



# VELLATTU MAHOTSAVAM

## SRI VISHNUMAYA TEMPLE, AVANANGATTIL KALARI



**LOCATION**

Panchayath/ Municipality/ Corporation	Koratty Panchayat
District	Thrissur



**ACCESSIBILITY**

Nearest Town/ Landmark/ Junction	Thalikulam – 5.8 Km
Nearest Bus station	Thalikulam Bus Stop – 5 Km
Nearest Railway station	Thrissur Railway Station – 18.1 Km
Nearest Airport	Cochin International Airport – 57.4 Km



**CONTACT**

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**TIME**

DATES	FREQUENCY	DURATION
February – March	Annually	3 days



## ABOUT THE FESTIVAL (Legend/History/Myth)

The myth starts with the story of *Avanangattil Panicker* who resided with family anciently in a settlement area including the temple compound was in a forest replete with the plants named *Avanakku*. The original *Panicker* family cleared the forest and built a *Kalari* for training in the traditional technique of *Kalari*. Unfortunately *Unnunni panicker* was the lone male member left in the family, the couple had no children and were very sad about it. As time passed the grief worsened and they decided to offer deep prayers to their family god. In their deep devotion the god gave a boon that they will have twin sons. The couple named them *Unnithaman* and *Kelunni*. Before the twins reached boyhood, their father left them forever. The boys received training in Martial Arts later under their mother and uncle (their Guru). The twin-brothers on completion of training became brave warriors in *Kalarippayattu* & started their own *Kalari*. Aspirants from all over, from far and near flowed to the *Kalari* for learning Martial arts. Naturally the *Panicker*-brothers incurred the jealousy and wrath of their colleagues and began attacking them. Black magic activities were performed to turn Evil spirits against the brother's. The *Panicker*-brothers finally took a decision to win the favor of a God for self-protection and proper conduction of their profession. They worshipped God *Ganapathy* (Lord of Obstacles) and received his blessings. But their enemies grew in number and power posing a heavy unbearable threat. *Bhattatiri* was completely under the spell of Lord *Sreevishnumaya* who virtually implements actions to devotees by entrusting *Bhootha Ganagal* (*Bhootha Ganagal* is the divine army of Lord *Parama Siva*) belonging to 396 genres for action. *Bhootha Ganas* are not a single deity. There are 390 genres of *Bhootha Ganas* who form the aides of Lord *Sreevishnumaya*. Kind-hearted *Bhootha Ganas* extend helps to the deprived to get out of their miseries. Even though *Bhattathiri* was an ardent worshipper of *Sreevishnumaya* and *Bhootha Ganas* the financial situation in the family (*Illam*) of was not so sound and he handed over Lord *Sreevishnumaya* and the *Bhootas* to *Panicker*-brothers. Lord *Sreevishnumaya* tested them thoroughly during this time by various ways and means and it was a very hard time for the brothers but eventually they came out successful when Lord *Sree Vishnu* finally relented and appeared before them enlightened by their deep devotion and spiritual incarnation. The Lord then assured the *Panickers* that he would stand by them there after for safeguarding truth, justice and ethics and protect them & the people from the evils sprits.







**RELEVANCE-**  
(Local / National /  
International)

Local



**NO. OF PEOPLE  
PARTICIPATED**

Approximately 1000



## EVENTS/PROGRAMS

Processions

Special Poojas

*Roopakalam*

## DESCRIPTION *(How festival is celebrated)*

This is being conducted every year and lasts 4 days of festivities, processions, special poojas. The art & music festivals of the cultural program starts even before a week at *Avanangattu Kalari mandapam*. Varieties of art forms are being conducted in this week long celebration and devotees enjoy in divine devotion and eternal happiness with the blessings of *Sree Vishnumayadevan*. The ancient & traditional procession is a part of the *Mahotsavam* in which *Sree Vishnumayadevan* along with sub *Devas* and Devotees is taken as a procession with holy lamps, decorated ornaments accompanying all art forms, music & traditional decorations. *Roopakalam*( large art drawn in the ground with natural colour powders) will be drawn in the ground with beautiful colour powders, the *Roopakalam* represent the picture of *Sree Vishnumayadevan*.

