Kerala Tourism

Digital Event Calendar

2026-2027

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Digital Event Calendar

2026-27

Disclaimer : In Kerala, festival dates are decided in accordance with the Malayalam calendar and the local traditions and customs.We have given the festival dates based on these. But there can be changes as per the customs and rituals associated with each place of worship. As such, these should be considered as approximate dates only and have to be confirmed with the local authorities.

APRIL 2026

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Sabarimala Festival

Sabarimala Dharma Sastha Temple, Pathanamthitta

01 April 2026

The Arattu at Sabarimala, a profoundly sacred ceremony, marks the grand finale of the annual festival at the revered Ayyappan Temple. This purifying ritual involves a majestic procession where the sacred idol of Lord Ayyappa is carried with utmost reverence to the holy Pamba River, a lifeline for devotees.

During the Arattu, the idol is ceremonially immersed in the river's pristine waters, symbolizing spiritual purification and renewal. This act is believed to cleanse the devotees of their sins and pave the way for a prosperous year ahead. The procession itself is a spectacle of devotion, accompanied by temple priests chanting sacred mantras, thousands of Ayyappa devotees immersed in prayer, and the rhythmic sounds of traditional music filling the air.

The atmosphere during the Arattu is palpable with spiritual energy. Pilgrims from across the globe converge at Sabarimala to participate in this momentous event, marking the culmination of their arduous pilgrimage. For Ayyappa devotees, the Arattu holds immense significance as it is an opportunity to seek blessings from Lord Ayyappa. The ceremony is not merely a ritual but a transformative experience that strengthens their faith and reinforces their connection with the divine. The Sabarimala Arattu is a testament to the enduring power of faith and tradition in Kerala's cultural landscape.

Sree Padmanabhaswamy Pallivetta

Sree Padmanabhaswamy Temple, Thiruvananthapuram

01 April 2026

The Pallivetta festival, an integral part of the grand annual celebrations at the Sree Padmanabhaswamy Temple in Thiruvananthapuram, is a deeply significant ritual steeped in tradition. Pallivetta, literally translating to "royal hunt," vividly symbolizes the deity Lord Padmanabhaswamy's symbolic hunting expedition, a unique and captivating aspect of the temple's rich history.

During Pallivetta, the revered idol of Lord Padmanabhaswamy is ceremoniously taken out in a majestic procession, accompanied by temple priests, officials, and a multitude of devoted followers. The procession gracefully circumambulates the temple complex, allowing devotees to offer their prayers and witness the spectacle. A key element of the festival is the enactment of a symbolic hunt, representing the deity's power to cleanse and purify.

The festival itself is a vibrant tapestry of traditional music, captivating dance performances, and dazzling decorations, creating a festive and reverent atmosphere. Pallivetta is a deeply spiritual event that draws large crowds of devotees and visitors eager to witness the unique and time-honored traditions of the Sree Padmanabhaswamy Temple. The festival offers a profound glimpse into the temple's rich cultural heritage and its significance in the religious landscape of Kerala.

Sree Padmanabhaswamy Temple Arattu

Shangumugham Beach, Thiruvananthapuram

02 April 2026

The Arattu festival, a spectacular culmination of the annual festival at the revered Sree Padmanabhaswamy Temple in Thiruvananthapuram, is a sight to behold. At its heart lies a holy bathing ritual, where the sacred idols of the presiding deities are ceremoniously carried in a grand procession to the pristine Shangumugham beach for a purifying immersion.

The Arattu procession itself is a majestic spectacle, embodying the rich traditions and deep-seated faith associated with the temple. Temple priests, adorned in traditional attire, lead the procession, accompanied by a majestic line of caparisoned elephants. The air resonates with the sounds of traditional music, creating an atmosphere thick with religious fervor and devotion. Thousands of devotees line the streets, eager to witness the sacred ceremony and offer their prayers.

As the procession reaches Shangumugham beach, the idols are respectfully bathed in the sea, symbolizing purification and renewal. The Arattu festival is more than just a religious ritual; it is a vibrant display of cultural heritage, drawing together people from all walks of life to witness and participate in a tradition that has been passed down through generations. The event leaves a lasting impression, showcasing the spiritual significance and cultural richness of the Sree Padmanabhaswamy Temple and its enduring place in the heart of Kerala.

Maundy Thursday

02 April 2026

Maundy Thursday, holds a significant place in the hearts of Christians across Kerala. This solemn religious observance commemorates the Last Supper of Jesus Christ with his disciples, a pivotal event in Christian theology. On this day, churches throughout the state host special services imbued with deep meaning and symbolism.

A central tradition during these services is the washing of feet ceremony, a powerful reenactment of Jesus's act of humility and service towards his disciples. This ceremony serves as a potent reminder of the importance of selfless love and the call to serve one another. Beyond the church services, families in Kerala also observe Maundy Thursday with special prayers and meals, fostering a sense of togetherness and spiritual reflection.

A particularly cherished tradition is the preparation of Pesaha Appam, a unique unleavened bread made from rice flour and coconut milk. This special bread, steamed to perfection, is prepared with meticulous care and consumed after prayers, symbolizing the unleavened bread shared during the Last Supper. Maundy Thursday is a time for profound reflection, heartfelt prayer and solemn remembrance of the ultimate sacrifice made by Jesus Christ, deeply woven into the rich tapestry of Christian traditions in Kerala. It's a day of spiritual renewal and a reaffirmation of faith.

Good Friday

03 April 2026

Good Friday, a day of profound solemnity and reflection, is observed by Christians throughout Kerala as a commemoration of the crucifixion of Jesus Christ. This significant religious holiday is marked by special services held in churches across the state, inviting congregations to contemplate the sacrifice and suffering endured by Jesus.

A central practice during Good Friday services is the Stations of the Cross, also known as the Way of the Cross. This deeply moving devotion involves reenacting the events leading up to Jesus's crucifixion, allowing worshippers to vicariously experience his pain and suffering. Good Friday is observed as a day of fasting, prayer and introspection. Many Christians choose to abstain from certain foods or engage in an act of penance.

Processions and vigils are also common throughout Kerala, as Christians come together to publicly express their faith and mark the day with reverence and solemnity. The atmosphere is one of quiet contemplation and spiritual introspection. Good Friday holds a place of utmost importance in the Christian calendar, deeply embedded within the faith and traditions of the community in Kerala. It serves as a poignant reminder of the sacrifice made for humanity and the enduring message of hope and redemption.

Nenmara Vallangi Vela

Nellikulangara Bhagavathy Temple, Palakkad

03 April 2026

The Nenmara Vallangi Vela, a dazzling spectacle of culture and tradition, stands as one of the most vibrant and anticipated festivals in the Palakkad district of Kerala. Celebrated annually following the harvest season, typically in April, this grand festival is a testament to the enduring spirit and rich heritage of the region. It represents a friendly yet spirited competition between the neighboring villages of Nenmara and Vallangi, fostering a sense of community and camaraderie.

The highlight of the Nenmara Vallangi Vela is undoubtedly the majestic procession of elaborately decorated elephants. These gentle giants are paraded through the villages, accompanied by the mesmerizing sounds of traditional percussion music. The rhythmic beats of the panchavadyam and pandimelam create an electrifying atmosphere, captivating the hearts of onlookers.

Beyond the elephant procession, the festival also showcases a diverse array of cultural performances. Folk dances and music, passed down through generations, vividly depict the cultural tapestry of Palakkad. As night falls, the sky comes alive with a breathtaking fireworks display, illuminating the darkness with an explosion of colors and patterns. The Nenmara Vallangi Vela is truly a feast for the senses, attracting large crowds from across Kerala and beyond, all eager to witness this unforgettable celebration of tradition and unity.

Thirumandhamkunnu Pooram

Thirumandhamkunnu Bhagavathy Temple, Malappuram

04 April 2026

Thirumandhamkunnu Temple, situated in Angadipuram village in Malappuram district, Kerala, is a revered place of worship dedicated to Goddess Durga, specifically in the form of Bhadrakali. While the temple's main deity is Goddess Bhadrakali, Lord Shiva is also worshipped as a presiding deity. The temple is well known for its long-standing traditions and the vibrant Pooram festival celebrated annually during the Malayalam month of Meenam (March–April).

The Pooram festival at Thirumandhamkunnu Temple is an 11-day-long celebration filled with color, music, and devotion. It features a grand procession led by a caparisoned elephant. Devotees re-enact traditional legends, dancing and chanting passionately as they proceed to the river. A central moment of the festival is the arrival of the Vellathiri at the Pooram ground to meet the chief of the Pana tribal community. The occasion is marked by fireworks, dances, and extensive festivities that attract visitors from across the region.

The temple has a rich historical background, and the rituals performed here are believed to have been established in the 16th century. Many devotees visit to receive blessings, trusting in the divine power and grace of the deities enshrined.

The annual Pooram festival stands out for its grandeur and cultural significance, transforming the temple grounds into a vibrant hub of religious devotion and traditional celebration, showcasing the rich heritage of the region.

Aryankavu Pooram

Kavalappara Aryankavu Bhagavathy Temple, Palakkad

04 April 2026

The Aryankavu Pooram is one of the most colourful festivals in Kerala known for its unique rituals. The festival is held every year at the Kavalappara Aryankavu Bhagavathy Temple in Palakkad on the 21st day of the Malayalam month of Meenam (March - April).

Unlike other temple festivals in Kerala, the Aryankavu Pooram stands apart with its lack of caparisoned elephants. The main attraction is the colourful procession of horse mannequins carried by devotees from 96 thattakams (regions) of the village. These include Kavalappara, Cherukattupalam, Kunathara Vadakkumuri, Kunathara Thekkumuri, Thangali, Mannoor, Chuduvalathur, Shoranur, Nedungottur, Panayur, and Kallackad.

Mundaya Kodichi from Karakkad tattakam is the only mare among the horse mannequins and it holds a special position in the festival. The mare mannequin is brought into the temple premises for a performance with the accompaniment of traditional drum beats and horns. This is followed by ritual art performances of Poothan, Thira and Vellatt. The festival ends with a fireworks display. A variety of cultural programmes including a tholppavakkoothu (puppet show) is held at the temple premises.

Easter

05 April 2026

Easter, a festival brimming with joy and hope, is celebrated with great fervor by Christians in Kerala, marking the glorious resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. This joyous occasion signifies the triumph of life over death and is a cornerstone of Christian faith and belief. Churches throughout the state host special services, filled with uplifting hymns, heartfelt prayers and vibrant celebrations that resonate with the spirit of renewal.

Easter is a time for families to come together, strengthen their bonds, and share in the joy of the season. Special meals are prepared and shared, symbolizing the abundance of blessings associated with the resurrection. The atmosphere is one of gratitude and celebration, as Christians reflect on the significance of Easter and the hope it represents.

Easter is a time for spiritual renewal and a reaffirmation of faith. It is a time for reflection on the sacrifice made and a celebration of the promise of eternal life. Deeply rooted in Christian traditions, Easter in Kerala is a vibrant expression of faith, hope, and the enduring power of the resurrection. It is a time to rejoice in the triumph of good over evil and the promise of a brighter future.

Malayattoor Perunnal

St. Thomas Syro-Malabar Catholic Church, Ernakulam

12 April 2026

Malayattoor Perunnal, an intensely spiritual Christian pilgrimage, draws throngs of devotees to the St. Thomas Syro-Malabar Catholic Church, dramatically situated atop Malayattoor Hill in Ernakulam district. This revered event sees thousands ascending the hill, particularly during March-May, seeking the blessings of St. Thomas the Apostle, who, according to tradition, spent time in prayer at this very location. The climb itself becomes an act of devotion.

The atmosphere is thick with faith. The air vibrates with fervent prayers and the rhythmic chanting of hymns as pilgrims, often bearing simple wooden crosses, make their way up the mountainside. The crosses symbolize their faith and willingness to undergo penance.

Legendary accounts state that St. Thomas lived on Malayattoor Hill while preaching the gospel, and remarkably, imprints believed to be marks of his feet and knees are still visible on the rock face, serving as tangible reminders of his presence. The feast of Malayattoor is far more than a simple celebration. It represents a profound spiritual renewal, allowing pilgrims to forge a deep and lasting connection with the apostle's remarkable legacy and unwavering dedication. It's a journey of faith, steeped in history and tradition.

Kadammanitta Padayani

Kadammanitta Bhagavathy Temple, Pathanamthitta

14-23 April 2026

Kadammanitta Padayani, a vibrant and unparalleled folk art form, bursts to life annually at the Kadammanitta Devi Temple in Pathanamthitta district, Kerala. This traditional ritualistic dance, deeply rooted in the region's cultural tapestry, is performed as an offering to appease the powerful goddess Kali, seeking her blessings and protection.

The heart of Kadammanitta Padayani lies in its spectacular performances, characterized by the use of elaborate and awe-inspiring masks known as "kolams." These kolams, meticulously crafted from natural materials such as areca nut fronds, bamboo and vibrant natural dyes, represent a diverse pantheon of deities, spirits and mythical characters. The artistry and craftsmanship displayed in the creation of these masks are truly remarkable.

As the sun sets, the Padayani performances unfold, captivating audiences with their rhythmic movements, hypnotic drumming and powerful chanting. The dancers, adorned with the magnificent kolams, move in a trance-like state, bringing the myths and legends associated with the goddess Kali to life. The festival is a fascinating blend of mythology, folklore and ancient ritualistic practices, offering a profound glimpse into the rich cultural heritage of Kerala. Kadammanitta Padayani draws large crowds of locals and tourists alike, all eager to witness these mesmerizing performances and immerse themselves in the unique traditions of this enchanting region. It is an experience that leaves an indelible mark on the soul.

Vishu

15 April 2026

Vishu is a Malayali festival that celebrates the beginning of the astrological New Year. The festival is celebrated on the first day of the Malayalam month Medam. It's considered as an auspicious day by Kerala Hindus. The festival falls on April 14th or 15th depending on the solar cycle.

The day is very auspicious for the Hindu community. Various rituals are performed to mark the occasion. The most important ritual is Vishu Kani, the act of seeing something blessed in the morning of the festival. Hindus arrange auspicious things such as rice, cucumber, coconut, jack fruit, Kanmashi (eyeliner), betel leaves, arecanut, Aranmula kannadi (Vaalkannadi), Kanikkonna flowers (Cassia fistula) nilavilakku in front of an idol of Lord Krishna (an incarnation of Lord Vishnu). It's believed that if one sees these when they open their eyes in the morning, the entire year would be blessed.

The high note of the festival is the sumptuous sadya (traditional vegetarian feast) enjoyed during lunch time. There is also a custom called kaineettam, in which elders of the family gift money to the youngsters. A number of related festivals like vishuvela happen during this period in various parts of Kerala.

Thali Temple Arattu Festival

Thali Temple, Kozhikode

21 April 2026

The Thali Temple in Kozhikode is renowned for its significant festivals, with the Arattu festival being the most important and widely celebrated. Held annually in April, the eight-day festival begins with the hoisting of the flag and culminates in the grand Arattu (holy bath) procession. This sacred event attracts numerous devotees, who take part in rituals and processions, marking the culmination of the temple's festivities. The Arattu symbolizes the divine purification of the idol and is the highlight of the temple's celebrations.

In addition to the Arattu festival, the Thali Temple also hosts the Revathi Pattathanam, a renowned cultural and intellectual event held for seven days in October or November. Originating as a penance by the Zamorins, this festival honors scholars with the title Bhatta and offers them monetary rewards for their contributions to knowledge. Another important event at the temple is the Prathishta festival, celebrated in June or July, which marks the consecration of the temple. While each of these festivals has its own unique significance, the Arattu festival remains the grandest, drawing thousands of devotees to witness the procession and take part in the sacred rituals.

Aruvithura Perunnal

St. George Forane Church, Aruvithura, Kottayam

22-25 April 2026

The Aruvithura Perunnal, a grand and spiritually uplifting festival, is celebrated annually at the St. George Forane Church in Aruvithura, Kottayam district. This significant Christian event draws devotees from across Kerala and beyond, who are eager to partake in the festivities and seek blessings from St. George, the patron saint of the church. The Perunnal is a vibrant tapestry of religious observances, characterized by elaborate processions, special prayers and solemn ceremonies held over several days.

