



TRIPUNITHURA ATHACHAMAYAM

SREE POORNATHRAYEESA TEMPLE



LOCATION

**Panchayat/
Municipality/
Corporation**

Thripunithura Municipality

District

Ernakulam



ACCESSIBILITY

**Nearest Town/
Landmark/ Junction**

Thripunithura – 400 m

Nearest Bus station

Thripunithura Bus Terminal – 280 m

**Nearest Railway
station**

Thripunithura Railway Station – 2 Km

Nearest Airport

Cochin International Airport - 33 Km



CONTACT

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TIME

DATES

August - September

FREQUENCY

Annual

DURATION

10 Days

ABOUT THE FESTIVAL (Legend/History/Myth)

Athachamayam, a cultural gala that marks the beginning of the ten-day Onam festival in Kerala, is a rare chance to enjoy almost all the folk art forms of God's Own Country. Athachamayam is conducted every year on the *Atham* asterism of the Malayalam month *Chingam* (roughly August/September), at the historical town of Thripunithura near Kochi, Ernakulam district. The festival, which is celebrated to commemorate the legendary victory of the Raja (King) of Kochi, is also an occasion to witness almost all the folk art forms of Kerala. A colourful procession, which is part of this festival, reminds the customary procession of the king along with his entourage to the Thripunithura (Thripoonithura) fort. This was also the occasion for his subjects to greet the king and see him very close. The procession, though without the king, still retains its majestic charm, and is conducted in a spectacular manner. Caparisoned elephants, varieties of folk art forms, floats, and musical ensembles together form part of the procession. Onam, the most popular festival of Keralites can be traced to the primitive harvest festival and also to the myth regarding King Mahabali - the benevolent ruler who brought peace and prosperity to Keralites. Conducted every year on the Atham asterism of the Malayalam month Chingam (Leo), the event held at the historical town of Thripunithura is a celebration of a legendary victory of the Raja (King) of Kochi. In olden days it was customary for the king to travel with his entire entourage to the Thripunithura fort. This was also the occasion for his subjects to greet the king and see him at close quarters. The procession, now without the king, still retains its majestic charm, and is conducted in a spectacular manner. Caparisoned elephants, varieties of folk art forms, floats, musical ensembles etc form part of the procession. Onam is the most popular festival of the Malayalees and can be traced to the primitive harvest festival and also to the myth regarding King Mahabali - the benevolent asura ruler who brought peace and prosperity to his country.



RELEVANCE-
(Local / National /
International)

Local



**NO. OF PEOPLE
PARTICIPATED**

Approximately 10000

EVENTS/PROGRAMS

Caparisoned Elephants
Varieties of Folk Art
Forms
Floats
Musical Ensembles

DESCRIPTION *(How festival is celebrated)*

Athachamayam in the bygone days was the only one day in the year when all the people, irrespective of caste and creed were allowed to enter the Kottakkakam or inner precincts of the Fort. The last such Athachamayam was held during the reign of Rama Varma Preeekshith Thampuran. Post independence, with the emergence of the union of states, Athachamayam sank into oblivion from the cultural scenario. The colourful raleigh retains its majestic charm and is conducted in a spectacular manner with enthusiastic response from the public.

