

VARSHIKA MAHOTSAVAM
AAZHIMALA SHIVA TEMPLE

LOCATION	**Panchayath/ Municipality/ Corporation**	Kottukal Panchayat
	District	Trivandrum
ACCESSIBILITY	**Nearest Town/ Landmark/ Junction**	Pulinkudi Junction – 1.1 Km
	Nearest Bus Station	Pulinkudi Junction – 1.1 Km
	Nearest Railway Station	Thampanoor Railway Station – 21Km
	Nearest Airport	Trivandrum International Airport – 21.5Km

CONTACT

Aazhimala Siva Temple
Pulinkudi, Mulloor PO
Trivandrum - 695521
Mobile - 9447697858 (Radhakrishnan- President)
9895733650 (Secretary)

TIME	DATES	FREQUENCY	DURATION
	January/February (*Makaram*)	Annual	10 Days



ABOUT THE FESTIVAL (Legend/History/Myth)

Azhimala Siva temple is a famous spiritual centre of Hindu devotees. As the beach can be viewed from hill top, the name came to be Aazhimala, Aazhi means “Sea” and Mala means “Hill”. As the name suggests it is situated between the huge rocks and stands in the edge of the ocean. You can view the beauty of sea from the temple. The temple is dedicated to Lord Shiva. There is a legend that, Bhima, the second Pandava of the Great epic Maha Bharatha had passed through the place during his self exile from the kingdom along with the other Pandava clan and Drowpathy. At that time Drowpathy felt thirsty and bheema gave a soft pounding with his Gadha or giant club on the rock which instantly sprouted a fresh water spring which exists even now. It is also believed that the two marks left on the rocks nearby are the foot marks of Bhima.



RELEVANCE- (Local / National / International)	Local	NO. OF PEOPLE PARTICIPATED	Above 50,000

EVENTS/PROGRAMS	DESCRIPTION (How festival is celebrated)
Flag Hoisting Annadanam Cultural Programs and folk arts Spiritual discourses Seminars Percussion Music Musical Concerts Cinematic Dance Mimics Drama Bale Classical Dance Kadhakali Ottanthullal Mohiniyattam Bharathanatyam Pongala Arattu	Annual festival of this festival falls in the Malayalam month of makaram (January/February). It is a 10 days spectacular event. There is a flag hoisting ceremony marking the beginning of the festival. The shrine is traditionally decorated with plantain, coconut leaves, flowers, leaves, traditional lamps and lights. There are special *poojas* and offerings during the festival period. Also annadanam is held on all days. Traditional performing arts and music and dance are staged during the festival period. Thousands of devotees throng to witness the events and rituals. Numerous cultural programs and temple arts are performed on all days of the festival. Caparisoned elephants, melam, fireworks and sheevali are part of the festival. There are lot of cultural events, seminars and religious discourses. On the 9th day of the festival there is pongala ceremony, thousands of people participate in it. And the final day Arattu(holy bath) takes place, the utsava murti of the deity is taken out of the shrine for ritual bathing











