

## Guruvayur visitor guide

by Sunil Menon,

[www.guruvayoor.com](http://www.guruvayoor.com)

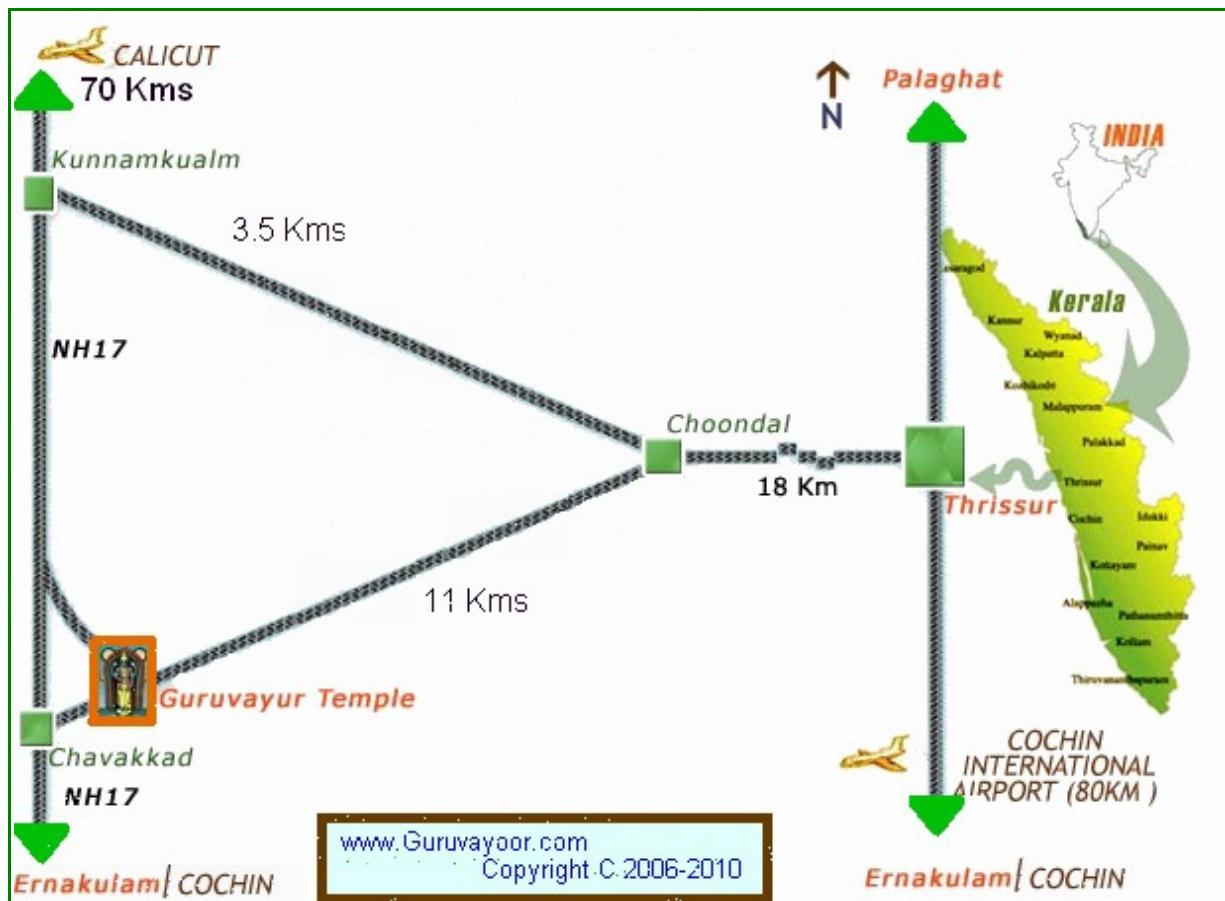
I have compiled this visitors guide as an answer to all the questions regarding Guruvayoor visit. The information you find in this guide comes from various sources including devaswom guides and web site. Please let me know your comments, additions and suggestion to [visitorguide@guruvayoor.com](mailto:visitorguide@guruvayoor.com)

### Location

Guruvayur, the abode of Lord Sree Guruvayurappan, is located 29 kms north west of Thrissur (Trichur) in central Kerala.

Map of Guruvayur town: <http://www.wikimapia.org/#y=10595262&x=76040690&z=17&l=0&m=a>

### HOW TO REACH GURUVAYUR



#### By road

Guruvayur is well connected with the other parts of the country by road and rail. It is half an hour drive by car from Thrissur (Trichur) or 15 minutes from the National Highway passing through Kunnamkulam which is just 8 kms away from Guruvayur. The private bus stand is towards the east of

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the temple, near Manjulal (the banyan tree). Other option is buses ply every 5 minutes from Thrissur or Kunnankulam to Guruvayur. Kerala Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) runs bus services from all major locations of the state and few inter-state services. The bus stand is 500 meters to the west of the temple. Both KSRTC and private buses offer interstate services to all major South Indian cities like Madras, Madurai, Palani, Salem, Coimbatore, Thiruchandoor, Mysore, Mangalore, Uduppi, Mookambika etc.

