



# ARATTUPUZHA POORAM

## ARATTUPUZHA SREE SASTHA TEMPLE



### LOCATION

Panchayath/  
Municipality/  
Corporation

Arattupuzha Village

District

Thrissur District



### ACCESSIBILITY

Nearest Town/  
Landmark/ Junction

Arattupuzha – 450 m

Nearest Bus station

Urakam Bus Stop – 3.8 km

Nearest Railway  
station

Thrissur Railway Station – 14 km

Nearest Airport

Cochin International Airport – 42 km



### CONTACT

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### TIME

#### DATES

April - May

#### FREQUENCY

Annually

#### DURATION

11 days



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

On the day of Arattupuzha pooram, Triparayarappan goes there in order to participate in the pooram. It is believed that to witness the 'Deva Mela' all the gods and goddesses in addition to spirits and fairies present themselves at Arattupuzha. In the past according to the Hindu mythology, 108 gods and goddesses participate at the pooram. In the old palm-leaf records there are certain references which tell us that the pooram festival was started even before 583 B.C. Over a hundred elephants took part until a generation ago.



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



**NO. OF PEOPLE  
PARTICIPATED**

## EVENTS/PROGRAMS

Sasthavinte Melam

Panchavadyam

Pacharimelam

Pandimelam

## DESCRIPTION *(How festival is celebrated)*

The annual festival at Arattupuzha is also termed as the mother of all pooram festivals in Kerala, due to its sheer magnitude and grandeur. Visitors from nearby and far off places reach the village of Arattupuzha during the festival days, to be part of this grand festival. The pinnacle of excitement and devotion during the seven-day festival is obviously the last two days. The evening prior to the last day of the festival would have an assembly of caparisoned elephants and staging of percussion ensembles as part of the ceremony called *Sasthavinte Melam*. The atmosphere during *Sasthavinte Melam* would have the brilliance of the many brightly lit traditional lamps and also the huge flame bearing staffs, locally called as *theevetti*. Once this ceremony is over, by early morning the elephants carrying deities of nearby temples would proceed to the adjoining paddy field for the grand spectacle that would have about 50 odd elephants lined up in front of a cheering crowd. The venue would soon become electrifying with groups of traditional percussion ensembles comprising *Panchavadyam*, *Pacharimelam* and *Pandimelam* playing their best possible beats and rhythms, while the caparisoned elephants bearing *muthukkudas* (sequined, glittering umbrellas) and *venchamarams* (white whisks) make a delightful sight, as they stand patiently and entertain the crowd. By sunrise, the elephants carrying deities from neighbouring temples that had gathered at the Sree Sastha Temple at Arattupuzha would proceed to the nearby river for the *aarattu* ceremony.

