



SHIVARATHRI MAHOTSAVAM

ADIMALI SHANTHIGIRI SREE MAHESWARA TEMPLE



LOCATION

**Panchayath/
Municipality/
Corporation**

Adimali Panchayat

District

Idukki



ACCESSIBILITY

**Nearest Town/
Landmark/ Junction**

Adimali – 1 Km

Nearest Bus station

Adimali – 1 Km

**Nearest Railway
station**

Aluva Railway Station –80 Km

Nearest Airport

Cochin International Airport – 79 Km



CONTACT

Shanthigiri Sree Maheswara Temple,
Adimali, Idukki
Phone: 944757181



TIME

DATES

February - March

FREQUENCY

Annual

DURATION

10 days

ABOUT THE FESTIVAL (Legend/History/Myth)

Maha Shivaratri is a Hindu festival celebrated annually in honour of the God Shiva. *Maha Shivaratri* means "the Great Night of Shiva". Unlike most festivals which are celebrated during the day, the Maha Shivaratri is celebrated at night. This festival is religious in nature and universally observed by all Hindus. It is also believed that on Shivarathri, Lord Shiva became Neelkantha or the blue-throated one by swallowing the deadly poison that came up during the churning of Kshir Sagar or the milky ocean. The poison was so deadly that even a drop in his stomach, which represents the universe, would have annihilated the entire world. Hence, he held it in his neck thus causing the throat to turn blue. Sree Maheswara temple celebrate Shivaratri for 10 days. The Idol in this temple is made of Blackstone and it is like Standing pose of Shiva holding his trident. The festival is known as 'National festival of Adimali'.



RELEVANCE-
(Local / National / International)

Local



NO. OF PEOPLE PARTICIPATED

More than 20000

EVENTS/PROGRAMS

DESCRIPTION (How festival is celebrated)



Flag Hoisting
kavadi khoshayaathra
Pallivetta
Thayambaka Melam
Thalapoli khoshayaathra
Arattu
Cultural Programs (daily)
Temple arts
Folk Arts

The festival is a Hindu festival having various kinds of traditional rituals, *poojas* based on Lord Shiva done specially on everyday basis. And it is celebrated over a period of 10 days and starts with flag hoisting ceremony. Free food is provided to all the devotees, pilgrims and for everybody present there. From the first day onwards events such as *Panthiradi Puja*, *Prasada oottu*, *Kalasabhishekam* and *Vilakkin ezhunnallippu* are held there. *Kavadi Khoshayatra* the procession with people holding kavadi and other plots which adds color to the festival. On the eight day late in the evening the custom called *Pallivetta* is carried out on the belief that Lord Shiva is on his way for hunting. The last day begins with the *kavadi khoshayaathra*, the main event of the festival and ends with *thalapoli khoshayatra* ie, a traditional and ritual procession carried out by young girls and ladies of Kerala to attract happiness and prosperity in the community which holds the festival. The participants wear traditional dress and hold *thalam* (a metal plate) in their hands filled with fresh paddy, flowers, rice, coconut and a lighted lamp.

