



VALIA AARATTU KARNAKI AMMAN TEMPLE, MOOTHANTHARA



LOCATION

Panchayath/
Municipality/
Corporation

Palakkad

District

Palakkad



ACCESSIBILITY

Nearest Town/
Landmark/ Junction

Melamuri junction – 400 m

Nearest Bus station

Melamuri junction Bus Stop- 400 m

Nearest Railway
station

Palakkad town railway station – 2.4 km

Nearest Airport

Coimbatore International Airport- 70 km



CONTACT

The Executive Officer
Karnaki Amman Temple Moothanthara
Melamuri
Palakkad
Kerala- 678012
Phone : 077364 72101



TIME

DATES

April-May (Medam)

FREQUENCY

Annual

DURATION

7 days



ABOUT THE FESTIVAL (Legend/History/Myth)

Karnaki Amman Temple at Moothanthara is Kerala's one and only Karnaki Temple where the goddess Karnaki is worshipped in her full idolic form. The *moolasthanam* (the root place) where Goddess Karnaki is worshipped is at *Nadu-pathi* at Moothanthara (Melamuri). Once this temple was well maintained and people from other neighbouring *desham* (places) came to worship Karnaki (being the only idol around in that given period). It is observed from history that the Muslim ruler Tippu Sultan, son of Hyder Ali, ransacked and destroyed this temple during his reign at Palakkad.

Devotees gathered to save the possessions of the temple and to avoid destruction of the idol. This idol was retained by her own sect of Moothans and is worshipped at Karnaki Amman temple, Moothanthara. Others of her divine possessions such as a *peedom* (sitting chair) are worshipped at Vadakkanthara Bhagwathy temple, while her umbrella is worshipped at another Karnaki temple in the town circle and the *Kindi* is worshipped at Pirayiri Kannukottu Bhagawathy temple.

One of the main attractions of this temple is the way the traditional *pooja* rituals are performed in Karnaki's temple and in the Visalakshi Sametha Shiva Temple (Siva-Parvathy Temple) in the same compound. For Karnaki, the Kerala form of *pooja* practices are performed by the *Nambudiri*; while in the Shiva Temple, Tamil Shaiva form of *Pooja* practices are performed by Tamil Brahmin priests.

The temple's main festival is Valiya Aarattu, celebrated by the community for three days in the month of Malayalam calendar. On the day of Valiya Aarattu, *prasad* is given to the devotees and it is the biggest event organized in Palakkad every year. The cost of organising this function is fully sponsored by the devotees of Karnaki, who are merchants in all categories of business in Palakkad.



RELEVANCE-
(Local / National / International)

Local



NO. OF PEOPLE PARTICIPATED

Approximately 30000

EVENTS/PROGRAMS

Special poojas
Religious discourse
Cultural programmes
Aarattu
Annadanam

DESCRIPTION (*How festival is celebrated*)

One of the main festivals is the "Valiya Aarrattu" festival which is celebrated by the Moothan community for seven days in April-May, the Malayalam month of the *Medam* Masam Punertham Star. On the day of Valiya Arrattu, worshipers are served food, *Annadhanam* (meals) are given as *Prasadam*. The materials for organizing this event are fully sponsored by the devotees of Karnaki who, by and large are merchants.

Festival celebration consists of daily poojas and other religious discourses. Various cultural programmes like music shows, dance programmes, drama, etc are performed. Traditional art forms are also performed during the festival days.