### By Rail

Guruvayur has got a railway station towards the east of the temple which is connected to the Madras-Mangalore main line at Thrissur. It has got computerised ticket booking facility and tickets can be booked to any locations from here. One from the Mangalore side can get down at the Kuttippam station. Regular buss services are available from there to Guruvayur. Those from the Madras/Trivandrum side can get down at Thrissur.

### By Air

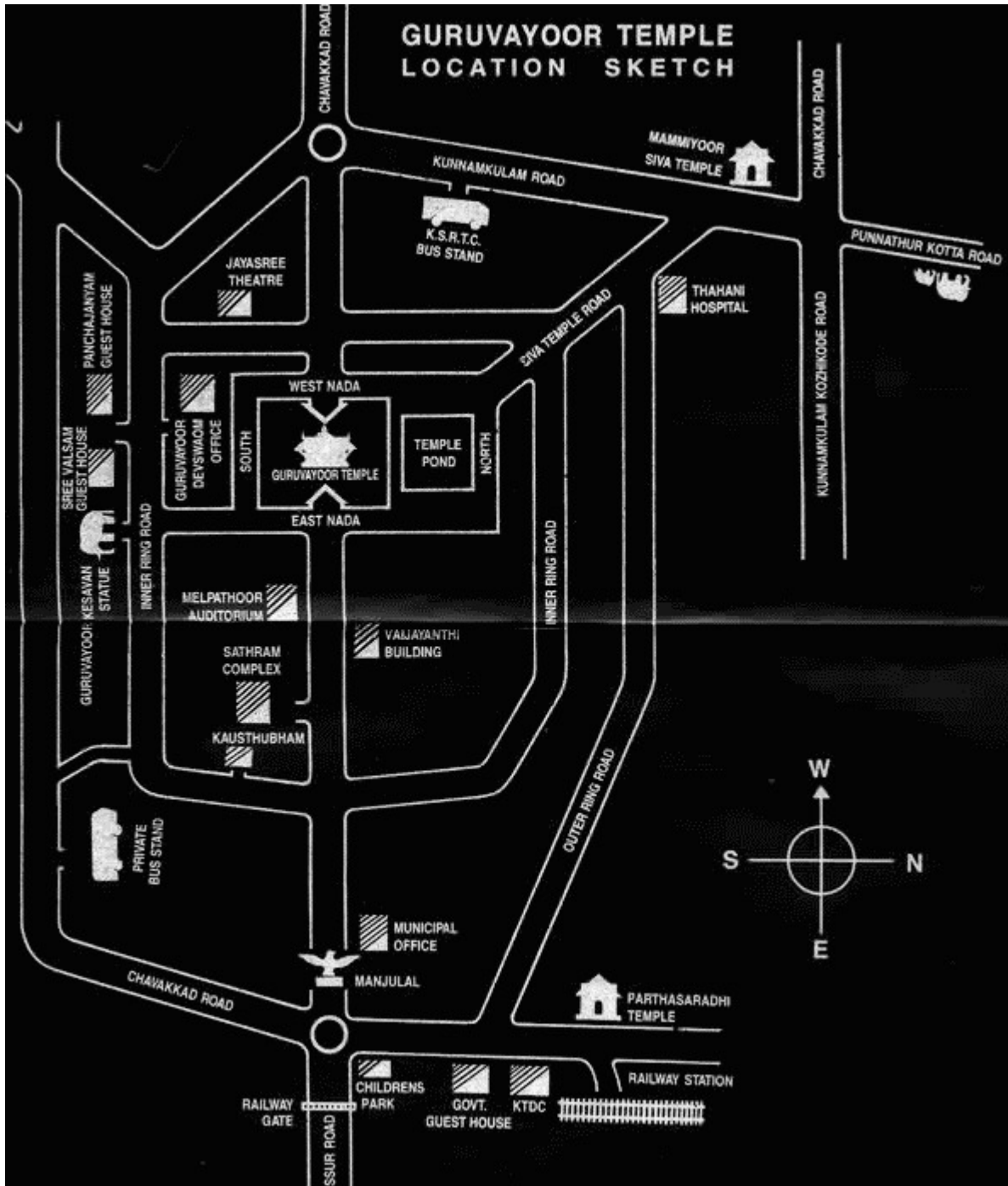
Kochi (Cochin - COK) international airport (Nedumbassery) is 80 kms from Guruvayur and the Kozhikode (Calicut - CLT) airport is 100 kms away. Both are international airports with connecting flights to many domestic and international cities.

