



# THIRUVATHIRA ARATTU MAHOTSAVOM KALANJOOR MAHADEVA TEMPLE



## LOCATION

Panchayat/  
Municipality/  
Corporation

Kalanjoor Panchayat

District

Pathanamthitta

Nearest Town/  
Landmark/ Junction

Pathanapuram Town – 4.5 Km

Nearest Bus station

Temple Bus Stop – 100 m

Nearest Railway  
station

Chengannur Railway Station – 41 Km

Nearest Airport

Trivandrum International Airport – 86 Km



## ACCESSIBILITY



## CONTACT

Manager  
Thrikkalanjoor Sree Mahadevar Devaswom Trust,  
Kalanjoor P.O  
Pathanamthitta District Pin - 689694  
Phone: +91-473-4272022,4271250  
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TIME

DATES

March – April(*Meenam*)

FREQUENCY

Annual

DURATION

8 Days

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

The Thiruvathira Aarattu Mahotsavam is an annual festival celebrated at the Kalanjoor Mahadeva Temple. The main deity of the temple is Lord *Mahadeva* installed in the form of *Linga* surrounded by other deities namely *Swayambhoo Sastha*, *Mannadi Bhagavathi*, *Mahaganapathi* and other *Updevathas* (sub-deities) such as *Bhoothathan*, *Rakshas*, *Yakshi* and *Nagaraja*. Due to the presence of *Mahadeva* and *Sastha* idols in the temple, there are two *Dhwajas* (towering flag posts coated with copper) adjacent to each other which is a rare spectacle seldom seen in other temples. The *Mahasiva* idol and the *Sastha* idols are installed facing each other in this temple. The sanctum sanctorum of Lord *Mahadeva* was constructed in a circular manner and bears testimony to the fineness of ancient Kerala sculpture as in other prominent Shiva temples of Kerala. The artistically decorated towering Gopurams on the east and west Nada and the *Anakkottil* (waiting area for elephants during the festival ceremony) are indeed rare specialties. According to legend the main deity was installed by the majestic saint *Khara* who was an ardent devotee of Lord Shiva and it claims an antiquity of more than 1100 years. In those ancient times the place where the temple is now situated was covered with thick green forest. Saint *Khara* performed penance here and was successful in pleasing *Lord Shiva* by his devotion. *Saint Khara* installed three Shiva Lingas during an auspicious time at three different places at an equal distance from each other in the east-west direction. The Maha Shiva Linga was installed at *Kalanjoor* and the other two were installed at *Peringanad* and *Arukalkkal*.



RELEVANCE-  
(Local / National / International)

Local



NO. OF PEOPLE PARTICIPATED

Above 25000

## EVENTS/PROGRAMS

*Kodiyettu*  
*Pillavaipu*  
*Ulsavabali*  
*Indilayappan Festival*  
*Carnatic Music*  
*Nadasworam*  
*Kadhakali*  
*Pallivettah*  
*Kettukazhcha*  
*Dramatic dance*  
*Ottamthullal*  
*Gajapooja*  
*Anayoottu*  
*Arattu Procession*

## DESCRIPTION *(How festival is celebrated)*

The annual temple festival starts in the Malayalam month of Meenam (March/April) and ends with Thiruvathira Arattu. The festival lasts for eight days and on the sixth day Indilayappan festival is celebrated. Renowned artists from South India participate in this festival, which is famous for its Carnatic musical renditions. Great exponents of Carnatic music like Chembai, Chemmankudi, Balamuralee Krishna, Yesudas, Seshagopal etc have performed here. Kathakali and other classical arts are other major attractions during the festival. The festival starts with the Kodiyettu. 6th day celebration is known as Rohini Thirunal Mahotsavam and 7th day celebration is known as Pallivetta Mahotsavam. The eighth day is marked by the Arattu ritual. Nadaswaram, Kettukazhcha, Dramatic Dance, Pillavaipu, Ottamthullal, Seva, Gajapooja and Anayoottu apart from the Arattu procession are important festival events.

