



bohemian-journeys

# MAHA SHIVARATRI

## THIRUVANCHIKULAM SIVA TEMPLE, THRISSUR



### LOCATION

Panchayath/  
Municipality/  
Corporation

Kodungallur Municipality

District

Thrissur



### ACCESSIBILITY

Nearest Town/  
Landmark/ Junction

Kodungallur – 2.7 km

Nearest Bus station

Kodungallur Private Bus Station – 3.8 km

Nearest Railway  
station

Chalaky Railway Station – 20.7 km

Nearest Airport

Cochin International Airport – 28.2 km



### CONTACT

Thiruvanchikulam Siva Temple  
Kodungallur- Ernakulam Highway,  
Kottappuram, Kodungallur,  
Thrissur, Kerala 680664  
Ph No: 098460 94119



### TIME

#### DATES

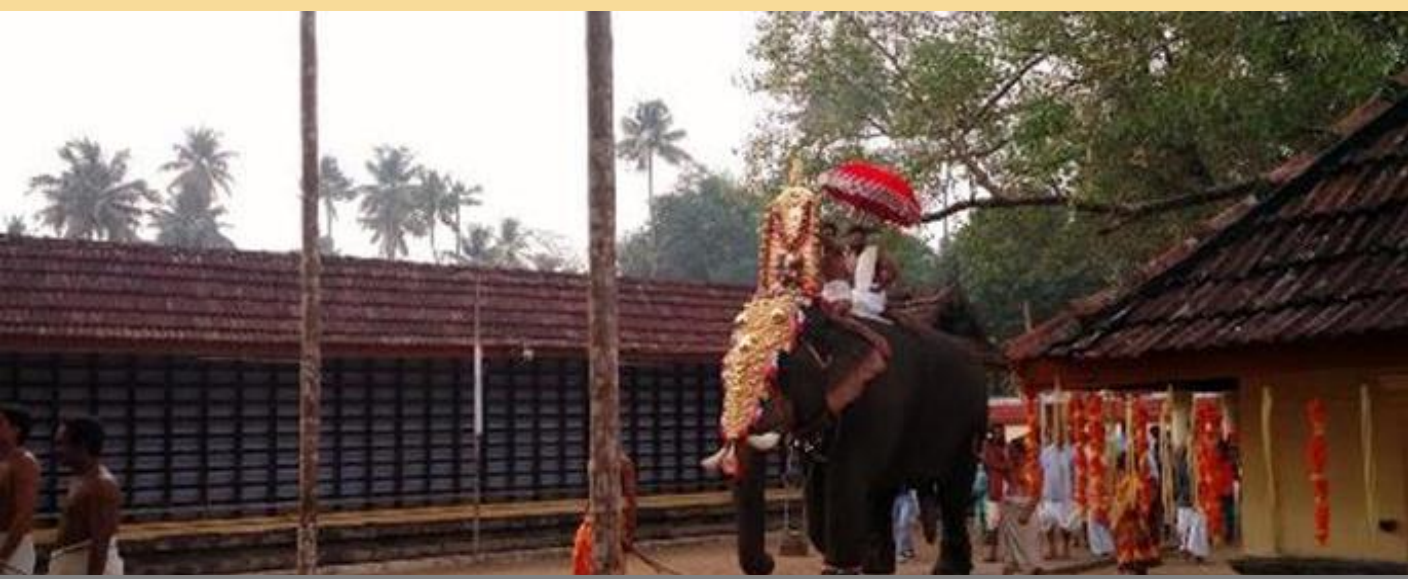
February – March

#### FREQUENCY

Annually

#### DURATION

8 days  
(Kumbham  
month)



## ABOUT THE FESTIVAL (Legend/History/Myth)

The temple is believed to be built by Cheraman Perumal, a legendary Chera king. It is believed that Cheraman Perumal and his minister and friend Sundaramoorthy Nayanar left their life in the temple. This temple had undergone several invasions in the flow of time. The Dutch and The Tipu Sulthan of Mysore are the prominent ones, who demolished this temple during their invasions. The temple was renovated in 1801 AD. It is believed that the main idol of worship, Siva linga is brought from Chidambaram Rameshwara temple. It was one of the most popular Siva temples in South India. Thiruvanchikulam Shiva Temple suffered war damages in 1670 and in late 18th century. In the late mediaeval Thiruvanchikulam was under the ruler of Cochin but occasionally, the Zamorin of Calicut had usurped the control. The saint Sundaramoorthy Nayanar and Cheraman Perumal (both were close-friends) worshipped Lord Shiva leading to eternal bliss. They reached Kailas by riding on a 1000-tusked white elephant by Nayanar and on a blue horse by Perumal. Both of them have shrines in the temple. This event was taken place on Swati day in the month of Karkidakam (July/August) and special Poojas are performed in these shrines. Umamaheshwara once appeared in this place where Vasuki(serpents) stood guard. The Lingam here is said to have been self-incarnated.

Among all the twelve Shivratri that occur in a calendar year, Mahashivratri, the one that occurs in February-March is of the most spiritual significance. On this night, the northern hemisphere of the planet is positioned in such a way that there is a natural upsurge of energy in a human being. This is a day when nature is pushing one towards one's spiritual peak. It is to make use of this, that in this tradition, we establish a certain festival which is night-long.



**RELEVANCE-**  
(Local / National /  
International)

Local



**NO. OF PEOPLE  
PARTICIPATED**

Over 2000

## EVENTS/PROGRAMS

## DESCRIPTION *(How festival is celebrated)*

Arattu

Aanayottam

Dhanu Thiruvathira

The annual festival ends with the *Arattu* in the sea on the new moon day. *Aanayottam* is also conducted as part of the festival. The hoisting of the temple flag atop the flagstaff (*Dwajastambham*) about 70 feet high marks the beginning of the festival. *Shivarathri* comes every year on the seventh day of the festival and it is celebrated as *Dhanu Thiruvathira* (*Ardra* - Lord's birthday) and *Karkitaka Choti*, the day of emancipation of *Cheraman Perumal Naayanar* and *Sundaramoorthy Naayanar*.

