



MALAYATTOOR PERUNAL, FEAST ST. THOMAS SHRINE, MALAYATTOOR



LOCATION

**Panchayath/
Municipality/
Corporation**

Malayattoor Panchayat

District

Ernakulam



ACCESSIBILITY

**Nearest Town/
Landmark/ Junction**

Malayattoor – 2 km

Nearest Bus station

Malayattoor Bus Stop – 50 m

**Nearest Railway
station**

Angamaly Railway Station – 17 km

Nearest Airport

Cochin International Airport – 15 km



CONTACT

St. Thomas Shrine
Kurisumudy,
Malayattoor,
Ernakulam 683587
Phone : +91-484-2468848



TIME

DATES

March–April

FREQUENCY

Annual

DURATION

5 Days

ABOUT THE FESTIVAL (Legend/History/Myth)

Malayattoor Perunnal festival is regarded as a church festival which is held at the Church at Mallayyattoor in Kerala in India. The *Malayattoor Perunnal* festival which showcases most of the major local rituals is a fascinating event. The festival with its vibrant color and enormity is unforgettable. *St. Thomas* is believed to have landed in Kerala at Kodungallur (Cranganore) in AD 52. Oral tradition says that while travelling through Malayattor, faced with hostile natives, he fled to the hilltop where he is said to have remained in prayer and that he left his foot prints on one of the rocks. According to beliefs, during prayer, he touched a rock, upon which blood poured from it. The chief festival is on the first Sunday after Easter. It is traditionally believed that St. Thomas used to make the Sign of the Cross on the rock, kiss it and pray at *Kurisumudi*. The story has it that a miraculous golden cross appeared at that particular spot. Pilgrims going up the hill to call out incessantly "*Ponnum Kurishu Muthappo, Ponmala Kayattom*", meaning "O Patriarch of the Golden Cross! Climb we shall, this golden hill!"

This Shrine was promoted to Archdiocesan status by Major Archbishop *Mar Varkey Cardinal Vithayathil* on 4 September 1998. There is also a very ancient Church in the name of St Thomas (Estd. 900) at Malayattoor on the bank of *Periyar* River which serves as the parish Church at present. The annual festival of this church is known as '*Malayattoor Perunal*' and it is celebrated in the months of March–April.



RELEVANCE-
(Local / National /
International)

Local



NO. OF PEOPLE
PARTICIPATED

Approximately 5000

EVENTS/PROGRAMS

Malayatoor Perunnal
Feast
Kurisumala kayattom
Procession

DESCRIPTION *(How festival is celebrated)*

The Feast at Kurisumudy is on the first Sunday after Easter and the Octave on the following Sunday. People visit this pilgrim centre all through the year but they come in large groups during Lenten season. The number of pilgrims go up during the holy week especially on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. A lot of devotees come to the shrine carrying crosses and walking hundreds of Kilometers. Some of the crosses weight more than 75 Kilograms. When the pilgrims climb the mountain they chant "*Ponin Kurisu Mala Muthappo Pommalakayattam*" that has almost become a *mantra* of those who climb.

Groups of pilgrims climb the hill praying the Way of the Cross with lighted candles in their hands. During the Lenten season the whole atmosphere echoes the songs and prayers of the Stations of the Cross.

There are women who carry brooms with them when they climb the hill. It is believed that by doing so they grow their hair long and thick. They pray for the abundance of physical and spiritual wellbeing.

