

HANUKKA
MATTANCHERRY

LOCATION

Panchayath/ Municipality/ Corporation	Kochi Municipal Corporation
District	Ernakulam

ACCESSIBILITY

Nearest Town/ Landmark/ Junction	Aanavathil Junction – 600 m
Nearest Bus station	Mattancherry Bus Stop – 400 m
Nearest Railway station	Ernakulum South Railway Station – 10.9 km
Nearest Airport	Cochin International Airport – 40.9 km

CONTACT

Jewish Synagogue
Synagogue Ln, Jew Town,
Kappalandimukku,
Mattancherry - 682002
Contact: Kodar House(Hotel), Fort Kochi
Phone : +91-484-2218485

TIME	DATES	FREQUENCY	DURATION
	November-December	Annual	9 Days

ABOUT THE FESTIVAL (Legend/History/Myth)

Hanukkah is the Jewish Festival of Lights and it remembers the rededication of the second Jewish Temple in Jerusalem. This happened in the 160s BCE/BC (before Jesus was born*). (Hanukkah* is the Jewish word for 'dedication'.*) Hanukkah* last for eight days and starts on the 25th of Kislev, the month in the Jewish calendar that occurs at about the same time as December. There are many theories pertaining to the migration of Jews to the Cochin city of Kerala. As per one such belief, the people of the Jewish community migrated to this port city in the first century after the second temple of Jerusalem was destroyed in the 72 AD. The Jewish community gradually settled in and around Mattancherry and Kochi. There's still a decent Jewish population in Cochin, which religiously observe their various Jewish festivals and customs till date. Another important festival of the Jews, celebrated with gusto in Kochi, is the Hanukkah or the Festival of Light. The eight day long festival is being organized by the *Koder House* in Fort Kochi in association with the Jewish community. The holiday of Hanukkah is related to the revolution of Jews that took place 2000 years ago against their Greek oppressors under the leadership of *Mattathias* the *Hasmonean* and also to unite against the suppression of Judaism. At the rededication of the temple after the revolt, there was sanctified oil to burn in the temple menorah only for one day; it burned for eight days until new oil was sanctified. The holiday was declared to celebrate this miracle and the permanence of the Jewish tradition. The holiday of Hanukkah is related to the revolution of Jews that took place 2000 years ago against their Greek oppressors under the leadership of *Mattathias* the *Hasmonean* and also to unite against the suppression of Judaism.



RELEVANCE- (Local / National / International)	Local	NO. OF PEOPLE PARTICIPATED	Approximately 5000

EVENTS/PROGRAMS

Hanukka Menorah
Special Songs
Gift Giving



DESCRIPTION *(How festival is celebrated)*

The *Hanukkah* which unfolds over a period of eight days is observed by lighting the special *Hanukkah Menorah* (candelabrum). Jewish people celebrate this festival. At the rededication of the temple after the revolt, there was sanctified oil to burn in the temple menorah only for one day; it burned for eight days until new oil was sanctified. The holiday was declared to celebrate this miracle and the permanence of the Jewish tradition. On the first day a single light/candle is lit. An extra light called the guard light (used to light the others) will also be lit. On each of the following days an extra light will be added. So on the eighth and last day of Hanukkah there will be a total of 9 lights. The festival is associated with the blessing and lighting of the candle or oil lamp; commemorating Hanukkah; and thanksgiving. Typically blessings are recited; hymns and special songs are sung. Hanukkah is generally associated with children, gift-giving (because it falls so close to Christmas) and feasting on fried food, especially potato pancakes and jelly doughnuts. Children play with Dreidel (a four-side spinning top with a Hebrew letter on each side. The Jewish houses will be decorated with lights and lamps.





