



ARATTU MAHOTSAVAM

PANDALAM MAHADEVA TEMPLE



LOCATION

Panchayat/
Municipality/
Corporation

Pandalam Municipality

District

Pathanamthitta



ACCESSIBILITY

Nearest Town/
Landmark/ Junction

Pandalam Town – 3.3 Km

Nearest Bus station

Kunnikkuzhymukku Bus Stop – 900 M

Nearest Railway
station

Chengannur Railway Station – 16 Km

Nearest Airport

Trivandrum International Airport – 109 Km



CONTACT

Thottakkonam
Pandalam
Pathanamthitta
Pin - 689 501

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TIME

DATES

December – January (*Dhanu*)

FREQUENCY

Yearly

DURATION

10 Days



ABOUT THE FESTIVAL (Legend/History/Myth)

It is believed that Sage *Parasuram* has installed the idol of the *Garbhagriha*. Pandalam Mahadeva Temple is one of the oldest temples out of the 108 Shiva temples consecrated by the great '*Sanayasin Khara Muni*'. The sacred and famous temple is located on the left banks of the *Achenkovil* river; one side of this temple lies on the banks of *Achankovil* river so this temple also known as '*Mukkal Vattom*'. The temple is unique with its natural procession route around the Sanctorum. The ten day annual festival or *Aarattu Mahotsavam* is celebrated during the Malayalam month of *Dhanu*. The *Kettukazhcha* procession during the time attracts hundreds of people.



RELEVANCE-
(Local / National /
International)

Local



**NO. OF PEOPLE
PARTICIPATED**

Above 25000

EVENTS/PROGRAMS

Kodiyettu
Kalabhabhishekam
Melom
Ganamela
Oottanthullal
Dramas & Dance
Classical Music
Anayoottu
Thiru Arattu

DESCRIPTION (How festival is celebrated)

The Aarattu Mahotsavam is celebrated for ten days during *Dhanu* (Malayalam month). The festival begins with *Kodiyettam* or flag hoisting and ends with the *Aarattu*. *Kalabhabhishekam* will be observed in the morning and there will be *Kettukazhcha* in the evening. *Elam*, traditional Kerala temple music with five instruments is performed as part of the festival. The temple is traditionally decorated with plantain, coconut leaves, flowers, lamps and lights. Various unique offerings are made at the shrine during the period. *Ganamela*, *Oottanthullal*, dramas, dances, classical concerts etc are performed as part of the festivities. *Anayoottu* is another ritual on the 9th day of the festival. The festival draws to a close with *Thiru Arattu* ceremony or the holy ritualistic bathing of the idol.

