



Panchayat/ Municipality/ Corporation

Kalliyoor Panchayat

District

Thiruvananthapuram



Nearest Town/
Landmark/ Junction

Vellayani Temple Bus Stop - 20 m

Nearest Bus Station

Vellayani Temple Bus Stop - 20 m

Nearest Railway Station

Trivandrum Central Railway Station - 8.5 Km

Nearest Airport

Trivandrum International Airport – 13.2 Km



Major Vellayani Devi Temple Nemom, Vellayani – 695020

Contact 1: Kalliyoor Panchayat Office

Phone: +91-471-2400258

Contact 2: Travancore Devaswom Board

Phone: +91-471-2316963 (Public Relations Officer)



DATES

February/March/April (Kumbham to Medam)

FREQUENCY

Once in 3 Years

64 Days

DURATION

ABOUT THE FESTIVAL (Legend/History/Myth)

The Vellayani Devi Temple is a highly revered shrine in Kerala, dedicated to Goddess Bhadrakali. Vellayani Devi Temple is renowned for celebrating the longest non-pilgrimage festival of South India and the duration of the festival is around 64 days. This festival is held every three years, usually between February and April. The festival is known as the Kaliyoottu Mahotsavam, which literally means "the festival to sumptuously feed Devi. 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.















EVENTS/PROGRAMS

Karadikottu Uchabali

Dikku Bali

Paranettu

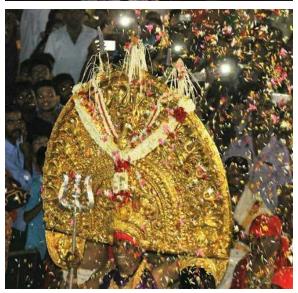
Nilathilporu

Aaraattu

Pongala







DESCRIPTION (How festival is celebrated)

Kaliyoottu Mahotsavam is celebrated and staged on different days in several parts by the residents of this region. Karadikottu is the inaugural custom of the festival executed with the beating of a special drum. The performer is named as Panan by the local people. Kalamkaval is another significant custom of the festival during which the chief priest holds the idol of the deity on his head and performs a dance. As part of the Uchabali ritual, a performer enacts almost sixty four gestures. decorated crown made of coconut is placed at the site of As per the legendary story, a fight had Uchabali. commenced between the Goddess and the demon Darika. The battle scene is depicted through a drama known as Paranettu. It is usually enacted by the residents of the region on a stage set up at a height of almost 100 feet. The drama is usually performed at night that witnesses an august gathering of audience from places. Nilathilporu, Aaraattu and Pongala are the other significant rituals of the festival.