A key highlight of the Aruvithura Perunnal is the magnificent procession carrying the statue of St. George. The statue, resplendent with precious ornaments and adorned with colourful flowers, is paraded through the streets, creating a truly awe-inspiring spectacle. Devotees participate with deep faith and devotion, offering prayers for healing, prosperity and divine guidance. The atmosphere is charged with spiritual energy as the procession winds its way through the town.

Beyond the religious ceremonies, the Aruvithura Perunnal also features a vibrant array of cultural performances, showcasing the rich artistic traditions of the region. Numerous stalls selling religious articles, local handicrafts and delicious Kerala delicacies add to the festive atmosphere, making it a truly enriching experience for all who attend. The Aruvithura Perunnal is a testament to the enduring faith and cultural heritage of the Christian community in Kerala.

Thrissur Pooram

Thekkinkadu Maidanam, Thrissur

26 April 2026

Thrissur Pooram, undeniably the most celebrated and visually stunning temple festival in Kerala, unfolds annually in the cultural heartland of Thrissur. It's not just a festival; it's a grand symphony of traditions, a spectacle of devotion and a vibrant showcase of Kerala's rich cultural tapestry. At its core, Thrissur Pooram is a magnificent convergence of deities from various temples across the region.

The festival is globally renowned for its majestic procession of caparisoned elephants. These magnificent creatures, adorned in elaborate ornaments and vibrant attire, embody regal grace and power. Accompanying the elephants are traditional percussion ensembles, most notably the panchavadyam and pandimelam. The rhythmic and intoxicating sounds of these orchestras create an atmosphere of unparalleled excitement and spiritual fervor.

As night descends, the sky lights up in a dazzling display of fireworks. This breathtaking spectacle, illuminating the night with a vibrant array of colors and patterns, is a major highlight of the Pooram, captivating audiences of all ages. Thrissur Pooram attracts massive crowds from around the world, eager to witness this feast for the senses and immerse themselves in the unique traditions of Kerala. It's more than a festival; it's an unforgettable experience that resonates long after the celebrations have ended.

Edathua Perunnal

St. George Church, Alappuzha

27 April 2026
07 May 2026

The Edathua Perunnal, a renowned and vibrant festival held annually at the St. George Church in Edathua, Alappuzha district, is a testament to the enduring faith and cultural harmony of Kerala. Dedicated to St. George, the revered saint known for his courage and compassion, this eleven-day feast welcomes devotees from all faiths, transcending religious boundaries in a spirit of unity and devotion.

Throughout the festival, the church and its surroundings come alive with elaborate processions, solemn religious ceremonies and captivating cultural performances. A central event is the grand procession where the statue of St. George, adorned with exquisite gold ornaments, is paraded around the church, creating a mesmerizing spectacle. Devotees line the streets, offering heartfelt prayers and seeking blessings, deeply believing in the miraculous powers attributed to the saint.

The air is thick with anticipation and spiritual fervor as the community comes together to celebrate. Enhancing the festive atmosphere are numerous stalls selling a diverse array of goods, from religious items and local handicrafts to toys and delectable treats. The Edathua Perunnal offers a colourful and lively ambiance, providing a spiritually enriching and culturally immersive experience for everyone who attends. It's a celebration of faith, unity, and the vibrant traditions of Kerala.

MAY 2026

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01 Chitra Pournami Festival

07 Puthuppally Perunnal

12 Thootha Pooram

25 Kannambra Vela

23 Kottiyoor Festival

28 Bakrid

Chitra Pournami Festival

Mangala Devi Kannagi Temple, Idukki

01 May 2026

Nestled within the heart of the Periyar Tiger Reserve in Idukki, the ancient Mangala Devi Temple unveils its doors to devotees but once a year, during the Chitra Pournami celebrations. This 100-year-old granite structure, perched at an altitude of 1,337 meters, stands as a testament to the enduring legacy of Mangala Devi, also known as Kannaki, the heroine of the Tamil epic Silapathikaram. She is revered as an embodiment of moral power and justice.

Established by the ancient Tamil king Cheran Chenguttuvan, the temple commemorates Kannaki's legendary act of avenging her husband's wrongful death. The Chitra Pournami festival, held on the full moon day of the Tamil month Chithirai, draws devotees from Kerala and Tamil Nadu, who partake in ritualistic prayers and offerings. Women, in particular, participate in large numbers, preparing and offering Pongal, a sweet rice dish, to the goddess, seeking blessings for long and happy marriages. The pilgrimage to the temple is a significant undertaking, involving a 12 km trek through the dense forests and grasslands of the Periyar Tiger Reserve. This journey, often undertaken by jeep, is carefully managed to minimize disturbance to the local ecosystem, which is home to endangered species like the Nilgiri Tahr. The trek culminates in a breathtaking view of the Western Ghats, creating a spiritually enriching experience. The temple, with its Pandyan influences and historical significance, provides a unique blend of history, mythology, and natural beauty.

Puthuppally Perunnal

St. George Orthodox Church, Kottayam

07 May 2026

The Puthuppally Perunnal, a grand two-day festival at Kottayam's St. George Orthodox Church, known as the 'Georgian Pilgrim Centre of the East,' attracts numerous devotees with its rich prayers and rituals.

The church, originally built as a chapel in 1557, is a revered Malankara Orthodox landmark. Festivities begin ten days prior with flag hoisting, followed by key rituals: Virakideel (firewood offering), vechoottu (ceremonial feast), and adya choroonu (first rice feeding). The 'raza' is a highlight – a vibrant procession carrying the holy golden cross to the Puthuppally junction. This spectacle includes colorful umbrellas, orchestras, and ornate wooden, silver, and gold crosses.

The feast of St. Sebastian is another significant event starting with flag hoisting on January 19. The procession features St. Sebastian's statue, fireworks, school bands, flags, and ornate crosses and umbrellas. Perunnal Kodiyettu or flag hoisting marks the start of religious services, cultural events, communal meals and prayer offerings. Throughout the festival, there are Holy Mass, liturgical prayers, sermons on St. George, concerts, dances, dramas, and the "sadya" feast. Throughout the festival, there are Holy Mass, liturgical prayers, sermons on St. George, concerts, dances, dramas, and the "sadya" feast symbolizing community. Devotees offer prayers and vows seeking blessings.

Thootha Pooram

Sree Thootha Bhagavathy Temple, Palakkad

12-13 May 2026

Thootha Pooram, a vibrant and uniquely charming temple festival, bursts to life annually in the village of Thootha, nestled in the Palakkad district of Kerala. This seven-day celebration distinguishes itself with its unique traditions and cultural displays, setting it apart from the more common Pooram festivals found elsewhere in the region. It provides a genuine glimpse into the heart of rural Kerala.

A central highlight of Thootha Pooram is the "Aanayoottu," a grand and elaborate feast for elephants. This act of reverence showcases the deep respect and admiration for these majestic animals ingrained in Kerala culture. The festival also features colorful processions, filled with the captivating sounds of traditional music, the energetic movements of folk dances, and a diverse array of cultural performances, reflecting the artistic talents of the local community.

Unlike some other Poorams, Thootha Pooram places a strong emphasis on community participation, fostering a powerful spirit of unity and togetherness among the villagers. The Thootha Bhagavathy Temple stands as the focal point of the celebrations, with devotees gathering to offer heartfelt prayers, seeking blessings from the goddess. Thootha Pooram offers a captivating journey into the rich cultural heritage and time-honored traditions of rural Kerala, attracting both locals and visitors eager to experience its unique charm and authentic spirit.

Kannambra Vela

Sree Kurumba Temple, Palakkad

25 May 2026

The Kannambra-Rishinarada Mangalam Vela, a breathtaking spectacle at the Sree Kurumba Temple in Palakkad, marks the grand finale of summer festivals in the Palakkad-Thrissur region. Often called 'Chakka Vela,' this festival intertwines with the story of jackfruit and mango harvests. It is a visual feast comparable to Thrissur Pooram.

Two competing groups, Kannambra Desam and Rishinarada Mangalam Desam, lead the festivities. A highlight is the grand elephant pageantry, including the Vaalum Chilambum Ezhunnallathu, a colorful procession from Sree Kurumba Temple to Rishinarada Mangalam Mannam. The Eedu Vedi, a midday fireworks display, also draws crowds. The festival officially starts on Vishu with the Kooranattal ceremony, hoisting flags at Sree Kurumba Temple and Rishinarada Mangalam Mannam. Children perform the Kummatti ritual from Vishu evening, dancing with neem leaves and fire sticks while chanting about the Goddess. The main Kummatti fest on the 40th day features fireworks and events.

On Vela day, rituals such as the Vaalum Chilambum Ezhunnallathu procession occur, with two groups moving towards the Sree Kurumba Bhagavathy Temple, accompanied by seven elephants and traditional orchestras like Panchavadyam and Pandimelam. The central elephant carries the Goddess' Kolam. The parade concludes at the Vela Parambu for fireworks. After evening processions and fireworks, the festival ends with fireworks and the Goddess' Kolam returning to Rishinarada Mangalam Mannam. The festival attracts locals and people from neighboring districts and Tamil Nadu, making it a community celebration transcending caste and religion.

Kottiyoor Festival

Kottiyoor Temple, Kannur

23 May 2026
24 Jun 2026

The Kottiyoor Festival , a uniquely sacred and deeply spiritual festival, unfolds annually at the ancient Kottiyoor Temple, nestled in the scenic landscapes of Kannur district. This extraordinary event is not just a festival; it is a transformative pilgrimage, drawing devotees from across Kerala and beyond, all seeking divine blessings and spiritual enlightenment.

The Kottiyoor Festival is characterized by its elaborate rituals, meticulously performed by temple priests according to age-old traditions. A distinctive feature of the festival is the construction of a temporary structure, often crafted from bamboo and adorned with coconut fronds, which serves as the temporary abode for the deity during the celebrations.

The festival is far more than a series of rituals; it is a profound embodiment of unwavering faith, selfless devotion and the rich cultural heritage of the region. The serene atmosphere, the sacred chants, and the collective devotion of the pilgrims create a truly unforgettable and spiritually uplifting experience.

Bakrid

28 May 2026

Bakrid or Eid-al-Adha is one of the two major festivals in Islam. It is celebrated on the 10th day of Dhu al-Hijjah, which is the 12th and the last month of the Islamic calendar. Bakrid celebrates the obedience of Hazrat Ibrahim who was ready to sacrifice his only son to obey God's command.

On the day of the festival, Muslims attend prayers at mosques or Idgahs (special venues for prayers), which is followed by a sermon. They perform ritual sacrifice of goats and other cattle. A third of the meat is kept by the family performing the sacrifice and the rest is divided among friends and the needy.

It is a day of great celebration for the Muslim community across the globe. They wear new clothes, enjoy delicious feasts with family and friends. In Kerala, the delectable fare includes the ubiquitous biryani, pathiri (rice flat breads) enjoyed with a variety of meat dishes and topped off with mouthwatering snacks and desserts like unnakkaya, omanapola, kilsa, neyyada etc.

JUNE 2026

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15 Oachira Festival

25 Muharram

29 Champakkulam Moolam Boat Race

Oachira Festival

Oachira Parabrahma Temple, Kollam

15-16 June 2026

Oachira Kali, a truly unique and exhilarating festival, unfolds annually in Oachira in Kollam district, showcasing the vibrant spirit and traditions of Kerala. This distinctive event is famed for its mock battles, playfully yet energetically fought in the waterlogged paddy fields that surround the revered Oachira Parabrahma Temple. The very landscape becomes a stage for this spirited display.

Participants, representing different 'karas' or localities within the region, engage in a spirited demonstration of their martial skills, playfully throwing mud and water at each other in a symbolic representation of ancient battles. The energy is infectious, and the spectacle is a captivating blend of tradition, competition, and community spirit.

The Oachira Parabrahma Temple itself is remarkable. Unlike typical temples, it has no formal deity or structured building. Instead, the focus rests on the natural elements - the earth, the water, and the sky - reflecting a deep connection to nature. Oachira Kali is more than just a mock battle; it is a vibrant expression of the region's unique culture and traditions, drawing large crowds of enthusiastic spectators. It reflects the strong community bond and the deep connection of the people to their land, celebrating their shared heritage in a truly unforgettable way.

Muharram

25 June 2026

Muharram is the first month of the Islamic lunar calendar. It is also one of the four most sacred months for both Sunni and Shia Muslims.

The tenth day of Muharram is known as Ashura, and both sects of Islam observe the day differently. For Sunni Muslims, Ashura is a day of celebration. It marks the day that Prophet Moosa (Moses), parted the Red Sea and saved his people from the Pharaoh's Army.

For Shia Muslims, Muhharram is a day of mourning. It is the day of the martyrdom of Husayn ibn Ali, the grandson of Prophet Muhammad and the third Shia imam. Ali opposed the authority of the Umayyad caliph Yazid ibn Mu'awiya and he was killed by the ruler's army on Ashura 680 CE. Shiites observe fast for the first 10 days of Muharram and take out a mourning procession on Ashura.

Champakkulam Moolam Boat Race

Pamba River, Alappuzha

29 June 2026

The Champakkulam Boat Race, a cornerstone of Kerala's vibrant cultural tapestry, is a spectacle of immense historical and religious significance. Held annually on the serene Pamba River in Alappuzha district, this magnificent event marks the auspicious occasion of the deity's idol installation at the revered Ambalappuzha Sree Krishna Temple. The race is more than just a competition; it's a living embodiment of Kerala's rich maritime heritage.

The centerpiece of the event is the majestic snake boats, known locally as "chundan vallams." These sleek, ornately decorated vessels, resembling mythical serpents gliding across the water, are propelled by hundreds of oarsmen, their synchronized movements driven by the rhythmic pulse of traditional boat songs, or "vanchipattu." The air crackles with anticipation as thousands of spectators throng the riverbanks, their cheers and applause creating an electrifying atmosphere.

The Champakkulam Moolam Boat Race is not merely a sporting event; it's a festival that showcases the spirit of unity, teamwork and tradition. It's a time when communities come together to celebrate their shared heritage and witness the exhilarating display of skill and endurance. The event attracts visitors from across the globe, offering a captivating glimpse into the heart and soul of Kerala. Witnessing the Champakkulam Moolam Boat Race is an unforgettable experience, a true immersion into the cultural richness of "God's Own Country."

JULY 2026

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17 Samkranthi Vaanibham

17 Aanayoottu

19 Aranmula Vallasadya

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Samkranthi Vaanibham at Pakkil

Kottayam

17 July 2026

16 Aug 2026

The Dharmasastha Temple at Pakkil, located in Kottayam district, is one of the eight sacred temples believed to have been established by Sage Parasurama, the mythical founder of Kerala. Nestled in the serene village of Pakkil, the temple is not only a spiritual center but also the venue of a unique and vibrant annual celebration - Sankranti Vanibham, a traditional trade fair that draws large crowds every year.

Held during the Malayalam month of Karkidakam (July/August), this fair is one of the main highlights of the temple's festivities. Unlike many temple festivals that focus primarily on religious rituals, Samkranthi Vaanibham is centered around a large-scale exhibition and sale of household items, agricultural implements, and traditional wares. The entire temple premises come alive with the sounds of bargaining and the bustle of trade.

The fair showcases a wide variety of goods, including kitchen utensils, farming tools, pottery, handicrafts, and furniture. What makes it especially appealing is the presence of traditional Kerala items such as Muram (winnow), Kutta (reed baskets), Vatti (sieve baskets), Thazhappaya (screw pine mats), Kalchattis (stone cooking vessels), and Manchattis (mud pots), which are displayed in different sizes and forms.

Samkranthi Vaanibham offers a rare blend of spiritual devotion and cultural commerce, making it a unique experience for devotees and visitors alike. It continues to preserve Kerala's rich tradition of temple fairs and community-centered celebrations.

