

THRISSUR POORAM



LOCATION

Panchayat/
Municipality/
Corporation

Thrissur Corporation

District

Thrissur



ACCESSIBILITY

Nearest Town/
Landmark/ Junction

Thekkinkadu Maithanam – 150 m

Nearest Bus station

Vadakke Stand Bus Stop – 1.8 Km

Nearest Railway
station

Thrissur Railway Station – 1.5 Km

Nearest Airport

Cochin International Airport – 52 Km



CONTACT

Vadakkumnatha Temple
Near Thekkinkadu Maidan
Kuruppam, Anchuvilakku
Thrissur - 680001

Phone 1: +91-9846035967

Phone 2: 91-9895237563

Email 1: machingal.unnikrishnan@gmail.com

Email 2: mail@thrissurpooramfestival.com



TIME

DATES

April – May

FREQUENCY

Annual

DURATION

7 Days

ABOUT THE FESTIVAL (Legend/History/Myth)

The only major festival celebrated in God's Own Country before the *Thrissur Pooram* celebration was the *Arattupuzha* festival, held ten kilometers to the south of Thrissur. It was a one day festival in which most Thrissur temples took part. One day, due to the heavy rains, many couldn't make it to the Arattapuzha festival on time. Because they arrived late, they weren't allowed into the temple premises. The embarrassed temple officials informed *Raja Rama Varma* also known as *Sakthan Thampuran* about what had happened. The *Thampuran* immediately planned another festival, more extravagant and more rewarding than the first to make up for the eviction. This marked the beginning of the *Thrissur Pooram* festival.



RELEVANCE-
(Local / National / International)

International



NO. OF PEOPLE PARTICIPATED

Over 12,00,000

EVENTS/PROGRAMS

Kanimangalam Sasthavu
Ezhunnellippu
Madathil Varavu
Ilanjithara Melam
Kudamattom
Fireworks
Farewell ceremony
Traditional Percussion
Music
Display of Caparisons

DESCRIPTION (How festival is celebrated)

Thrissur Pooram commences with the rise of the moon coinciding with *Pooram* asterism observed in the Malayalam calendar. It is marked by the *Kodiyettam* or flag hoisting ceremony seven days prior to the Pooram. The festivities comprise of processions from ten temples around the Vadakkunnatha Temple which have been divided into two groups namely the Thiruvambady group and Parammekkavu group. The colourful and ritualistic processions from these temples are a way of paying obeisance to Lord Shiva, the presiding deity of Vadakkunnatha Temple. The golden elephant caparisons, elephant accoutrements, ornamental fans, sacred bells and decorative umbrellas that are to be used in the Pooram are exhibited separately by the two groups before the final event. The Pooram starts at the time of *Kanimangalam Sasthavu Ezhunnellippu* early in the morning. One of the major event in Thrissur Pooram is *Madathil Varavu* which comprises of *Panchavadyam Melam* or customary music rendered using traditional musical instruments. Over 200 artists participate in the event and play a range of instruments including *Thimila*, *Madhalam*, Trumpet, Cymbal and *Edakka*. At the end of the *Pooram*, after the *Ilanjithara Melam*, both *Paramekavuvu* and *Thiruvambadi* groups enter the temple. The two groups in the presence of *Melam*, exchange colourful and crafted umbrellas competitively at the top of the elephants – called *Kudamattom*. This is one of the most magnificent attractions of the Pooram. Later all *Poorams* conclude at *Nilapaduthara* near the western *Gopuram* of *Vadakkunnatha* Temple. The ritualistic fireworks of the Pooram comprise of a brilliant display of pyrotechnics and offer an amazing visual treat.

