

MODULE-3
KERALA & HER TOURIST
POTENNTIAL
TOPIC-FAIRS & FESTIVALS



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KODUNGALLUR BHARANI



- The Kodungalloor Bharani festival is a yearly temple festival that takes place every March, in Kerala.
- The devotees who attend this festival are all lower caste Hindus and their yearly pilgrimage is peppered with music and dance.
- The festival begins during the Kumbhamasam Bharaninaal.
- The flag is raised in the temple, signifying the beginning of Kali's war with Darika.
- Thiruvonam is the day Kali is said to have actually fought Darika.
- The ritual of the kozhikallumoodal takes place during Thiruvonam.



- With the help of her retinue, Kali is said to have achieved victory over Darika on Ashwatinaal in Meenamasam.
- This is the day that the Bharani is celebrated.
- It is on this day that the kavu teendal ceremony takes place.
- The day starts with the Ashwati pooja, after which the different castes and groups assume their positions on their respective avakasha tharas.
- The Raja gives the signal for the kavu teendal ceremony to start.



- At his signal, the Palakya Velan first jumps and touches the temple wall.
- Then all the vellicapadus and other devotees start the kavu teendal.
- Flashing their swords and joined in what seems like a collective frenzy, they circle the temple.
- After circling the temple, they touch their sword to the outer bar on the temple wall.
- During the kavu teendal, the devotees also hurl pepper, turmeric and rice into the temple.



- The bharanipaatu are also sung as part of the kavu teendal ceremony.
- The following day, on Bharaninaal, a pooja takes place after which the temple is shut for seven days.

THRISSUR POORAM



- The Thrissur Pooram is considered to be the Mother of all Poorams, a culture highlight that towers above all other festivals .
- Thrissur pooram is a festival unique in its pageantry, magnitude and participation.
- The Thrissur Pooram, celebrated in the Malayalam month Of Medom (April-May) is a grand assembly of Gods and Goddesses in and around Thrissur.
- These Gods and Goddesses make their visit to the Vadakumnathan Temple premises on caparisoned elephants accompanied by grand ensembles of Chenda melam and pancha vadyam.



- The Ten participants of the Pooram are the Thiruvambady Bhagavathi and Paramekkavu Bhagavathi, Nethilakkavu Bhagavathi, Karamukku Bhagavathi, Ayyanthole Bhagavathi, Laloore Bhagavathi, Choorakkattukavu Bhagavathi, Chembukkavu Bhagavathi, Panamukkumpally Sastha, Kanimangalam Sastha.
- The processions and rituals of each of these deities follow a very strict itinerary, scheduled in such a way that the tempo of the Pooram celebrations - 36 hrs non-stop - is maintained without any loss of energy.



- Very many stories are told and retold about the origin of Thrissur pooram.
- Thrissur pooram is 200 plus years young and before that the "Arattupuzha pooram" conducted at Arattupuzha, some 16 km away from Vadakumnathan was the biggest temple festival of Kerala.
- All the temples participating Thrissur pooram and Kuttanellore pooram was the regular participant of "Arattupuzha pooram" .
- Once these temples were delayed to attend the festival due to heavy rain or so and then chief of Peruvanam Gramam denied the entry.



- As an act of reprisal Thrissur Naduvazhi the chief of Vadakunnathan, known as Yogadiripad and Kuttanellur Naduvazhi started the pooram in Thrissur.
- Later due to some reasons the Kuttanellur Naduvazhi disassociated the celebration at Thrissur.
- Since the withdrawal of Kuttanellur Naduvazhi the glamour of the pooram was lost and the two 'Naduvazhies' began to treat each other as enemies.
- It was in this juncture the former ruler of Cochin, His Highness Ramavarma Raja, popularly known as Sakthan Thampuran (1751-1805 AD) became the Maharaja of Kochi.



- Sakthan Thampuran unified the 10 temples situated around Vadakumnathan temple and took steps to celebrate Thrissur Pooram as a mass festival.
- Sakthan Thampuran classified the participants in to two groups the western and the Eastern The western group consist of Thiruvambady, Kanimangalam, Laloor, Ayyanthole, and Nethilakkavu temples. Paramekkavu, Karamukku, Chembukavu. Choorakottukavu and Panamukkampilly comes under eastern group.



- The Maharaja re - organized the annual festival in its present form in front of Vadakumnathan.
- Sakthan Thampuran also directed the main temples at Thrissur, Paramekkavu and Thiruvambady to extent all support and help to other poorams
- Recently the Kanimangalam changed to eastern side.
- The event management of the whole pooram was chalked out by His Highness Sakthan Thamburan and followed till now.

BOAT RACE



- The race of Chundan Vallom (snake boat) is the chief event hence Vallom Kalli – the boat game is also addressed as snake boat race.
- The Boat Festival brings out the amusing tradition and diverse culture of the state.
- It is one of the biggest festivals in Kerala and is held every year.
- The people celebrate Kerala Boat Festival with great zeal irrespective of any caste and religion and the snake boat race stretching from the month of July to September.



- The boat is made of Anjali wood; the wood is cut and transported to the location where it is constructed
- The boats are more than a 100ft in length with a rear portion rising to a height of about 20ft.



- The major events are:
- 1. The Nehru Trophy Boat Race in Punnamada Lake, Alappuzha
- 2. Aranmula Uthrattadi Vallamkali at Aranmula, Pathanamthitta
- 3. President's Trophy Boat Race in Ashtamudi lake, Kollam
- 4. Kallada Boat Race in Kallada River, Kollam
- 5. Pampa Boat Race in Neerattupuram



- 6. Champakulam Moolam Boat Race
- 7. Kumarakom Boat Race
- 8. Payippad Jalotsavam
- 9. Kannelty Sree Narayana Boat Race in Karunagappally, Kollam
- 10. Thazhathangadi Boat Race, Kottayam
- 11. Gothuruth Boat Race, in the Periyar, Ernakulam
- 12. Piravom Boat Race in Piravom



- The Aranmula Boat race is the oldest riverboat celebration that takes place in Aranmula near a Hindu temple devoted to Lord Krishna and Arjuna.
- People with great enthusiasm come to visit the temple during the festive times and also the great event of snake boat race on banks of river Pampa.
- The snake boats are addressed Palliyodams which in other words is Chundan Vallom, are the divine vessels of the presiding deity in Sree Parthasarathy temple.
- There are three important festivals that these snake take part in solemn religious custom – Thiruvonam, Uthrittathi and Aranmula Vallasadya.



- Thiruvonam - The special boats that is the arrival of Thiruvonathoni from kattoor is celebrated initially at Aranmula.
- A boat with necessary provisions and an ever-burning lamp is arranged to set off its journey from the temple Katoor around 6pm to reach Aranmula around 4am the next day that is the Thiruvonam day.
- The snake boats accompany these special boats on the way and people of all age groups gather to witness this event



- . Uthrittathi - It is considered to be the day of the idol sanctified in the south hence there will be a snake boat regatta in front of the temple in celebrations.
- Aranmula Vallasadya - An elaborate and a formal meal for the oarsmen of snake boats at the Parthasarathy temple is served.
- This mega fest includes people from all parts of the state.
- Valla sadya is performed in a way; the one who offers the feast must invite the leader (karanathan). The decorated boat will arrive with the other boats.



- They are welcomed with thalappoli (a traditional procession carried out to attract happiness and prosperity) and offerings, marching to the arranged banquet later.