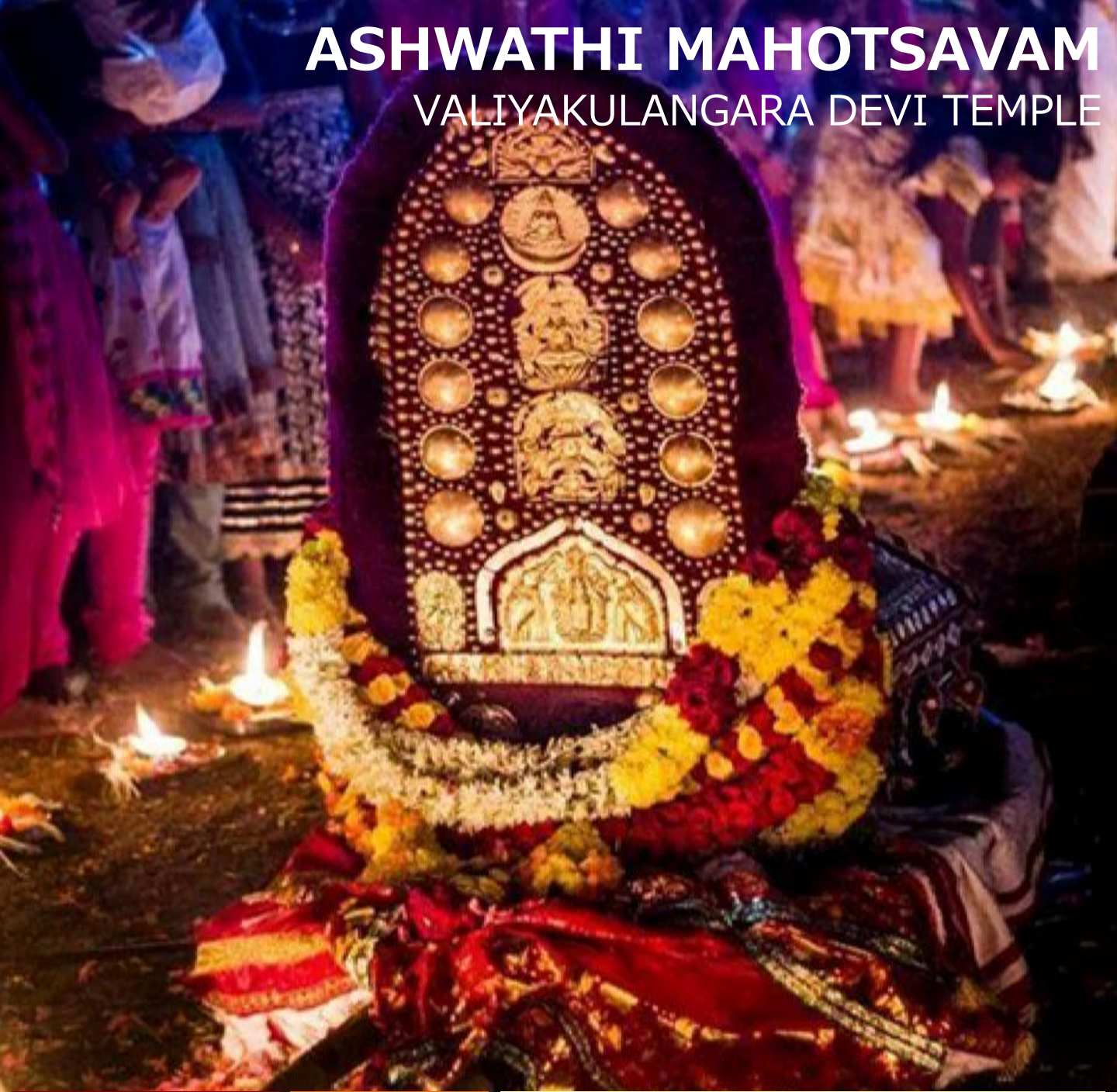


ASHWATHI MAHOTSAVAM

VALIYAKULANGARA DEVI TEMPLE



LOCATION

Panchayat/
Municipality/
Corporation

Karthikapally Grama Panchayat

District

Alappuzha

Nearest Town/
Landmark/ Junction

Haripad Town – 5 Km

Nearest Bus station

Haripad Bus Station – 4.8 Km

Nearest Railway
station

Haripad Railway Station – 5Km

Nearest Airport

Nedumbassery International Airport –115Km
Trivandrum International Airport – 120Km



