

# DEEPAVALI



TIME

## DATES

October - November

## FREQUENCY

Annual

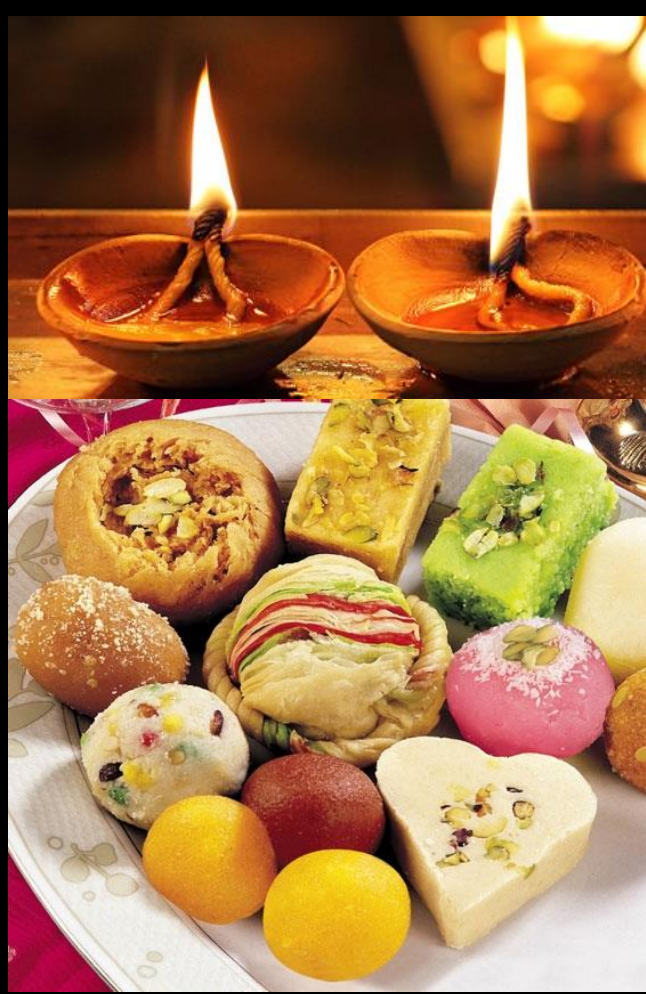
## DURATION

1 Day



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

Deepavali is popularly known as the Festival of Lights. The term *Deepavali* means 'a row of lights' in Sanskrit. Deepavali is observed on the preceding day of the new moon in the Malayalam calendar month of *Thulam* (October – November). The festival spiritually signifies the victory of good over evil and the power of light and knowledge over darkness and ignorance. Though there are many legends associated with Deepavali, in Kerala, the festival is celebrated as Lord Krishna's triumph over the demon Narakasura. It is believed that a victorious Krishna was welcomed by the people of Dwaraka with lighted lamps or *Diyas*. The planetary positions during this time are such that the sun is in the house of Libra which signifies commerce and hence Deepavali is also associated with merchants and the Goddess of wealth, Mahalakshmi.







## EVENTS/PROGRAMS

Traditional Illumination  
Prayers and Rituals  
Cultural Programs

## DESCRIPTION *(How festival is celebrated)*

Deepavali celebrations commence right in the morning with a ritualistic oil bath before sunrise. It is customary to eat a preparation of jaggery and dry ginger after the bath. This follows from the obeisance paid to Dhanwantari, one of the greatest exponents of Ayurveda whose birthday coincides with Deepavali celebrations. The festive mood is lifted with the wearing of new clothes, exchange of sweets and bursting of firecrackers. By evening, houses, commercial buildings and public places are transformed into one dazzling canvas of lighted traditional lamps and bulbs. Special prayers are offered to Goddess Lakshmi and blessings are sought for well-being and prosperity.

