



DEEPA MAHOTSAVAM THRIKODITHANAM MAHAVISHNU TEMPLE



LOCATION

**Panchayat/
Municipality/
Corporation**

Changanassery Municipality

District

Kottayam



ACCESSIBILITY

**Nearest Town/
Landmark/ Junction**

Sree Narayana Guru Temple – 350 m

Nearest Bus Station

Thrikkodithanam Bus Stop – 250 m

**Nearest Railway
Station**

Changanassery Railway Station – 3 Km

Nearest Airport

Cochin International Airport – 104 Km



CONTACT

Thrikodithanam Mahavishnu Temple
Ayarkattuvayal
Changanassery - 686105
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Website: www.throkodithanamtemple.com



TIME

DATES

November-December (*Vrishchikam*)

FREQUENCY

Annual

DURATION

5 Days

ABOUT THE FESTIVAL (Legend/History/Myth)

The Deepa Mahotsavam is a unique festival at the Mahavishnu Temple also known as Adbutha Narayana Temple. The shrine, dedicated to Lord Vishnu is one among the five *Pancha-Pandava* temples in Kerala. Legend has it that as Sahadeva (one of the Pandava brothers of the Mahabharata fame) was returning triumphantly after the great war, he learned about Madri's (Sahadeva's mother) death. Overwhelmed with grief, when he tries to jump into her funeral pyre, well wishers stop and console him. The festival gets its name from the ritualistic piling of hundreds of *Sarakudoms*, one on top of the other, lighted to represent the myth. The myth is enacted during the festival and the burnt remains of *Sarakudoms* are served as *Prasadam*. The main idol in the temple is believed to have been worshipped by Sahadeva.



RELEVANCE-
(Local / National /
International)

Local



NO. OF PEOPLE
PARTICIPATED

Above 5000

EVENTS/PROGRAMS

DESCRIPTION (How festival is celebrated)



Rituals and Prayers
Special Bon fire
Sharakudam
Ezhunellippu
Elephant Procession
Aarattu Procession
Ottanthullal
Cultural Programs

Deepa Mahotsavam commences in the Malayalam month of *Vrichikam*, (*Thiruvonam* star) with the hoisting of flags on the eastern and western sides of the *Sreekovil*. Unique functions start from the fifth day onwards with processions of *Moola Vighraha* accompanied by elephants. *Seva* is another ritual performed inside the temple. On the final day, the processions goes out of the temple. The festival gets its name from the ritual of piling hundreds of *Sarakudoms*. The pile of dried plaintain leaves are torched and the myth associated with the temple is enacted. *Aarattu* is the final stage of the festival and is performed at the sacred pond. The rituals after the *Aarattu* are performed at the permanent *Aarattu Mandapam* outside the temple. The *Aarattu* procession is not accompanied by elephants.