### Approximate road distance from other cities (in Kms)

Alappuzha	136 Km
Chennai	600 Km
Coimbatore	120Km
Kochi (Cochin)	80 Km
Kannoor	198 Km
Kozhikkode (Calicut)	108 Km
Kottayam	146 Km
Kollam	225 Km
Madurai	300 Km
Malappuram	70 Km
Mangalore	370Km
Munnar	179 Km
Mysore	320 Km
Palakkad	86 Km
Shoranur	40 Km
Sabarimala	214 Km
Thrissur	30 Km
Trivandrum (Thiruvananthapuram)	296 Km

Guruvayur Temple phone number - 2556280 (prefix STD code 487, if needed)

Temple township map



## **PARKING**

Devaswom public parking compound is in front of the Kousthubham Rest House at East Nada (entrance). A nominal fee is charged for parking in this compound.

Another parking compound is in the South Nada, near the 'Pay and Use' toilet close to the Panchajanyam Rest House.

## **COMFORT STATION**

On the western side of the temple tank there is a comfort station functioning round the clock. Pilgrims who arrive at odd hours and those who do not find or require lodging/accommodation, can keep their luggage at a nominal fee. They can use the lavatories and bathrooms. Also there are lavatories on the north and south corners away from the Eastern Gopuram and Pay and Use Toilets at South Nada near Panchajanyam Rest House for the use of pilgrims. Special facilities for keeping the foot-wear and other articles are provided near the east and west side of the temple.

## **FOOD**

Devaswom provides free food - Prasada Oottu - in the Oottupura inside the temple for the devotees every day. It starts at 10.30 am in the morning.

Other than that there are plenty of restaurants and canteens in town.

## **MEDICAL**

Devaswom has a medical center and an Ayurvedic hospital providing free checkup (except laboratory) and medicine. Medical center is to the south of the temple which provides medical treatment at a nominal cost. This is a 75 bedded hospital with facilities like ECG, X-ray etc.

The Ayurvedic Hospital near the KSRTC Bus stand - Melpathur Memorial Ayurvedic Hospital - gives free treatment

## **Hospital & Health department Phone numbers**

**255 6335, 255 6799, 255 6347, 255 6365, 255 6538, 255 6670 or 255 6672**  
**Fax Number +91 487 255 4844**

**Hospital Assistant Manager 400**

**Health Department Health Supervisor 295**

**Junior Health Inspector , Health Office 293**

**Temple phone number - 2556280 (prefix STD code 487, if needed)**

**DAILY POOJAS IN THE TEMPLE**

**THE TEMPLE OPENS AT 3.00 AM**

3.00am to 3.30am	Nirmalyam
3.20am to 3.30am	Thailabhishekam, Vakacharthu, Sankhabhishekam
3.30am to 4.15am	Malar Nivedyam, Alankaram
4.15am to 4.30am	Usha Nivedyam
4.30am to 6.15am	Ethirettu pooja followed by Usha pooja
7.15am to 9.00am	Seeveli, Palabhishekam, Navakabhishekam, Pantheeradi Nivedyam, and Pooja
11.30am to 12.30pm	Ucha pooja (the noon pooja)

**TEMPLE WILL BE CLOSED BETWEEN 12.30 AND 4.30PM AND REOPENS AT 4.30 PM**

4.30pm to 5.00pm	Seeveli
6.00pm to 6.45pm	Deeparadhana
7.30pm to 7.45pm	Athazha pooja Nivedyam
7.45pm to 8.15pm	Athazha pooja
8.45pm to 9.00pm	Athazha seeveli
9.00pm to 9.15pm	Thrippuka, Olavayana
9.15pm	The Sreekovil remains closed. On the day of Special illuminations called "Vilakku" The Thripuka is performed after that. The Sreekovil will be closed after Thripuka. Then the Krishnanattam, a colourful traditional dance-drama on Lord Krishna's life is enacted inside the Temple on specified days.

- The timings given are approximate. It may vary if there is Udayasthamana pooja or on certain special occasions.

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**LIST OF OFFERINGS WITH RATE (as of Nov 2006)**

NAME OF OFFERING	MINIMUM CHARGES (Rs)
Palpayasam	10
Naipayasam	10
Sarkarapayasam	10
Rice Nivedyam	7
Appam	10
Ada	10
Avil	5
Thirumadhuram	5
Butter Nivedyam	5
Sugar and Plantain	5
Undamala	35
Thirumudimala	10
Niramala	75
Annaprasam (Chorun)	10
Bhagavathy Azhal	10
Butter after Japam	2
Kelikkayyu	10
Archana Purusha sooktham	3
Archana Ashtotharam	4
Archana Sahasra namam	5
Alankaram with Kalabham (6 Balls)	2040
Kalabham 1 Ball	340
Kalabham 1 Packet	8
Ghee Lamp	1
Sreekovil Ghee Lamp ( For one time a day)	300
Sreekovil Ghee Lamp ( For a full day)	1800
Sreekovil Ghee Lamp ( For a full day including upadevas)	2700

