



ANNUAL FESTIVAL THIRUNAVAYA NAVA MUKUNDA TEMPLE



LOCATION

**Panchayath/
Municipality/
Corporation**

Thirunavaya Panchayat

District

Malappuram



ACCESSIBILITY

**Nearest Town/
Landmark/ Junction**

Thirunavaya Junction – 350 m

Nearest Bus station

Kundukulam Bus Stop – 2.9 km

**Nearest Railway
station**

Thirunavaya Railway Station – 1.5 km

Nearest Airport

Calicut International Airport – 41.4 km



CONTACT

Thirunavaya Nava Mukunda Temple
Thirunavaya – 676505
Phone: +91- 494-2603747



TIME

DATES

April

FREQUENCY

Annual

DURATION

10 Days

ABOUT THE FESTIVAL (Legend/History/Myth)

The nine spiritually enlightened sons of *Hrishabha*, the King of *Ayodhya*, known as *Navayogis* (Nine ascetics), were constant travelers. During their sojourn, they reached the confluence of the rivers *Bagmathi* and *Gantaki* from where the eldest son, *Kavi*, got a *Salagrama* of Vishnu. *Salagramas* are stones found in the *Gantaki* river basin in Nepal, with special marks like spiral, chakras, thread, etc. formed on them and considered as sacred with the presence of God Vishnu. Install this *Salagrama* at the most holy place for the welfare of mankind, *Kavi* heard an *asareeri* (the divine prompting voice). *Kavi* travelled all over India in search of the befitting place for the installation of the *salagrama* and placed it on the north bank of *Bharatappuzha* at *Thirunavaya*, where Vishnu himself, whom the *salagrama* represented, had stayed during a Yaga conducted by Brahma on the South bank. *Kavi* left the place complacent that his duty was over, but the *salagrama* sank into the earth. Then his seven brothers brought other *salagramas* of Vishnu and repeated the process and these also sank deep into the earth. At last, the youngest of the brothers, *Karabhajanan*, came to the same place and knew of the futile attempts of his brothers. He knew that this happened because; the proper rituals that should have been performed at the time of the installation were not performed. He installed the *Salagrama*, as *Mukunda* bestowing *Moksha* to the departed souls with all necessary rituals. This time the installation was successful. Later these nine brothers (*Navayogis*) came to this place and performed a *Yaga* (ritual of sacrifice) for the appeasement of the gods and the welfare of the people. The place was thus known as *Tirunavayogi*, in memory of the nine brothers, and the word transformed, as time passed, to the present form *Thirunavaya*. This temple, The *Navamukunda* Temple is one of the oldest Vishnu temples in Kerala. It dates back to the last period of the *Dwaapara Yuga*. The main daily offerings for worship are *Ney Vilakku* (lamp lighted with ghee), *Thaamara maala* (Lotus garlands) and *Paal paayasam* (Porridge/Dessert or *Kheer* made of rice cooked in sweetened milk). For unhindered availability of lotus flowers, one of the Maharajas of Travancore had constructed a vast pond of lotus plants nearby, and donated it to this temple. The temple and the surrounding region were under the rule of *Cheraman Perumals* and later under *Vettathu Rajas* who owed allegiance to *Perumals*. After demise of the last *Vettathu Raja* in 1793 AD, The British East India Company who, by this time became the rulers of this region handed over this temple to Kozhikode *Samoothiri Raja* (the King *Zamorin* of Calicut) for its administration as *Ooraalan*.



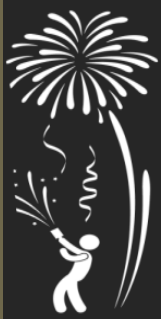
RELEVANCE-
(Local / National /
International)

Local



**NO. OF PEOPLE
PARTICIPATED**

Approximately 5000



EVENTS/PROGRAMS

Flag Hoisting Ceremony
Percussion music
Prasada Oottu



DESCRIPTION (How festival is celebrated)

The main *Utsavam* (Annual Festival) of this temple is for 10 days in April from the day on which the Festival Flag is hoisted, i.e., on *Meda Sankramam*. *Meda Sankramam* is the day on which the Sun moves North and reaches *Medam Rasi*. There will be all sorts of traditional festival rituals. There will be ceremonial parades with the Idol placed on sacred ornamented seat on elephants with *Nettipattam*, colourful ceremonial parasols decorated with silver beads, golden spangles, etc and accompanied by renowned artists playing traditional percussion and wind instruments. There will also be stage performances of religious theatrical arts and other traditional performing arts. The streets and houses will be decorated with hangings of woven tender coconut leaves. Thousands of worshippers and devotees from far and wide, men and women folk with relatives, irrespective of age, come in neat and colourful costumes, with ornaments and flowers and bring offerings making the festival days unforgettable. The *vazhipadus* (offerings) special to this temple during festivals are *Paalpayasam* (traditional Kerala rice kheer or dessert of rice cooked in milk), *Neyvilakku* (lighting of the lamps around the temple using ghee) and *Thamaramaala* (garland of Lotus flowers). Each and every person arriving at the temple during the entire year is provided with free meals which is known as *Prasada Oottu* or *Annadaanam* which is one of the most important *Vazhipadu*.