Aanayoottu

Vadakkumnathan Temple, Thrissur

17 July 2026

Every year during the Malayalam month of Karkidakam (July/August), the Vadakkumnathan Temple in Thrissur hosts Aanayoottu, a unique elephant feeding ceremony. This vibrant celebration draws thousands of people seeking blessings. The event honors elephants, considered sacred, and seeks the blessings of Lord Ganesha, believed to remove obstacles. Lined up within the temple, the elephants are fed a meticulously prepared Ayurvedic mix. This nourishing mix is to enhance the health and wellbeing of the elephants.

The origins are deeply rooted in Kerala's cultural traditions, where elephants hold a significant place. The Vadakkumnathan Temple, known for its architectural style, becomes the focal point.

Gaja Pooja and Ashtadravya Maha Ganapathi Homam are performed by 50 priests, led by the temple Tantri. These rituals involve offerings of coconuts, jaggery, beaten rice, puffed rice, sesame, honey, sugarcane and lemons. The highlight is the sight of unadorned elephants being worshipped and fed amid a multitude of people. The feeding session includes rice balls and pineapples. Aanayoottu celebrates the bond between humans and elephants, rooted in the belief that honoring these creatures will please Lord Ganesha. A grand feast is given to around 7,000 attendees.

Aranmula Vallasadya

Aranmula Parthasarathy Temple, Pathanamthitta

19 Jul 2026
16 sep 2026

Aranmula Vallasadya, a truly unique and deeply revered tradition, represents a sacred offering to Lord Parthasarathy at the ancient Aranmula Parthasarathy Temple in Pathanamthitta district. This extraordinary ritual centers around a grand feast, or "sadya," served to the oarsmen of the majestic snake boats, known as "palliyodams," upon their arrival at the temple following the Aranmula Boat Race.

The Vallasadya transcends the concept of a simple meal; it is a deeply symbolic and spiritual offering, celebrating the unbreakable bond between the temple and the surrounding community. Each palliyodam, representing a different village or "kara," brings its oarsmen to partake in this divine feast. As they are served, the oarsmen chant traditional songs, known as "vanchipattu," expressing their devotion and gratitude. The atmosphere is charged with reverence and piety.

The feast itself is a culinary masterpiece, featuring a wide array of traditional Kerala dishes served on plantain leaves. The Aranmula Vallasadya is a significant cultural and religious event, showcasing the richness of Kerala's traditions, the strength of its community spirit, and the unwavering faith of its people. It is an experience that embodies the essence of Kerala's unique cultural landscape, leaving a lasting impression on all who witness or participate in this extraordinary ritual.

Feast of Saint Alphonsa Church

28 July 2026

St Alphonsa Shrine Church, Bharananganam

St Alphonsa is the first Indian woman to be canonised as a saint. The feast of St Alphonsa is celebrated every year on July 28 at St Alphonsa Shrine Church and Pilgrim Centre in Bharananganam, near Pala town in Kottayam district. She passed away on this day in 1946 after her struggles with prolonged illnesses, which she considered as being ordained by God to atone for people's sins.

She was a nun at the Franciscan Clarist Congregation and used to teach at St. Mary's High School in Bharananganam. The devotion to St Alphonsa began with her students who sought her intercession for various needs. The Catholic Church beatified her in 1986 and she was canonised on Feb 8, 2008.

Nine-day novena prayers are held prior to the feast day. Thousands of devotees from various parts of the state congregate here to seek blessings and favours from the patronage of St Alphonsa. Candle-lit rosary recitals are also observed to symbolise her life that burned out like a candle in silent suffering. Special mass, ladeenj (Vespara) and Novena are held in the evening of the feast day followed by a procession around the shrine.

AUGUST 2026

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Maaritheyyam

Madayikkavu, Kannur

01 August 2026

Gods seem to come alive, roaring and dancing, stirring ancient legends in quiet Kerala villages during certain times. Maaritheyyam is one such ritualistic performance, a form of Theyyam (literally meaning "God"), where pantheistic deities are believed to enter the body of the performer.

Each year, on the 16th day of the Malayalam month of Karkkidakam (July–August), the Maaritheyyam begins its ceremonial journey from a site near Madayikkavu. Known also as Karkkidaka Theyyam or Maariyattam, the performance is marked by distinct costumes and face art. The performers are adorned in kuruthola (tender palm leaves), with their faces painted in red and black hues, often covered by long, striking masks. A large, specially designed headgear adds to their dramatic appearance.

The term "Maari" in Malayalam means "suffering," and since Karkkidakam is also considered the "month of scarcity," the ritual is believed to drive away the miseries of the season and prepare for the more prosperous month of Chingam. During the season, performers go from house to house, dancing and chanting rhythmically to the beats of traditional instruments like thudi (small drum) and chengila (gong), offering a vivid display of devotion and tradition.

Nelluvai Oushadha Seva Dinam

Dhanwanthari Temple, Thrissur

01 August 2026

Nelluvai Oushadha Seva Dinam is a special day observed at the Dhanwanthari Temple in Nelluvai, Thrissur, where health and devotion come together in a unique blend of faith and healing. The temple, dedicated to Lord Dhanwanthari—the divine physician and god of Ayurveda—is famed for its daily offering of Oushada Prasada, a medicinal prasadam known as Mukkudi.

On Oushadha Seva Dinam, this sacred tradition takes center stage, drawing devotees who seek relief from various ailments. It is believed that sincere worship of Lord Dhanwanthari combined with the intake of this prasada can aid in curing illnesses and restoring health.

This day is not just a religious observance, but also a celebration of the healing power of Ayurveda guided by divine grace. Devotees gather in large numbers, taking part in rituals and receiving the Oushada Prasada with deep reverence. For many, Oushadha Seva Dinam is a moment of spiritual renewal, a time to seek not only physical well-being but also inner peace and balance.

Nelluvai Oushadha Seva Dinam upholds the centuries-old belief in the healing presence of Lord Dhanwanthari, making it a unique observance where devotion meets traditional knowledge in its most sacred form.

Karkkidaka Vavu

12 August 2026

On Karkkidaka Vavu, a day steeped in reverence and tradition, occurs a deeply significant Hindu ritual observed throughout Kerala during the Malayalam month of Karkkidakam (July-August). This solemn occasion is to pay homage to departed souls through the performance of 'bali tharpanam' ritual. It is widely believed that these heartfelt offerings provide solace and liberation to the souls of the departed.

On this day, families gather at temples, sacred riverbanks, and designated 'bali thara' locations across the state to perform the ritual. Priests guide the proceedings, chanting sacred mantras as devotees offer rice balls, sesame seeds and water, among others, as symbolic feeding of their ancestors. The atmosphere is imbued with a sense of piety and reflection, as individuals connect with their lineage and express gratitude for their heritage.

Karkkidaka Vavu transcends a mere ritualistic practice; it embodies the profound respect for familial bonds and the enduring belief in ancestor worship, a cornerstone of Kerala's cultural ethos. By performing these rites, families seek blessings for prosperity, well-being, and protection from ancestral spirits, ensuring harmony and continuity within the family line. The observance of Karkkidaka Vavu serves as a poignant reminder of the interconnectedness between the living and the departed, reinforcing the values of remembrance, respect and spiritual devotion within the Kerala community.

Athachamayam

Thripunithura, Ernakulam

16 August 2026

Athachamayam, a vibrant event of color and tradition, serves as the magnificent curtain-raiser to the ten-day Onam festival, Kerala's most celebrated cultural extravaganza. This grand spectacle unfolds in Thrippunithura, a town steeped in royal history within the Ernakulam district. More than just a festive procession, Athachamayam is a living recreation of a historical event, transporting onlookers back in time to witness the glory of the Kochi Kingdom.

The procession is a sensory feast, featuring elaborately caparisoned elephants, their majestic presence lending an air of regal splendor. Accompanying the elephants is a vibrant tapestry of traditional music and dance forms, showcasing the diverse artistic heritage of Kerala. From the rhythmic beats of percussion instruments to the graceful movements of dancers, every element of the procession contributes to the festive atmosphere. Various cultural performances, representing different communities and art forms, further enrich the spectacle.

Athachamayam commemorates the triumphant victory of the Kochi King in a battle, a significant historical moment celebrated through this vibrant display. It not only marks the beginning of Onam but also serves as a powerful reminder of Kerala's rich cultural legacy. Attracting large crowds from across the state and beyond, Athachamayam is a truly unforgettable event, setting the stage for the joyous Onam celebrations that follow, filling the air with anticipation and festive cheer. It is a quintessential Kerala experience, immersing visitors in the state's vibrant history and culture.

Thrikkakkara Vamana Moorthy Temple Festival

Ernakulam

17-26 August 2026

The Thrikkakkara Vamana Moorthy Temple, located near Kochi, is the focal point of one of the most vibrant and revered Onam celebrations (August-September) in Kerala. The temple, dedicated to Lord Vishnu in his Vamana incarnation, plays a key role in the festivities of the ten-day Onam festival, known as Thiruvonamahotsavam. This celebration holds particular significance as it commemorates the legendary visit of King Mahabali, who is believed to return to his homeland during Onam to meet his people.

The Thiruvona Mahotsavam at Thrikkakkara Temple is a grand affair, marked by a series of rituals, processions, and community events. The highlight of the festival is the traditional Onam feast, served to devotees as a gesture of hospitality and reverence. The temple's precincts come alive with spiritual fervor and joyous celebrations during these ten days, attracting pilgrims and visitors alike.

As per tradition, Onam festivities begin at the Thrikkakkara Temple, ushering in the spirit of unity and prosperity. The temple's importance in the celebration is enhanced by its rich history, with inscriptions dating from the 10th to 13th century that offer a glimpse into the temple's longstanding cultural and religious significance.

Nehru Trophy Boat Race

Punnamada Lake, Alappuzha

22 August 2026

The Nehru Trophy Boat Race, a dazzling spectacle of athleticism and tradition, reigns supreme as the most prestigious and internationally recognized snake boat race in Kerala. Held annually on the expansive Punnamada Lake in Alappuzha, this electrifying event draws a massive influx of spectators, both domestic and international, eager to witness the thrilling competition. Named in honor of Jawaharlal Nehru, India's first Prime Minister, the race commemorates his visit and enthusiasm for the traditional boat races of the region.

The focal point of the Nehru Trophy Boat Race is the majestic "chundan vallams," the iconic snake boats, each representing a different village or community. These magnificent vessels, adorned with intricate carvings and vibrant colors, are manned by hundreds of skilled oarsmen who row in perfect unison, their powerful strokes propelling the boats across the lake at breathtaking speed. The air vibrates with the rhythmic chanting of traditional boat songs, fueling the energy and determination of the rowers.

Beyond the thrilling race itself, the Nehru Trophy Boat Race is a grand celebration of Kerala's rich cultural heritage. It embodies the spirit of unity, teamwork and competitive zeal, attracting visitors from all corners of the world. The event serves as a powerful symbol of Kerala's unique identity and a major boost to the state's tourism industry, offering an unforgettable experience steeped in tradition and excitement. The coveted Nehru Trophy, awarded to the winning team, stands as a testament to their dedication, skill, and the enduring legacy of this remarkable race.

Thiruvonam

26 August 2026

Thiruvona Mahotsavam, the zenith of the ten-day Onam festivities, radiates with unparalleled joy and enthusiasm throughout Kerala. This most auspicious day signifies the symbolic return of the beloved King Mahabali, whose reign is celebrated for its prosperity and equality.

The landscape transforms into a vibrant tapestry as homes are meticulously adorned with "pookalam," intricate floral carpets crafted with an array of colorful blossoms. The air is filled with the tantalizing aromas of "Onasadya," a lavish vegetarian feast featuring a multitude of dishes served traditionally on banana leaves. Laughter and excitement fill the air as people engage in traditional games and witness captivating cultural performances, showcasing Kerala's rich artistic heritage.

Dressed in their finest new clothes, families gather to share stories, exchange gifts and strengthen bonds. Thiruvonam embodies joy, unity, and prosperity, reflecting the core values of Kerala's cultural identity. It's a day of remembrance and gratitude, honoring King Mahabali's legacy and embracing the spirit of harmony and togetherness that defines Onam.

Kumarakom Boat Race

Kottayam

28 August 2026

This splendid boat race is held annually on the day of Chathayam, in the Malayalam month of Chingam (August-September), at Kottathod in Kumarakom, in commemoration of the visit of Sree Narayana Guru — one of the most influential social reformers of Kerala.

On the day of Chathayam, decorated boats carrying the idol of Lord Subrahmanya and a picture of Guru starts from the Kumarakamangalam temple. Once this procession is over, the boat race will be all set to begin. The first water festival was conducted in the year of 1952. It is today one of the oldest of its kind in Kuttanad and is held on a 900-metre track in Kottathod. Over 1,000 rowers participate in the race and all the major snake boats in Kuttanad will be there to compete. However in the Kumarakom race, Iruttukuthy boats have more importance than snakeboats.

In 1903, Guru arrived at Kumarakom on a boat, accompanied by a big procession. He dedicated the idol, which was a picture of lord Subrahmanya and a 'vel'(the divine spear). He also laid the foundation for a school nearby. It is in remembrance of this event and the procession that was organised to welcome Guru that the Kumarakom Boat Race is organised annually.

Pulikali

Swaraj Round, Thrissur

29 August 2026

Pulikali, translating to "Tiger Dance," is a spectacularly vibrant and utterly unique folk art form that explodes onto the streets of Thrissur district, Kerala, during the joyous Onam festivities. This captivating spectacle transforms ordinary men into a mesmerizing kaleidoscope of tigers, their bodies painted with intricate designs that bring the jungle to life. More than just a dance, Pulikali is a powerful expression of community spirit and a vibrant celebration of Kerala's rich cultural heritage.

The performers, their torsos and limbs adorned with meticulously applied body paint depicting realistic and fantastical tiger motifs, move to the infectious rhythms of traditional percussion instruments like the thakil and udukku. These instruments drive the energetic and often humorous dances, as the "tigers" prance, prowl, and playfully interact with the cheering crowds. The vibrant colors of the paint, combined with the dynamic movements and rhythmic music, create an unforgettable sensory experience.

Pulikali is a visual feast, a testament to the artistic skills and dedication of the performers. It is a powerful symbol of Onam, embodying the spirit of joy, unity and cultural pride. This extraordinary art form draws spectators from far and wide, offering a glimpse into the heart and soul of Kerala's traditions and creating lasting memories for all who witness its mesmerizing display.

Aranmula Boat Race

Pamba River, Aranmula, Pathanamthitta

30 August 2026

The Aranmula Boat Race, a captivating spectacle held annually on the serene Pamba River in Aranmula, Pathanamthitta district, distinguishes itself from other boat races in Kerala by its deeply rooted ritualistic significance. It transcends a mere sporting competition, serving as a sacred offering to the revered Aranmula Parthasarathy Temple. The event showcases Kerala's rich cultural heritage and the strong community bonds that define the region.

The majestic snake boats, known as "palliyodams," are not merely vessels but are considered sacred entities. Each palliyodam represents a different "kara" (region or village) and is meticulously maintained and rowed by the villagers as an act of devotion. The race is characterized by a unique blend of athleticism and spirituality. Before the race commences, elaborate rituals are performed to invoke divine blessings and ensure the safety of the participants.

Throughout the race, traditional songs, known as "vanchipattu," resonate through the air, adding to the devotional atmosphere. The oarsmen, rowing in perfect synchronicity, are driven by their faith and the desire to honor the deity. The Aranmula Boat Race is a testament to the enduring traditions and the unwavering community spirit of Kerala, offering a profound and unforgettable experience for both participants and spectators alike. It stands as a symbol of faith, unity, and the vibrant cultural tapestry of "God's Own Country."

SEPTEMBER 2026

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04 Sree Krishna Jayanthi

11 Neelamperoor Padayani

23 Kallada Boat Race

23 Oachira Kalakettu

24 Feast of Vallarpadathamma

Manarcad Perunnal

St. Mary's Church, Kottayam

01-08 September 2026

The Manarcad Perunnal celebrated at the St. Mary's Jacobite Syrian Orthodox Church in Manarcad, Kottayam district, is an important annual Christian festival known for its grand processions and unique traditions. The eight-day event, attracts devotees from across Kerala and beyond.

