

UTHRALIKAVU POORAM
SREE RUTHIRA MAHAKALIKAVU TEMPLE

LOCATION

Panchayath/ Municipality/ Corporation	Paruthipra Village, Wadakkancherry Taluk
District	Thrissur

ACCESSIBILITY

Nearest Town/ Landmark/ Junction	Wadakkancherry – 4 km
Nearest Bus station	Ottupara Bus Station – 2.1 km
Nearest Railway station	Thrissur Railway Station – 22 km
Nearest Airport	Cochin International Airport – 73km

CONTACT

Sree Ruthira Mahakalikavu Temple,
Parithipra, Wadakanchery,
Kodungallur - Shornur Hwy,
Kumaranellur, Kerala 680590

TIME	DATES	FREQUENCY	DURATION
	February – March	Annually	8 days

ABOUT THE FESTIVAL (Legend/History/Myth)

As legend goes, *Kelathachan* was a local chieften in *Talappilli* Taluk of Trichur District, like the *Paliathachan* of Trichur. *Kelathachan* had his mansion in the bosom of *Akamala*, an evergreen forest famous for its flora and fauna. The green stretches of paddy fields owned by him on the western valley of these forests were rich in yields. During his tours, *Kelathachan* used to keep a palm-leafed umbrella (*Olakuda*). It was believed that Goddess *Mookambika*, when once *Achan* visited *Kollur*, came along with him sitting on top of his umbrella. When he kept his umbrella on the ridges of the paddy field owned by him near his Farm house in *Mullakkal, Akamala*, on the east side of the railway line, *Bhagavathi* got out of the umbrella and sat on the ridges. This place is known as the *Mullakkal Sreemoolasthanam* of *Uthrali.* An '*Aal*' tree was planted behind this place, to protect Devi from sun and rain. After a long time, once a harijan lady had a strange experience a little away from this location on the other side (west) of the railway line. While sharpening her sickle on a stone, under a '*Poovam*' tree, she saw blood dripping from the stone and was frightened and therefore screamed aloud. Male workers, who heard the sound, came to the scene to witness the strange incident. They reported the matter to *Kelathachan*. As was the practice, he consulted the Astrologer. According to the astrologer, *Bhagavathi* liked to have a permanent abode there under the tree to bless her devotees. In the '*Prasnam*' i.e. indications appearing to the astrologer, this goddess was found to be *Vana Durga*, who liked to be under the tree, and so an open roofed temple protecting the *Poovam* tree was built there and *Bhagavathi* was consecrated in it and worshipped with all relevant rituals. Even now the sanctum sanctorum of this temple is under a *Poovam* tree, which is replanted after the earlier tree perished over time. The festival is conducted to celebrate the divine presence of the deity.



RELEVANCE- (Local / National / International)	Local	NO. OF PEOPLE PARTICIPATED	10,000

EVENTS/PROGRAMS

Kodiyettam

Kuthira Vela

Natappura panchavadyam

Fireworks



DESCRIPTION *(How festival is celebrated)*

The festival flag-hoisting *kodiyettam* takes place on the second Tuesday of *Kumbha*, the month of the Malayalam *Kollam* era. Towards the end of following seven days, on next Tuesday, as part of the valedictory functions, the actual *Pooram* is conducted. At *Uthralikkavu Pooram*, three teams, each from neighboring village temples Enkakkad, Kumaranellur and Wadakanchery participate. Each team normally presents seven to eleven elephants. Apart from the elephant procession, at *Uthralikkavu*, there also held are *Kuthira Vela* (a procession with wooden horse). One of the crucial components of *pooram* is the set of percussion orchestra (*Panchavadyam, Melam* etc.). Particularly, *natappura panchavadyam* is a noteworthy session of percussion performance by the leading *Panchavadyam* artists of Central Kerala. The most spectacular show during the *Pooram* is the magnificent and thunderous fireworks.



