



SIVARATHRI

ALUVA MANAPPURAM SIVA TEMPLE



LOCATION

**Panchayath/
Municipality/
Corporation**

Aluva Municipality

District

Ernakulam



ACCESSIBILITY

**Nearest Town/
Landmark/ Junction**

Bypass Junction – 1.4 km

Nearest Bus station

Bypass Junction Bus Stop – 1.5 km

**Nearest Railway
station**

Aluva Railway Station- 2.9 Km

Nearest Airport

Cochin International Airport – 10.9 Km



CONTACT

Aluva Manappuram Siva Temple
Temple Rd, Aluva Manapuram,
Thottakkattukara,
Kochi, Kerala 683108
Phone : +(91)-484-2603045



TIME

DATES

February-March

FREQUENCY

Annual

DURATION

1 Day

ABOUT THE FESTIVAL (Legend/History/Myth)

The unique feature of Aluva Mahadeva Temple is that the Shivalinga is not enshrined in a Sreekovil. There are many legends associated with this temple. After installing the Lingam Parasurama built a temple here but was destroyed by flood. Lord Shiva told him that no temple structure will exist at that place because He does not want a temple structure for protecting the Lingam. Another legend goes like this. The Bhuthaganas of Lord Shiva worshipped the Lingam every night. They decided to construct a temple there. But Lord Shiva told them that they must complete the temple in a single night. Bhuthaganas agreed and started the construction. When the foundation was completed, Lord Vishnu came there, disguised as a cock and crowed to mislead the Bhuthaganas. The Bhuthaganas, fearing that dawn had approached, left the work unfinished. Sri Rama, during his search for Sitha, performed tharpana for Jadayu here. Another legend is associated with Vilwamangalam Swamiyar. One day he visited this place and realised the presence of Lord Shiva and identified the Shiva Linga installed by Parasurama. He started worshipping the Linga and Lord Mahadeva appeared in front of him and told him to start poojas there. Pottayil Ilayathu, Thottathil Nambiar and Idamana Nampoothiri made proper arrangements for Shiva Pooja and Vilwamngalam started the pooja. But there were no vessels to offer Nivedyam. So Vilwamangalam used a Kavungin Pala (aracanut leaf) to offer Nivedyam.



RELEVANCE-
(Local / National / International)

Local



NO. OF PEOPLE PARTICIPATED

Approximately 5000

EVENTS/PROGRAMS

Special Poojas
Dikvijayam
Pallivetta Ceremony
Aarattu
Fair

DESCRIPTION *(How festival is celebrated)*

Aluva Sivarathri is celebrated at the Siva Temple in Aluva Manappuram. The Shiva temple is situated on the banks of River Periyar and pilgrims come to the waters to offer oblations to ancestors in a ritual called *Bali Tharpanam*. This oblation is offered to Lord Siva on the morning after Sivaratri night. It is customary for devotees to fast on the night of Aluva Sivarathri and to chant the mantra 'Om Namah Shivaya'. Hymns in praise of Lord Shiva are sung with great devotion and storytelling, reading of the Puranas and other holy texts are performed throughout the night. Special poojas are performed and water and milk is poured on the *Sivalingam* on the festival day in the Manappuram Shiva Temple.

The sand bank of Aluva near Manappuram Shiva Temple is the venue for the Sivarathri Festival. Rows of sheds are built where merchants exhibit all kinds of things for sale. Cultural programs like shows, classical dances and traditional performing arts performances take place all night to help the pilgrims to stay awake throughout the night. A fair is also organised for a month from the Shivarathri day. Daily Ezhunnallippu of the deity atop a caparisoned elephant, a procession known as *Dikvijayam* is conducted on the third and fourth days, and *pallivetta* ceremony on the fifth day. The festival concludes with the *Aarattu* on the next day of Shivarathri. The celebrations will last to around one month.

