



THIRUVUTSAVAM VARANAD DEVI TEMPLE



LOCATION

Panchayat/
Municipality/
Corporation

Cherthala Municipality

District

Alappuzha

Nearest Town/
Landmark/ Junction

Cherthala Town – 4 Km

Nearest Bus Station

Cherthala Bus Station – 3.2 Km

Nearest Railway
Station

Cherthala Railway Station – 5.3 Km

Nearest Airport

Nedumbassery International Airport – 65Km



ACCESSIBILITY



CONTACT

Varanad Devi Temple,
Varanad P.O., Cherthala
Alappuzha - 688543
Phone: +91-478 – 2822691
: +91-478-3290591(Temple)



TIME

DATES

February/March (*Kumbam*)

FREQUENCY

Annual

DURATION

14Days

ABOUT THE FESTIVAL (Legend/History/Myth)

Varanad Bhagavathy is the deity that was worshipped by a respected, aged *Thampuran* belonging to the Vayalar Putiyakkal Kovilakam. One day the *Thampuran* started a journey to a relative's house in Mannancherry . While travelling on a boat (*Villu vallam*) on the Vembanad lake, *Thampuran* had with him the *Panchaloha* idol of the Goddess which contained the power of the Goddess. No sooner had the boat sailed into the Vembanad Lake, the dark clouds heralding rain started to roll on the sky. Even though it was the month of *Kumbha*, seeing the signs of rain, certain doubts arose in *Thampuran's* mind. Suddenly a fierce storm started raging with thunder and storm .The lake became furious. The huge waves started juggling with that small boat. Sensing that there would be a terrible calamity if the boat was not immediately taken to the shore, *Thampuran* soon directed the boat towards a nearby forest area. It was a place overgrown with shrubs and trees. He saw a big tree at some distance. Once he had pulled the boat on to the sand shore, *Thampuran* took his bundle and the idol of Devi and ran for shelter. When he reached there, he felt extremely happy. Seeing a hollow on the bark of that huge sprawling tree, *Thampuran* climbed into it quickly. After a long time the storm subsided. *Thampuran* came out from the hollow of the tree, seeing that dawn was breaking. After his bath and other duties, he took the bundle and the idol of the Goddess from the hollow. He made a small *peetam* (seat) with the sand and fixed the idol on it. After that he poured ghee into the *kodivilakku* (lamp) and lit the lamp with fire from the *urakallu*. He brought water in a folded leaf and conducted *abhisheka*. With the *Erikku* flowers plucked from the surroundings he offered *archana* to the Goddess. Deciding to continue his journey in the morning, he wetted his hands and tried to take the idol from the sand and found that he could not lift the idol. However hard he tried, he could not separate it. Hearing the news, the landlord Vathiyattu Panicker and the people nearby came to the place. *Thampuran* who understood that Devi was not interested in going to any other place, did not find anything amiss with the incident. He agreed entirely with the desire of the Goddess. Since he had collected the sand with his hands and made a sand *peetam* for the Goddess, the place came to be known as Variya Nadu. Later on this becomes Varanadu. This is the legend associated with this place. Soon after this incident, the *Kizhakkedathu* family who were staying nearby and the landlord VathiyattuKaranavar together constructed the temple and installed the Devi idol.



RELEVANCE-
(Local / National / International)

Local



NO. OF PEOPLE PARTICIPATED

Approx. 25000

EVENTS/PROGRAMS

Flag Hoisting
Sreebhoothabali
Annadanam
Cultural Programs and
folk arts
Spiritual discourses
Seminars
Percussion Music
Musical Concerts
Paraeduppu
Garudan Thookkam

DESCRIPTION (*How festival is celebrated*)

The annual festival starts in the Malayalam month of *Kumbam* (February/March). It is a 14 days spectacular event. There is a flag hoisting ceremony marking the beginning of the festival. The shrine is traditionally decorated with plantain, coconut leaves, flowers, leaves, traditional lamps and lights. There are special pujas and offerings conducted during the festival period. Also *annadanam* is there on all days. Traditional performing arts, music and dance are staged during this period. The 13 days long "*Paraeduppu*" is there where devotees believes that Devi comes to enquire about her devotees' well-being. Devotees welcome the Goddess with '*Nirapara*' and '*Thalapoli*'. Elephant procession along with "*Panchari Melam*" is held on the 12th day. On the last day of *Paraeduppu*, devi comes back to her abode with procession of 11 caparisoned elephant accompanied by *melam* (drums). *Garudan Thookkam* (Eagle Hanging) takes place on the final day, i.e. 14th day of the festival. Thousands of devotees throng to witness this ritual. Numerous cultural programs and temple arts are also performed on all days of the festival.

