



SHIVARATHRI

THRIKKARIYOOR MAHADEVA TEMPLE



LOCATION

**Panchayath/
Municipality/
Corporation**

Thrikkariyoor

District

Ernakulam



ACCESSIBILITY

**Nearest Town/
Landmark/ Junction**

Nellikuzhi – 2.5 km

Nearest Bus station

Nellikuzhi Canal Bus Stop – 3.1 km

**Nearest Railway
station**

Aluva Railway Station – 31.7 km

Nearest Airport

Cochin International Airport - 30.5 km



CONTACT

Thrikkariyoor Mahadeva Temple
Nellikuzhi Thrikkariyoor Road,
Thrikkariyoor, Ernakulam,
Kerala 682011
Phone: 0485 282 8746



TIME

DATES

March-April

FREQUENCY

Annual

DURATION

10 Days

ABOUT THE FESTIVAL (Legend/History/Myth)

The *Thrikkariyoor* Shiva Temple is considered to be the last *pratishta* of Lord *Parasurama*. It is the last among the 108 *Shivalayas* consecrated by *Parasurama*. Legend goes that, Lord *Parasurama* (sixth incarnation of Lord Vishnu) created the land between *Gokarna* and *Kanyakumari*. After many years of penance *Parasurama* invoked Lord *Varuna* (Lord of the Oceans) to absolve himself of his sins. *Parasurama* wanted to donate some land to the Brahmins and asked for this boon from Lord *Varuna*. *Varuna* gave *Parasurama* an axe and asked him to throw it as far as possible. The distance the axe covers from *Gokarna* will be given to him. The axe thrown from *Gokarna* landed in *Kanyakumari*, there by creating the land (Kerala) for Brahmins. After this, *Parasurama* set about establishing 64 villages and consequently 108 Shiva temples in that stretch. Apparently *Thrikkariyoor* is where *Parasurama* attained Salvation.

It is also believed that ` This Temple Contains The Spirits Of Lord Shiva And Lord Krishna`. But there isn't much info behind the reason for this belief. Another significance of *Thrikkariyoor* is that it is believed to be Capital of the *Chera* Dynasty. Some historians even claim that *Thrikkariyoor* is the modern *Karur*, although there is not much support for this theory.



RELEVANCE-
(Local / National / International)

Local



NO. OF PEOPLE PARTICIPATED

Approximately 2500

EVENTS/PROGRAMS

Flag hoisting
Specail poojas
Traditional art forms
Procession
Thiruvathirakali

DESCRIPTION *(How festival is celebrated)*

Shivaratri festival is celebrated in honor of Lord Shiva, the third God of the Hindu Trinity. The festival starts with *kodiyettu* (flag hoisting ceremony). It is celebrated every year on the 14th night of the new moon during the dark half of the month of *Phalguna*. Kerala arts like Kathakali, Ottan Thullal, Kurathiyattom etc will be held as a part of the festival. People fast throughout the day and ritual prayers are conducted in temples at night. *Theyyakazhcha Khoshayathra* (a procession) is also a part of the festival. *Thiruvathira* is largely a festival for women; unmarried women observe a partial fast on this day to get good husbands and married women take a fast from the preceding day (*Makayiram nakshatra*) and on the day of *Thiruvathira* for the well being of their husband and family. The first *Thiruvathira* of a newly wedded woman is her *poonthiruvathira*. The fast essentially involves abstaining from rice-based food. The typical meal includes cooked broken wheat and *Thiruvathira puzhukku*, a delightful mix of tuber vegetables: colocasia (*chembu*), yam (*chena*), Chinese potato (*koorka*), sweet potato (*madhurakizhangu*) with long beans (*vanpayar*) and raw plantain fruit (*ethakaya*), cooked with a thick paste of freshly ground coconut. The dessert is *koova payasam*, a sweet dish made of arrow root powder, jaggery and coconut milk. *Thiruvathirakali* is a dance form performed by women on the day of *Thiruvathira* to the accompaniment of *Thiruvathira paattu*, folk songs telling tales of lovesick *Parvati*, her longing and penance for Lord Shiva's affection and Shiva's might and power. The sinuous movements executed by the group of dancers around a *nilavilakku* embody *lasya* or the amorous charm and grace of the feminine. The dance follows a circular, pirouetting pattern accompanied by clapping of the hands and singing.

