

PERUVANAM POORAM
PERUVANAM TEMPLE, THRISSUR

LOCATION	**Panchayath/ Municipality/ Corporation**	Cherpu Village, Cherpu Taluk
	District	Thrissur

ACCESSIBILITY	**Nearest Town/ Landmark/ Junction**	Cherpu – 1 km
	Nearest Bus station	Cherpu Bus Stop – 850 m
	Nearest Railway station	Thrissur Railway Station – 9.5 km
	Nearest Airport	Cochin International Airport – 44 km

CONTACT	Peruvanam Temple, Cherpu - 680561 Phone: +91-9847849283

	DATES	**FREQUENCY**	**DURATION**
TIME	April	Annually	7 days

ABOUT THE FESTIVAL (Legend/History/Myth)

Legend has it that the Saint *Parashurama* established 64 Gramams or sections after reclaiming *Keralam* from sea and *Peruvanam Gramam* is the 1st and most important among them. It is said that the temple was created by *Pooru Maharshi*, son of the *Hasthinapura* King *Yayathy* after propitiating the Lord Shiva with rigorous penance and the name of the place derived from the word *Pooru Vanam*. Further it is believed that while transporting a beautiful, big *Shivalinga* received from a lake near *Badarinath* to this place, it happened to get stuck in the branch of a tree and the present *Madathilappan* Temple has been constructed at this place. Shiva in dual linga form is the main feature of the temple and Lord is called *Irattayappan* which denote the duality.

It is believed that the sanctum sanctorum of the temple was built at the spot where Lord Shiva is believed to have meditated under a tree. The festival in the beginning here was different from what it is now. Due to unknown reasons, the conduct of the festival changed to Peruvanam and Aarattupuzha festivals. The version of Peruvanam festival as we witness today is of 1400 years old. The deity of the Peruvanam Mahadeva Temple does not participate in the *pooram*, and is a silent spectator to the proceedings. The participation is limited to temples with Devi and Sastha as the primary deities. Presently, the festivities consist of processions (called *Ezhunnallippu*) from about 23 temples. The *Pandi* and *Panchari melams* played here are of the highest standards. The *Peruvanam Nadavazhi* (Malayalam for "Walkway") is the venue for the finest processions/*melams*, the construction of which is in such a manner that it forms a natural theater for the percussion performances. The *Peruvanam Nadavazhi* is considered a sacred theatre for Melams by discerning listeners.



RELEVANCE- (Local / National / International)	Local	**NO. OF PEOPLE PARTICIPATED**	Approximately 1000

EVENTS/PROGRAMS

Pisharikkal Bhagavathy Pooram
Arattupuzha Sastha Pooram
Chathakudam Sastha
Urakatthu Ammathiruvadi Vilakku
Cherpu Bhagavathy
Conclusion of *Poorams*

DESCRIPTION *(How festival is celebrated)*

The *pooram* of *Pisharikkal Bhagavathy* starts at about 4PM, and the procession comprises three elephants, to the accompaniment of *Panchari melam.* This *pooram* is the ritualistic opener for the events of the day, and all other *Poorams* have to wait until the procession of *Pisharikkal Bhagavathy* starts and ends. The first main *Pooram* on the day is of *Arattupuzha Sastha*. An elaborate *Pandi Melam* commences immediately. After about 30 minutes the deity moves towards the eastern entrance (*Gopuram)* and enters the walkway facing east. The actual *Panchari Melam* commences only after that of *Chathakudam* comes to an end. This is followed by fireworks. One of the important attractions of *Peruvanam Pooram* takes place within the temple of *Irattayappan* at midnight. At midnight with no artificial light to spoil the show this event called a '*Vilakku*' has a mesmerizing effect. *Cherpu Bhagavathy* is the last to enter the walkway. But, the deity would have arrived by midnight, along the road from the temple which is about a mile away, at the turning to the T*hayamkulangara Subrahmaniaswamy* temple. The array of seven gold decorated elephants under the rays of the rising sun is another, probably the most thrilling, experience of the *Peruvanam Pooram*. All the *Bhagavathis*, starting with the one from *Pisharikkal,* conclude the celebration with a ritual bath at the temple pond, called *Thotukulam.*







