



KAKKOOR KALAVAYAL FESTIVAL

EDAPPARA TEMPLE, THIRUMARADY AND AMBASSERY TEMPLE, KAKKOOR



**Panchayath/
Municipality/
Corporation**

Muvattupuzha Municipality

District

Ernakulam

**Nearest Town/
Landmark/ Junction**

Ambassery Junction – 87 m

Nearest Bus station

Ambassery Junction Bus Stop – 87 m

**Nearest Railway
station**

Ernakulam South Railway Station – 35.9 km

Nearest Airport

Cochin International Airport - 46 km



Ambassery Temple
SH42, Kakkoor – 686667
Contact: Muvattupuzha Municipality Office
Phone: +91-485-2835347



TIME

DATES

February – March

FREQUENCY

Annual

DURATION

4 Days

ABOUT THE FESTIVAL (Legend/History/Myth)

The century old *Kakkoor Kalavayal* is a post harvest festival celebrated by the farmers of *Kakkoor* and the ox race is the highlight of the fest. Rural Tourism is all about visiting villages and experiencing its unique fairs and festivals, far away from the hustle bustle of urban environment. *Kakkoor* is a village located two kilometer away from *Thirumarady* near *Piravom* in *Ernakulam* district. The century old *Kakkoor Kalavayal* is a post harvest festival and adjoining villages. The most exciting event of the festival is the traditional *Maramadi* competition. *Kakkoor Kalavayal* is connected with some local folklore. The deities of *Edappara Temple* in *Thirumarady* and *Ambassery Temple* in *Kakkoor* and are believed to be sisters. The *Edappara Bhagavathi* and the *Amabassery Bhagavathi* meet once a year and the *Kakkoor Kalavayal* festival marks their reunion. What began as a fair for buying and selling of cattle, agricultural tools and local products later attained the status of a major festival. The cattle market (*Kala Vayal*) is held during the Malayalam month of *Kumbham* (February – March). The highlight of the event is the ox race and *Maramadi* competition. The race is conducted on the muddy tracks of paddy fields in *Kakkoor* village where bullocks show their raw strength, stamina and skills. The participants, mostly farmers, would control his pair of oxen by shouts as they race through the paddy fields. It is a belief that the race brings good rainfall and harvest in the forthcoming agricultural season. The oxen participating in the race come from different region of Kerala and are specially fed and trained. The most exciting moment of this festival is the grand finale. As the event is highly competitive and thrilling, villagers gather in large numbers around the field to cheer the participants. Despite the lack of effective promotions, *Kakkoor Kalavayal* is being witnessed by masses, both domestic and foreign tourists, and it is rated as a major rural event held in Kerala. *Kakkoor Kalavayal* ends with the celebration by the farming community symbolizing the rapport between man and his farm and the live stock.



RELEVANCE-
(Local / National / International)

National



NO. OF PEOPLE PARTICIPATED

Approximately 500000



EVENTS/PROGRAMS

Ox Race
Maramadi Competition
Contest Of Oxen In
Doubles
Mud Race
Horse Race
Flower Show
Agricultural Exhibition
Cultural Processions

DESCRIPTION (*How festival is celebrated*)

A mixture of mud and sludge is made by filling the paddy field with water and the renowned *Maramadi* race is conducted on this field. The buffaloes running through the water-filled field in high speed and the cheering of the men who control them are not to be missed out. A team consists of buffaloes tied to a yoke kept on their backs connected to a wooden plank by ropes and 3 persons who control them. There will be several teams like this in the race. *Maramadi* race is a beautiful scene where buffaloes and man come together and become one. The greenery of the village, the uproar of people watching the race and the strut of the bulls made my mind full, making me wait eagerly for the next festival. The most thrilling part of the festival is the *Maramadi* or bullock race which is organized on the concluding day. Different types and categories of bull race are conducted as part of *Maramadi*. The race is conducted in a vast stretch of freshly ploughed paddy fields locally called *Kandam*. Strong bulls or oxens specially bred and trained for the purpose are brought to the freshly ploughed fields for the race. A pair of specially trained buffaloes managed by three to four persons forms a participating unit and around 10- 20 such units participate in the race. The buffaloes are tied to a yoke kept on their backs connected to a wooden plank by ropes. This wooden plank touches the muddy ground and the rider hangs on to it and slides through the mud while riding. Two riders run on either side of the buffaloes and steer them using ropes attached to the yoke. Another team member runs after the buffaloes and the winner is selected by their speed. It is a highly competitive and thrilling event and almost all villagers gather around the field and cheer the participants.