A key highlight is the "Raza," a magnificent procession featuring elaborately decorated floats, traditional music, and vibrant displays of religious art. The procession winds its way through the town, creating a spectacle of faith and devotion. Another significant aspect is the offering of parasols to St. Mary, symbolizing protection and blessings. Thousands of devotees participate in this ritual, carrying colorful parasols to the church.

The Manarcad Perunnal is not just a religious event; it's a social gathering that fosters community bonds and celebrates shared traditions. Special prayers, religious discourses, and cultural programs are held throughout the festival. The St. Mary's Church, steeped in history and tradition, provides a serene backdrop for the event. The festival reflects the rich Christian heritage of Kerala and its spirit of religious harmony.

The Manarcad Perunnal is a testament to the enduring faith and cultural unity of the region, drawing pilgrims and visitors who seek spiritual solace and a glimpse into Kerala's vibrant Christian traditions. The festival is a time of joy, reflection, and community celebration.

Sree Krishna Jayanthi

04 September 2026

Sreekrishna Jayanthi is the celebration of the birth of Lord Krishna, the eighth avatar of Lord Vishnu according to Hindu traditions. The festival is celebrated on the eighth day (Ashtami) of the Krishna Paksha (dark fortnight) of the Malayalam month of Chingam (August–September). Lord Krishna's birth star is Rohini and if the star and Ashtami occur on the same day, it's considered to be doubly auspicious.

The festival is celebrated with spiritual fervour at all temples dedicated to Lord Krishna. Devotees take a fast on the eve of Sree Krishna Jayanthi and spend the whole night worshipping Lord Krishna and chanting hymns from the holy text Bhagavatham. They break the fast at midnight of Ashtami Rohini, which is believed to be the time that Lord Krishna was born. The next day is celebrated as Janmashtami.

The celebration begins with a Ganapathi homam (ritual pooja to Lord Ganesha) to ward off obstacles. Recitals from Bhagavad Geetha and Gita Govindam are performed at various temples. Devotees visit temples and make offerings consisting of fruits, betel leaves and butter. People also dress up their young children as Lord Krishna and attend colourful processions. Ceremonies like Parayeduppu, Thayambaka, Sheeveli, Aanayoottu etc are also held to mark the occasion.

Neelamperoor Padayani

Palli Bhagavathy Temple, Alappuzha

11 September 2026

The Neelamperoor Padayani Festival at Alappuzha's Palli Bhagavathy Temple is a mesmerizing annual event, a unique showcase of Kerala's rich cultural heritage. Held during the Malayalam month of Chingam (August/September), this vibrant festival, distinct from other Padayani celebrations, unfolds at the 1700-year-old temple dedicated to Vanadurga, marking the Pooram asterism with a spectacle known as Pooram Padayani.

Central to the festival is the "Kettukazhcha," a procession of grand, intricately decorated effigies. These include colossal swans (Annam), and figures from mythology like Bhima, Ravana, and Yakshi. The "annamkettu" ritual sees these creations paraded, highlighting the consummate craftsmanship of Kerala's artists. The celebrations extend from the Thiruvonam asterism to Pooram, marking Bhagavathy's birthday.

The festival's rituals are steeped in tradition. The devotees commence with a symbolic procession towards the Cheraman Perumal monument, bearing lit coconut leaf torches. Following this is the Kudapadayani, a display of floral decorations shaped like umbrellas, crafted from coconut leaf stems. Over subsequent days, effigies made from green jackfruit leaves are presented. The grand finale features swan effigies, culminating in a 45-foot-high swan offered to the deity. Adding to the festival's allure is Thothakali, a rhythmic dance performed around a fire, accompanied by traditional music, uniting communities in this vibrant celebration of unity and Kerala's ancient traditions, a pre-Dravidian proletarian ritual art form.

Kallada Boat Race

Kallada River, Kollam

23 September 2026

The Kallada Boat Race, a thrilling spectacle of athleticism and tradition, marks a prominent event on the scenic Kallada River in the Kollam district. This captivating race showcases the majestic "chundan vallams," the iconic snake boats, as they compete head-to-head in a display of strength, skill and unwavering teamwork. More than just a competition, the Kallada Boat Race is a vibrant celebration of Kerala's rich maritime heritage.

Driven by the synchronized strokes of highly skilled rowers, the snake boats slice through the water, their sleek forms reflecting the energy and determination of the teams. The banks of the Kallada River come alive with a massive gathering of spectators, their cheers and applause creating an electrifying atmosphere. Each team receives enthusiastic support, as communities with people rally behind their representatives, adding to the festive spirit.

The Kallada Boat Race is an integral part of Kerala's renowned boat race tradition, highlighting the remarkable coordination and physical prowess of the rowers. The event offers a captivating blend of sporting excitement and cultural immersion, making it a popular attraction for locals and tourists alike. The thrilling competition, combined with the vibrant atmosphere and the beauty of the Kallada River, creates an unforgettable experience that embodies the spirit of Kerala.

Oachira Kalakettu

Oachira Parabrahma Temple, Kollam

23 September 2026

Oachira Kalakettu, a truly distinctive and awe-inspiring ritual, is an integral part of the annual Oachira Kali festival celebrated at the Oachira Temple in Kollam, Kerala. What sets this temple apart is its unique reverence for the universal consciousness, or Parabrahman, rather than a specific deity. This spiritual philosophy is beautifully embodied in the Kalakettu ritual.

The Kalakettu involves the construction of massive effigies of bulls, the symbolic vehicle of Lord Shiva, crafted from straw and vibrant cloth. These towering structures, often reaching impressive heights, are a testament to the artistic skill and community spirit of the region. The Kalakettu involves the construction of massive effigies of the sacred bull of Lord Shiva, serving as his vahana (mount), crafted from straw and vibrant cloth.

During the festival, these majestic bull effigies are paraded around the temple grounds in grand processions, accompanied by the rhythmic beats of traditional music and the enthusiastic participation of devotees. After the procession, the effigies are symbolically destroyed, representing the annihilation of ego and illusion – a core tenet of the temple's philosophy. The Oachira Kalakettu is a vibrant expression of the region's culture and the unique spiritual essence of the Oachira Temple, attracting devotees and curious onlookers alike, all drawn to witness this spectacular display of letting go and embracing the universal truth.

Feast of Vallarpadathamma

Vallarpadam Basilica, Ernakulam

24 September 2026

The Feast of Vallarpadathamma, also reverently known as the Feast of Our Lady of Ransom, stands as a monumental religious event celebrated with profound devotion at the Vallarpadam Basilica in Ernakulam. This significant occasion honors the Virgin Mary, Vallarpadathamma, revered for her miraculous powers and compassionate intercession. The feast is a testament to the enduring faith and the inclusive spirit that characterizes Kerala's religious landscape.

Drawing thousands of pilgrims from diverse faiths and backgrounds, the Feast of Vallarpadathamma embodies unity and shared devotion. People from all walks of life converge at the basilica seeking blessings, solace and healing through the intercession of the Virgin Mary. The festivities encompass a series of special prayers, solemn processions carrying the statue of Our Lady, and a vibrant array of cultural programs showcasing the artistic traditions of the region. The atmosphere during the feast is charged with piety, hope and a sense of community. It is a time when differences are set aside, and individuals come together to celebrate their shared faith and humanity. The Feast of Vallarpadathamma is more than just a religious event; it is a powerful symbol of harmony, fostering understanding and promoting peaceful coexistence within Kerala's multicultural society. It is a reminder of the enduring power of faith to unite and inspire.

OCTOBER 2026

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06 Vettikode Ayilyam

11 Panachikkadu Festival

11 Koratty Muthy Feast

11 Alpashi Festival

11 Navaratri Music Festival

21 Navaratri

18 Rayiranellur Malakayattam

Vettikode Ayilyam

Sree Nagaraja Swami Temple, Alappuzha

06 October 2026

The Ayilyam Mahotsavam at the Sree Nagaraja Swami Temple in Vettikode, Alappuzha, is an annual spectacle dedicated to the serpent deities, deeply ingrained in Kerala's cultural fabric. Celebrations commence a week prior to the Ayilyam asterism in the Malayalam month of Kanni (September/October), with each day filled with specific rituals that attract devotees from across the region. These daily observances set the stage for the grand festivities to come.

A central event is the ceremonial procession between the temple and the Meppali Illam, an ancestral Brahmin household, symbolizing the enduring bond between the two. As evening descends, the Sarpabali ritual unfolds, performed to appease the serpent gods through offerings and prayers, enveloping the surroundings in an atmosphere of profound devotion and mystical significance. The festival's core beliefs center around the serpent gods' power to bestow prosperity, health, and fertility upon sincere worshipers. A particularly significant ritual, the Uruli Kamazhthal, sees childless couples participating beneath the temple's sacred tree. This act is believed to alleviate the Kalasarpa dosha (serpent curse) and grant the blessing of children.

Furthermore, Ayilyam Mahotsavam serves as a vibrant showcase of Kerala's rich artistic traditions, featuring Kathakali performances and other traditional dance forms. The Sree Nagaraja Swami Temple itself is transformed into a visually stunning spectacle, adorned with vibrant decorations and lights. The culminating event is the grand Sarpabali, performed with meticulous precision and reverence. This ritual, involving offerings to the serpent gods, is considered the most important and is thought to provide protection from snakebites, promote overall well-being, and ensure prosperity for all participants.

Panachikkadu Festival

Panachikkadu Temple, Kottayam

11-21 October 2026

The Panachikkadu Festival, celebrated at the Panachikkadu Saraswati Temple in Kottayam, is a grand occasion that places Vidyarambham—the initiation into learning—at its spiritual core. Held during Navaratri, this vibrant festival culminates on Vijayadashami (During September-October), the most auspicious day to begin a child's journey into the world of letters and knowledge.

Thousands of devotees gather at this temple, also known as the Dakshina Mookambika, to offer prayers to Goddess Saraswati, the deity of wisdom and learning. Among Kerala's temples, Panachikkadu holds a special place for those seeking blessings for academic excellence and intellectual growth.

The highlight of the festival is Vidyarambham, where children are gently guided to write their first letters on rice or sand. This heartfelt ritual, performed in the serene ambience of the temple, is a deeply emotional moment for families and devotees. The sacred atmosphere, enhanced by traditional decorations and devotional hymns, creates an unforgettable spiritual experience.

Navaratri at Panachikkadu is also marked by colorful cultural programs and rituals that attract devotees and visitors alike. The energy builds up each day, culminating in a spiritual high on Vijayadashami.

Even beyond the festival, the temple is visited throughout the year for Vidyarambham, except on Durgashtami and Mahanavami.

The Panachikkadu Festival is not just a religious event; it is a profound celebration of learning, tradition, and divine grace.

Koratty Muthy Feast

Our Lady of Immaculate Conception Church, Thrissur

11 October 2026

The Koratty Muthy Feast, a vibrant tapestry of faith and tradition, unfolds annually at the Our Lady of Immaculate Conception Church in Koratty, Thrissur district. Reverently known as the feast of Koratty Muthy (Mother), this grand celebration draws devotees from far and wide, seeking blessings and solace under the benevolent gaze of the Blessed Virgin Mary. It is a testament to the enduring power of faith and the rich cultural heritage of the region.

The feast is marked by elaborate processions, where the statue of Our Lady is carried through the streets, accompanied by hymns and prayers. Special religious services and ceremonies are held throughout the day, creating an atmosphere of profound spirituality.

Beyond the religious observances, the Koratty Muthy Feast is a celebration of community and culture. The festive atmosphere is further enriched by a variety of cultural performances, showcasing the artistic talents of the local people. Numerous stalls offering religious artifacts, local delicacies and traditional crafts add to the vibrancy of the event. The Koratty Muthy Feast stands as a powerful symbol of devotion, unity and the enduring spirit of Kerala.

Alpashi Festival

Sree Padmanabhaswamy Temple, Thiruvananthapuram

11-20 October 2026

The Alpashi Festival, a magnificent ten-day spectacle, unfolds annually at the revered Sree Padmanabhaswamy Temple in Thiruvananthapuram, immersing the city in a wave of religious fervor and cultural richness. Celebrated with immense devotion and meticulous adherence to tradition, this grand festival offers a glimpse into the heart of Kerala's spiritual heritage. Elaborate rituals, vibrant processions and captivating performances mark each day, creating an unforgettable experience for both devotees and onlookers.

The pinnacle of the Alpashi Festival is undoubtedly the Arattu procession, a breathtaking event where the deities of the temple are ceremonially bathed in the Arabian Sea. This sacred ritual is accompanied by a symphony of traditional music and the thunderous energy of thousands of devotees, lining the streets to witness the procession. The city transforms into a kaleidoscope of colors, as caparisoned elephants, traditional musicians and devotees adorned in vibrant attire fill the streets.

The Alpashi Festival not only showcases the rich traditions and spiritual significance of the Sree Padmanabhaswamy Temple but also serves as a powerful symbol of unity and devotion. As a landmark of Kerala's cultural heritage, the temple and its associated festivals attract pilgrims and tourists from across the globe, offering a unique opportunity to witness the enduring power of faith and tradition.

Navaratri Music Festival

11-21 October 2026

Navaratri Mandapam, Thiruvananthapuram

The Navaratri Music Festival, a crown jewel of Kerala's cultural landscape, is an annual nine-day extravaganza held at Kuthiramalika Palace within the sacred precincts of the Sree Padmanabhaswamy Temple in Thiruvananthapuram. This esteemed festival is a dedicated celebration of music and dance, offering a platform for eminent artists from across India to showcase their talent and artistry. It is a profound tribute to Goddess Saraswati, the embodiment of knowledge, wisdom and the arts, invoking her blessings upon performers and listeners alike.

During the festival, the temple's serene atmosphere is further enhanced by the soul-stirring melodies of Carnatic music and the graceful movements of classical dance. Renowned vocalists and instrumentalists fill the air with their renditions of devotional compositions, creating a spiritually uplifting experience for all in attendance. The rhythmic patterns and melodic intricacies of the music, combined with the sacred ambience of the temple, transport listeners to a realm of peace and tranquility.

The Navaratri Music Festival is an integral part of Kerala's rich cultural heritage, attracting music lovers, devotees, and cultural enthusiasts from far and wide. It serves as a vital platform for preserving and promoting the traditions of Carnatic music and dance, ensuring that these art forms continue to thrive for generations to come. The festival is a testament to the enduring power of art and its ability to connect individuals with the divine.

Navaratri

11-21 October 2026

Navaratri, the enchanting 'Nine Nights' festival, is a vibrant and joyous celebration of the divine feminine principle, that resonates deeply throughout Kerala.

A hallmark of Navaratri in Kerala is the elaborate display of dolls, known as "Golu" or "Bommai Kolu," meticulously arranged in homes and temples. These displays feature an array of dolls representing deities, mythological characters, and scenes from everyday life, symbolizing prosperity, auspiciousness, and the invocation of divine blessings. The arrangement is a creative expression of faith and storytelling.

Navaratri is also a time for community bonding and visiting temples to offer prayers. The final three days – Ashtami, Navami, and Vijayadashami – are particularly sacred. Vijayadashami marks a day for new beginnings, with "Vidyarambham" ceremonies held, where children are initiated into the world of learning. Navaratri in Kerala is a period of profound spiritual reflection, embodying the state's rich cultural heritage and unwavering devotion to the divine.

Rayiranellur Malakayattam

Palakkad

18 October 2026

Rayiranellur Malakayattam, or the ceremonial forest climb, is a unique pilgrimage that takes place on the sacred hill of Rayiranellur, closely tied to the legend of Naranath Bhranthan. This ritual climb is observed with great devotion, especially on the first day of the Malayalam month of Thulam (October–November), believed to be the day when Goddess Durga appeared before Naranath Bhranthan and blessed him.

The climb is not merely a physical journey but a symbolic act of faith and reverence. Each year, hundreds of devotees gather at the base of the hill and begin their ascent, retracing the steps of the legendary figure. Known for his eccentric act of rolling boulders up the hill only to push them down again, Naranath Bhranthan has become a symbol of spiritual depth hidden beneath madness. As a tribute, a grand statue of him now stands atop the hill.

