



# NAVARATHRI FESTIVAL

## KUMARANALLOOR DEVI TEMPLE



### LOCATION

**Panchayath/  
Municipality/  
Corporation**

Kumaranalloor Grama Panchayath

**District**

Kottayam



### ACCESSIBILITY

**Nearest Town/  
Landmark/ Junction**

Kumaranalloor Junction – 1.2 km

**Nearest Bus station**

Kumaranalloor Bus Stop – 1.3 km

**Nearest Railway  
station**

Kottayam Railway Station – 5 km

**Nearest Airport**

Cochin International Airport – 83.3 km



### CONTACT

The Administrator,  
Kumaranalloor Ooranma Dewasowm,  
Kumaranalloor - 686016  
Phone: +91-481-2312737  
Email: [administrator@kumaranalloortemple.com](mailto:administrator@kumaranalloortemple.com)  
Website: [www.kumaranalloortemple.com](http://www.kumaranalloortemple.com)



TIME

DATES

September - October

FREQUENCY

Annual

DURATION

9 days

ABOUT THE FESTIVAL (Legend/History/Myth)

Kumaranalloor Devi temple is said to be more than 2400 years old, as per historical and mythological evidences as well as other sources of information.

Cheraman Perumal was the ruling emperor of Kerala when the construction of a temple at Udayanapuram to install the idol of goddess Durga began; while he commenced the construction of another temple at a place (which is later known as Kumaranalloor) to install the idol of lord Kumara or Subramanian. Meanwhile, a disturbing incident took place at Meenakshi temple, Madurai in Tamil Nadu. The gem-studded nose ring of Devi was stolen or went missing. The king ordered an enquiry. At the same time, he ordered to kill the priest of the temple unless he could solve this problem within 41 days. Because, the nose ring would not be misplaced without his knowledge. However, the priest was innocent. He was confused and perplexed in this dilemma. He took refuge at the feet of Devi. As days and weeks progressed, the grief-stricken priest spent his days and nights crying and praying. On the night of the 40th day, he slept at the doorsteps of temple, meditating and contemplating his fate that his life would reach an end on the next day. However, he had a dream that night. Devi appeared before him and ordered him to quit the place at once. The perplexed and bewildered priest winked his eyes. He had seen a thejas (divine light) moving forward. He followed it without being aware of where he was going. The thejas led him a long distance and finally reached the place which latter became known as Kumaranalloor. At Kumaranalloor, the temple was under construction to install the idol of lord Subramanian or Kumaran. The Thejas entered into the Sreekovil (sanctum sanctorum) of the temple. Moreover, it was at the Prathista time (suitable time of installation) that the thejas entered the Sreekovil. Then there was an Asareeri (an Inerporeal and divine voice), Kumaran Alla Ooril (this place is not for kumara, This is Kumari's or Devi's place). Hence it got the name Kumaranalloor. Perumal was disappointed and frustrated. He travelled to Udayanapuram to install the idol of Kumara, at the temple, which was under construction. On the way, Perumal encountered some obstacles but finally managed to reach Udayanapuram and install the idol of Subramanian at the Sreekovil of the temple. Later, Perumal returned to Kumaranalloor with the Devi's idol and began the preparation for installing it there. Yet another thought struck him that the idol has to be changed. There was an idol lying in water at Vedagiri a nearby place. Perumal brought the idol from Vedagiri. Maharshi Parasurama had supposedly made and worshipped the idol in past. At the time of installation, a Brahmin sage with matted hair, came and entered the Sreekovil and installed the idol in a second. As soon as the installation of idol was done he vanished. To this date people believe that the Brahmin sage was Maharshi Parasurama. The Brahmin priest, who followed the thejas from Madurai, became the priest of the temple. His residence is known as Madurai illam. His successors worship the Devi even today. Navarathri Festival History circles behind Durga. In nine days Durga fight against Mahishasuran (a demon), and in the ninth day that is in the Navami day Durga killed Mahishasuran.



RELEVANCE-  
(Local / National / International)

Local



NO. OF PEOPLE PARTICIPATED

Approximately 10,000



## EVENTS/PROGRAMS

*Mura Japam*  
*Mahabhogavatha*  
*Sapthaha Parayanam*  
*Bhajans*  
*Sangeetha Aradhana*  
*Saraswathi Pooja*  
*Vidyarambham*

## DESCRIPTION (*How festival is celebrated*)

Every year *Navarathri* festival celebrated with Special *Pooja's* and offerings. From the first day of the *Navarathri* festival until last day *Mura Japam* (special chanting of mantras by scholars) in the main *Mandapam* is conducted and is unique of its kind and is very special for *Devi*. During the *Navarathri* festival every year *Mahabhogavatha Sapthaha Parayanam*(reading of *Mahabhogavatham*) in the leadership of *Bhagavatha Hamsom Shri Maliyoor Shankaran Namboothiri* is also conducted in the temple auditorium (*Oottupura*). Famous scholars from different parts of Kerala conducts *Bhajans* and elequations on *Vedas* every evening during the *Navarathri* festival. For the last three days of navarathri festivals '*Sangeetha Aradhana*'(musical *Pooja*) is also conducted in the temple premises and famous musicians from different parts of the state take part in it.

During the *Navarathri*, festival important *Pooja* is the *Saraswathi Pooja*. Students from different sectors takes part in the *Pooja* by placing there books and tools for *Pooja* on the eighth day and taking it on the tenth day and starting their new studies. It is said that the tenth day is auspicious day to start a new study and the day is called *Vidyarambham* meaning starting the study. This process is famous in this temple . The *Vidyarambham* for small childrens is the main offering on the day and conducted in the leadership of *Bhagavatha Hamsom Shri Maliyoor Shankaran Namboothiri* and other scholars.

