



THANIKUDAM ARATTU, POORAM

THANIKUDAM BHAGAVATHY TEMPLE



LOCATION

Panchayath/
Municipality/
Corporation

Thrissur Municipal Corporation

District

Thrissur



ACCESSIBILITY

Nearest Town/
Landmark/ Junction

Mannuthy – 5.6 km

Nearest Bus station

Shakthan Bus Stand – 10 km

Nearest Railway
station

Thrissur Railway Station – 11 km

Nearest Airport

Cochin International Airport – 54 km



CONTACT

Thanikudam Baghavathy Temple

Thanikudam, Mannuthy

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TIME

DATES

During flood season in the temple

FREQUENCY

Annually(sometimes in 2 years)

DURATION

2 to 3 days



ABOUT THE FESTIVAL (Legend/History/Myth)

The very famous temple in thrissur district. Believed to be most powerful devi presiding here. The Presiding deity is *Vana durga* known as *Thanikkudathamma*. History says that, once in *Chunakkathoor kavu* temple there was *Iratta pradista*. One was *Sree Parvathi* & the other *Thanikudam Bhagavathy*. A clash started between the *bhramins* (the priests of temple) and the *Nairs*. *Nairs* took *Thanikudam Bhagavathy* and start travelling. The divine sword of *Thanikudam Bhagavathy* was not handed over to *Nairs* by the *Brahmins*. Even today we can see that the oracles of *Thanikkudam* temple won't touch swords with their hand in any occasion. They reached a place called *Thiruvan kadu* and made *Thanikudam Bhagavathy's prathista* under a *Thani maram*(a tree). Thus got Devi's name "*Thanikkudam Bhagavathy*". Temple was surrounded by river in the three sides. On the foot of *maaree mala*. *thiru aaraattu* is happening naturally, when the *thanikkudam* river which flows nearby overflows to the temple once in a year. It may happen more than one year rarely. The story is that the river that flows by the side of the temple overflows and makes its way to the deity.



RELEVANCE-
(Local / National / International)

Local



NO. OF PEOPLE PARTICIPATED

Approximately 1000

EVENTS/PROGRAMS

DESCRIPTION *(How festival is celebrated)*

Sthanam

Kuriykkal

Vilakku

Poojas

Aarattu

Elephant procession

Kavadi

Chendamelam

Thalapoli

The *Thanikkudam Bhagavathi* Temple in the Thrissur district may look like any other temple in Kerala but there is a difference. The idol of the main deity is taken to a nearby pond on special occasions for a holy dip, called *Aarattu* in Kerala generally. However, things work the other way round in the *Thanikkudam Bhagavathi* temple. As the monsoon intensifies, the *Thanikkudam* River overflows and the water reaches the temple's sanctum sanctorum. Since the river embodies river ganga, and the day its waters completely submerge the idol within, it is considered the day for *Aarattu*. Devotees throng the temple to take a dip in this water, an act they believe will bring them prosperity. *Aarattu* is held once in a year here. Devotees take a holy dip in the water along with the idol. The *Kshetram Shanthi* will check for the right place by some rituals (*Sthanam Kuriykkal*) and place the *Vilakku*, garland for the deity, *Poojas* etc. The river come from *Vellani mala* during the flood. Entry is prohibited for the devotees inside the *chuttambalam* during the *Aarattu*. The devotees can go around the outside of the *chuttambalam* and pray to *Thanikudam Bhagavathy*. Elephant procession, *Kavadi*, *Chendamelam*, *Thalapoli* etc are also conducted as apart of the *Pooram*.

