Ganesha. In early days rich and affluent families in Kerala used to house an elephant and were considered a family member. The people of Kerala keenly observe elephant pageants on their special day.



RELEVANCE-
(Local / National / International)

National



NO. OF PEOPLE PARTICIPATED

100000

EVENTS/PROGRAMS

DESCRIPTION *(How festival is celebrated)*

*Special Poojas
Cultural programmes
Seminars
Religious Discourses
Anayadi Pooram
Arattu*

Anayadi Pazhayidam Narasimha Swami Temple is a popular temple dedicated to Narasimha at Anayadi in Kerala. The annual temple festival and pooram is observed in Makaram month. The festival is noted for Gajamela or elephant pageantry. The annual festival is noted for various rituals. Traditional performing arts like Kadhakali, Chakyar Koothu, Nangyar Koothu, Villadichan Paattu, Harikadha, Kadhapresangam, etc; music and dance are staged during the period. Caparisoned elephants, melam, fireworks and sheevali are part of the festival. The temple is traditionally decorated with plantain, coconut leaves, flowers, leaves, traditional lamps and lights. The concluding day is marked by grand elephant pageantry; Anaiadi Pooram is the one and only festival, in which hundreds of elephant's line up for procession. This is the largest elephant festival (Gaja Mela) in the world. So this temple attracts thousands of pilgrims as well as tourists including foreigners every year. Devotees offer 250-300 Elephants almost every year foreigners from America, Thailand, Australia, Britain, New Zealand and Switzerland arrive to witness the Gajamela. This is a real visual treat. The festival ends with Arattu. The *Utsava* murti of the deity is taken out of the shrine for ritual bathing on the final day.

