



PAINGUNI UTSAVAM

SREE PADMANABHASWAMY TEMPLE



LOCATION

**Panchayath/
Municipality/
Corporation**

Thiruvananthapuram Corporation

District

Thiruvananthapuram



ACCESSIBILITY

**Nearest Town/
Landmark/ Junction**

East Fort – 200 m

Nearest Bus station

East Fort Bus Stand – 200 m

**Nearest Railway
station**

Trivandrum Central Railway Station – 1.4 Km

Nearest Airport

Trivandrum International Airport – 4.1 Km



CONTACT

The Executive Officer
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TIME

DATES

March – April (Meenam);

FREQUENCY

Annual

DURATION

10 Days

ABOUT THE FESTIVAL (Legend/History/Myth)

The festival is a ritualistic and colourful celebration at the Sree Padmanabhaswamy Temple. Ritualistic circumambulations in different kinds of vehicles called Vahanams are an important part of the festivities. In olden times, idols were carried by elephants, however, the practice was given up after an elephant ran amok. Now, a number of priest carry the idols in special Vahanams placed on their shoulders. Six kinds of vehicles are used for these processions. These are the Simhasana Vahanam (Throne), Anantha Vahanam (Serpent), Kamala Vahanam (Lotus), Pallakku Vahanam (Palanquin), Garuda Vahanam (Garuda) and Indra Vahanam (Gopuram). Of these , the Pallakku and Garuda Vahanas are repeated twice and four times respectively. The Garuda Vahanam is considered as the favourite conveyance of the Lord. The different days on which the Vahanams are taken out for procession are as follows:

Day 1 – Simhasana Vahanam

Day 2 – Anantha Vahanam

Day 3 – Kamala Vahanam

Day 4 – Pallakku Vahanam

Day 5 – Garuda Vahanam

Day 6 – Indra Vahanam

Day 7 – Pallakku Vahanam

Day 8 – Garuda Vahanam

Day 9 – Garuda Vahanam

Day 10 – Garuda Vahanam

Sree Padmanabhaswamy's Vahanam is in gold while Narayana Swamy's and Sree Krishna Swamy's Vahanas are in silver. They are decorated with flowers. On the day of Aarattu, the Vahanams are taken out through the western entrance. The head of the royal family and other male members escort the deities with drawn swords and shields to the Shanghumughom beach for the Aarattu ritual.



RELEVANCE-
(Local / National /
International)

Local



**NO. OF PEOPLE
PARTICIPATED**

Over 30,000

EVENTS/PROGRAMS

Kodiyettu
Mula Pooja
Mannuneeru Kora
Pallivetta
Aarattu Procession
Ulsava Kalasam
Sreebali
Velakali

DESCRIPTION *(How festival is celebrated)*

Massive figures of Pandavas are erected at the eastern entrance of the temple in connection with this festival. The festival is initiated by Kodiyettu or flag hoisting on the day of the Malayalam star Rohini. A function called Anujna is conducted to accord formal sanction to start the festivities. Other functions include Mannuneeru Koral, Mula Pooja, Pallivetta, Aarattu and Ulsava Kalasam of a few. Pallivetta and Aarattu takes place on the 9th and 10th days respectively. Pallivetta signifies the royal hunt by the Lord. It symbolizes annihilation of all ills. The Aarattu procession is marked by decorated elephants carrying the idols of Narasimha Swamy, Padmanabha Swamy and Thiruvambady Sree Krishna Swamy for a ritualistic bath at the Shanghumughom beach. Velakali is a significant event associated with the festival. It is cultural practice that originated in Kayamkulam performed by a community called Kuruppanmar. Over a 100 of them participate in the event.

