



AVANI FESTIVAL

SREE SUBRAHMANYA TEMPLE, HARIPAD



LOCATION

**Panchayat/
Municipality/
Corporation**

Haripad Municipality

District

Alappuzha



ACCESSIBILITY

**Nearest Town/
Landmark/ Junction**

Haripad Town – 400 m

Nearest Bus Station

Haripad Bus Station – 1 Km

**Nearest Railway
Station**

Haripad Railway Station – 1.2 Km

Nearest Airport

Trivandrum International Airport – 118 Km



CONTACT

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Website: www.haripadtemple.org



TIME

DATES

August/September (*Chingam*)

FREQUENCY

Annual

DURATION

10 Days

ABOUT THE FESTIVAL (Legend/History/Myth)

Sree Subrahmanya Swamy temple is one of the oldest temples in Haripad. This temple is dedicated to Subrahmanya Swamy, known as Dakshina Palani(Southern Palani). It is believed that the temple was established even before the advent of Kaliyuga. This holy shrine is built in the ancient Kerala style architecture. The Subrahmanya idol with four arms is the biggest of its kind designed after the sculptural pattern of the Buddhist era. As per legend the idol has been used by Parasurama for *Poojas* and was left in Kandanalloor in Govindamuttom Backwaters from which it was recovered. It is said that all the landlords of Eakachakra (the then Haripad) had vision regarding the idol in the same time which led them to find the idol in Kayamkulam lake. The idol was brought ashore at Nelpurakadavu. In commemoration of retrieval of the idol, Vighraha Labdhi Jalolsavam is conducted in Payippad river for three days, after Thiruvonam. The presiding deity of the temple is Murugan in four armed form with Vel in one hand, Vajrayudha in another hand, one hand bestowing blessing and the other toughing its thighs. The idol is about eight feet in height., is believed to have presence of Vishnu, Shiva and Brahma. The idol faces East. Avani festival is one of the major festivals conducted in this temple. This festival is celebrated in Vaishnava Sankalppa.



RELEVANCE-
(Local / National / International)

Local



NO. OF PEOPLE PARTICIPATED

Approx. 25000

EVENTS/PROGRAMS

Flag Hoisting
Annadanam
Cultural Programs and folk arts
Spiritual discourses
Seminars
Percussion Music
Musical Concerts
Dance
Kadhakali
Ottanthullal
Velakali
Chakyarkoothu
Sopana Sangeetham
Arattu

DESCRIPTION (How festival is celebrated)

Annual festival starts in the Malayalam month of *chingam* (August/September). There is a flag hoisting ceremony on the Malayalam star *atham*, marking the beginning of the festival. The shrine is traditionally decorated with plantain, coconut leaves, flowers, leaves, traditional lamps and lights. There are special *poojas* and offerings during the festival period. Traditional performing arts and music and dance are staged during the period. Numerous cultural programs and temple arts are performed along with religious discourses on all days of the festival. Caparisoned elephants, *melam*, fireworks and *sheevali* are part of the festival. On the final day *Arattu* (holy bath) takes place on *thiruvonam* star, the birth star of Lord Vishnu where the *utsava murti* of the deity is taken out of the shrine for ritual bathing on the final day. Caparisoned elephants and *melam* are part of the ritual..

