



PARIPALLY GAJAMELA

KODIMOOTTIL BHAGAVATHY TEMPLE



LOCATION

**Panchayath/
Municipality/
Corporation**

Kalluvathukkal Grama Panchayath

District

Kollam



ACCESSIBILITY

**Nearest Town/
Landmark/ Junction**

Kollam Railway Station Junction

Nearest Bus station

Paripally Bus Stop-2 Km
Kollam Bus Stop- 24km

**Nearest Railway
station**

Kollam Railway Station- 22 Km

Nearest Airport

Trivandrum International Airport- 51 Km



CONTACT

Kodimoottil Bhagavathy Temple,
Paripally,
Kollam-691574
Phone : +91-474 -257 2365(Temple)



TIME

DATES

February-march (Malayalam Month of Kumbham)

FREQUENCY

Annual

DURATION

10 Days



ABOUT THE FESTIVAL (Legend/History/Myth)

Kodimoottil Sri Bhadrakali Temple is one of the most famous temples in Parippally , Kollam .Parippally *Gajamela* forms part of the annual festival at the Kodimoottil Sree Bhagavathy Temple dedicated to Goddess *Bhadrakali*.The word *Gajamela* in Malayalam means an elephant-festival. 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. The devotees dedicate the elephants at the temple of goddess *Bhadrakali* in the hope that it will bring in prosperity and affluence during the procession.



RELEVANCE-
(Local / National / International)

Local



NO. OF PEOPLE PARTICIPATED

Approx. 50000

EVENTS/PROGRAMS

DESCRIPTION *(How festival is celebrated)*

Gajamela

Paripally *Gajamela* has the popular and unique elephant pageant that is held as a part of annual festival at Kodimootil Sree Bhadrakaali Temple in Paripally, Kerala. The word *Gajamela* is composed of two words- *Gajam* and *Mela*. *Gajam* is another word for elephant in Malayalam and *Mela* means fair. The elephant procession takes place on the tenth day of the annual festivities at the temple. A unique practice observed during these festivities is the ritual offering of elephants to deities as *Nercha* (offering). It is a popular belief that an offering of elephants satisfies the deity and grants all the wishes of the devotees. One can see many cultural programs will also be arranged as part of the event in the temple premise. About a 100 gorgeously caparisoned elephants are lined up for the event. The *pooram* and *vela* festivals are the best events to gaze at the majestic tuskers in all their caparisoned brilliance. Mahouts atop Colourfully decked up elephants holding high tinsed silk parasols (*muthukuda*) and swaying white tufts (*venchamaram*) and peacock feather fans (*aalavattom*) to the rhythm of the temple orchestra. At the event, music is one of the best attractions that you will experience. The elephant pageant is accompanied by the musical harmony of five traditional instruments (*panchvadyam*) which forms a passionate element of the *kudamattam* ritual (the synchronized changing of the parasols on the top of the tuskers). Cultural programmes are held every night all the way through the festival days

