

KOTTANKULANGARA CHAMAYAVILAKKU



LOCATION

Panchayat/
Municipality/
Corporation

Chavara Grama Panchayat

District

Kollam

Nearest Town/
Landmark/ Junction

Chavara Town – 1.5 Km

Nearest Bus station

Chavara Private Bus Station– 500 m

Nearest Railway
station

Kollam Railway Station –13 Km

Nearest Airport

Trivandrum International Airport – 80 Km



ACCESSIBILITY



CONTACT

Major Sree Kottankulangara Devi Temple
Kottankulangara
Chavara, Kollam- 691583
Phone: +91- 9995348842
Website: www.kottankulangaradevi.org



TIME

DATES

March (Kumbham - Meenam)

FREQUENCY

Annual

DURATION

16 Days

ABOUT THE FESTIVAL (Legend/History/Myth)

The famous Chamayavilakku is a unique festival held at the Kottankulangara Sree Devi Temple near Chavara in Kollam where thousands of men irrespective of their religious faith get dressed up as women to offer prayers to the Goddess; the presiding deity of the temple is Goddess Durga also known as Vanadurga. Legend has it that once when some cowboys tried to remove the husk of a coconut by hitting it on a stone at the place where the temple now stands, they were taken aback to see drops of blood dripping from the stone. It was then astrologically revealed that the stone possessed the supernatural powers of Vanadurga and that *Poojas* must be started immediately after constructing a temple. A temporary temple using poles, leaves and tender leaves of coconut palm was built. It was a customary in ancient days for young girls to prepare flower garlands and light lamps in small and familial places of worship. Accepting this tradition, the cowboys wearing the dresses of women and girls, offered poojas in the temple. The milky liquid prepared from coconut kernel was boiled, the medicinal oil (Urukku Velichenna) extracted and solid substance taken (Kottan) was offered to the goddess as Naivedyam.



RELEVANCE-
(Local / National /
International)

Local



**NO. OF PEOPLE
PARTICIPATED**

Above 25000

EVENTS/PROGRAMS

DESCRIPTION (How festival is celebrated)

Chamayavilakku
Kettukazhcha
Cultural Events
Art Forms

Chamayavilakku at the Kottankulangara Sree Devi Temple witnesses thousands of devotees including men irrespective of their religious faith dressed up as women who devoutly offer prayers to the Goddess Bhagavathy, the deity of the Temple which is believed as 'Swayam Bhoo'(Self Origin). This famous temple is the only temple in Kerala having no roof, the sanctum sanctorum. The uniqueness of this temple is that the boys and girls dress themselves as girls and ladies to hold the traditional temple lamp. In this unique ritual called 'Chamayavilakku' (make-up-lamp), the 'Damsels' come to the temple at night in a long procession with lighted lamp in their hands. The festival is held on 10th and 11th of the Malayalam calendar month of *Meenam* every year. It is marked by special prayers, cultural programs and various other rituals.

