



CHOTTANIKKARA MAKAM THOZHAI CHOTTANIKKARA BHAGAVATHY TEMPLE



LOCATION

**Panchayath/
Municipality/
Corporation**

Chottanikkara Panchayat

District

Ernakulam



ACCESSIBILITY

**Nearest Town/
Landmark/ Junction**

Chottanikkara Junction – 180 m

Nearest Bus station

Chottanikkara Temple Bus Stop – 170 m

**Nearest Railway
station**

Thrippunithura Railway Station – 6.4 km

Nearest Airport

Cochin International Airport – 36.6 km



CONTACT

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TIME

DATES

February – March

FREQUENCY

Annual

DURATION

7 Days

ABOUT THE FESTIVAL (Legend/History/Myth)

Chottanikkara was once a dense forest and it is believed that *Lord Parasurama* chose this area for spiritual pursuits. Legend says that there was a dacoit known as *Kannappan*, a tribe who lived with his daughter. He used to steal cows from the nearby village and sacrifice them to get blessings of the evil spirit. One day he stole a cow and calf and the cow was sacrificed. The cute calf was given to his daughter for rearing. Once when he could not steal any cow, he caught the calf for sacrifice despite resistance from his daughter. The calf escaped from his clutches and disappeared in the forest. Though *Kannappan* followed the calf, he could not find it. When he returned he found the calf with his daughter. Few days later his daughter passed away and since then he reared the calf as his daughter loved it very much. One day he had a dream in which Goddess Durga appeared and told him the calf was Herself and to transform him as a good person as desired by his daughter. The Goddess also told him that there would be two *Sila* idols near the cow shed. Next day he saw the idols as seen in the dream and many members of the tribe assembled there to see it. At that time a sage arrived there and told that the idols are Goddess *Durga* and *Lord Narayana* And *Kannappan* would reborn as a saint and visit the place again. It is believed that the re-born saint was *Vilwamangalam Swamiyar*. Many great saints and sages are associated with the legends of the temple. They include *Srimad Sankaracharya*, who prescribed the *pooja* system of the temple; *Villwamangalam Swamiyar* who found an idol from the temple tank and consecrated it as *Keez kavil Amma*; *Kakkasseri Bhatathiri* who defeated *Udhanda Sastri* in *vedic* arguments.



RELEVANCE-
(Local / National /
International)

Local



**NO. OF PEOPLE
PARTICIPATED**

Over 15,000

EVENTS/PROGRAMS

*Kodiyettu
Para Ezhunnellippu
Makam Thozhal
Pooram Ezhunnellippu
Uthram Aarattu
Valiya Guruthi*

DESCRIPTION *(How festival is celebrated)*

Festival begins with *Kodiyettu* (Flag hoisting ceremony) on *Rohini* day, lasts for 7 days and ends on *Uthram* star. Daily *Para Ezhunnellippu* over neighbouring areas (houses in the *Thattakam*) and then *Aarattu* is conducted on these days. *Makom Thozhal* (Devi darsan) is considered to be most effective for *Mangalyam* (long married life) and for getting best marriage for girls. The *Pooram Ezhunnellippu* takes place with 7 elephants in the morning and at night. The utsavam ends with *Uthram Aarattu* and *Valiya Guruthi* (*Atham Guruthy*). The ritualistic bath of Devi takes place in ceremonial pond in the morning at *Onakkoor*, far on the northern side of the Temple. After this Devi accompanied by Lord *Sastha* on the back of the eleven caparisoned elephants march towards the *Pooraparambu*, the traditional vantage point where they remain till 11 a.m. This spectacular show is witnessed by hundreds of devotees who are enthralled by the enchanting *Panchavadya* and *Nadaswara* performances. After the mid-day the door of Sanctum Sanctorum closes, to re-open at 2 p.m for the *Makam Darsana*. The whole temple premises are crowded by devotees especially the women folk to get a glimpse of the Devi who appears in her sacred full-fledged splendour and glory decked in ornaments and garlands.

