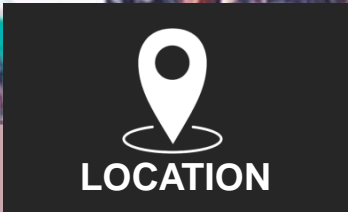




KUMBHA BHARANI MAHOTSAVAM

VALIA KOONAMBAIKULAM SREE BHADRAKALI TEMPLE



**Panchayath/
Municipality/
Corporation**

Kollam Corporation

District

Kollam



**Nearest Town/
Landmark/ Junction**

Kollam Town

Nearest Bus station

Kollam Bus Stop – 6.2 Km

Nearest Railway station

Kollam Railway Station – 5 Km

Nearest Airport

Trivandrum International Airport – 62 Km



Valia Koonambaikulam Sree Bhadrakali Temple,
Koonambaikulam Rd,
Vadakkevila,
Kollam - 691010
Phone: +91-474-272 6200



TIME

DATES

February- March (Malayalam Month *Kumbham*)

FREQUENCY

Annual

DURATION

10 Days



ABOUT THE FESTIVAL (Legend/History/Myth)

This Devi Temple has the legacy of centuries old. It was the war deity of *Chera* dynasty. This temple was destroyed due to many calamities and war. Later this temple was known as *Panangavu*. *Panangavilamma* was the family deity of *Venad* dynasty. Due to Dutch invasion in AD.1681 this temple was completely destroyed. Many years after this incident a small temple/*kavu* was constructed in this place known as *Kooramba*. There was also a small pond in front of the *kavu*. Thus at first peoples called it *Koorambakavukulam* and then *Koonambakavukulam*, later after many generations this place was called as *Koonambayikulam*. This is one of the most ancient temples in Kerala and is dedicated to Bhadrakali popularly known as *Koonambaikulathamma*, which means The mother of *Koonambaikulam*. *Kumbha Bharani* is the day when the *Bharani Nakshatram* falls in the Malayalam month *Kumbham*. The day is of great significance at Goddess Temples in Kerala.



RELEVANCE-
(Local / National / International)

Local



NO. OF PEOPLE PARTICIPATED

500000

EVENTS/PROGRAMS

DESCRIPTION *(How festival is celebrated)*

Flag Hoisting
Cultural Programs And
Folk Arts
Spiritual Discourses
Seminars
Percussion Music
Musical Concerts
Kadhakali
Mohiniyattam
Ottanthullal
Drama
Bale
Kettukazhcha
Annadanam
Pongala
Arattu

There will be a flag hoisting ceremony marking the beginning of the festival. The annual festival is noted for various rituals. *Kumbha Bharani* is the day when the *Bharani Nakshatram* falls in the Malayalam month *Kumbham*. The day is of great significance at Goddess Temples in Kerala. Traditional performing arts like *Kadhakali*, *Chakyar Koothu*, *Nangyar Kooth*, *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 highlight of the *Kumbha Bharani* Festival is the display of huge decorated forms of temple cars known as *Kuthiras*. *Therus* (Chariots) and two huge idols of Bhima and Hanuman complete the *Kettukazhcha* which is a visual spectacle which attracts people from different parts of India and around the world. The festival ends with *Arattu*. The *utsava murti* of the deity is taken out of the shrine for ritual bathing on the final day. Caparisoned elephants and *melam* are part of the ritual.

