

CHRISTMAS



TIME

DATES

December

FREQUENCY

Annual

DURATION

1 Day



ABOUT THE FESTIVAL (Legend/History/Myth)

The Christmas season in Kerala begins with the rhythmic beats of Christmas carols in early December. Celebrated as the birthday of Jesus Christ, falling on 25th of December, Christmas is celebrated with great fervor by the Christian community and is equally joined in spirit by other communities as well. Christmas follows from the most popular legend of Nativity that reiterates the birth of Jesus Christ also referred to as the Jesus of Nazareth. Jesus was a Jewish preacher and religious leader who is the central figure of Christianity and is considered as the 'Son of God'.



EVENTS/PROGRAMS

Holy Mass
Special Prayers
Cultural Events

DESCRIPTION *(How festival is celebrated)*

The arrival of Christmas season is marked by groups of youngsters and children who can be seen singing Christmas carols in their neighbourhood. Christmas in Kerala is celebrated with the spirit of compassion and brotherhood that Jesus Christ stood for. The entire state wears a festive look with streets buzzing with activity days before Christmas. Market places transform into crowd pullers with vendors competing to sell beautiful Christmas trees, stars and goodies. Santa Claus seems to reappear at almost every corner drawing the attention of children and spreading the goodwill of the festival. The nativity of Jesus is enacted through miniature models in churches and cathedrals. Beautiful cribs that take one back in time to the stable where Jesus was born can be seen in churches, public places and houses. Masses are held across splendidly illuminated churches and are solemn occasions that recall the life, teachings and sacrifice of Christ. Thousands of devotees visit churches to offer prayers and attend the holy mass. The day of Christmas is marked by hearty family gatherings and grand and traditional Christian feasts accompanied by special Christmas cakes and wine. The festivities are replete with many cultural events especially during evenings across the state.

