



AARATTU UTSAVAM

MALAYALAPPUZHA DEVI TEMPLE



LOCATION

Panchayat/
Municipality/
Corporation

Malayalappuzha Grama Panchayat

District

Pathanamthitta



ACCESSIBILITY

Nearest Town/
Landmark/ Junction

Kumbazha town – 5 Km

Nearest Bus station

Temple Bus Stop – 75 M

Nearest Railway
station

Chengannur Railway Station – 33 Km

Nearest Airport

Trivandrum International Airport – 107 Km



CONTACT

Malayalapuzha Temple,
Malayapuzha
Pathanamthitta
Pin – 689666
Phone : +91-468 -2300260
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DATES

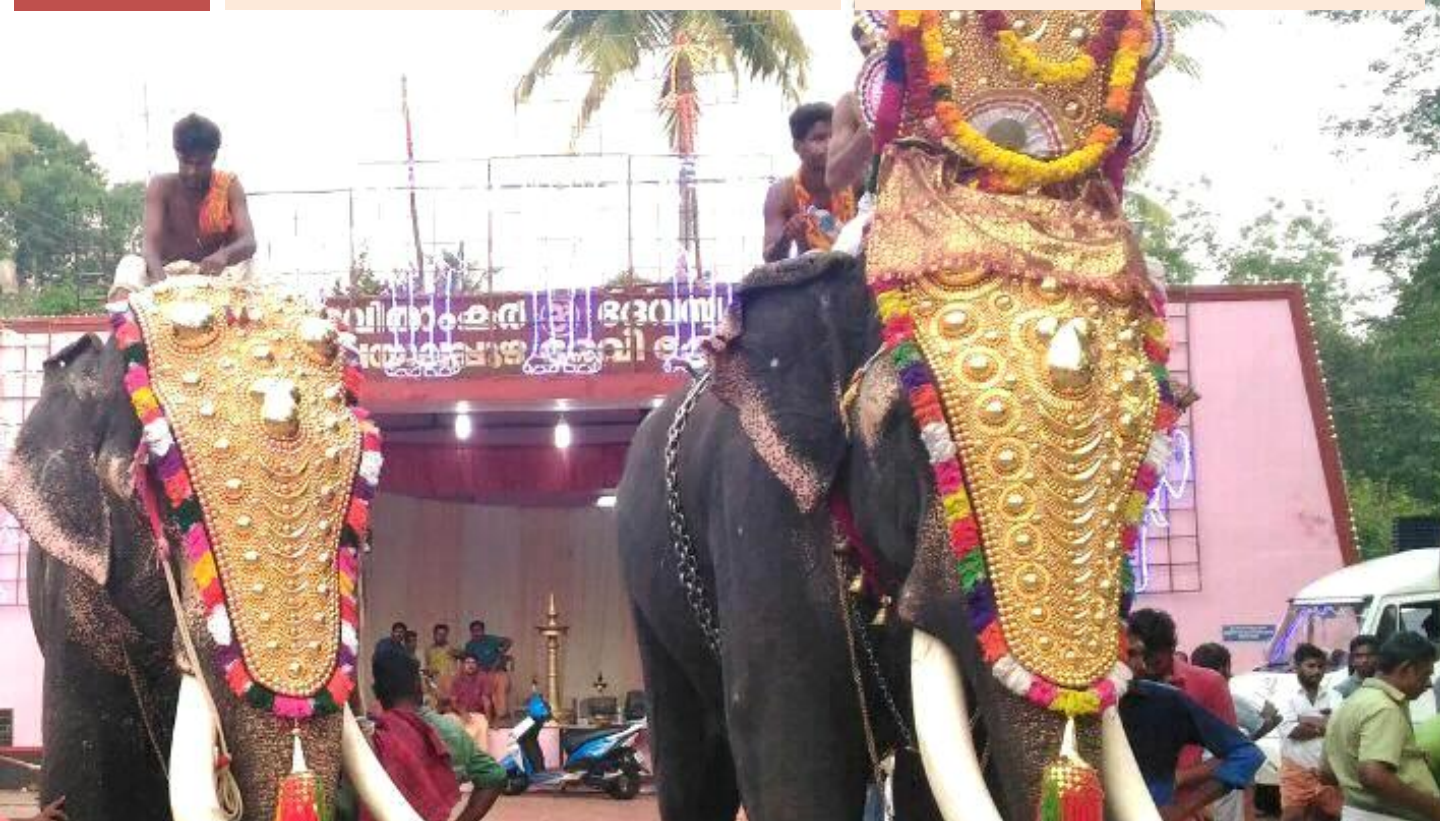
February – March (*Kumbham*)