Though steps make the climb easier, the act of Malayakayattam remains deeply spiritual. Devotees consider the climb a form of penance, a way to connect with the divine energy that the hill is believed to hold.

Rayiranellur Malakayattam is not just a pilgrimage; it is a heartfelt tradition where mythology, nature, and devotion come together in a powerful expression of cultural heritage.

NOVEMBER 2026

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02 Parumala Perunnal

02 Mannarassala Ayilyam

08 Diwali

13 Vettukadu Feast

14 Kalpathy Ratholsavam

21 Guruvayur Ekadashi

Parumala Perunnal

Parumala St. Peter's and St. Paul's Orthodox Church, Pathanamthitta

02 November 2026

Parumala Perunnal, a deeply significant annual feast, unfolds at the Parumala St. Peter's and St. Paul's Orthodox Church in Pathanamthitta, Kerala. This grand event commemorates the death anniversary of St. Gregorios, a revered figure within the Orthodox Christian community and the first canonized saint from Malankara. The Perunnal is a time of profound spiritual reflection, attracting thousands of pilgrims who seek blessings and solace at the saint's tomb.

Throughout the festival, the church and its surroundings resonate with the sounds of special prayers, hymns and devotional songs. Elaborate processions, featuring priests and devotees carrying sacred relics and icons, wind their way through the town, creating a spectacle of faith and devotion. Cultural programs, showcasing the artistic talents of the community, further enrich the festive atmosphere.

The tomb of St. Gregorios, located within the church, serves as a major pilgrimage site, drawing visitors year-round. During Parumala Perunnal, the atmosphere is particularly charged with spiritual energy, as devotees offer prayers, light candles, and seek the intercession of the saint. Parumala Perunnal is not merely a religious event; it is a powerful expression of faith, community, and the enduring legacy of St. Gregorios within the Orthodox Christian tradition in Kerala.

Mannarassala Ayilyam

Mannarassala Sree Nagaraja Temple, Alappuzha

02 November 2026

Mannarassala Ayilyam, a festival steeped in ancient traditions and fervent devotion, is the most significant event held at the Mannarassala Sree Nagaraja Temple in Alappuzha, Kerala. This sacred temple is dedicated to Nagaraja, the serpent god, who is revered as a protector and bestower of blessings. The festival is observed annually on the auspicious Ayilyam asterism in the Malayalam month of Thulam (October-November), drawing thousands of devotees seeking divine favor.

During Mannarassala Ayilyam, the temple complex comes alive with a palpable sense of spiritual energy. Devotees, clad in traditional attire, gather to offer prayers, perform age-old rituals, and seek the blessings of Nagaraja and the serpent deities. The temple is renowned for its unique customs and traditions surrounding serpent worship, passed down through generations. Special offerings, including turmeric powder, rice flour, and milk, are made to appease the serpent gods and seek their protection. Mannarassala Ayilyam serves as a powerful reminder of the deep-rooted beliefs and practices associated with serpent worship in Kerala's cultural landscape. It is a time for spiritual renewal, community bonding, and the reaffirmation of faith in the divine power of Nagaraja. The festival offers a captivating glimpse into the unique traditions and spiritual heritage of Kerala, attracting visitors from across the globe.

Diwali

08 November 2026

Diwali, the resplendent Festival of Lights, illuminates Kerala with its joyous spirit and vibrant celebrations. This auspicious occasion is observed with enthusiasm throughout the state, as people welcome the triumph of good over evil and the symbolic dispelling of darkness with the warm glow of lamps and lights. Diwali in Kerala is a time for family, festivities, and the renewal of hope.

Homes are transformed into enchanting havens of light, adorned with traditional oil lamps and twinkling fairy lights. The air is filled with the sweet aroma of traditional delicacies, as families exchange sweets and gifts, strengthening bonds and spreading good cheer. The sound of firecrackers punctuates the night sky, adding to the festive atmosphere and symbolizing the banishment of negativity.

Diwali is a time for families to come together, offering special prayers and seeking blessings for prosperity and well-being. It is a celebration of new beginnings, a time to let go of the past and embrace the promise of a brighter future. Reflecting the vibrant cultural traditions of India, Diwali in Kerala is a testament to the enduring values of hope, unity, and the triumph of light over darkness. It is a time to celebrate life and cherish the bonds that connect us all.

Vettukadu Feast

Madre de Deus Church, Thiruvananthapuram

13-22 November 2026

The Vettukadu Feast, also reverently known as the Feast of Christ the King, is a deeply significant religious celebration that unfolds annually at the historic Madre de Deus Church in Vettukadu, Thiruvananthapuram. This grand event, held each November, attracts devotees from diverse faiths and backgrounds, creating a vibrant tapestry of spiritual unity. The feast is a testament to the region's religious harmony and enduring cultural heritage.

The Vettukadu Church, a prominent landmark renowned for its distinctive Portuguese architecture, provides a stunning backdrop for the festivities. The feast is characterized by elaborate processions, where the statue of Christ the King is carried through the streets, accompanied by hymns and prayers. Special religious services and ceremonies are held throughout the day, creating an atmosphere of profound devotion and spiritual reflection.

Devotees offer heartfelt prayers, participate in religious services and seek blessings. The festive atmosphere is further enhanced by numerous stalls selling religious items, traditional crafts and local delicacies. The Vettukadu Feast is not merely a religious event; it is a celebration of community, faith, and the enduring power of spirituality to unite people from all walks of life. It offers a unique and enriching experience for all who attend, leaving a lasting impression of peace, harmony and devotion.

Kalpathy Ratholsavam

Sree Viswanatha Swamy Temple, Palakkad

14-16 November 2026

Kalpathy Ratholsavam, a magnificent spectacle of devotion and cultural grandeur, is an annual chariot festival held at the ancient Sree Viswanatha Swamy Temple in Kalpathy, Palakkad. This transforms the tranquil village of Kalpathy into a vibrant hub of religious fervor and artistic expression. The festival is a testament to the rich heritage and traditions of Palakkad, drawing large crowds from across Kerala and beyond.

The heart of Kalpathy Ratholsavam lies in its elaborately decorated chariots, or "rathams," which carry the deities of the Sree Viswanatha Swamy Temple through the streets of the village. These majestic chariots, adorned with intricate carvings and colorful embellishments, are pulled by devotees, symbolizing their devotion and participation in the divine journey. The processions are accompanied by the rhythmic beats of traditional music and the enthusiastic cheers of the assembled crowds. Kalpathy Ratholsavam is more than just a religious festival; it is a cultural extravaganza that showcases the artistic talents and community spirit of the region. The event provides a platform for preserving and promoting traditional art forms, fostering a sense of pride in the local heritage. The Kalpathy Ratholsavam is an unforgettable experience, offering a glimpse into the soul of Palakkad and the enduring power of faith and tradition.

Guruvayur Ekadashi

Guruvayur Sree Krishna Temple, Thrissur

21 November 2026

Guruvayur Ekadashi, a day steeped in profound devotion and spiritual significance, is dedicated to Lord Krishna and celebrated with immense fervor at the sacred Guruvayur Temple in Thrissur district. This highly auspicious occasion falls on the eleventh day (Ekadashi) of the Shukla Paksha (bright fortnight) in the Malayalam month of Vrischikam (November-December). Guruvayur Ekadashi is a deeply cherished event that draws large crowds of devotees seeking blessings and divine grace.

The day is marked by a series of elaborate rituals and special prayers, offered with unwavering faith and devotion. Processions, featuring caparisoned elephants and traditional music, add to the festive atmosphere, filling the temple grounds with vibrant energy. Throughout the day and night, various cultural performances, including classical music and dance, are held, showcasing the rich artistic traditions associated with Lord Krishna.

Many devotees observe a strict fast on Guruvayur Ekadashi, abstaining from food and engaging in intense religious activities, such as chanting mantras, reading scriptures, and participating in devotional singing. Guruvayur Ekadashi is more than just a religious event; it is a powerful expression of faith, a time for spiritual reflection, and a celebration of the eternal bond between Lord Krishna and his devotees. It promotes devotion, inspires piety, and reinforces the enduring values of love, compassion, and surrender.

DECEMBER 2026

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01 Vaikathashtami

06 Thrippunithura Arattu

21 Niranam Valiyapally Perunnal

25 Christmas

Flower Show

Bekal International Beach Festival

Vaikathashtami

Vaikom Mahadeva Temple, Kottayam

01 December 2026

Vaikathashtami, a renowned and deeply revered festival, unfolds annually at the Vaikom Mahadeva Temple in Kottayam. This grand twelve-day celebration, typically held in November-December, is dedicated to Lord Shiva and stands as one of the most significant temple festivals in the region. The festival commemorates the auspicious occasion when Lord Shiva and his consort Parvathy Devi appeared before sage Vyaghrapada.

The highlight of Vaikathashtami is the spectacular grand procession, a mesmerizing display of faith and tradition. Caparisoned elephants lead the procession, followed by traditional music ensembles that fill the air with devotional melodies. The procession also showcases an array of captivating cultural art forms, reflecting the rich artistic heritage of Kerala.

The procession originates from nearby temples and gradually converges at the Vaikom Mahadeva Temple, creating an awe-inspiring sight of unity and devotion. Thousands of devotees participate in this auspicious event, their hearts filled with reverence as they seek the blessings of Lord Shiva. The Vaikom Mahadeva Temple is renowned for its unique rituals, adding to the distinctiveness of Vaikathashtami. This festival offers a culturally rich and spiritually uplifting experience, attracting pilgrims and visitors alike, all drawn to witness the grandeur and devotion that define this iconic Kerala festival.

Thrippunithura Arattu

Sree Poornathrayeesha Temple, Thrippunithura, Ernakulam

06-13 December 2026

The Thrippunithura Arattu, a resplendent and deeply revered event, marks the grand culmination of the annual festival at the Sree Poornathrayeesha Temple in Thrippunithura, Ernakulam. This sacred ritual is the apex of the festivities, a breathtaking spectacle where the deity's idol is taken in a magnificent procession to a pond for a ceremonial bath, symbolizing purification and renewal. It's a time when faith, tradition, and community converge in a powerful display of devotion.

The procession itself is an awe-inspiring sight, a symphony of colors, sounds, and movements. Caparisoned elephants, adorned with intricate ornaments and vibrant fabrics, lead the way, their majestic presence lending an air of regal splendor. Traditional music, played on percussion instruments and wind instruments, fills the air with devotional melodies, while the streets are lined with vibrant decorations, creating a festive atmosphere.

Thousands of devotees participate in this auspicious event, their hearts filled with reverence and devotion. They gather to seek blessings, witness the grandeur of the temple traditions, and partake in the spiritual energy that permeates the air. The Thrippunithura Arattu is more than just a religious ritual; it is a living testament to the rich cultural and religious heritage of Kerala, a deeply cherished event that embodies the essence of faith, community and tradition.

Niranam Valiyapally Perunnal

St. Mary's Church, Pathanamthitta

21 December 2026

The Niranam Valiyapally Perunnal, held annually at the St. Mary's Orthodox Syrian Church in Niranam, Pathanamthitta district, is a significant Christian festival in Kerala. Celebrated in December, it commemorates the establishment of the church, believed to be one of the seven churches founded by St. Thomas the Apostle in AD 54.

This ancient church, steeped in history and tradition, becomes a focal point for devotees who gather to participate in the religious observances and festivities. The Perunnal is characterized by special prayers, Holy Mass and processions that reflect the rich Christian heritage of the region.

A key highlight is the ceremonial procession, where elaborately decorated floats and traditional music create a vibrant spectacle. The church, beautifully adorned with lights and decorations, provides a serene and spiritual backdrop for the event.

Beyond the religious aspects, the Niranam Valiyapally Perunnal serves as a social gathering, fostering community bonds and celebrating shared traditions. The festival attracts pilgrims and visitors from various parts of Kerala, contributing to the cultural and economic vibrancy of Niranam. It is a testament to the enduring legacy of St. Thomas and the deep-rooted Christian faith in Kerala.

Christmas

25 December 2026

Christmas in Kerala, celebrated with heartfelt religious fervor and boundless enthusiasm by the state's people, is a time of profound joy, peace, and goodwill. This significant holiday transforms homes and churches into beacons of festive cheer, reflecting the true spirit of the season. The celebrations are deeply rooted in religious observance and infused with vibrant cultural traditions.

Churches are adorned with elaborate decorations, twinkling lights and nativity scenes, creating a serene and reverent atmosphere. Special midnight mass services are held, where carols fill the air with melodies of hope and joy. Families come together to exchange gifts, strengthening bonds and spreading warmth. Festive meals, featuring traditional Kerala cuisine and Christmas delicacies, are shared with loved ones, creating lasting memories.

The preparation of traditional sweets and delicacies, such as rich plum cakes and flavorful snacks, is an integral part of the Christmas celebrations. These culinary creations are shared with family, friends and neighbors, spreading the spirit of generosity and goodwill. Christmas in Kerala is a time to reflect on the message of peace and love, to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, and to cherish the blessings of family and community. It is a significant event that embodies the values of compassion, unity, and the enduring spirit of the season.

Flower Show

Thiruvananthapuram

Dec-Jan
2026-2027

Flower Shows, bursts into life across various locations in Kerala, painting the landscape with vibrant hues and fragrant aromas. These meticulously organized events are a testament to the state's rich horticultural heritage and its deep appreciation for the beauty of nature. Showcasing a breathtaking array of flowers, exotic plants and meticulously crafted horticultural displays, these shows draw a diverse audience of flower enthusiasts, nature lovers, and curious tourists eager to immerse themselves in this floral extravaganza.

More than just a visual spectacle, these flower shows provide a valuable platform for learning about different plant species, horticultural techniques, and the importance of environmental conservation. They often feature competitions, where skilled gardeners and horticulturists showcase their talents, and exhibitions displaying innovative gardening concepts. Workshops and demonstrations offer practical knowledge and inspire attendees to cultivate their own green spaces. These vibrant events contribute significantly to promoting environmental awareness and fostering a deeper appreciation for the natural world. By showcasing the beauty and diversity of plant life, flower shows inspire a sense of wonder and encourage individuals to embrace sustainable practices and protect our planet's precious biodiversity. The Vasantholsavam flower shows are a celebration of nature's artistry and a call to action for environmental stewardship.

Bekal International Beach Festival

Bekal Beach, Kasaragod

December 2026

The Bekal International Beach Festival, a vibrant tapestry of culture and coastal charm, unfolds annually on the picturesque Bekal beach in the northern Kasaragod district of Kerala. This grand celebration is a showcase of the region's rich artistic heritage, offering a captivating blend of music, dance and diverse art forms that resonate with both tourists and local communities. It's an event that transforms the stunning Bekal coastline into a dynamic stage for cultural expression.

With the majestic Bekal Fort silhouetted against the Arabian Sea as its backdrop, the festival provides an unforgettable setting for experiencing the beauty and allure of this captivating region. The festival grounds come alive with colorful displays, lively performances, and a palpable sense of excitement, drawing visitors from far and wide.

The Bekal International Beach Festival is more than just a cultural event; it's a strategic initiative that promotes the Kasaragod district as a must-visit destination on Kerala's tourism map. By highlighting the region's natural beauty, rich cultural heritage, and warm hospitality, the festival contributes significantly to the growth of tourism and the economic prosperity of the local communities. It stands as a testament to the power of culture to attract visitors and create lasting memories.

JANUARY 2027

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Beemapally Uroos

Kerala Literature Festival

Erumeli Chandanakudam

Kanjiramattom Kodikuthu

Makaravilakku

Arthunkal Perunnal

Athirampuzha Perunnal

Koorkancherry Thaipooyam Mahotsavam

Harippad Thaipooyam Mahotsavam

Adoor Gajamela

Nishagandhi Dance Festival

Beemapally Uroos

Beemapally Dargah Shareef, Thiruvananthapuram

January
2027

The Beemapally Uroos, a vibrant and culturally rich Muslim festival, unfolds annually at the Beemapally Dargah Shareef in Thiruvananthapuram. This ten-day celebration commemorates Syedunnisa Beema Beevi, a pious woman believed to possess miraculous powers, and her son, Syedu Shuhada Maheen Abubacker. The Dargah, her final resting place, becomes a focal point for devotees seeking blessings and solace.

