



# MAHOTSAVAM

## SREE BALAKRISHNA SWAMY TEMPLE, KUZHUPPILLY



### LOCATION

Panchayath/  
Municipality/  
Corporation

Kuzhuppilly

District

Ernakulam



### ACCESSIBILITY

Nearest Town/  
Landmark/ Junction

Vypin

Nearest Bus station

Pallathamkulangara Bus Stop – 120 m

Nearest Railway  
station

Ernakulam North Railway Station - 22 Km

Nearest Airport

Cochin International Airport – 27.5 Km



### CONTACT

Sree Balakrishna Swami Devaswom Kuzhuppilly,  
Ayyampilly P.O. Vypin,  
Ernakulam Kerala. PIN:682501  
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TIME

DATES

January - February

FREQUENCY

Annual

DURATION

6 Days

### ABOUT THE FESTIVAL (Legend/History/Myth)

Balakrishna Swami Temple, better known by the name "Vypeen Guruvayoor" is situated at Kuzhuppilly Village, Vypin Island, Ernakulam Dist. Only 19kms away from Kochi City. 110 years ago Anantha Pai S/o Vensu Pai bought a small metallic Balakrishna Idol from Tirupati along with some other toys for his kids. They used the idol in their play and offered 'Poojas'. Soon they fell prey to chronic diseases and some died too. Elders soon realized the fault. So they under the insinuation of a famed astrologer 'Adoor Chakrapani' built a temple for the deity in 1895 and began to worship it. Poverty of Pai's family stood in the way of its administration. So they handed over the temple to the local GSB people (Dhayee Janak). Later, the temple was shifted & replanted in a land donated by Nindhastalath A Govinda Shenoy, half a kilometer north-east to its 1st position. The '*Punaprathishta*' was held on 1964 (11/39, Midhunam, Chithira, 7.30am). Here, the festival is celebrated in the month of Makaram. Over the period, there were internal conflicts in the family of Vensu Pai and the rituals in the temple suffered. The number of GSB families in the area also increased. It was felt that the community should have a common place for worship. Accordingly, the Balakrishna temple was offered to the community and the management was vested with the community in common. However, the Vensu Pai family was given a special status in the affairs of the temple. The samaj members proposed to construct a new temple in a more convenient location. About one and half acres of land was given free by A. Govinda Shenoy and the work was started. But the progress was in snail's pace due to non-cooperation and lack of initiative among the members. It remained incomplete for more than 35 years. Later, a group of youth formed a Seva Samithi and took the lead. They completed the work of Garbhagraha through free service and the Murti was shifted to this new temple in 1964 AD facing east. The improvements in the temple was a continuous effort. In the late eighties, the *Aanapandal* was constructed with decorated pillars. The committee members also took up construction of a shopping complex and Kalyana mandapam. There are extensive paintings of Daśāvatāra on the temple walls inside. The *Dhvaja prathishta* was done on 18-1-1991. The Centenary of the *prathishta* was celebrated in 1995 A.D.



RELEVANCE-  
(Local / National /  
International)

Local



NO. OF PEOPLE  
PARTICIPATED

Approximately 10000

## EVENTS/PROGRAMS

Elephants' Parade With  
Percussion Music  
Cultural Programs  
*Chenda Melam*  
*Aarattu*  
*Kodiyettu*

## DESCRIPTION (*How festival is celebrated*)

*Panchari Melam* or *Panchari*, a percussion ensemble, one of the major forms of *Chenda Melam* (Ethnic drum ensemble), the best-known and most popular *Kshetram Vadyam* (Temple Percussion) genre, performed during temple festivals in Kerala.

*Kudamattam* Ceremony, the elephants parade with percussion music, a world famous temple festival in Kerala. The elephants are decorated with gold plated Caparisons (*Nettipattam*), Bells (*Mani*), and Necklaces. People mounted on the elephants hold Tinselled Silk Parasols (*Muttukuda*) up high, swaying White Tufts (*Venchamaram*) and Peacock Feather Fans (*Alavattam*) to the rhythm of the *Panchari Melam* (*Panchari*). *Aarattu* begins with a flag hoisting ceremony. Apart from the traditional holy bath of idol.

