

KALPATHY RATHOLSAVAM



	Panchayat/ Municipality/ Corporation	Palakkad Municipality
LOCATION	District	Palakkad
	Nearest Town/ Landmark/ Junction	Therumutty junction, New Kalpathy -64 m Kshipra Prasada Ganapathy temple-65m
ACCESSIBILITY	Nearest Bus station	Puthiyapalam Bus Stop– 1.2 Km
	Nearest Railway station	Palakkad Railway Station – 2 Km
	Nearest Airport	Coimbatore International Airport – 70 Km Cochin International Airport – 113 Km
	The Executive Officer Chathapuram Kalpathy Palakkad Kerala- 678003	
CONTACT		

**TIME****DATES**

November

FREQUENCY

Annual

DURATION

10 Days

ABOUT THE FESTIVAL (Legend/History/Myth)

Kalpathi Ratholsavam (Kalpathi Chariot Festival) is an annual Hindu Temple festival in the Kalpathi village of Palakkad district celebrated at Sri Visalakshi Sametha Sri Viswanatha Swamy temple. The temple was under the control of Akathethara Kings of Palakkad. It was built around 1425 AD and the presiding deities were Lord Siva (Viswanatha) and his consort Visalakshi – another name of Goddess Parvathi. Once the temple priests had a conflict with the rulers and Raja had to seek help from Brahmins of Thanjavur (Tanjore) to do the daily *poojas* and rituals at temple. That's how Brahmins from Tanjore reached here as folk and settled with their families. Very soon Brahmin settlements called *agraharams* rose in Palakkad and Ratholsavam also came to be celebrated with the settlement of this clan. Apart from the significant chariot procession, Carnatic music, Vedic rituals and cultural events also came to be part of the festival. The grandeur of the festival has been appreciated by many including the Buddhist monk Fa-Hien who drew comparison of the festivities to those Buddhist festivals.


RELEVANCE-
 (Local / National /
 International)

National


**NO. OF PEOPLE
 PARTICIPATED**

Over 2,00,000



EVENTS/PROGRAMS

*Sankalpam
Vigneshwara pooja
Punyaham
Vastushanthi
Kalashashtapanam
Pooja
Poornahoothi
Kalabhabhishekam
Radha bali
Deeparadhana
Radha vellottam
Nilakkunirthal*

DESCRIPTION (*How festival is celebrated*)

The annual ten-day chariot festival conducted here during the month of November, usually from 7 to 15, is one of the most remarkable festivals of Kerala. Vedic recitals and cultural programmes are held in the temple during the first four days of the festival. Ratholsavam lasts for three long days and many temples participate in the event. Kalpathi Visalakshi Sametha Viswanatha Swami temple, Manthakkara Managanapati temple, Chathapuram Prasanna Managanapati temple and Old Kalpathi Lakshmi Narayana Swami temple are the 5 participants whose chariots ride through the narrow streets of Kalpathi during festival season. Usually on November 15 which marks the end of the festival, all the 5 participants assemble together in front of Kalpathi Viswanatha Swami temple. During this time, chariots (*rathas*) from 4 temples of Kalpathy come together and circumvent streets of the villages in a grand procession. This event is known as *Devarathasamgamam*. Music festival is conducted at Chathapuram Mridangam Mani Iyyer Road just before commencement of Ratholsavam. On the festival days, the routines and customs of *Unchavrithi* and *Pancharatna Keerthan Aalapan* are carried out.

