



BIYYAM KAYAL BOAT RACE

BIYYAM KAYAL, PONNANI



LOCATION

**Panchayat/
Municipality/
Corporation**

Ponnani Municipality

District

Malappuram



ACCESSIBILITY

**Nearest Town/
Landmark/ Junction**

110 KV Substation Ponnani 400 m

Nearest Bus Station

Kundu Kadavu Junction 1.3 km

**Nearest Railway
Station**

Kuttipuram railway station 14 km

Nearest Airport

Calicut International Airport 53 km



CONTACT

District Tourism Promotion Council
Up Hill
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TIME

DATES

August – September (to be advised)

FREQUENCY

Annual

DURATION

1 Day

ABOUT THE FESTIVAL (Legend/History/Myth)

The Biyyam Kayal Boat Race is an annual canoe racing event held during the Onam season across Biyyam Kayal (backwaters) near Ponnani town. It is marked by the presence of traditional *Churulan Vallams*, a type of traditional paddled war canoes unlike the snake boats seen during similar events in southern Kerala. A large crowd gathers to witness the event supported by the District Tourism Promotion Council.



RELEVANCE-
(Local / National / International)

Local



NO. OF PEOPLE PARTICIPATED

Over 25,000



EVENTS/PROGRAMS

Inaugural Ceremony
Jala Ghoshayatra
Boat Race
Traditional Percussion Music

DESCRIPTION *(How festival is celebrated)*

The boat race across the Biyyam Kayal is a spectacular event drawing thousands of people from the Malabar region. The race takes place in various categories comprising of 15 to 20 rowers in each boat. Women also compete under the special category. The racing event is preceded by colourful cultural processions. It is also accompanied by traditional percussion music and cultural performances much to the delight of the crowd.

