



KALIYOOTTU MAHOTSAVAM

MAJOR VELLAYANI DEVI TEMPLE



LOCATION

**Panchayat/
Municipality/
Corporation**

Kalliyoor Panchayat

District

Thiruvananthapuram



ACCESSIBILITY

**Nearest Town/
Landmark/ Junction**

Vellayani Temple Bus Stop – 20 m

Nearest Bus Station

Vellayani Temple Bus Stop – 20 m

**Nearest Railway
Station**

Trivandrum Central Railway Station – 8.5 Km

Nearest Airport

Trivandrum International Airport – 13.2 Km



CONTACT

Major Vellayani Devi Temple
Nemom, Vellayani – 695020

Contact 1: Kalliyoor Panchayat Office

Phone: +91-471-2400258

Contact 2: Travancore Devaswom Board

Phone: +91-471-2316963 (Public Relations Officer)



TIME

DATES

February/March/April (*Kumbham to Medam*)

FREQUENCY

Once in 3 Years

DURATION

64 Days

ABOUT THE FESTIVAL (Legend/History/Myth)

The Vellayani Devi Temple is a highly revered shrine in Kerala, dedicated to Goddess Bhadrakali. Vellayani Devi Temple is renowned for celebrating the longest non-pilgrimage festival of South India and the duration of the festival is around 64 days. This festival is held every three years, usually between February and April. The festival is known as the Kaliyoottu Mahotsavam, which literally means "the festival to sumptuously feed Devi. *Kaliyoottu* is the dramatic presentation of the genesis of Bhadrakali and Darika the representatives of good and evil respectively, their confrontation and later the extermination of Darika in devotional terms and with rhythmic footsteps.



RELEVANCE-
(Local / National / International)

Local



NO. OF PEOPLE PARTICIPATED

Above 2 Lakhs



EVENTS/PROGRAMS

Karadikottu
Uchabali
Dikku Bali
Paranettu
Nilathilporu
Aaraattu
Pongala

DESCRIPTION (*How festival is celebrated*)

Kaliyottu Mahotsavam is celebrated and staged on different days in several parts by the residents of this region. *Karadikottu* is the inaugural custom of the festival executed with the beating of a special drum. The performer is named as *Panan* by the local people. *Kalamkaval* is another significant custom of the festival during which the chief priest holds the idol of the deity on his head and performs a dance. As part of the *Uchabali* ritual, a performer enacts almost sixty four gestures. A well decorated crown made of coconut is placed at the site of *Uchabali*. As per the legendary story, a fight had commenced between the Goddess and the demon Darika. The battle scene is depicted through a drama known as *Paranettu*. It is usually enacted by the residents of the region on a stage set up at a height of almost 100 feet. The drama is usually performed at night that witnesses an august gathering of audience from different places. *Nilathilporu*, *Aaraattu* and *Pongala* are the other significant rituals of the festival.

