



THIRU KALYANAM FESTIVAL ARYANKAVU SREE DHARMA SASTHA TEMPLE



**Panchayath/
Municipality/
Corporation**

Aryankavu Grama Panchayat

District

Kollam

**Nearest Town/
Landmark/ Junction**

Punalur Town

Nearest Bus station

Kollam Bus Stop - 76 Km

**Nearest Railway
station**

Kollam Railway Station – 80 Km

Nearest Airport

Trivandrum International Airport – 90 Km



Aryankavu Sree Dharma Sastha Temple,
NH744, Aryankavu,
Kollam- 691309
Phone : +91-475- 2211566



TIME

DATES

December (Malayalam Month Dhanu)

FREQUENCY

Annual

DURATION

10 Days



ABOUT THE FESTIVAL (Legend/History/Myth)

According to Hindu myth it is one among the five Ayyappa temples consecrated by Parasurama in the Western Ghats. This is one of the famous Ayyappa temples in Kerala. The Aryankavu Ayyan, also known as Tiruarian, is venerated as the adolescent form of Ayyappa. The temple is situated on the banks of the Rajakoop stream, another tributary of the Kallada. The majority of the pilgrims are from Tamil Nadu, most of them from the Saurashtra Brahmin community. The unique feature of the Aryankavu Ayyappa (Sastha) Temple is that it is built about 35 ft below the road level and has some fine structure and mural paintings. The folklore behind the Ayyappa is similar to that of Sabarimala Dharmasastha. The only difference between the two are that Sastha was brought up by the Pandi Raja of Madhura and not the Raja of Pandalam. It is believed that Swami Ayyappan married Shri Pushkaladevi of Sourashtra community in Aryankavu. The marriage festival is held every year in Aryankavu and the marriage rituals are according to the Sourashtra community. Even now Sourashtrians reach here in groups during the time of Mandalapooja'. Sastha Thiru Kalyanam is being performed by, with all religious rites on the 10th night of Malayalam month Dhanu (prior to Mandalabhishegam day) every year, for ages past.



RELEVANCE-
(Local / National / International)

National



NO. OF PEOPLE PARTICIPATED

Approx. 300000

EVENTS/PROGRAMS

DESCRIPTION (How festival is celebrated)

Special Poojas
Procession
Thiru Kalyanam
Ceremony

Aryankavu temple is one of the major Ayyappa temples in Kerala. Thiru Kalyanam (*Thrikalyanam / Thirumanam*) is one of the major events in Aryankavu Temple. The ceremony of Ayyappans marriage. It is believed that Swami Ayyappan married Shri Pushkaladevi of Sourashtra community in Aryankavu. The marriage festival is held every year in Aryankavu and the marriage rituals are according to the Sourashtra community. The festival falls on December (Malayalam month *Dhanu*) and celebrated with all pomp and harmony. Even now Sourashtrians reach here in groups during the time of *Mandalapooja*. *Sastha Thiru Kalyanam* is being performed by, with all religious rites on the 10th night of Malayalam month *Dhanu* (prior to *Mandalabhishegam* day) every year, for ages past. The temple has an exclusive *Kalyana Mandapam* for the ceremony and its walls are decorated with erotic sculptures on the model of those in the Khajuraho temple. The rituals inside the temple follow Kerala tradition and those outside follow Tamil Nadu customs. The shrine is traditionally decorated with plantain, coconut leaves, flowers, leaves, traditional lamps and lights. Special poojas will be there on the festival days.