During the Uroos, the Dargah is adorned with lights and decorations, creating a festive atmosphere. The air is filled with devotional music and chants. A significant ritual involves offering sandalwood paste (chandanakkudam) and incense, signifying reverence and devotion. Colorful processions wind through the streets, showcasing the rich cultural heritage of the region. Annadanam, the offering of food to all, is a prominent feature, reflecting the spirit of generosity and compassion.

The Beemapally Uroos draws devotees from all faiths, highlighting Kerala's tradition of religious harmony. It's a time for spiritual reflection, community bonding and celebrating the life and legacy of a revered figure. The festival provides a captivating glimpse into the vibrant cultural tapestry of Kerala, showcasing its unique blend of traditions and beliefs.

Kerala Literature Festival

Kozhikode Beach, Kozhikode

21-24 January 2027

The Kerala Literature Festival (KLF), held annually in Kozhikode, is one of Asia's largest literature festivals, drawing writers, thinkers, and enthusiasts from across the globe. Usually held in January or February, the festival transforms the beach into a vibrant hub of intellectual exchange.

KLF offers a diverse program featuring panel discussions, debates, author interactions, workshops, and cultural performances. Renowned authors, poets, artists, and academics participate, engaging audiences on a wide range of topics, from literature and politics to social issues and contemporary trends. The festival provides a platform for both established and emerging voices, fostering dialogue and celebrating the power of words. It's a unique opportunity to hear perspectives from diverse cultures and backgrounds. Beyond the literary sessions, KLF showcases Kerala's rich cultural heritage through music, dance, and theatre performances. Bookstalls, food stalls, and art exhibitions add to the festival's lively atmosphere.

Kerala Literature Festival is more than just a literary event; it's a celebration of ideas, creativity, and the human spirit, solidifying Kerala's reputation as a land of letters and culture. It attracts thousands of people each year, contributing significantly to the region's tourism and economy.

Erumeli Chandanakudam

Pathanamthitta

January
2027

The Erumeli Chandanakudam is a glowing example of Kerala's legendary religious harmony. The festival is held at the Nainar Mosque (Vavar Palli) dedicated to Vavar Swamy, a Muslim man believed to be the friend and compatriot of Lord Ayyappa. It is mandatory for Ayyappa devotees to pay respects to Vavar before going to the Sabarimala Temple.

The Chandanakudam festival is held a day before the famed Erumeli Petta Thullal (a ceremonial trance dance by Ayyappa devotees). The festival is conducted by the Mahalla Muslim Jama-ath. The festival begins with a Malisa procession that covers major dedicated spots and returns to the mosque in the evening.

The Chandanakudam procession begins later with the accompaniment of chenda melam and Shinkari melam (traditional drums orchestra), Kottakavadi and band music. Ayyappa devotees and Muslim community take part in this celebration in a showcase of universal brotherhood and solidarity that cuts across religion.

Kanjiramattom Kodikuthu

Kanjiramattom Mosque, Ernakulam

13-14 January 2027

The Kanjiramattom Kodikuthu, also known as the Kanjiramattom Nercha, is an annual festival held at the Kanjiramattom Juma Masjid in Ernakulam district.

A key highlight is the Kodikuthu ceremony, the hoisting of a ceremonial flag, marking the commencement of the festivities. The mosque and surrounding areas are beautifully decorated, creating a festive atmosphere.

The festival attracts devotees from various faiths, symbolizing religious harmony and cultural unity. Special prayers, religious discourses, and cultural programs are held throughout the event. A grand procession, featuring caparisoned elephants and traditional music, is a major attraction.

The Kanjiramattom Nercha is not just a religious event but also a social gathering, fostering community bonds and celebrating shared traditions. Annadanam, the offering of free food, is a significant aspect of the festival, feeding thousands of attendees.

The festival reflects the syncretic traditions of Kerala, blending elements of Sufi Islam and local customs. It is a testament to the state's rich cultural tapestry and its history of religious harmony. The Kanjiramattom Kodikuthu is a vibrant expression of faith, unity, and cultural heritage.

Makaravilakku

Sabarimala Dharma Sastha Temple, Pathanamthitta

14 January 2027

Makaravilakku is a centuries-old annual Hindu festival held in Kerala. It marks the culmination of the pilgrimage to the Sabarimala temple In Pathanamthitta District dedicated to Lord Ayyappa. The festival is held on the Makara Sankrama night, which falls between Jan 14-16.

Millions of devotees from various parts of India, take a mandatory 41-day fast and visit the temple to seek the blessings of Lord Ayyappa.

The seven-day festival begins with the ceremonial Thiruvabharana Ghoshayathra (sacred ornaments procession) and ends with Guruthi Puja. The procession, led by a member of the Pandalam royal family, begins from the Srambickal Palace in Pandalam and reaches Sannidhanam (Sabarimala temple complex) on the eve of Makaravilakku.

Devotees believe that witnessing the Makarajyothi and attending the Mandala Puja will bring peace and prosperity for the entire year.

Arthunkal Perunnal

St. Andrew's Basilica, Arthunkal, Alappuzha

10-27 January 2027

The Arthunkal Perunnal, also known as the Feast of St. Sebastian, is a grand annual festival held at the St. Andrew's Basilica in Arthunkal, Alappuzha district. Celebrated every January, this vibrant event attracts devotees from all faiths and backgrounds.

The feast honors St. Sebastian, believed to possess the power to heal and protect. The festival is noted for religious rituals, processions and cultural performances. A key highlight is the carrying of the statue of St. Sebastian in a grand procession through the town.

Devotees participate in various devotional practices, including crawling on their knees from the nearby beach to the church, a symbolic act of penance and faith. Special masses and prayers are held throughout the festival. The atmosphere is filled with piety and devotion, as well as festive cheer. The church and its surroundings are beautifully decorated with lights and vibrant colors.

Beyond its religious significance, the Arthunkal Perunnal fosters community spirit and promotes harmony. Stalls selling religious articles, food and souvenirs line the streets, adding to the festive atmosphere. The festival reflects the syncretic traditions of Kerala, blending Christian faith with local customs. It is a testament to the state's rich cultural heritage and its spirit of religious tolerance, drawing thousands of pilgrims each year.

Athirampuzha Perunnal

St. Mary's Forane Church, Kottayam

19 Jan 2027
01 Feb 2027

The Athirampuzha Perunnal is held annually from January 19-26 at the St. Mary's Forane Church at Athirampuzha in Kottayam district. The centuries-old festival is held to venerate the martyrdom of St Sebastian.

One of the oldest in the country, the church was consecrated in 835 CE. The statue of St Sebastian was believed to have been brought to the church from Portugal. The statue is also known as the Adiyelpicha Roopam (the tortured figure) as it is the only one in the world without the arrows thrust on the body.

The feast of the saint was first celebrated in 1647 and has continued to be held ever since. Thousands of devotees from across the world attend the festival, which begins with a ceremonial flag-hoisting on January 19.

The main highlight of the festival is the grand procession carrying the statue of St Sebastian around the town followed by devotees carrying ornate umbrellas, crosses made of gold, silver, bronze, and wood, accompanied by band music, firework and spectacular displays. After the 26th, the festival is extended to eight more days with Ettamidam,

Koorkancherry Thaipooyam Mahotsavam

Koorkancherry Sree Maheswara Temple, Thrissur

22 January 2027

The Koorkancherry Thaipooyam Mahotsavam, celebrated at the Sree Maheswara Temple in Koorkancherry, Thrissur district, is a vibrant and culturally rich festival dedicated to Lord Murugan (Subramanya). Held annually, typically in January or February, this event attracts devotees from far and wide.

Thaipooyam marks the occasion when Goddess Parvati presented Lord Murugan with the Vel (divine spear) to defeat the demon Soorapadman. The festival is characterized by elaborate processions, traditional music and the unique Kavadi Attam dance.

Devotees, often adorned in saffron attire, carry decorated Kavadis as an offering to Lord Murugan. The Kavadi Attam is a mesmerizing performance, involving rhythmic steps and devotional songs, showcasing their devotion. The procession route is filled with enthusiastic participants and spectators.The Sree Maheswara Temple and its surroundings are beautifully decorated, creating a festive and spiritual atmosphere.

The festival provides a platform for various traditional art forms, adding to the cultural richness. Beyond the religious significance, the Koorkancherry Thaipooya Mahotsavam fosters community spirit and reinforces cultural bonds. The event serves as a testament to the enduring faith and vibrant traditions of Kerala, attracting pilgrims and tourists alike, and contributing to the region's cultural tourism. It offers a glimpse into the heart of Kerala's devotional practices.

Harippad Thaipooyam Mahotsavam

22 January 2027

Harippad Sree Subramanya Swamy Temple, Alappuzha

The Harippad Thaipooyam Mahotsavam, celebrated at the Sree Subramanya Swamy Temple in Harippad, Alappuzha district, is a vibrant festival dedicated to Lord Murugan (Subramanya). This grand event, typically held in January or February, attracts devotees from across Kerala and beyond.

Thaipooyam commemorates the day Goddess Parvati gifted Lord Murugan a Vel (divine spear) to vanquish the demon Soorapadman. The festival is marked by elaborate rituals, processions, and the Kavadi Attam, a ceremonial dance offering.

Devotees carry decorated Kavadis, wooden arches adorned with flowers, peacock feathers, and images of deities, on their shoulders as they proceeed to the temple. The Kavadi Attam involves rhythmic movements and devotional songs, showcasing the devotees' fervor.

The procession, featuring caparisoned elephants and traditional music, adds to the festive atmosphere. The temple and its surroundings are beautifully decorated, creating a visually stunning spectacle.

Beyond the religious observances, the Harippad Thaipooyam Mahotsavam serves as a cultural celebration, fostering community bonds and preserving traditional art forms. The festival provides a glimpse into Kerala's rich religious heritage and its vibrant cultural traditions. The Harippad Thaipooyam Mahotsavam is a testament to the enduring faith and cultural unity of the region.

Adoor Gajamela

Sree Parthasarathy Temple, Pathanamthitta

January
2027

The Adoor Gajamela, held annually at the Sree Parthasarathy Temple in Adoor, Pathanamthitta district, is a spectacular festival showcasing the cultural richness of Kerala. This grand event features a procession of elaborately decorated elephants, creating a vibrant and unforgettable spectacle.

Typically held in January, the Gajamela coincides with the temple's annual festival. The highlight is the majestic procession of caparisoned elephants, accompanied by traditional percussion music. These gentle giants parade through the town, carrying deities and captivating the onlookers.

The festival attracts devotees and tourists alike, drawn by the unique blend of religious observance and cultural display. The Sree Parthasarathy Temple, dedicated to Lord Krishna, provides a serene backdrop for the festivities.

Beyond the elephant procession, the Adoor Gajamela includes traditional art forms and classical music concerts, adding to the cultural vibrancy. The streets are lined with stalls selling religious items, local handicrafts, and delicious Kerala cuisine.

Adoor Gajamela embodies the spirit of Kerala's temple festivals, blending devotion, tradition, and community celebration. It serves as a platform for showcasing the state's cultural heritage and promoting religious harmony. The festival is a testament to the enduring legacy of Kerala's unique traditions and its captivating cultural tapestry.

Nishagandhi Dance Festival

Kanakakkunnu Palace, Thiruvananthapuram

January 2027

The Nishagandhi Dance Festival, held annually at the Nishagandhi auditorium in Thiruvananthapuram, is a prestigious event celebrating the diversity and richness of Indian classical dance forms. This week-long festival, typically held in January or February, showcases renowned dancers from across the country.

The festival provides a platform for various classical dance styles, including Bharatanatyam, Kathak, Kuchipudi, Mohiniyattam and Odissi. Each evening features captivating performances by leading exponents of these art forms, attracting dance enthusiasts and cultural aficionados.

Set against the backdrop of the illuminated Kanakakkunnu Palace, the auditorium creates a magical ambiance. The Nishagandhi Dance Festival is not just a showcase of talent; it is also a celebration of India's cultural heritage and the dedication of artists who preserve these ancient traditions. The festival promotes cultural tourism and enhances Kerala's reputation as a land of art and culture. It provides an opportunity for both established and emerging dancers to showcase their skills and connect with a wider audience.

Beyond the dance performances, the festival often includes workshops, lectures and demonstrations, offering insights into the intricacies of each dance form. The Nishagandhi Dance Festival is a vibrant cultural event that enriches the artistic landscape of Kerala and promotes appreciation for Indian classical dance.

FEBRUARY 2027

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Andalur Kavu Theyyam

Machattu Mamangam

Pariyanampetta Pooram

Manjanikkara Perunnal

Maramon Convention

Guruvayur Aanayottam

Chinakkathoor Pooram

Attukal Pongala

Ezhara Ponnana

Chottanikkara Makam Thozhal

Manimalarkkavu Bharani

Andalur Kavu Theyyam

Andalur Kavu, Kannur

13-19 February 2027

The Andalur Kavu Theyyam, also known as Andalur Kavu Kaliyattam, is a spectacular annual festival held at the Andalur Kavu in Dharmadom, Kannur district. This vibrant event showcases the ancient ritualistic art form of Theyyam, deeply rooted in the cultural and religious traditions of North Kerala.

The festival, typically held in February or March, spans several days and features a diverse range of Theyyam performances, each with its own unique costumes, makeup and music. Theyyam deities, believed to be embodiments of gods and ancestral spirits, interact with devotees, offering blessings and guidance. Andalur Kavu Theyyam is particularly significant for its portrayal of the deity, a folk hero revered for his bravery and justice. The performances are characterized by elaborate costumes, intricate facial paintings, and dynamic movements, creating a mesmerizing spectacle.

The festival attracts thousands of devotees and tourists, drawn by the unique blend of mythology, ritual and artistic expression. The atmosphere is filled with energy and devotion, as Theyyam performers embody the divine. Beyond the religious aspects, Andalur Kavu Theyyam serves as a community celebration, fostering social bonds and preserving traditional customs. It is a testament to the rich cultural heritage of North Malabar and the enduring power of Theyyam as a living art form. The festival is a vibrant spectacle that leaves a lasting impression on all who witness it.

Machattu Mamangam

Machattu Thiruvanikavu Temple, Thrissur

February 2027

Immerse yourself in the vibrant spectacle of Machattu Mamangam, a unique temple festival held annually at the Machattu Thara Bhagavathy Temple in Vadakkancherry, Thrissur. This grand event, celebrated with immense fervor, offers a captivating glimpse into Kerala's rich cultural heritage.

The highlight of Machattu Mamangam is undoubtedly the procession of elaborately decorated Kuthirakolams – effigies of horses – each representing a different village. These majestic structures, adorned with shimmering fabrics, intricate carvings, and vibrant colours, are paraded through the village accompanied by traditional music and dance forms like Theyyam and Poothan.

The air buzzes with excitement as devotees and tourists alike gather to witness this visual feast. The rhythmic beats of percussion instruments, the captivating performances, and the sheer grandeur of the Kuthirakolams create an unforgettable experience.

Beyond the spectacle, Machattu Mamangam is deeply rooted in faith and community. It's a time for families to come together, strengthen bonds and pay homage to the goddess. Experience the magic of this extraordinary festival and discover the true spirit of Kerala. Witness a beautiful blend of art, religion and tradition at Machattu Mamangam.

Pariyanampetta Pooram

Pariyanampetta Bhagavathy Temple, Palakkad

13-19 February 2027

The Pariyanampetta Pooram, held annually at the Pariyanampetta Bhagavathy Temple in Palakkad district, is one of Kerala's most spectacular and culturally rich temple festivals. Celebrated in February or March, this grand event attracts devotees from across the region.

The Pooram is renowned for its magnificent procession of caparisoned elephants, a hallmark of Kerala's temple festivals. The elephants, adorned with ornate decorations and accompanied by traditional percussion music, parade through the temple grounds, creating a vibrant and awe-inspiring spectacle.

