



# OORUTTU MAHOTSAVOM

## PALKULANGARA SREE BHAGAVATHI TEMPLE



### LOCATION

Panchayat/  
Municipality/  
Corporation

Trivandrum Corporation

District

Thiruvananthapuram



### ACCESSIBILITY

Nearest Town/  
Landmark/ Junction

Enchakkal Bypass – 1 Km

Nearest Bus station

Enchakkal Bus Stop – 1 Km

Nearest Railway  
station

Petta Railway Station – 1 Km

Nearest Airport

Trivandrum International Airport – 3 Km



### CONTACT

Palkulangara Devi Temple  
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Enchakkal Bypass  
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**TIME**

**DATES**

February-March (to be advised)

**FREQUENCY**

Once in 3 Years

**DURATION**

8 Days

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

The Ooruttu Mahotsavam is an eight-day festival conducted once in three years at the Palkulangara Devi temple. The shrine is more than 700 years old. Devi is worshipped in 2 different forms here – as Durga and BhadraKali. Once in 3 years BhadraKali devi is brought outside and placed in a Pachha Pandal (green house) thatched with coconut leaves, at the Ooruttu Parambu. Legend has it that the main deity was installed by Arjuna. After installing the deity, Arjuna sent an arrow to the ground and it made way to a pond of milk. The milk from the pond was said to be used for various temple rituals like Abhishekam. Palkulangara means the banks of the pond of milk (Pal - Milk, Kulam - Pond, Kara - Banks). Although the Palkulangara temple comes under the Travancore Devaswom Board, the Ooruttu Mahotsavam is conducted by Palkulangara Pidaka Yogam, one of the oldest associations of Nair community in Palkulangara. Ooruttu Parambu is owned by the Pidaka.



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

Local



**NO. OF PEOPLE PARTICIPATED**

Above 10, 000

## EVENTS/PROGRAMS

*Thottampattu*  
*Bhajana*  
*Pantheerunazhi*  
*Urul Nercha*  
*Pongala*  
*Thalappoli*  
*Kuruthi*  
*Elephant Procession*

## DESCRIPTION *(How festival is celebrated)*

During Ooruttu Mahotsavam, Bhadrakali Devi is brought outside and placed in a *Pachha Pandal* (green house) thatched with coconut leaves at the Ooruttu Parambu. Devotees seek blessings of the Goddess at Ooruttu Parambu for 8 days. While the Aryan form of *Pooja* is conducted in the temple, during Ooruttu Mahotsavam, Dravidian form of *Pooja* is performed. The festival days and timings are determined by an astrologer through a *devaprasnam* held at the temple premises. The Pidaka Yogam then identifies an *Ezhilam Pala* (*Alstonia scholaris*) tree. On the day decided by the astrologer, the tree is cut and the main trunk is cut and brought down in such a way that it does not touch the ground. The devotees standing on the ground carry it on their shoulders and as a procession walk through the road connecting major areas of the locality and reach Ooruttu Parambu. Carpenter works on this to make the main pole called a *pandal kaal* which is placed first to make the *pachha pandal*. The other parts of the tree are used for making various sections of the *pandal*. On the first day of the festival, after the regular *poojas* at the temple are over, special *pooja* sequences are performed as part of Bhadrakali Devi's procession to Ooruttu Parambu. Bhadrakali Devi's idol which is a mirror placed on the right side of Durga Devi is brought to the *mandapam* and placed on a tortoise shaped wooden bench. While Devi proceeds to Ooruttu Parambu conch is blown without break. People who stand on both sides of the path will not make any sound or movement. It is believed that Devi is very powerful during the Ooruttu festival and does not tolerate any evil doings. Devotees take utmost care in their dealings and only eat vegetarian food during this time. During the festival days lot of classical art forms are also presented.

