



# KARKIDAKA VAVU

## THIRUNAVAYA NAVAMUKUNDA TEMPLE



### LOCATION

Panchayat/  
Municipality/  
Corporation

Thirunavaya Panchayat

District

Malappuram



### ACCESSIBILITY

Nearest Town/  
Landmark/ Junction

Thirunavaya Junction – 350 m

Nearest Bus station

Thirunavaya Bus Stop – 250 m

Nearest Railway  
station

Thirunavaya Railway Station – 1.5 Km

Nearest Airport

Calicut International Airport – 41.4 Km



### CONTACT

Thirunavaya Nava Mukunda Temple  
Thirunavaya – 676505  
Phone: +91- 494-2603747



### TIME

#### DATES

July - August

#### FREQUENCY

Annual

#### DURATION

1 Day



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

The nine spiritually enlightened sons of *Hrishabha*, the King of *Ayodhya*, known as *Navayogis* (Nine ascetics), were constant travelers. During their sojourn, they reached the confluence of the rivers *Bagmathi* and *Gantaki* from where the eldest son, *Kavi*, got a *Salagrama* of Vishnu. *Salagramas* are stones found in the *Gantaki* river basin in Nepal, with special marks like spiral, chakras, thread, etc. formed on them and considered as sacred with the presence of God Vishnu. Install this *Salagrama* at the most holy place for the welfare of mankind, *Kavi* heard an *asareeri* (the divine prompting voice). *Kavi* travelled all over India in search of the befitting place for the installation of the *salagrama* and placed it on the north bank of *Bharatappuzha* at *Thirunavaya*, where Vishnu himself, whom the *salagrama* represented, had stayed during a *Yaga* conducted by Brahma on the South bank. *Kavi* left the place complacent that his duty was over, but the *salagrama* sank into the earth. Then his seven brothers brought other *salagramas* of Vishnu and repeated the process and these also sank deep into the earth. At last, the youngest of the brothers, *Karabhajan*, came to the same place and knew of the futile attempts of his brothers. He knew that this happened because; the proper rituals that should have been performed at the time of the installation were not performed. He installed the *Salagrama*, as *Mukunda* bestowing *Moksha* to the departed souls with all necessary rituals. This time the installation was successful. Later these nine brothers (*Navayogis*) came to this place and performed a *Yaga* (ritual of sacrifice) for the appeasement of the gods and the welfare of the people. The place was thus known as *Tirunavayogi*, in memory of the nine brothers, and the word transformed, as time passed, to the present form *Thirunavaya*. This temple, The *Navamukunda* Temple is one of the oldest Vishnu temples in Kerala. It dates back to the last period of the *Dwaapara Yuga*. The main daily offerings for worship are *Ney Vilakku* (lamp lighted with ghee), *Thaamara maala* (Lotus garlands) and *Paal paayasam* (Porridge/Dessert or *Kheer* made of rice cooked in sweetened milk). For unhindered availability of lotus flowers, one of the Maharajas of Travancore had constructed a vast pond of lotus plants nearby, and donated it to this temple. The temple and the surrounding region were under the rule of *Cheraman Perumals* and later under *Vettathu Rajas* who owed allegiance to *Perumals*. After demise of the last *Vettathu Raja* in 1793 AD, The British East India Company who, by this time became the rulers of this region handed over this temple to Kozhikode *Samoothiri Raja* (the King *Zamorin* of Calicut) for its administration as *Ooraalan*. *Karkidaka Vavu* Festival includes the rituals performed by the Hindus in the state of Kerala for their dead ancestors. This day is also known as *Vavu Bali* and is held in the month of *Karkidakam* in the Malayalam calendar.



**RELEVANCE-**  
(Local / National /  
International)

Local



**NO. OF PEOPLE  
PARTICIPATED**

Approximately 10000



## EVENTS/PROGRAMS

Shraddham  
Special Poojas  
Tantric rituals

## DESCRIPTION (How festival is celebrated)

The ceremonies for dead grandparents, parents, siblings, children and relatives are performed on *Karkidakavavu* (no moon day) in the *Karkidaka Masam*. The *Shraddham* rituals must be done on the river banks or seashore. On the auspicious day of *Karkidaka Vavu*, devotees in large numbers perform the *Bali Tharpanam* ritual in order to pay homage to their dead ancestors. Special *Poojas* and *Tantric rituals* will be held during the festival.

