



NAVARATHRI FESTIVAL

SRI RAJA RAJESWARI TEMPLE, PALARIVATTOM



LOCATION

**Panchayath/
Municipality/
Corporation**

Palarivattom Municipality

District

Ernakulam

**Nearest Town/
Landmark/ Junction**

Palarivattom Junction – 140 m

Nearest Bus station

Palarivattom Bus Stop – 160 m

**Nearest Railway
station**

Ernakulam North Railway Station – 2.9 km

Nearest Airport

Cochin International Airport – 24.3 km



ACCESSIBILITY

Sri Raja Rajeswari temple
Palarivattom – 682025
Phone : +91-484-2349492
Email : rajarajeswari@rediffmail.com
Website : rajarajeswaritemple.org



CONTACT



TIME

DATES

September – October

FREQUENCY

Annual

DURATION

9 Days

ABOUT THE FESTIVAL (Legend/History/Myth)

Goddess Sri Raja Rajeswari, (Jala Durga) is the main deity of this centuries old temple. Even though authentic details are not available about the age of the temple, it is considered as one of the 108 Durga temples made by Lord Parasurama in Kerala. As the Goddess was installed under a Pala tree, she came to be known as Palachuvattil Devi and the place acquired the name Palarivattom. Earlier this temple was under the control of Swarnathu mana for a long period, and it is believed that Jagadguru Sri Sankaracharya had visited this temple during that time. Later the control of the temple was transferred to Edapally Elangur Swarupam. Situated within the state boundary of the old Kochi Raja and near to the erstwhile Travancore State, this temple had an international acclaim during that time.

Navaratri is one of the greatest Hindu festivals. It symbolizes the triumph of good over evil. Navaratri takes place at the beginning of October around harvest time. During this period, Durga, Lakshmi and Saraswati are worshipped as three different manifestations of Shakti, or cosmic energy. Hinduism is the only religion in the world which has emphasised to such an extent the motherhood of God. 'Nava-ratri' literally means nine nights. During Navaratri, we invoke the energy aspect of God in the form of the universal mother, commonly referred to as Durga, which literally means the remover of miseries of life.



RELEVANCE-
(Local / National / International)

National



NO. OF PEOPLE PARTICIPATED

Approximately 10000

EVENTS/PROGRAMS

*Poojavaipu
Puja Eduppu
Ezhuthinu Iruthu
Koluvaipu*

DESCRIPTION (*How festival is celebrated*)

Navaratri is divided into sets of three days to adore different aspects of the supreme goddess. On the first three days, the Mother is invoked as powerful force called *Durga* in order to destroy all our impurities, vices and defects. The next three days, the Mother is adored as a giver of spiritual wealth, *Lakshmi*, who is considered to have the power of bestowing on her devotees the inexhaustible wealth. The final set of three days is spent in worshipping the mother as the goddess of wisdom, *Saraswati*. In order to have all-round success in life, we need the blessings of all three aspects of the divine mother; hence, the worship for nine nights. The last three days of the *Navaratri* are called *Durgashtami*, *Mahanavami* and *Vijayadasami*, and they are considered more sacred than the other days for Devi worship. The *Saraswati puja* and *Ayudha Puja* are performed. On the *Durgashtami* day a ceremony called *Poojavaipu* is performed in the evening. Just before the *Poojavaipu*, all studies and work which mainly require skill, are suspended. Then a *Puja* is performed to *Saraswati* during which fruits, beaten rice, roasted paddy (*malar*), jaggery etc, are offered to Her. The following day is known as *Mahanavami* and it is totally devoted to the worship of *Saraswati Puja* is performed both in the morning and in the evening.

On the *Vijayadasami* day after a *Puja* in the morning, the Books and implements are removed from the room and this ceremony is called '*Puja Eduppu*'. The time for the break up of the *puja* marks the beginning of learning and work. At this auspicious moment the children for the first time are given instructions to write the first few alphabets on rice or sand. They are thus initiated into the world of knowledge. This is called '*Ezhuthinu Iruthu*' or '*Vidyarambham*' and according to custom only after this ceremony child becomes entitled to write or read. There are certain communities which celebrate the festival on all days of *Navaratri* Images of Gods, animals and toys of different variety are arranged for exhibition and this performance is called '*Koluvaipu*'

