



# AMMATHIRUVADI POORAM

## AMMATHIRUVADI TEMPLE, THRISSUR



**LOCATION**

**Panchayath/  
Municipality/  
Corporation**

Thrissur Corporation

**District**

Thrissur



**ACCESSIBILITY**

**Nearest Town/  
Landmark/ Junction**

Urakam – 550 m

**Nearest Bus station**

Ollur Bus Stop – 6.7 km

**Nearest Railway  
station**

Thrissur Railway Station – 10.2 km

**Nearest Airport**

Cochin International Airport – 44.1 km



**CONTACT**

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**TIME**

**DATES**

March - April

**FREQUENCY**

Annually

**DURATION**

**14 days**

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

The *Valayadheeswari* Temple or the more popularly known as *Ammathiruvadi* Temple of *Urakam* is the foremost of the 108 *Durgaalayams* (durga Temples) of Kerala. According to the *Puraanaas*, Kerala was reclaimed by Lord *Parasurama*, the sixth avatar of *Mahavishnu*, from sea by throwing his *parasu* (axe) from *Kanyakumari* to *Gokarna* and divided this land to 64 the *gramas*. He realized that for the prosperity and well-being of this *Bhargava* Land, it was essential to have the benign blessings of *Durga* and identified 108 places for the temple. The locations of these temples represent the scattered body parts of *Sati Devi*, the consort of Lord *Paramasiva*, cut into pieces by *Mahavishnu* with his *chakra* to pacify *Siva* after the incident-filled *Dakshayaga*. During the beginning of *Kaliyuga* when *adharma* was in the ascendancy, the village elders of this grama (*Peruvanamgramam*) met and decided to save their village from *adharma*. Accordingly, they deputed *Valaya Bhattathiri*, *Kadalayil Namboodiri* and *Komarath Menon* to *Kancheepuram* to bring the munificent *Devi* to this village. They worshipped the *Devi*, who was very pleased with their devotion and agreed to accompany them to this place. Accordingly, to the popular belief, *Devi* accompanied *Valaya Bhattathiri* in the *olakkuda* (palm leaf umbrella). Thus the palm leaf umbrella has become an integral part of all rituals of *Ammathiruvadi*. The *Sreemoola sthanam* spot of the present temple is believed to be the spot where the *Bhattathiri* placed his umbrella in his *illam*. On his return from *Kancheepuram*, the *Devi* appeared to the *Bhattathiri* in his dream and commanded him to construct a temple where his *illam* stood and proceed to the north where immense wealth would be awaiting him. *Devi* also told him that an idol lying in a nearby well could be used for consecration of the temple. *Bhattathiri* complied with the command of *Devi*. The descendents of *Valaya Bhattathiri* are none other than the famous *Poomully Namboothiris* of north Kerala. The idol, obtained from the well and installed in the temple is the one, it is believed, worshipped by Lord *SreeRama* before killing demon *Ravana*. Members of a nearby *Menon* family called *Vazhappilly Tharavadu*, were the strong devotees of *Ammathiruvadi*. *Devi* was very pleased with them and made a member from their family as a guard for the *Devi* (*Kakkara Menon*), wherever she go out for various rituals. *Kadalayil Namboothiri* built *Durga* temple at *Kadalassery* and *Komarath Menon* built *Kali* temple at *Pallissery* which are 4km and 1km respectively away from the temple .



**RELEVANCE-**  
(Local / National / International)

**Local**



**NO. OF PEOPLE PARTICIPATED**

**50,000**

## EVENTS/PROGRAMS

Tantric rituals, Brahma Kalasam, Rohini Vilakku, Siveli , Kulzvazha Vithanam, Makeeryam Purappadu , Thiruvathira Arattu , Punartham Arattu , Panchari Melam , Upacharam Para , Koottiezhunallippu, Arattu , Uttrampattu, Pakal pooram , Kodikuthu

### DESCRIPTION (*How festival is celebrated*)

The festival starts with tantric rituals and *Brahma Kalasam*. On the 5th day *Rohini Vilakku* will be lit. With 5 elephants and *Panchavadyam* procession will be held for *Siveli* in the night. *Kulzvazha Vithanam* is a function in which bananas are hung around the temple. The next day's festival will have the important event *Makeeryam Purappadu* in the night with Guard of Honour by Kerala Police. A procession with 5 elephants, *Ezhunallippu* with *Pandi Melam* will accompany the *Makeeryam Purappadu*, and thereafter *Arattu*. *Thiruvathira Arattu* at *Mampilly kulam* will be held on the seventh day of festival. Next day the *arattu* is known as *Punartham Arattu* at *Narukulangara*. *Peruvanam Pooram* with 7 elephants, *Panchari Melam* is the special event of ninth day. After that *Devi* goes to *Pidikkaparambu Pooram* and return to *Urakam*. Then she goes for *Para* at *Cheruvathoor mana* and proceeds to *Tharakkal Pooram*. After that she goes to *Kizhottukkara mana* for *Arattu* and *pooja*. On the twelfth day is the *Arattupuzha Pooram*. *Koottiezhunallippu* with Lord *SriRama*(Diety of *Thriprayar*) at middle and *Ammathiruvadi* and *Cherpu Bhagawathy* on either side. The popular belief is that seeing this is equivalent to visiting *Vaikuntam* (Of *Mahavishnu*). After *Upacharam* with *Arattupuzha Sastha* returning to *Urakam*. *Uttrampattu* is performed in the evening. The last days festival will have *Pakal pooram* and the closing ceremony of *Pooram* festival by *Kodikuthu*.

