



# KODUNGALLOOR BHARANI

## KODUNGALLOOR BHAGAVATHY TEMPLE



### LOCATION

**Panchayath/  
Municipality/  
Corporation**

Kodungalloor Municipality

**District**

Thrissur District



### ACCESSIBILITY

**Nearest Town/  
Landmark/  
Junction**

Kodungalloor – 650 m

**Nearest Bus station**

Kodungalloor Private Bus Station – 700 m

**Nearest Railway  
station**

Thrissur Railway Station – 37 km

**Nearest Airport**

Cochin International Airport – 31 km



### CONTACT

Kodungalloor Bhagavathy Temple,  
Pettumma, Kodungalloor,  
Kerala 680664  
Ph No: +91-480-2803061



TIME

DATES

March - April

FREQUENCY

Annually

DURATION

7 days



### ABOUT THE FESTIVAL (Legend/History/Myth)

*Kodungallur Bhadrakali (Bhagavathy)* temple is considered as the Mother shrine for a large number of *Bhadrakali* temples established throughout Kerala. Among the legends, the earliest one is that the temple was established by Lord *Parasurama*. He had established four Goddess *Bhagavathy* temples at *Kanyakumari* (that of *Balambika*), *Kodungallur* (that of *Lokambika*), *Palakkad* (that of *Hemambika*) and *Kollur* in *Karnataka* (that of *Mookambika*). Among these, the fiercest form is that of the Goddess at *Kodungallur*. Another legend is that the dynast *Cheran Chenkuttuvan* had installed the image of *Kannaki*, later known as *Kodungallur Bhagavathy*. However, historians disagree with this story. When *Srimad Sankaracharya* visited the temple, he experienced the divine powers of the deity and hence he installed the *Meru Chakra*, which was worshipped by him, at the original seat of the temple and closed the room. It is opened only on special occasions. He also prescribed the rituals to be followed in the temple. During *Mysorean* invasions, the temple was destroyed, but the power of Goddess was invoked in a sword before the attack and kept in a nearby *Illam* (Brahmin house). When *Tippu* retreated, the power of the Goddess was re-invoked and temple was renovated. The temple belonged to *Kodungallur Kovilakam* (royal family) till 1949. In 1950, *Cochin Devaswom* Board took over the temple administration.

It is believed that the name *Kodungallur* was derived from *Kodi-linga-puram* (the land of 10 million *Siva lingas*). Historians are of opinion that this place was perhaps the revenue collection centre of *Kudakons* (customs duty of the *Chera* rulers) for the goods coming to the nearby port and hence the place known as *Kudakonallur* which later shortened to *Kodungallur*. In ancient period, the place was known in different names. *Jangli*, *Gingaleh*, *Cyngilin*, *Shinkali*, *Chinkli*, *Jinkali*, *Shenkala*, *Cynkali* are some of them. *Columguria*, *Kudalingapuram*, *Kodunkaliyur*, *Thiruvallur*, *Ravivisvapuram*, *Balakreetapuram* are some other ancient names. To the Greeks and Romans it was *Muziris*. It was referred to as *Muchiripattanam* in Tamil works and epics. During the reign of *Cheras* the place was known as *Mahodayapuram* or *Mahodayapattanam*. Another name given to the place is *Thiruvanchikulam*. The British called the place *Cranganore*. Government of Kerala officially changed its name as *Kodungallur*. Historically *Kodungallur* is an important place. It was a major port in the western coast and centre of trade with foreigners. Islam, Jewish and Christianity entered India through *Kodungallur*. The first mosque in India was established here. The flood of *Periyar* in 1341 AD damaged the port and the glory of *Kodungallur*.



RELEVANCE-  
(Local / National /  
International)

Local



NO. OF PEOPLE  
PARTICIPATED

Approximately 10000

## EVENTS/PROGRAMS

*Kozhikkallu modal*

*Kavu Theendal*

*Chandanapoti Charthal*

## DESCRIPTION (*How festival is celebrated*)

The *Bharani* festival at the Kodungallur *Bhagawati* temple is one of the grandest in Kerala. It is a month of festivities from the *Bharani* asterism in the month of *Kumbham* to 7 days after the *Bharani* asterism in the month of *Meenam*. The festival usually starts with the ritual called *Kozhikkallu modal* which involves the sacrifice of cocks and shedding of their blood, which forms an important feature of this temple. The members of the Kodungallur Bhagavathy temple are allowed to participate in this ritual. It is to appease the goddess Kali and her demons who take delight in blood offerings. *Kavu Theendal*, another important event of the festival, overseen by the King of Kodungallur where a horde of *Vellichapads* (oracles) make a mad rush around the temple waving their sabres in the air while the members of their retinue throw objects (including cocks) over the inner quadrangle. They make a wild cry of abuse at the goddess in bawdy language. Their abuse is said to be accepted by the goddess followed by the purification ceremony the next day. *Chandanapoti Charthal* is yet another festival of smearing the image with sandal paste.

