



COCHIN CARNIVAL

FORT KOCHI BEACH



LOCATION

**Panchayat/
Municipality/
Corporation**

Cochin Corporation

District

Ernakulam



ACCESSIBILITY

**Nearest Town/
Landmark/ Junction**

Cochin Club – 600 m

Nearest Bus Station

Fort Kochi Bus Terminal – 650 m

**Nearest Railway
Station**

Ernakulam Junction Railway Station – 12.7 Km

Nearest Airport

Cochin International Airport – 37.4 Km



CONTACT

Cochin Carnival
River Road
Fort Kochi -1
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TIME

DATES

December-January

FREQUENCY

Annual

DURATION

10 Days

ABOUT THE FESTIVAL

(Legend/History/Myth)

Cochin Carnival is a highly spirited gala fete that is an ensemble of Christmas and New Year celebrations organized in Kochi. The origin of the Carnival can be traced back to Portuguese New Year celebrations during colonial rule in India. Although the celebrations gradually faded after the end of colonial rule, the event was revived by the 'Carnivale Cochin' festivities that was organized by a group of three youngsters to mark the International Youth Year (as part of the UN proclamation) in 1985. This translated into the present day Cochin Carnival. All decorations are dominated by white color symbolizing peace and tranquility. Thousands of people gather to witness the massive procession that features a spectacular display of culture and traditions from across the country. A significant event associated with the Carnival is the burning of *Papanji* (a giant statue of an old man) symbolic of an end to the burdens of the passing year and beginning the New Year on a fresh note.



RELEVANCE-
(Local / National /
International)

Local



NO. OF PEOPLE
PARTICIPATED

Above 3,00,000



EVENTS/PROGRAMS

Inaugural Ceremony
Cultural Rally
Cultural Events
Sporting Events
New Year Celebrations



DESCRIPTION *(How festival is celebrated)*

The festival is marked by a spectacular cultural procession depicting the local and national cultural diversity. The huge rally includes caparisoned elephants, various art forms, tableaux, fancy dressed people etc. that reflects the Carnival theme of peace, progress, environment, participation and adventure. The festivities spread over a week combines Christmas and New Year celebrations that are witnessed by thousands of people who gather at the Fort Kochi Beach. Various sporting and cultural events are also organized in Kochi as part of the celebrations. The new year is welcomed by setting ablaze the massive effigy of *Papanji* signifying the elimination of bad to embrace the good as the new year dawns.

