



THIRUVILWAMALA EKADESHI SRI VILWADRINATHA TEMPLE, THIRUVILWAMALA



Panchayath/
Municipality/
Corporation

Thiruvilwamala Panchayat

District

Thrissur

Nearest Town/
Landmark/ Junction

Thiruvilwamala – 1.9 km

Nearest Bus station

Thiruvilwamala Bus Stand – 1.2 km

Nearest Railway
station

Shoranur Junction Railway Station – 27.2 km

Nearest Airport

Calicut International Airport – 86.5 km



Thiruvilwamala Vilwadrinatha Temple
Temple Rd, Thiruvilwamala,
Kerala 680588
Ph No: 04884 282398

DATES

February – March

FREQUENCY

Annually

DURATION

11 days



TIME

ABOUT THE FESTIVAL (Legend/History/Myth)

A sage named *Amalaka*, the son of sage *Kashyapa*, conducted huge penance praising Lord Vishnu on the same spot. When he was doing penance, the devas (gods) believed that he had wish on taking heaven away from them. They sent heavenly damsels and made blasts near him, but he never woke up. When they complained *Kashyapa* about this incident, he told that his son was not interested in any worldly pleasure. Then, the *asuras* (demons) had problem. They all came in a row to break *Amalaka's* penance. *Amalaka* opened his eyes. Fire smashed out of them. The *asuras* all got burnt and together they became a huge rock, called '*Rakshasappara*'. *Amalaka* continued his penance and Lord Vishnu appeared before him with his consorts *Sri* and *Bhumi*, and his bed *Ananta* as umbrella. He told his wish that the Lord should remain there for the well-being of the worldly people. Thus, the Lord turned himself into a *swayambhu* idol, with his consorts and *Ananta*. After both the idols were consecrated, the power of Lord Vishnu spread throughout the village. Hearing this, the *asuras* became again furious. They sent one of them to destroy those idols. He began eating cows donated to the temple. He also ate some sleeping Brahmins. But no one knew the real killer, as there is no any carnivorous creature nearby. People thought it is any ghost who is eating the cows. Finally, the 11th day (*Ekadas*) in the dark fortnight of the month of *Kumbham* (February-March) arrived. The *asura* considered that time the most suitable to fulfill his task. One midnight, after all *poojas* were completed and everybody slept, the *asura* entered the *sreekovil* by destroying the pillars. At that time, Lord Vishnu appeared from one of the pillar in the form of *Narasimha*, his fourth avatar, and killed the *asura* in the same manner he killed *Hiranyakashipu*.

There is a story behind the *Nangyrakoothu*. Years ago once the *Chakyarkoothu* was going on in the temple. While enacting the role of *Varuna* in the *Ramayanam Koothu* the *Chakyar* in his own style made fun of Sri Rama getting ready to build a bund across the sea. It is said that just at that moment the door of the eastern shrine of *Lakshmana* suddenly got open. The *Chakyar* frightened and ran away. After running fast for some time he turned back and made sure that nobody was following him. Thereupon he took off his crown and other items of makeup. This place came to be known as *Mudiyazhichapara* ever since. After this incident it is the *Nangiar* who performs this entertainment in the place of *Chakiar*.



RELEVANCE-
(Local / National /
International)

Local



**NO. OF PEOPLE
PARTICIPATED**

Approximately 1000

EVENTS/PROGRAMS

Annadanam

Nadaswara

Vilakkacharam

Nangiarkoothu

Punarjani Noozhal

DESCRIPTION (How festival is celebrated)

Thiruvilwamala Ekadesi comes in the dark fortnight of *Kumbham*, before the new moon day. The *Ekadesi* festival begins from *Ashtami* day. The whole *Vilakumadam* is illuminated on that day. The *Annadanam* or feast conducted on that day with a minimum of 101 *Paras* (about 1000 litres) of rice is also very famous. The temple will be kept open all the 24 hours on the *Dasami* day. The ritualistic *poojas* come to an end by noon on the *Ekadasi* day. Lots of people far and near are attracted by the *Vilwadrinatha* Music Festival, conducted during these days.

It is customary to have *Nadaswara* in the evening and *Tayampaka*, *Keli* and *Panchvadya* at night during the festival days. The ritual procession conducted at night on *Ekadasi* day after the conventional *Vilakkacharam*. The *Nangiarkoothu* which begins seven days before *Ekadasi* is a rare item of entertainment in this temple. *Punarjani Noozhal* is also an event during the festival in which the devotees (men only) enter a 150 m long tunnel near the temple premises, so that all their sins during this lifetime is believed to be freed. At 4'o clock on *Ekadasi* day, the priests open the temple after having a bath in *Bhagavathichira*, and start some *poojas* at the entrance of the cave. After the *darshan*, one has to proceed to *Ganapathi Theertham*, and to take bath there. Later, the devotees should take bath in *Papanasini* (Not to be confused with the river with the same name at *Thirunelli*), *Pathala Theertham*, *Ambutheertham* and *Kombutheertham* in that order, and should enter the cave without drying up., after climbing some steps, a person enters outside, and again goes to *Papanasini* for bathing.

