



KARKIDA VAAVU BALI

VENNIMALA SREE RAMA LAKSHMANA SWAMY TEMPLE



LOCATION

Panchayat/
Municipality/
Corporation

Puthuppally Panchayat

District

Kottayam

Nearest Town/
Landmark/ Junction

Payyapaadi – 2 Km

Nearest Bus Station

Payyapaadi – 2 Km

Nearest Railway
Station

Kottayam Railway Station – 11.3Km

Nearest Airport

Cochin International Airport – 86 Km



ACCESSIBILITY



CONTACT

Vennimala Sree Rama Lakshmana Swamy Temple
Payyappady - Vennimala Road,
Payyappady Post, Kottayam District,
Puthuppally, Kerala 686516, India
Phone No : 8547537825



TIME

DATES

February – March (*Kumbham*)

FREQUENCY

Annual

DURATION

10 Days

ABOUT THE FESTIVAL (Legend/History/Myth)

The Vennimala Sree Rama Lakshmana Swamy Temple legend goes that the temple was built by the ruler, Cheraman Perumal. It is believed that he built a fort in the hill, naming it Vijayadri. According to the legends, the place then came to be known as Vennimala. With the fragmentation of his empire and the creation of the Vadakkumkoor and Thekkumkoor dynasties, the temple came under the Thekkumkoor dynasty which ruled the region for a long period. The temple is believed to be about 1000 years old. The main idol is that of Lakshmana Perumal and is believed that it is the place where Lord Lakshmana had victory. The festival is conducted to celebrate the divine presence of the deity in the temple and the sixth day of the festival is believed to be the birthday of the deity.



RELEVANCE-
(Local / National / International)

Local



NO. OF PEOPLE PARTICIPATED

30,000

EVENTS/PROGRAMS

Balitharpanam
Special poojas

DESCRIPTION (*How festival is celebrated*)

Karkida, the last month of Malayalam calendar which falls in July- August has some religious significance for Hindus. *Karkidaka Vavu Bali*, also called Bali, is the sacrificial ritual performed in memory of the departed souls of ancestors. On the day of vavu or *Amavasi* (no moon day) people belonging to the Hindu religion gather on the riverbanks to offer bali.

People believe that the departed souls attain `moksha(liberation) if the ritualistic homage is performed on Karkidaka vavu. Thousands of people throng the beach on that day offering ritual *poojas* with *darbha* (a type of grass), *pavithram* – the ring made of sacred grass, sesame, and herbs like cheroola. Other ingredients of the *pooja* – cooked rice, water, etc. are also placed on a banana leaf before commencing the ritual. Priests from the ancient Janardhana temple help people perform the ritual.

Men, women and children offer Bali to the ancestors. Men wear only a dhoti during the ritual and the offerings done on the banana leaf are finally immersed in the waters of the sea. Bus services from *Pambadi*, *Puthupalli*, Kottayam are arranged to reach the temple.

