



KALIYOTTU MAHOTSAVAM

SARKARA DEVI TEMPLE, CHIRAYINKEEZHU



LOCATION

Panchayat/
Municipality/
Corporation

Chirayinkeezhu Municipality

District

Thiruvananthapuram

Nearest Town/
Landmark/ Junction

Chirayinkeezhu Town – 50 m

Nearest Bus Station

Chirayinkeezhu Bus Stand – 600 m

Nearest Railway
Station

Chirayinkeezhu Railway Station – 1 Km

Nearest Airport

Trivandrum International Airport – 31.2 Km



ACCESSIBILITY

Sarkara Devi Temple
Pandakasala Sarkara Rd,
Sarkara,
Chirayinkeezhu - 695304

Phone: +91-470- 2643697

Email: sarkaratemple@gmail.com

Website: www.sarkaradevi.org



CONTACT



TIME

DATES

February-March (*Kumbham*)

FREQUENCY

Annual

DURATION

9 Days

ABOUT THE FESTIVAL (Legend/History/Myth)

The objective of *Kaliyoottu* is to offer the elementary harvest to the *Amma* (the divine Mother), the defender of the land. The ritual art of *Kaliyoottu* was originally celebrated in North Malabar to propitiate Goddess Kali and was brought to Travancore by King Marthanda Varma (1729–1758). Legend has it that Marthanda Varma Maharaja tried to capture Kayamkulam province several times to expand his domain. Although unsuccessful, he did not give away his ambition. His one and only motive was the defeat Kayamkulam Raja. With the unyielding desire he was forced to make another arrangement for a war. On his way to Kayamkulam it is said that he chose the big ground near the Sarkara temple to take rest. Learning about the arrival of Maharaja in their mace, that leaders assembled together to meet the Maharaja. Hearing the Raja's stories of defeat at Kayamkulam, they suggested that the only way to his triumph was to offer a Kaliyoot to Sarkaradevi. In agreement with their suggestion the Maharaja decided to offer Kaliyoot to Sarkaradevi and finally became successful in the war.



RELEVANCE-
(Local / National /
International)

Local



NO. OF PEOPLE
PARTICIPATED

30,000-40,000

EVENTS/PROGRAMS

DESCRIPTION *(How festival is celebrated)*

Nilathil Poru
Mudi Uzhichil
Traditional Folk Music

Kaliyoottu is the dramatic presentation of the genesis of *Bhadrakali* and *Darika*, the representatives of good and evil respectively, their confrontation and later the extermination of *Darika* in devotional terms and with rhythmic footsteps. *Kaliyoottu* is a synthesis of older agrarian art tradition and is further established by the fact that the time chosen for performing *Kaliyoottu* is after *Makara Koithu* (the Malayalam month of *Makaram* corresponds to March and is the season of the second harvest season in Kerala). *Koithu* is a Malayalam term for harvest) and that *Kali* is believed to be disguised as a *Pulaya* girl in the drama. The first 7 days ceremonies are dramatic visualisations of stories leading to the war between *Bhadrakali* and *Darika*. The ceremonies take its peak with the 8th and 9th day ceremonies, "*Mudi Uzhichil*" and "*Nilathil Poru*" respectively. The functions on these days in the *Kali* drama festival are a visual treat and the colorful ceremonies take hours for completion. The men from the ponnara family are assigned with the *Kali*, *Durga* and *Darika* costumes.

