

KARKIDAKA BALI THARPANAM

THIRUNELLI TEMPLE FESTIVAL



LOCATION

**Panchayat/
Municipality/
Corporation**

Thirunelli Panchayat

District

Wayanad



ACCESSIBILITY

**Nearest Town/
Landmark/ Junction**

Mananthavady Town– 31 Km

Nearest Bus station

Thirunelli Bus Station– 400 m

**Nearest Railway
station**

Kozhikode Railway Station – 129 Km

Nearest Airport

Calicut International Airport – 140 Km



CONTACT

Tirunelli Temple
Mananthavady
Kalpetta, Wayanad - 673121
Phone: +91-4935-210201
Website: www.thirunellitemple.com



TIME

DATES
July – August (<i>Karkidakam</i>)

FREQUENCY
Annual

DURATION
1 Day

ABOUT THE FESTIVAL (Legend/History/Myth)

Bali Tharpana’ is a ritualistic offering made by people belonging to Hindu community at the Thirunelli Temple. ‘*Bali*’ refers to ancestral rites. People who make the offerings are required to observe penance. Paying obeisance at Thirunelli temple is believed to liberate and let departed souls rest in peace. The ritual of *Bali Tharpanam* is done in batches and it starts with a prayer in front of the temple. The priest and the pilgrims then head towards *Papanasini*, with the materials for the rites. The pilgrims standing in water then follow the instructions of the priest and thus offer obeisance to their departed dear ones. After that, they take dip in the water. The pilgrims again visit the temple for prayers. It is believed that Lord Sri Rama and his brother Lakshmana performed the *Pithrukarma* of their father King *Dasaratha* standing on a rock at this temple.





RELEVANCE-
(Local / National / International)

National



NO. OF PEOPLE PARTICIPATED

Over 1,00,000



EVENTS/PROGRAMS

Bali Tharpanam

DESCRIPTION *(How festival is celebrated)*

There is a belief that the new moon day in the Malayalam month of 'Karkidakam' is very auspicious to perform *Bali* intended for departed souls. This day is known as 'Karkadaka Vavu'. A handful of boiled rice and prayers are ritualistically offered to departed souls under the guidance of priests. The ritual is done in batches and it starts with a prayer in front of the temple. The priest and the pilgrims then head towards Papanasini, with the materials for the rites. The pilgrims standing in water then follow the instructions of the priest and thus offer obeisance to their departed dear ones. Following a dip in the holy water, pilgrims head back to the temple for prayers.