Adding to the visual feast are elaborate floats, showcasing scenes from Hindu mythology and local folklore. These intricately crafted displays reflect the artistic skills and cultural creativity of the region.

Pariyanampetta Pooram is not just a religious event; it's a community celebration, fostering social harmony and preserving traditional art forms. The festival includes performances of classical music, traditional dances and other cultural programs, enhancing the celebratory atmosphere. The temple and its surroundings are beautifully decorated, creating a festive ambiance. Food stalls and vendors selling local handicrafts add to the vibrancy of the event.

Pariyanampetta Pooram offers a glimpse into the heart of Kerala's temple culture, blending religious devotion with artistic expression and community participation. It's a testament to the state's rich cultural heritage and the enduring spirit of its people.

Manjanikkara Perunnal

Mar Ignatius Manjanikkara Dayara, Pathanamthitta

13 February 2027

The annual Manjanikkara Perunnal, held at the Manjanikkara Church near Pathanamthitta, is a deeply spiritual event that draws thousands of faithful each year. This festival, observed in February, marks a period of intense devotion and remembrance, offering pilgrims a chance to seek blessings and reconnect with their faith.

At the heart of the celebration is the memory of Patriarch Mar Ignatius Elias III, whose tomb rests within the church premises. The festival is not just a tribute to the revered patriarch but a powerful expression of unity and spiritual reverence by the community. Pilgrims travel on foot from distant places to reach the church, underscoring the strength of their devotion.

The Perunnal celebrations begin with the Patriarchal flag hoisting, followed by special Qurbana (Holy Mass) on the first and second days. The church comes alive with prayers, spiritual talks, and community offerings. Programs dedicated to social welfare, like palliative care initiatives and clothing distribution to the needy, reflect the festival's spirit of compassion.

Priests and bishops lead special prayers and evening processions, filling the atmosphere with sacred chants and blessings. The festivities culminate in a grand procession and distribution of offerings, leaving the devotees spiritually fulfilled.

The Manjanikkara Perunnal stands as a vibrant celebration of remembrance, service, and divine grace—a moment when faith finds powerful expression on a sacred place.

Maramon Convention

Pathanamthitta

February 2027

Every year, on the vast sandbanks of the Pamba River near Kozhencherry, a remarkable spiritual gathering takes place—the Maramon Convention. Held in the Pathanamthitta district, this annual event brings together tens of thousands of believers in an atmosphere filled with prayer, reflection, and spiritual renewal.

The convention spans eight days, typically in February, and is organized by the Mar Thoma Evangelistic Association, the missionary wing of the Mar Thoma Church. Under a massive temporary tent erected on the riverside, people from all walks of life come together to listen to sermons, participate in collective worship, and reaffirm their spiritual commitments. What makes the Maramon Convention unique is not just its scale but the sense of unity it fosters among attendees. Each day begins and ends with soulful hymns, passionate messages, and shared moments of introspection. People return year after year, making it not just an event, but a cherished tradition. Missionaries associated with the Evangelistic Association also take part in the sessions, offering insights and sharing their life experiences, enriching the spiritual fabric of the gathering. The convention is a platform not just for worship, but for renewal, learning, and community bonding.

Since its beginnings in the late 19th century, the Maramon Convention has grown in both size and influence, standing today as a symbol of steadfast faith and collective devotion along the serene banks of the Pamba.

Guruvayur Aanayottam

Guruvayur Sree Krishna Temple, Thrissur

21 February 2027

At the heart of the annual celebrations at the Guruvayur Sree Krishna Temple lies a thrilling and deeply symbolic event – the Aanayottam, or elephant race. This grand tradition, held in the Malayalam month of Kumbham (February–March), marks the ceremonial beginning of the Guruvayur Festival and sets the tone for ten days of devotion, celebration, and cultural vibrance.

The race is not just a display of power and grace, but a sacred ritual that blends tradition with awe-inspiring spectacle. As the day begins, excitement fills the air around the temple. The energy builds as the elephants line up, and when the signal is given, they charge forward in a powerful yet dignified display.

The finish line, set at the eastern entrance of the temple, is where the race culminates. The elephant that reaches first is celebrated with special honors, receiving the privilege of leading temple processions and rituals for the entire year. More than a contest, the Aanayottam is a moment of spiritual connection and community pride. It symbolizes the beginning of a sacred time, inviting devotees into days filled with rituals, music, and deep religious fervor. The sound of drums, the rhythm of steps, and the presence of the elephants create an atmosphere unlike any other—a true celebration of tradition and devotion.

Chinakkathoor Pooram

Chinakkathoor Bhagavathy Temple, Palakkad

February 2027

The Chinakkathoor Pooram, held annually at the Chinakkathoor Bhagavathy Temple in Palappuram, Palakkad district, is a vibrant and visually stunning festival celebrated for its spectacular procession of caparisoned elephants and unique cultural performances. This grand event typically takes place in February or March.

The festival's highlight is the magnificent parade of approximately 33 elephants, adorned with ornate decorations and carrying deities from neighboring temples. The rhythmic beats of traditional percussion instruments, such as the Panchavadyam and Chenda Melam, create an electrifying atmosphere. Adding to the visual spectacle are various folk art forms, including Karivela and Poothanum Thirayum. These colorful and energetic performances showcase the rich cultural heritage of the region.

Chinakkathoor Pooram is not just a religious event; it's a community celebration that fosters social harmony and preserves traditional art forms. The temple and its surroundings are beautifully decorated, adding to the festive ambiance.

The festival attracts devotees and tourists alike, drawn by the unique blend of religious devotion, artistic expression, and community participation. Chinakkathoor Pooram offers a glimpse into the heart of Kerala's temple culture, showcasing the state's rich cultural heritage and the enduring spirit of its people. It's a feast for the senses and a testament to the vibrant traditions of Kerala.

Attukal Pongala

Attukal Bhagavathy Temple, Thiruvananthapuram

February 2027

Attukal Pongala, held annually at the Attukal Bhagavathy Temple in Thiruvananthapuram, is a globally renowned Hindu festival celebrated primarily by women. This massive gathering, often recognized as one of the largest congregations of women in the world, typically takes place in February or March.

The festival centers around the ritual of Pongala, where millions of women gather to cook a sweet rice porridge (Pongala) in earthen pots as an offering to Goddess Attukal Bhagavathy, presiding deity of the temple. The city streets are filled with devotees preparing their offerings, creating a unique and devotional atmosphere.

The Pongala ritual is performed on a designated day and time, with devotees meticulously following traditional procedures. The smoke from the hundreds of thousands of hearths creates a mesmerizing spectacle, filling the air with the aroma of the sweet offering. Attukal Pongala transcends religious boundaries, attracting women from all walks of life who seek blessings and fulfillment. The festival is not just a religious event; it's a celebration of womanhood, devotion and community spirit.

The Attukal Pongala is a testament to the enduring faith and the vibrant cultural traditions of Kerala, drawing pilgrims and visitors from across the globe. It showcases the power of collective devotion and the unique spiritual energy of the Attukal Bhagavathy Temple.

Ezhara Ponnana

Ettumanoor Mahadeva Temple, Kottayam

February 2027

The Ezhara Ponnana, meaning "seven and a half golden elephants," is unique to the Ettumanoor Mahadeva Temple in Kottayam district. This rare and valuable treasure is displayed only during the annual festival, a ten-day event celebrated in February or March.

The Ezhara Ponnana consists of seven large golden elephants and one smaller one, all intricately crafted and highly revered. They are considered immensely sacred and are brought out for public viewing only during the annual festival.

The festival itself is a grand celebration, marked by vibrant processions, traditional music, and cultural performances. The temple is beautifully decorated, creating a festive atmosphere. The Ezhara Ponnana procession is the highlight of the festival, drawing devotees from across Kerala. The sight of these golden elephants, glittering in the temple lights, is a truly awe-inspiring experience. It is believed that witnessing the Ezhara Ponnana brings prosperity and blessings.

The Ezhara Ponnana represents the rich cultural heritage and artistic traditions of Kerala. It stands as a symbol of devotion and the enduring legacy of the Ettumanoor Mahadeva Temple. The festival and the display of the golden elephants contribute significantly to the region's cultural tourism, attracting pilgrims and art enthusiasts alike.

Chottanikkara Makam Thozhal

Chottanikkara Devi Temple, Ernakulam

February 2027

The Chottanikkara Makam Thozhal is one of the most prominent festivals held in Kerala. The seven-day observance is celebrated annually at the Chottanikkara Bhagavathy Temple near Kochi. The festival begins with a ceremonial flag hoisting. Rituals like Para Ezhunnellippu (a ceremonial procession) from the thattakams (regions) and Arattu (ritual bathing of the idol) are performed daily.

One of the main ceremonies is Makam Thozhal (honouring the Goddess). This activity is believed to help marriageable women find suitable husbands. Pooram Ezhunnellippu is a ceremonial procession carrying divine idols on elephants. The festival ends with rituals like Arattu.

After the arattu, the idols of the goddess and Sastha (Lord Ayyappan) are carried on elephants towards the poorapparambu (festival ground). The procession stays there till 11am. The idols are taken into the sanctum sanctorum at mid-day and then it's opened at 2pm for the auspicious Makam Darshan. Thousands of devotees throng the temple to catch a glimpse of the goddess decked in all her jewellery and seek blessings.

Manimalarkkavu Bharani

Manimalarkkavu Temple, Velur, Thrissur

February 2027

The Manimalarkkavu Bharani festival, celebrated at Velur Manimalarkkavu Temple in Thrissur, is a vibrant annual event dedicated to Goddess Bhagavathy. This grand festival takes place during February - March every year, drawing devotees and cultural enthusiasts alike.The temple, one of the 18 royal shrines (Pathinettara Kavu) of the Kochi kingdom, is unique for its roofless sanctum sanctorum (vatta sreekovil), where Bhagavathy is enshrined in all her divine glory. In 1956, the temple became the site of a quiet yet powerful act of defiance that reshaped Kerala's social history. The event, known as the Velur Maaru Marakkal (breast-covering) protest, faced resistance but ultimately led to the acceptance of women wearing blouses in temple rituals.

A major highlight of Manimalarkkavu Bharani is the Kuthira Vela, a grand spectacle where effigies of horses are ceremonially pulled as part of the festivities. Accompanied by Kerala's traditional percussion ensemble, melam, the event resonates with energy and devotion, captivating spectators. Karimkali, a ritual folk art, and Velichappadu, the oracle dance, further enhance the spiritual fervor, connecting the devotees to the divine presence of Bhagavathy.

The expansive temple grounds, housing shrines of various upa devatas (sub-deities), become the epicenter of religious celebrations and artistic performances during the festival. The festival's rich blend of devotion, tradition, and performing arts makes it stand out as a testament to Kerala's deep-rooted cultural and spiritual heritage.

MARCH 2027

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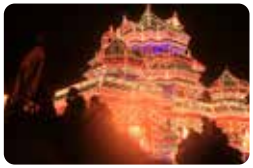

Uthralikkavu Pooram

Pattambi Nercha

Chettikulangara Bharani

Thirunakkara Arattu

Kottankulangara Chamayavilakku

Othera Padayani

Malanada Kettukazhcha

Attuvela Mahotsavam

Kodungalloor Kavutheendal & Bharani

Valliyoorkavu Festival

Tharakkal Pooram

Pidikkaparambu Aanayottam

Arattupuzha Pooram

Lokanarkavu Temple Festival

Kavassery Pooram

Peruvanam Pooram

Uthralikkavu Pooram

Sree Ruthira Mahakalikavu Temple, Thrissur

March
2027

The Uthralikkavu Pooram, held annually at the Sree Ruthira Mahakalikavu Temple in Wadakkancherry, Thrissur district, is a vibrant and spectacular festival renowned for its competitive spirit and grand display of cultural traditions. Celebrated in February or March, this Pooram draws massive crowds from across Kerala.

What sets Uthralikkavu Pooram apart is the friendly rivalry between the neighboring villages of Enkakkad, Kumaranellur and Wadakkancherry. Each village presents its own procession of caparisoned elephants, elaborate floats and traditional percussion ensembles, vying for the title of the best display.

The festival features a stunning parade of elephants, adorned with ornate decorations and carrying temple deities. The rhythmic beats of the Panchavadyam and other traditional percussion instruments create an electrifying atmosphere. The elaborately decorated floats, depicting scenes from Hindu mythology and local folklore, showcase the artistic skills and creativity of the region. The sky is illuminated with colorful fireworks, adding to the visual spectacle.

Uthralikkavu Pooram is not just a religious event; it's a community celebration that fosters social harmony and preserves traditional art forms. The festival is a testament to Kerala's rich cultural heritage and the enduring spirit of its people, blending devotion, competition and artistic expression into a truly unforgettable experience.

Pattambi Nercha

Pattambi, Palakkad

March
2027

The Pattambi Nercha, held annually in Pattambi, Palakkad district, is a vibrant and culturally significant festival that honors the revered Muslim saint, Aloor Valiya Pookunjikoya Thangal. This week-long celebration, typically held in January or February, attracts devotees from various faiths, showcasing religious harmony. A key highlight is the grand procession featuring elaborately decorated floats and caparisoned elephants. These colorful floats depict scenes from Islamic history and local folklore, creating a captivating spectacle. Traditional music, including percussion instruments and devotional songs, adds to the festive atmosphere.

The Pattambi Nercha is not just a religious event; it's a social gathering that fosters community bonds and celebrates shared traditions. The festival provides a platform for various cultural performances, including traditional dance forms and music concerts, enhancing the celebratory ambiance. The town of Pattambi is beautifully decorated with lights and banners, creating a visually stunning spectacle.

Pattambi Nercha reflects the syncretic traditions of Kerala, blending elements of Islam and local customs. It stands as a testament to the state's long history of religious tolerance and its vibrant cultural tapestry. The festival draws thousands of pilgrims and visitors each year, contributing to the region's economic and cultural vitality.

Chettikulangara Bharani

Chettikulangara Bhagavathy Temple, Alappuzha

March
2027

The Chettikulangara Bharani, celebrated at the Chettikulangara Devi Temple in Mavelikkara, Alappuzha district, is a vibrant and unique festival dedicated to Goddess Bhagavathy. This annual event, held in February or March, is famous for its spectacular Kettukazhcha procession and Kumbha Bharani offerings.

The Kettukazcha is a grand procession featuring towering structures of chariots (Theru), effigies of horses (Kuthira) and Bhima made by the villagers. These massive and intricately decorated creations are brought to the temple as offerings, showcasing the artistic skills and communal harmony of the region. The day is marked by vibrant processions and devotional songs, creating a highly charged spiritual atmosphere.

The Chettikulangara Bharani attracts devotees from across Kerala and beyond, drawn by the unique rituals and the vibrant display of cultural traditions. The festival is not just a religious event; it's a celebration of community spirit and artistic expression. The temple and its surroundings are beautifully decorated, adding to the festive ambiance. Various cultural performances and traditional art forms are also showcased during the festival. Chettikulangara Bharani stands as a testament to Kerala's rich cultural heritage and its enduring devotion to Goddess Bhagavathy.

Thirunakkara Arattu

Thirunakkara Mahadeva Temple, Kottayam

March
2027

The Thirunakkara Utsavam, a ten-day grand festival at the Thirunakkara Mahadeva Temple in Kottayam, showcases Kerala's rich cultural and religious heritage. Commencing on the first of Meenam (March-April), the festival culminates in the Arattu, the holy bathing of Lord Mahadeva.

The Arattu procession is a visual spectacle featuring nine elaborately decorated elephants. Drummers and dancers accompany the majestic elephants, attracting devotees and visitors alike. The temple courtyard comes alive with vibrant cultural activities. Rooted in history, the temple was built by a Thekkumkoor king who, following a divine dream, enshrined a Shiva Linga discovered by a Brahmin priest. The Thirunakkara Mahadeva Temple also houses idols of Lord Subramanya, Lord Ganesha, Goddess and Lord Ayyappa. Located on Thirunakkara Hill, or Sacred Nakkara Hill, the temple's intricate architecture enhances the festival's spiritual ambiance.

