



ARUVITHURA PERUNNAL

ST.GEORGE FORANE CHURCH, ARUVITHURA



LOCATION

**Panchayat/
Municipality/
Corporation**

Erattupetta Municipality

District

Kottayam



ACCESSIBILITY

**Nearest Town/
Landmark/ Junction**

KSRTC Bus Station – 150 m

Nearest Bus Station

KSRTC Bus Station – 150 m

**Nearest Railway
Station**

Kottayam Railway Station – 38 Km

Nearest Airport

Cochin International airport – 83 Km



CONTACT

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TIME

DATES

April

FREQUENCY

Annual

DURATION

3 Days



ABOUT THE FESTIVAL (Legend/History/Myth)

The Aruvithura Perunnal is the annual feast of St George. Also known as Thirunnal the celebrations are in April at the Aruvithura Church. The first edifice of the church at Irapeli (now Aruvithura) was made of granite stones in the manner similar to that of Hindu temples. It is traditionally believed that St. Thomas, visited Irapeli and converted a prominent Jewish trader family named "Thengummoottil" to Christianity and laid a cross on the banks of the Meenachil River. The church of Irapeli having apostolic origin, was first dedicated to the Virgin mother. In the 14th century when the church of Nilackal or Chayal, one of those churches founded by St.Thomas was destroyed, several families migrated to Irapeli .They carried with them a statue of St.George. Later St.Mary's church, Irapeli came to be known as St.George's Church, Irapeli (later Aruvithura). St.George's Forane Church at Aruvithura is believed to be one of the seven churches established by St. Thomas.



RELEVANCE- (Local / National / International)

Local



NO. OF PEOPLE PARTICIPATED

About 3000

EVENTS/PROGRAMS

DESCRIPTION *(How festival is celebrated)*



Novena
Special Prayers
Holy Procession
Fireworks
Band Display

The annual feast of St. George also popularly known as Thirunna is celebrated on the 23rd, 24th and 25th of April. The event is marked by special prayers, holy mass and other rituals. A large number of devotees visit the church during this period to express gratitude for favours received. A grand procession is taken out and is followed by display of brilliant fireworks. Various cultural programs and display by the Army Band are some of the main programs scheduled as part of the festival. The church is beautifully decorated and illuminations at night present a lively sight to visitors. Flower petals are showered from a helicopter before the culmination of the church festivities.