FREQUENCY

Annual

DURATION

11 Days



ABOUT THE FESTIVAL (Legend/History/Myth)

Long ago a *Brahmin* went by walk to the Mookambika temple at Kollur. He spent a lot of time there unable to part with the Goddess Mookambika. When he decided to go back to his native place near Maruthwa Mala, the Goddess appeared in his dream and told him that she will come along with him to his place and entered the *Saligramam* that he was worshipping. Since this happened at night, she came in the form of Bhadrakali with eight arms and very fierce looks. The Namboodiri reached Thombil Kottaram with the *Saligramam* and a palm leaf umbrella. He stayed there and took rest for few days. But when he tried to take the *Saligramam* and umbrella, they did not move from the place. That night in his dream, the Goddess came and told him that she likes the place and would like to stay there. She also told the Namboodiri, that he will not live very long and would soon merge with her. He later died due to which her worship was affected. It is believed that the Goddess conveyed to the Thombil family to build a temple for her at the spot (about 5 Km from the present location of the temple). That Goddess was consecrated facing east and nearby a *Shiva Linga* was also consecrated. The chief of Thombil clan later shifted the Goddess to the present location. There is a strong belief that any negative influences caused by enemies through black-magic or other evil methods, can be alleviated and negated by performing a *raktha pushpanjali pooja* (red flower oblation) for Malayalapuzha Devi. A sweet rice preparation called *Chathussatham* is cooked by devotees for prosperity. For curing fertility problems and for physical well being, a ritual followed here is to bring a chicken or rooster which is set to free to fly away in the temple compound. Offer of areca nut, betel leaves, tobacco and camphor to the Goddess at the sanctum is believed to help in fulfillment of desires.



RELEVANCE-
(Local / National /
International)

Local



**NO. OF PEOPLE
PARTICIPATED**

Approximately 20000

EVENTS/PROGRAMS

DESCRIPTION *(How festival is celebrated)*

Kodiyettu
Annadanam
Sathakodi Archana
Ulsavabali
 Cultural Programmes
Pallivetta
Jeevatha Procession
Arattu
Valiyakanikka
Kodiyirakku

The annual festival of the temple commences on the *Thiruvathira of Kumbham* and lasts for eleven days. The festival begins with *Kodiyettu* ceremony. Malayalapuzha Devi is believed to grant boons for extending prosperity to all the devotees. So, a large number of people throng the temple during the festival to offer prayers to the Goddess. The Goddess is believed to provide protection to devotees from enemies, help in marriage and getting jobs and aid in flourishing businesses. The devi is also known as Goddess Idathattil Bhagwathi. On the occasion of *Kodiyettu*, a procession is taken out from *Kottaram* to the temple. *Annadanam* is offered the devotees who gather for worship. Cultural programmes like dance, *Kathakali*, *Pancharimelam*, musical concerts etc are part of the festivities. *Pallivetta* is held on the morning of the ninth day of the festival. The *Arattu* ceremony including the *Jeevatha Procession*, will be held on the last day. The festival will conclude with *Arattu*, return procession and *Kodiyirakku* and *Valiya Kanikka* early in the morning.

