



MEENABHARANI

VALAMCHUZHY BHAGAVATHY TEMPLE



LOCATION

**Panchayath/
Municipality/
Corporation**

Pramadaom Grama Panchayat

District

Pathanamthitta

**Nearest Town/
Landmark/
Junction**

Pathanamthitta town – 1.500Km

Nearest Bus station

Swamipadi Bus stop – Main Eastern Highway – 2.00Km

**Nearest Railway
station**

Chengannur Railway station – 28 Km

Nearest Airport

Trivandrum International Airport – 108 Km



ACCESSIBILITY



CONTACT

Valamchuzy Temple
 Valamchuzhy Devaswam
 Mallasserry P.O
 Pathanamthitta - 689646
 Telephone: +91-468-2333100 <http://www.valamchuzhytemple.org>
 E-mail: valamchuzhytemple@gmail.com



TIME

DATES

April/March (Meenam)

FREQUENCY

Yearly

DURATION

3 days

ABOUT THE FESTIVAL (Legend/History/Myth)

Valamchuzy "Sree Bhuvaneshwary" temple is one of the oldest temples in *Pathanamthitta*, also known popularly as the town of temples. *Valamchuzy* temple is in fact considered one of the most renowned temples in South India. The temple is situated at a distance of 4.5 kms from the city centre. The temple is surrounded by the sacred river *Anchankovil* that has its origin in the *Achankovil* mountain ranges. *Valamchuzy* temple is known to be one of the oldest temples in Kerala and was built over 2000 years ago. The padayani held in the malayalam month of *Meenam*. This festival was mainly known as *Meenabharani* or *Valamchuzhi Padayani*. Padayani is very popular in Kerala, Padayani is the annual ritualistic festival celebrated in *Bhadrakali* temples of Central travancore zone with due dedications. It may be regarded as the remains of ancient Dravidian God concept and mode of worship offering *Rathi* (lust), *Raktham* (Blood) and *Lahari* (toxic mood) *Lindia*, as a means, used to worship goddess kali. The story line comes as after killing daruka, an asura, goddess was in anger. The *Bhoothagana*, servants of lord siva, danced in front of her to reduce her anger; else her anger would result in the destruction of the whole world. In memory of this incident, the participants wear masks (*Kolam*) made of lathes of the areca tree using one to hundreds.



RELEVANCE-
 (Local / National /
 International)

Local



**NO. OF PEOPLE
 PARTICIPATED**

Above 10000

EVENTS/PROGRAMS

Padayani
Thappu
Kolungal
Kolapattu
Prayers
Special poojas

DESCRIPTION (How festival is celebrated)

Meena Bharani commences on the *Revathy* in the month of *Meenam* and concludes on the *Bharani* day. The world renowned *padayani* celebrations coincide with this date. *Padayani* is an artistic creation made by fashioning the various *murthis* to resemble a specific shape. The materials that go into the making of *padayanai* also include raw Areca nut leaves mixed in natural colors. The help of a musical instrument called '*thappu*' is also used for this. *Ganapathy*, *Yakshi*, *Marutha*, *Bhairavi*, Horse etc., are some of the *murthis* that also go in to the making of the *padayani*. *Padayani* stands out due to its specialties and attracts a large number of devotees. Devotees from the *karas* start bringing in offerings to the temple by 5 PM on the 3rd day of the *Meena Bharani*. *Kalan Kolam* are the major attraction in *Padayani*. This is about a child who is begging his life to lord siva while death comes in his 16th birthday. At that time *Kalan*, the god of death, comes and he is trying to take the life of *Markandaya*, the boy. *Kolappattu* are prayers to various folk deities. They include requests, admirations, prayers etc.

