



SHIVARATHRI MAHOTSAVAM

ARUKIZHAYA MAHADEVA TEMPLE, MANJERI



LOCATION

**Panchayat/
Municipality/
Corporation**

Manjeri Municipality

District

Malappuram



ACCESSIBILITY

**Nearest Town/
Landmark/ Junction**

Calicut–Malappuram Bypass Junction – 220 m

Nearest Bus Station

Indira Gandhi Memorial Bus Terminal – 300 m

**Nearest Railway
Station**

Angadipuram Railway Station – 21.2 Km

Nearest Airport

Calicut International Airport – 23 Km



CONTACT

Sree Arukizhaya Mahadeva Temple
Manjeri - 676121
Phone: +91-483-760329



TIME

DATES

February- March (Kumbham)

FREQUENCY

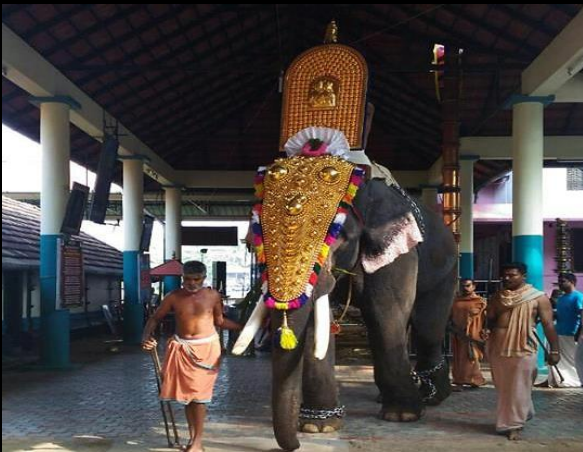
Annual

DURATION

7 Days

ABOUT THE FESTIVAL (Legend/History/Myth)

Shivarathri Mahotsavam is celebrated to pay obeisance to Lord Shiva (the destroyer in Hindu trinity). The annual festival is marked by various rituals performed to invoke the divine presence of the Lord at this temple. The presiding deity at the shrine is represented by the idol of Lord Shiva together with his consort Goddess Parvathy. The legend of the historic temple is closely associated with Gokarna, a small temple town on the western coast of Karnataka, dedicated to Lord Shiva. Shivarathri signifies the day when Lord Shiva is believed to have saved the world by drinking the pot of poison that emerged from the ocean during Samudra Manthan.



RELEVANCE-
(Local / National / International)

Local

NO. OF PEOPLE PARTICIPATED

About 10,000

EVENTS/PROGRAMS

Kodiyettam
Abhishekam
Annadanam
Aarattu
Elephant Procession
Percussion Music
Traditional Performing Arts
Cultural Programs

DESCRIPTION (How festival is celebrated)

The annual Shivarathri Mahotsavam commences with the *Kodiyettu* or flag hoisting ceremony three days prior to Shivarathri. Shivarathri or 'the great night of Shiva' falls on the new moon day in the Malayalam calendar month of *Kumbham*. Devout devotees fast rigorously all day long and chant *mantras* and sing hymns in praise of the Lord. This is believed to liberate one from all sins and consequently from the cycle of birth and death. The festival is marked by special *Poojas*, *Abhishekams*, elephant procession and *Aarattu* (ritualistic bathing of the deity). Cultural events are also organised as part of the festivities. Hundreds of people throng the temple and its premises to offer prayers while others ensure their presence for merchandise and watching the festivities.

