



MAKARAVILAKKU

SREE SABARIMALA AYYAPPA TEMPLE



LOCATION

Panchayat/
Municipality/
Corporation

Perunadu Grama Panchayat

District

Ranni Block



ACCESSIBILITY

Nearest Town/
Landmark/ Junction

Ranni Town – 61Km

Nearest Bus station

Pampa Bus Stop – 29 Km

Nearest Railway
station

Chengannur Railway Station - 85.9 Km

Nearest Airport

Cochin International Airport -154



CONTACT

Sabarimala Temple
Thriveni Bridge, Sabarimala-689713.
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web - <http://sabarimala.kerala.gov.in>



TIME

DATES

November-December-January
(Vrishchikam-Dhanu-Makaram)-
Madalakalam days

FREQUENCY

Annual

DURATION

2 Months

ABOUT THE FESTIVAL (Legend/History/Myth)

Makaravilakku – Makarajyothi is the most anticipated festival at the *Sabarimala Ayyappa Temple*. It takes place in January (*Malayalam month Makarom 1st day*) evening (*Makara Sankrama Sandhya*) – the time when the *Dakshinayana Punyakalam* ends and *Uttarayan* or *Uttarayana Punyakalam* starts. The most popular legend is that after defeating demon *Mahishasura*, *Ayyappa* merged with the *Dharma Shastha Murti* at the *Sabarimala Temple* on the *Makarajyothi day*. *Makaravilakku* is the *Jyothi* that appears at *Ponnambalameddu* three times on *Makar Sankranti* day after evening *puja*. *Makara Jyothi* is the star that appears on the sky during the *Puja*. Another legend has it that *Parashurama* first lit the *Makaravilakku* after installing the *murti of Ayyappa*. It is also believed that the tribals who were harassed by the demon *Mahishasura* first lit the light to celebrate the slaying of their tormentor by *Ayyappa*. Another popular legend also states that *Parashuram* installed the *murti of Ayyappa* on the day. While the *murti* installation was taking place, *Indra*, the King of *Devas*, and *Narada Maharishi* lit *Makaravilakku* at *Ponnambalameddu*.



Godhara



RELEVANCE-
(Local / National /
International)

International



NO. OF PEOPLE
PARTICIPATED

Above 2 lakhs



EVENTS/PROGRAMS

Deeparadhana
Special poojas
Makaravilakku
Makarajyothi

DESCRIPTION (*How festival is celebrated*)

On the Sabarimala Makaravilakku day, the evening *deeparadhana* is the most important puja. During the *deeparadhana*, Lord Ayyappa gives *darshan* fully attired in the *Thrivaabharanam* – gold ornaments – which is specially brought from the Pandalam Palace. Before the evening *deeparadhana* on Makaravilakku day, an eagle hovers over the Sabarimala Temple. Next the *Makara* Star appears in the sky – *Makarajyothi* is the star that appears in the sky on the day in the evening. Next is the appearance of Makaravilakku – it is the light that appears three times in the distant hill at Ponnambalamedu.

