



AYILYA MAHOTSAVAM

AADIMOOLAM VETTICODE SREE NAGARAJASWAMI TEMPLE



LOCATION

Panchayat/ Municipality/ Corporation	Bharanikkavu Panchayat
District	Alappuzha



ACCESSIBILITY

Nearest Town/ Landmark/ Junction	Charummoodu Junction– 2.5 Km
Nearest Bus Station	Kayamkulam Bus Station – 10.3 Km
Nearest Railway Station	Cherthala Railway Station – 8.7 Km
Nearest Airport	Trivandrum International Airport – 100Km



CONTACT

Vetticode Sree Nagaraja Swamy Temple
Vetticode P.O, Pallickal,
Alappuzha - 690 503
Phone: +91-479-2339933 (Temple)



TIME

DATES

September/October (*Kanni*)

FREQUENCY

Annual

DURATION

7 Days

ABOUT THE FESTIVAL (Legend/History/Myth)

Legend says that this sanctum sanctorum was consecrated by Lord Parasurama, son of sage Muni Jamadhagni. Lord Parasurama killed the Kshatriyas, the then rulers and seized their lands and gave them to sage Kashyapa. The land was not fit to live and as per the request of sage Kashyapa, and the story goes on that Lord Parasurama restored a vast portion of land from the sea, leading to the genesis of a land called Kerala and entrusted the Brahmins to live on. But due to the abundant deposit of 'Lavana and Ore' the land was not fertile. The Brahmins pleaded with Lord Parasurama to make the land fertile enough, following which Lord Parasurama entered into a deep meditation in the higher reaches of the mountain '*Gandhamadhana*'. The Serpent God – Anantha, pleased with Lord Parasurama, appeared before him and asked him to seek a boon. Parasurama requested Anantha to make the land fertile. Lord Anantha, then directed the *Nagas* (serpents) to suck out the unwanted elements or contents from the land and thus turned the land into a fertile one. As a token of reward and gratefulness, Lord Parasurama heaped a small portion of land by using his axe and consecrated the idol of Lord Anantha on it. Lord Brahma noted the *muhoortham* (auspicious time) and Lord Siva received the *muhoortha dakshina* (token reward). Thus the presence of the Trinity – Lord Brahma, Lord Vishnu and Lord Siva is very much part of the Sree Nagaraja Swami Temple at Vetticode. The name Vetticode owes its origin to the manner in which Lord Parasurama heaped up the sand by using his axe. It is believed to be the first *Naga Prathishtta* (consecration of Snake God's idol) in this land and thus the concept of *Aadimoolam*.



RELEVANCE-
(Local / National / International)

Local



NO. OF PEOPLE PARTICIPATED

Approx. 25000

EVENTS/PROGRAMS

Nadaswaram
Kombu and Kuzhal(Wind Instruments)
Cultural Programs and folk arts
Spiritual discourses
Seminars
Percussion Music
Musical Concerts
Ezhunellathu
Sarpabali

DESCRIPTION (How festival is celebrated)

The *Aayilliya Mahotsavam* at Sree Nagaraja Swami Temple at Vetticode falls on the day in the Malayalam month of *Kanni*, every year. The celebrations would start seven days prior to the *Aayillyam* day. In these days, various special poojas, homas and *kalasa poojas* are performed. To please the deity, high sounding instruments are played by a group of experts. The *nadabrahma* that flows through the pipes of *Nadaswara* experts, the *Kombu* and *Kuzhal* (wind instruments) that are played to the accompaniment of percussion instruments viz. *Maddallam* and *Chenda* and the magical notes of the *Edakka* and the *Thakil* would transform the devotees to a different level of devotional experience. Soon after this the *Ezhunnallathu* (ceremonial procession) begins. It starts from the temple and proceeds to the *Meppallil Illam* at about 3 p.m. and after the *poojas* there, returns to the temple. By dusk, the famous *Sarpabali* begins and concludes by around 9.30 p.m. The temple remains closed up to *Brahma Muhoortha* and after that the *Shuddi Kriyas* (purification rituals) begins. This is followed by the *abhisheka* with tender coconut water from thousands of coconuts and pure milk. The festival concludes with the daily *poojas* and *Panchamritha Nivedhya*.