ACCESSIBILITY



CONTACT

Valiyakulangara Devi Temple,
 Karthikapally PO
 Mahadevikadu
 Alappuzha - 690516
 Contact Person: Suresh (Temple Advisory Committee Joint Secretary)
 Mobile: +91-9744048599



TIME

DATES

February- March (*Kumbham*)

FREQUENCY

Annual

DURATION

10 Days

ABOUT THE FESTIVAL (Legend/History/Myth)

Valiyakulangara Amma is the life-in force of *Kodungallur Amma*. Centuries back the Mahadevi kadu where the temple is situated was part of the Karthikapalli region. The area with many forests had many 'evil *Devathas*'. It is believed that the evil presence caused utter poverty and death from diseases in the region. Astrological remedy suggested appeasing *Kodungallur Amma* to overcome the problems. A group of people under the leadership of Mannadiyil Padbhanabhan Thampi who then was the captain of the army of Travancore kingdom went to Kodungallur and performed *Bhajana* by staying there. Following directions from a dream on the vision, a temple was built north of the big pond near Padbhanabhan Thampi's house. From the dream, it was interpreted that *Kodungallur Amma* would come there before the completion of the *Mandala* month. At that time a Brahmin Saint was travelling to Trivandrum to attend *Murajapam*. To ward of dangers while travelling he was carrying a sword invoked with the power of *Kodungallur Amma*. Those days a resting place (supper and sleeping facilities) was provided in Karthikapilly palace for those going for *Murajapam* in Trivandrum. The Brahmin saint had taken the coastal route to reach Karthikapalli and reached the big pond of the region. He kept his invoked sword, palm leaf umbrella and cloth bag under a banyan tree near the pond and bathed in the pond. After his bath and prayers when he tried to take his sword from the ground under the banyan tree, it seemed to be stuck there. It is said that a branch of the tree broke and fell and he could see a divine aura in the nearby Panachikattu forest area. The life-in force aura of the Devi seen at the forest area was invoked into the *daru peetam* (small wooden stool) and daily pooja's were conducted. Afterwards a temple was built at the place where the sword got stuck on the ground. The similarities of the idol of *Kodungallur Amma* and the gold attire (*Thanka Angi*) of Valiyakulangara Devi uphold the belief that the Devi has come from Kodungallur.



RELEVANCE-
 (Local / National /
 International)

Local



**NO. OF PEOPLE
 PARTICIPATED**

Above 1,00,000

EVENTS/PROGRAMS

Deeparadhana
Chanthattam
Kuthiyottam
Ashwathi Kettukazhcha
Desa Thalappoli
Koota Ezhunnellippu
Fireworks

DESCRIPTION (How festival is celebrated)

Ashwathi Mahotsavam falls in the Malayalam calendar month of *Kumbham* on *Aswathi* asterism. The festivities are organized under four *4 karas*. The annual festival is marked by various rituals like *Ganapathi Homam*, *Parakottipattu*, *Sarppam Pattu*, *Chanthattam* etc. *Chanthaattam* is one of the favourite offerings (*Vazhipadu*) made to the Devi. *Kuthiyottam* is another ritualistic offering made to pay obeisance and seek fulfilment of one's desire. Traditional performing arts like *Koodiyattam*, *Kathakali* and *Thayambaka* and musical concerts can be witnessed. The most significant event associated with the festival is the *Valiyakulangara-Kettukazhcha*, the great chariot festival that showcases Haripad's true heritage. The event is an offering by the people of Valiyakulangara to their beloved deity known for Her spontaneous blessings on true devotees. It is a mark of devotion, unflinching faith and gratitude for showering prosperity and happiness on them. The spectacular *Kettukazhchas* are paraded in the paddy field in front of the temple.

