



POORAM PADAYANI

PALLI BAGHAVATHY TEMPLE NEELAMPEROOR



LOCATION

Panchayat/
Municipality/
Corporation

Neelamperoor Panchayat

District

Alappuzha



ACCESSIBILITY

Nearest Town/
Landmark/ Junction

Cooperative Bank - 89m

Nearest Bus Station

Kurichy Outpost Junction- 3.5 Km

Nearest Railway
Station

Changanassery Railway Station – 10 Km

Nearest Airport

Cochin International Airport – 101 Km



CONTACT

Palli Bhagavathy Temple
Neelamperoor,
Alappuzha,
Kerala - 686101
Phone: 9446460213



TIME

DATES

September

FREQUENCY

Annual

DURATION

15 Days

ABOUT THE FESTIVAL (Legend/History/Myth)

Neelamperoor Pally Bhagavathi Temple was built at a time (between AD 250 and 300) when Buddhism was at heyday of its prosperity. It is said that Banavarma, otherwise known as Cheraman Perumal, who was the sole emperor of Kerala, had become a Buddhist monk and spent his last days at Neelamperoor. While he was the ruler of Kerala, Hindus accused him of having favored Buddhism; they even refused to co-operate with him. As matters came to a head, he agreed to conduct a debate about Hinduism and Buddhism. If Buddhists won the debate Hindus had to accept Buddhism. If they failed, the king agreed to abdicate the throne. Accordingly scholars of both religions participated in the contest. Hindus arranged six eminent scholars from south India to argue their case. The Buddhists lost the case. Thereupon Cheramanperumal abdicated the throne and left the palace as a Buddhist monk. Thus he came to Neelamperoor and built a Buddha Vihara. As years passed Buddhism lost its power and prestige in Kerala. It was at this period of Hindu renaissance that this Devikathyayini temple was constructed. Even before the arrival of Cheramanperumal a temple was here dedicated to lord Siva. It was owned by ten Brahmin families known as Pathillathil pottimar. Neelakanta is another name for Siva and hence the place came to be called Neelamperoor. Dissatisfied with the arrival of perumal, the Brahmins with the idol of Siva migrated to Vazhappally in Changanacherry. The Palli Bhagavathy Temple at Neelamperoor was built in the period of Cheraman Perumal who was the king of the Chera dynasty. Padayani is a symbolic victory march of Goddess Kali after vanquishing Darika.



RELEVANCE-
(Local / National / International)

Local



NO. OF PEOPLE PARTICIPATED

Around 50000

EVENTS/PROGRAMS

DESCRIPTION (How festival is celebrated)

Choottuvayppu
Choottu Padayani
Poomaram
Makam Padayani
Annamoottu
Vallyannathinte-
Ezhunnallath

The festival starts with *Choottu Padayani* for the first four days. After that comes the *Padayani* called *Pacha* in which *Poomaram* procession is conducted with the stem of *Perumaram Chethipoo*(a flower) and paper. *Paravalayam* and *Kudaneerthu* are the next *Padayanis* which are made of Green Coconut leaf stem with about 7 or 9 steps. *Annangal* are special *Kettu Kazhchas* which are of sizes 11 ¼ kol to 28 ¼ kol. *Aana*, *Hanuman* etc are some of the *Plavilakolam* in which the leaves of Jackfruit is used. In *Plavilaneerthu Padayani* the costume of *Bheema* is made. In *Kodikkoora Padayani*, *Pishachu Kolam* is made of *Kuruthola*. *Makam Padayani* and *Pooram Padayani* are the major events with 2 *Annangal*, *Ambalakotta* Procession on the *Makam* star and Big *Annangal* and *Aana* on *Narasimham* Processions. After *pooram Padyani*, *Vilakuthiri Vayppu* and *Choru* are conducted which marks the end of the festival.

