



PAYIPPAD VALLAMKALI



LOCATION

Panchayat/
Municipality/
Corporation

Haripad Municipality

District

Alappuzha

Nearest Town/
Landmark/
Junction

Sree Subrahmanya Swamy Temple -4.1 Km

Nearest Bus station

Haripad KSRCT Bus Stand -3.6 Km

Nearest Railway
station

Haripad Railway Station - 5 Km

Nearest Airport

Cochin International Airport – 115 Km



ACCESSIBILITY



CONTACT

District Tourism Promotion Council (DTPC)
 Boat Jetty Road
 Near KSRTC Bus Station
 Alappuzha -11
 Phone 1: +91-477-2251796
 Phone 2: +91-477-2253308
 Email: info@dtpcalappuzha.com



TIME

DATES

August /September

FREQUENCY

Annual

DURATION

3 Days

ABOUT THE FESTIVAL (Legend/History/Myth)

The people of the Haripad village decided to build a Sree Ayyappan temple in accordance with a vision that they should install the idol of Subrahmanya, which they would find in the Kayamkulam River under a whirlpool. Finding the idol, the people brought back Subrahmanya vighraha in a boat, escorted by the devotees in other boats ceremoniously. In remembrance of this event a three-day water festival is conducted each year.

The oldest temple was about 5000years old. There was a 'Skandakumara" idol was installed in the temple. So the place name became KUMARA PURAM. Even now some areas of Haripad is called Kumarapuram. At that time the temple was under control of some famous Ooranma families, those are Chengarappally, Thazhoor, Kizhikulam and 20 other Karanma families. These families decided to construct a new big temple. The 'Sreekovil' was constructed by Ambakkaattu Family of Karichal Village.

At that time elder members of the Ooranma families saw a dream in same night. The dream was an idol of Subrahmanya with 4 hands (Chathurbahu) is lying in Govindamuttom Lake(Kayamkulam). People of these families rushed to the place in a boat (Palliyodam) to find out the idol. They found a whirlpool in the lake. Now the place is called Kandallloor (kanda nalla ooru). After finding the Idol(Vighraha), the people taken it to Nelppurakkadavu near Harippad in a boat, escorted by many boats(Palliyodam)rowed by the villages. In remembrance of this event a three-day water festival is conducted each year.

Payipad boat race is one of the oldest boat race in Kerala, to get an idea of that period adding some information of the rulers of that time:(The golden period of the temple and the village was King Ravi Adithyan(Ravi kelan-2)period. At the time of King Marthanda Varma (in 1734), he added Kayamkulam and Chempakasseri to Travancore. This period Haripad temple's control also came under Travancore king.



RELEVANCE-
 (Local / National /
 International)

International



**NO. OF PEOPLE
 PARTICIPATED**

Above 1 Lakh

EVENTS/PROGRAMS

Religious discourses
Boat race of various categories
Vanchipaattu
Prize distribution

DESCRIPTION (*How festival is celebrated*)

On the day of the race, people, both locals and travelers from far off places, flock the river bank to enjoy the race. Venturous spirits will ensure a better vantage point by climbing the nearby trees. As the sun comes straight on top of all gathered, boats in various categories like the *chundan* (snake boat), *veppu*, *iruttu kuthi*, *churulan* and others from nearby regions assemble at the starting point of the race. Among these boats, the snake boats with its fascinating design catch the attention of all. Around 20 boats are mostly found offering participation under various categories for the race.

The celebrations include magnificent water floats and decorated boats, the songs of the oarsmen called Vanchipattu and the most exciting Chundanvallom race. Chundans are type of boats that are over 100 feet long with elevated prows. They were first referred as snake boats by the foreign rulers. With over five hundred years of tradition the pageant is still carried out with the same enthusiasm. The striking procession of water floats, decorated boats with vibrant parasols and performing arts welcomes the spectator before the race. The race is held in a variety of stages for different categories of boats. The race is considered as the ultimate test of endurance, speed and skill and rowers undergo rigorous training for several days before participating in the race.

Being the largest sporting event in the world, snake boat race is often considered as the ultimate test of endurance, speed and skill. After the race, prize is distributed for various categories.