The highlights of the festival include elephant parades, percussion music, Kathakali performance, Velakali, Mayilattom and various cultural programs. Thirunakkara Arattu embodies community, tradition and cultural pride, bringing people together in a joyous celebration.

Kottankulangara Chamayavilakku

Kottankulangara Devi Temple, Kollam

March 2027

The Kottankulangara Chamayavilakku, a vibrant and unique festival in Chavara, Kollam, celebrates devotion to Goddess Bhagavathy with a captivating ritual. Held annually in March (Malayalam month of Meenam), the festival sees thousands of men dressing up as women, offering prayers and seeking blessings.

The highlight is the Chamayavilakku procession, where men adorned in saris, half-saris, or dance costumes, carry traditional lamps. Accompanied by traditional orchestras, this colorful spectacle creates an enchanting atmosphere. Legend says the festival originated when cowboys discovered divine power in a stone at the temple site. They emulated young girls by dressing as women to offer poojas, which evolved into the Chamayavilakku tradition. The Kottankulangara Devi Temple, unique for lacking a roof over its sanctum, attracts participants from diverse religious backgrounds during the festival. The atmosphere is filled with joy, devotion, and cultural unity. Lasting 16 days, with main events on the 10th and 11th of Meenam, the festival includes Kettukazhcha (decorated structures), cultural performances, and traditional art forms, showcasing Kerala's rich heritage.

Devotees believe Chamayavilakku brings them closer to the divine, fulfilling vows and seeking spiritual solace through this act of devotion and humility. The Kottankulangara Chamayavilakku transcends gender boundaries, demonstrating faith and cultural celebration. It is a must-visit for anyone interested in experiencing Kerala's diverse traditions, blending devotion, tradition and community spirit in a unique spectacle.

Othera Padayani

Puthukulangara Devi Temple, Pathanamthitta

March
2027

The Othera Padayani, a ten-day annual festival at the Puthukulangara Devi Temple in Pathanamthitta, celebrates the traditional ritual art form of Padayani. The festival features dynamic performances and elaborate costumes, captivating audiences.

A highlight is the Bhairavi Kolam, a visually stunning figure constructed from 1001 painted areca nut fronds. The Padayani performance begins with the rhythmic beating of Thappu drums, followed by rituals like Pula dance and Thavadi. The festival begins on the Chathayam asterisk in Meenam, concluding on the Thiruvathira asterisk, starting with Adavi Kolluka (flagstaff creation) and Chootu Padayani.

From the nineteenth day, kolam performances dominate the Padayani ground. The Pancha Kolam performs for three days, joined by Sundara Yakshi and Bhairavi on the second day, and Kalayakshi and Bhairavi on the third. The grand finale, Valiya Padayani, attracts thousands of people. Thappu drumming signals the Padayani performance, followed by Pula dance, Thavadi and the magnificent display of all kolams. Comic interludes like Paradeshi and Kakkarissi entertain the audience. Besides Bhairavi, the Chattathel Kolam, unique to Othera, features a massive headgear made of 1001 areca nut sheaths, accompanied by Chenda drums and fireworks. The festival concludes with the Pooppada ritual and the auspicious Mangala Kolam dance. The Othera Padayani beautifully showcases Kerala's rich culture and traditions.

Malanada Kettukazhcha

Poruvazhy Malanada Temple, Kollam

March
2027

The Poruvazhy Malanada Temple in Edakkad offers a unique historical perspective by revering Duryodhana from the Mahabharata. Notably, this temple lacks an idol or sanctum sanctorum. Every March, the Malanada Kettukazhcha festival brings the temple to life.

The Malanada Kettukazhcha, or Poruvazhy Peruviruthy Malanada Malakkuda Utsavam, is a grand event. Spectacular Edupu Kala and Edupu Kuthira structures, some 70-80 feet tall, lead grand processions accompanied by traditional percussion. Crowds gather to carry these structures or place them on chariots, creating unparalleled revelry. Cultural programs, including Kathakali based on 'Nizhalkuthu,' continue through the night. The festival, also known as "Malakkuda," is celebrated on the second Friday of Meenam.

The festival begins with "Kodiyettu" on the first Friday of Meenam. On the main day, the Oorali (priest) invites Devi from Gurukkalssery Bhagavathy Temple. The Bhagavathy arrives in procession and takes her place in the Mandapam. The Oorali performs "Kachakettu" and leads worship before proceeding to "Muravukandam" for Kettukazhcha.

Kettukazhcha showcases craftsmanship with Edupu Kala and Edupu Kuthira, offered by believers from seven karas or regions. Thousands witness this display in vast paddy fields. The Oorali blesses each item before the procession circles the temple three times. The Malanada Kettukazhcha is a celebration of tradition, culture and harmony. It is a significant event in Kerala's festival calendar.

Attuvela Mahotsavam

Elankavu Bhagavathy Temple, Kottayam

March
2027

The Attuvela Mahotsavam at the Elankavu Bhagavathy Temple in Kottayam district is a captivating water carnival and one of Kerala's most unique festivals. Held annually in honor of Goddess Bhagavathy, the presiding deity, this festival is steeped in legend and tradition.

The highlight is the procession of an illuminated replica of the Elankavu Bhagavathy Temple through the river. This symbolizes the welcome given to the Goddess of Kodungalloor as she visits her sister, the Goddess of Elankavu. The two-day festival is a celebration of the divine meeting, in a stunning display of light, music and devotion.

The procession begins at Attuvela Kadavu, two kilometer away from the temple. The illuminated temple replica is set afloat on the Muvattupuzha River, accompanied by numerous small, decorated canoes. Traditional temple percussion music fills the air, guiding the procession towards the temple.

The illuminated temple replica and canoes create an unforgettable sight, with reflections dancing on the water and rhythmic percussion creating awe. This celebration blends cultural heritage and natural beauty, making it distinctive.Attuvela Mahotsavam celebrates community and tradition. People participate and witness the grand event, showcasing Kerala's rich culture. Traditional performances and rituals enhance the experience, connecting visitors to the region's spiritual heritage. A visit during Attuvela Mahotsavam offers a feast for the eyes and a profound cultural experience, highlighting Kerala's traditions and legends.

Kodungalloor Kavutheendal & Bharani

Kodungalloor Bhagavathy Temple, Thrissur

March 2027

The Kodungalloor Bharani festival, held annually at the Sree Kurumba Bhagavathy Temple in Thrissur during March-April, is a renowned and intense Kerala celebration. Rooted in tradition, it attracts devotees statewide.

The highlight is Aswathy Kavutheendal, the day before the Bharani asterism. The temple transforms as red-robed oracles (velichappad), wielding swords, enter a trance and perform ritual dances. Men and women proclaim communion with the Mother Goddess by striking their heads, creating a mystical atmosphere. Devotees dance in spiritual euphoria. During Kavutheendal, oracles strike rafters and hurl offerings, signifying devotion to Goddess Bhadrakali, born to vanquish the demon Darika. The ritual sees the largest gathering of oracles.

Dedicated to Bhadrakali, the Sree Kurumba Bhagavathy Temple is one of Kerala's oldest. The Bhadrakali idol, carved from jackfruit wood, holds Darika's severed head. The Kodungalloor Bharani is a raw spectacle of Kerala's heritage, breaking conventional rituals, attracting thousands to witness its fervor.

Valliyoorkavu Festival

March
2027

Valliyoorkavu Bhagavathy Temple, Wayanad

Valliyoorkavu Bhagavathy Temple holds a significant place in the lives of the tribal communities of Wayanad, Kerala. Its festival which falls in the Malayalam month of Meenam (March-April), features rituals and traditions such as kalamezhuthu (floor art), Eedum Koorum (a ritual dance performed by oracles), and Sopana Nritham (a dance form).

The temple is dedicated to Goddess Bhagavathy, who is worshipped in three forms – Vana Durga, Bhadrakali, and Jala Durga. It is located about 3 km from Mananthavady town in Wayanad, Kerala.

The Arattu festival draws thousands of devotees to the Valliyoorkavu Bhagavathy Temple, a revered shrine of Goddess Durga and an important place of worship for the tribal population of Wayanad.

The sacred sword of Valliyooramma, the temple deity, is brought from the Palliyara Bhagavathy Temple at Pandikkadavu by the chief priest. The Kodiyettu, or flag hoisting ceremony, is conducted only on the seventh day of the festival. Rituals such as Kalamezhuthum Pattum, Eedum Koorum, and Sopananrutham are observed during the festival. A procession known as Oppana Varavu is taken out from Cheramkode Bhagavathy Temple to Thazhekkavu. Holy processions carrying tender coconut for Abhishekam, called Adiyaras, arrive from different parts of the taluk. The celebrations culminate with the return of the Oppana Varavu to Cheramkode Bhagavathy Temple after Rudhirakkolam, a symbolic battle between Bhagavathy and the demon Dharikan, in which the Goddess is victorious. A large number of tribals participate in the festival, which is centered around Goddess Durga.

Tharakkal Pooram

Arattupuzha Sree Sastha Temple, Thrissur

March
2027

Tharakkal Pooram is a vibrant prelude to the renowned Arattupuzha Pooram, held at the ancient Sree Sastha Temple in Arattupuzha, Thrissur district. This festival is celebrated with grandeur, featuring a majestic procession of caparisoned elephants and traditional percussion ensembles like Pandi Melam and Panchavadyam. The event showcases the rich cultural heritage of Kerala, drawing devotees and tourists alike to witness this spectacular display of devotion and artistry.

On the evening of the festival day, with all living beings as witnesses, the deity (Sastha) comes out in procession. The deity stands facing south, accompanied by nine majestic elephants. Bathed in golden light under the glowing brilliance of the lamps, the sight of Sastha fills the devotees with awe. Thousands flow into the temple grounds, hands folded in reverence, their eyes filled with devotion. As the crowd gets excited and cheers to the magical rhythm of the Pandimelam, the Tharakkal Pooram becomes more lively. Oorakathamma Thiruvadi arrives from the west with traditional drums, and Thottippal Bhagavathy comes from the south with the sound of Panchavadyam. By late night the melam ends, followed by a stunning fireworks show that illuminates both the sky and the ground.

Pidikkaparambu Aanayottam

Pidikkaparambu Lord Shiva Temple, Thrissur

March
2027

Located in Vallachira village of Thrissur district, the Pidikkaparambu Shiva Temple is renowned not for its own festival, but for a spectacular ritual that unfolds around it – the Pidikkaparambu Aanayottam, or elephant running. Held annually in the latter half of March or the first half of April, this vibrant event takes place on the day before the famous Arattupuzha Pooram.

What makes this ritual unique is its origin and setting. The temple enshrines a Shiva lingam believed to have been installed by Parashurama. The deity here is worshipped in a fierce form, symbolizing Lord Shiva in deep sorrow and rage after hearing of Goddess Sati's immolation at Daksha Yajna. Due to the powerful and intense nature of this form, no festival is celebrated within the temple itself.

Instead, the neighboring deities from temples in the village—who are on their way to Arattupuzha Pooram-circle the Pidikkaparambu Shiva Temple mounted on elephants, as a mark of ritual respect. This energetic elephant run, filled with vibrant sights and rhythmic sounds, is what the region reverently celebrates as Pidikkaparambu Aanayottam. Over time, this majestic procession has become a crowd-pulling event.

Arattupuzha Pooram

Arattupuzha Sree Sastha Temple, Thrissur

March
2027

Arattupuzha Pooram, known as the "Mother of all Poorams," is a spectacular temple festival held in the village of Arattupuzha in the Thrissur district of Kerala. As part of the festival, 23 deities from different temples in Thrissur are carried to the Sastha Temple by the majestic tuskers. This ritual has bestowed the festival with the title Devamela (The Conclave of Gods).

The heart of the Pooram lies in the breathtaking spectacle of over sixty magnificently caparisoned elephants. These majestic creatures, adorned with elaborate ornaments and vibrant decorations, parade through the festival grounds, creating a truly awe-inspiring sight. Accompanying this grand procession are traditional percussion ensembles, including the rhythmic and captivating sounds of the panchavadyam and pandimelam. The combination of sight and sound creates an electrifying atmosphere, filling the air with devotion and excitement.

Beyond the elephants and music, Arattupuzha Pooram showcases the rich cultural heritage of Kerala through a diverse array of vibrant performances. Traditional folk dances and music performances offer a glimpse into the region's artistic traditions, passed down through generations. The Arattupuzha Pooram offers a unique and unforgettable cultural experience, drawing massive crowds from across Kerala and beyond, eager to witness this unparalleled celebration of faith, tradition, and community spirit. It is an event that embodies the essence of Kerala's vibrant cultural landscape.

Lokanarkavu Temple Festival

Lokanarkavu Temple, Kozhikode

March 2027

Lokanarkavu temple is best known for its vibrant festivals, especially the Lokanarkavu Utsavam celebrated in November-December and March-April. These festivals feature traditional rituals, cultural performances, and folk arts such as Theyyam and Thira. The highlight is Thacholikali, a folk dance reenacting the martial exploits of legendary warriors like Thacholi Othenan. Major celebration is the Pooram festival, marked by grand processions with caparisoned elephants, traditional percussion, and colorful decorations, creating an electrifying festive ambiance.

The Pooram Mahotsavam begins with the hoisting of the festival flag (kodiyettu) on the Rohini star in the Malayalam month of Meenam (March-April) and concludes with the Pooram day. This festival is considered to have more tantric significance than the Vilakku Utsavam. The flag-hoisting ceremonies take place at the Bhagavathy Temple, the Shiva Temple, and the Vishnu Temple.

A major highlight of the Pooram is the Nagarapradakshinam (procession around the town), believed to be conducted for the well-being of the people and to spread divine energy across the land.

Kavassery Pooram

Sree Parakkat Bhagavathy Temple, Palakkad

March
2027

The Kavassery Pooram, held at the Parakkat Devi Temple, is a grand celebration that marks the legendary victory of the temple's presiding deity, Bhagavathy, over the evil. This seven-day festival is not only a ritualistic observance but also an expression of deep gratitude to the Goddess by the people of Vavulliapuram, Kazhani, and Kavassery Desams, who come together to host this vibrant event.

Preparations for the Pooram begin as early as the third/fourth week of Kumbham (February–March) with Tholpavakoothu, a traditional form of shadow puppetry performed as an offering to the Goddess. These early rituals set the spiritual tone for the much-anticipated Pooram that takes place in the last week of Meenam (March–April).

The highlight of the festival is the Pooram day, which includes a ritualistic offering to the Goddess and brilliant fireworks that light up the skies. In the days leading up to this, the temple premises come alive with a range of traditional and devotional events. One of the most striking sights is the illumination of the temple.

Kavassery Pooram is not just a festival but a heartfelt tribute to the divine, celebrated with unity, reverence, and grandeur by the entire community.

Peruvanam Pooram

Peruvanam Mahadeva Temple, Cherpu, Thrissur

March
2027

Peruvanam Pooram, a magnificent temple festival held annually at the revered Peruvanam Mahadeva Temple in Thrissur district, stands as a vibrant testament to Kerala's rich cultural heritage. Renowned for its majestic display of caparisoned elephants, intricate traditional music ensembles and captivating cultural performances, the Pooram attracts devotees and spectators alike.

The festival's highlight is undoubtedly the grand procession of elaborately decorated elephants. These majestic creatures carrying deities from neighboring temples are paraded on the temple ground, creating a spectacle of unparalleled grandeur. Accompanying the elephants is the enthralling sound of the panchavadyam, a traditional orchestra featuring percussion and wind instruments. The rhythmic beats and melodic tunes resonate through the air, creating an atmosphere charged with devotion and excitement.

Peruvanam Pooram transcends mere religious observance; it is a vibrant expression of community spirit and a celebration of Kerala's deep-rooted traditions. The festival showcases the region's artistic talents through various cultural performances, offering a glimpse into its rich history and artistic heritage. Every year, large crowds gather to witness this awe-inspiring spectacle, immersing themselves in the vibrant colors, sounds and traditions that define Peruvanam Pooram. It is an experience that leaves a lasting impression, fostering a sense of wonder and appreciation for Kerala's unique cultural identity.

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Conceived and Visualised by Invis Pvt. Ltd.