



SHIVARATHRI MAHOTSAVAM

THONNAKKAL KUDAVOOR MAHADEVA TEMPLE



LOCATION

**Panchayath/
Municipality/
Corporation**

Mudakkal

District

Thiruvananthapuram



ACCESSIBILITY

**Nearest Town/
Landmark/ Junction**

Govt. Higher Secondary School-600 m

Nearest Bus station

Thonnakkal School Bus Stop- 550 m

**Nearest Railway
station**

Murukkumpuzha Railway Station – 7 km

Nearest Airport

Trivandrum International Airport – 24 km



CONTACT

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TIME

DATES

December–January (Dhanu);

FREQUENCY

Annual

DURATION

7 days

ABOUT THE FESTIVAL (Legend/History/Myth)

Maha Shivratri, the night of the worship of Shiva, falls on the month of Kumbham in February -March. According to the Puranas, during the great mythical churning of the ocean called Samudra Manthan, a pot of poison emerged from the ocean. The gods and the demons were terrified as it could destroy the entire world. When they ran to Shiva for help, he in order to protect the world, drank the deadly poison but held it in his throat instead of swallowing it. This turned his throat blue, and since then he came to be known as Nilkantha, the blue-throated one. Shivratri celebrates this event by which Shiva saved the world.

All through the day the devotees keep severe fast, chant the sacred Panchakshara mantra "Om Namah Shivaya", make offerings of flowers and incense to the Lord amidst ringing of temple bells. They maintain long vigils during the night, keeping awake to listen to stories, hymns and songs. The fast is broken only the next morning, after the nightlong worship. On the same day married women fast for the health and prosperity of their husband. Unmarried ladies also fast to get good husband of their choice. It is believed that Goddess Parvathy also took fasting for her husband Shiva. Also it is believed that Parvathy and Shiva got married on the Thiruvathira day. Fasting is observed on the Makayiram and Thiruvathira star. Makayiram fasting is for the health and well-being of the children. Special prasadam for this day is ettuangaadi chutta nivedyam which is made with baked tubers like kachil (purple yam), chena (yam), koorka (Chinese potato), nanakizhangu (lesser yam), cheru kizhangu(lesser yam), cheruchembu (colocasia), valiyachembu (colocasia) and madura kizhangu (sweet potato) in jiggery syrup, grated coconut, banana , boiled broad beans, sugarcane etc.

First Thiruvathira after marriage is called Poothiruvathira. On tis day married woman wake up early in the morning and light the lamp after morning ablutions. Gayathri manthram is to be recited after lighting the lamp. These woman adorn themselves with eyeliner , apply kuri on the forehead using manjal (turmeric) and chandanam (sandal) and kumkum in forehead seeking blessings from Goddess Parvathy. Food with rice is avoided completely during the fasting and they consume Thiruvathira puzhukku, Koova (ragi) kurukku, wheat, fruits , tender coconut juice ,etc. Panjakshari manthram, Panjakshari sthothram, Shiva sahasranamam are also recited to please the Lord Shiva. Special poojas like Jaladhara is done. Koovala mala is offered the lord and the devotees stay awake the whole day in prayers. Thiruvathira dance is performed at night after ligting lamp , decorting with dashapushpam. After Thiruvathira naal, the fasting comes to an end after consumption of rice or by visiting Shiva temple.



RELEVANCE-
(Local / National / International)

Local



NO. OF PEOPLE PARTICIPATED

Approximately 5000 people

EVENTS/PROGRAMS

Kodiyettam
Nirmalyam
Ashtadravya
Ganapathi Homam
Rakshas Pooja
Yogeeshwara Pooja
Kalashapooja
Kalashabhishekam
Nagaroottu
Uchapooja
Thottanpaattu
Deeparadhana
Chendamelam
Panchavadyam
Leksmi Pooja
Bhagavathi seva
Athazha Pooja
Sreebootabali
Cultural programmes
Musical night

DESCRIPTION *(How festival is celebrated)*

At Thonnakkal Kudavoor Mahadeva Temple Shivarathri Mahotsavam falls in the month of December–January (Dhanu). Thiruvathira naal in the month of Dhanu is considered as the birthday of the Lord.

Pooja on the festive days starts with Nirmalyam and Ashtadravya Ganapathi Homam in the morning after flag hoisting (Kodiyettam). Other daily poojas include Usha Pooja, Rakshas Pooja, Yogeeshwara Pooja, Kalashapooja, Kalashabhishekam and Nagaroottu. Ucha pooja in the noon is observed on all days. In the evening programmes consists of thottanpaattu and Chendamelam. Poojas in the evening includes deeparadhana, Leksmi Pooja ,Panchavadyam, Bhagavathi seva, Athazha Pooja and Sreebootabali.

On all the days Pongala is offered to the God by female devotees. Annadanam or feast is offered on all the days. Different programmes at the night includes cultural programmes , dance performances , musical night etc.