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Thali pooja	10
Oil Abhishekam (250ml)	22
Malar Nivedyam	10
Marriage	200
Ashtapathi (One Chapter)	2
Geetha ( One Chapter)	2
Bhagavatham (One Chapter)	2
Bhagavatha Sapthaham	750
Narayaneeyam (One Dasakam)	2
Ganapathy Archana	3
Sastha Archana	3
Lalitha Sahasra nama Archana	5
Palada Pradhaman	90
Eratti Payasam	100
Namaskaram (Approximate)	4500
Athazham (Approximate)	4500
** Udayasthamana Pooja ( ForBooking)	50000
Ahassu	1000
Illumination (Chuttu Vilakku)(For Booking) [Available from 2010]	20000
Illumination in Bhagavathy Temple	1000
Krishnanattam	1500
Malayidal ( Sabarimala)	2
Kettu Nira ( Sabarimala)	5
Thulabharam Thattil Panam( Cost of Items extra)	5
Anayoottu	6000
Go-pooja	250
Go-Preethi	10
Maintenance of Elephants	Any amount

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Alroopam	Any amount
Prasada oottu	Any amount
Vahana pooja (Heav Vehicles)	250
Vahana Pooja Car, Jeep etc	100
Vahana Pooja Auto rikshaw, Motor cycle etc	50
Vidyarambham	5
Saptha Sudhi Abhishekam	202
Saptha Sudhi Abhishekam (Minimum)	2
Veda Parayanam	700

### TIMINGS FOR OBTAINING PRASADAM

<b>Prasadams</b>	<b>Working hours of ticket counters</b>	<b>Working hours of Counters distributing Prasadams</b>
Malar (puffes rice)	4.00am to 11.00am	Next day 5.00am to 10.00am
Neipayasam	4.00am to 8.00am 5.00pm to 8.00pm	5am to 8am on the same day 5.00am to 8.00am Next day
Plaintain, Sugar, Butter, Kalabham(packet) Abhisheka oil	Whenever counter is open	Whenever counter is open subject to availability
Palada, Eratti Payasam	5.00pm to 8.00 pm	Next day after Ucha pooja till the shrine is closed.
Sarkarapayasam, Thrimadhuram	4.00am to 9.00 am	After the Ucha pooja till the shrine closed.
Palpayasam	5.00am to 10.00 am 5.00pm to 8.00 pm	Same day after the noon pooja till the shrine closed Next day after the noon pooja till the shrine closed
Appam, Ada, Avil	4.00am to 10.00 am	The same night after the Nivedyam till the beginning of Athazha Seeveli and next day 5.00am. to 9.00am
Kalabham	4.00am to 11.00am 5.00pm to 8.00 pm	Next day from 5.00am to 11.00am from 5.00am to 11.00am on the day after
Undamala &Thirumudimala	4.00am to 11.00 am 5.00pm to 8.00 pm	Next day from 5am to 11am 5.00am to 11.00am on the day after



### **Accommodations**

There are plenty of lodging facilities in Guruvayur. We will list the accommodation facilities provided by the Temple Devaswom. The devotees can reserve the rooms in advance. For this, full room rent and reservation charges should be sent to The Administrator, Guruvayur Devaswom, Guruvayur - 680101. by Demand Draft or Money Order well in advance. Full information about the reservation should be given along with the Demand Draft or Money Order.

### **GURUVAYUR DEVASWOM SATRAM**

The Devaswom Satram located a little away from the Eastern Gopuram has 82 rooms with attached bath and 27 rooms with common bath. There are four blocks in the Satram, namely South Block, East Block, TC Block and Canteen Block

### **GURUVAYUR DEVASWOM Kousthubham rest house**

The Kousthubham rest house is situated adjacent to the sathram building.

The rates are as follows

2 Bedded a/c Room : Rs. 300/- + LT

2 Bedded Room : Rs. 100/-

6 Bedded Room : Rs. 275/-

4 Bedded Room : Rs. 175/-

Dormitory : Rs.300/-

Reservation charge Rs.10 per room

### **GURUVAYUR DEVASWOM Panchajanyam rest house**

The Panchajanyam rest house is situated a bit away to the south side of the east gopuram.

The rates are as follows

2 Bedded Non A/C Room Rs. 150/- + Reservation Charge

2 Bedded A/C Room Rs. 440/- + L. T ( Rs. 66/-)

5 Bedded Non A/C Room Rs. 350/-+ Reservation Charge

5 Bedded A/C Room Rs. 700/- + L.T (Rs. 105/-)

Reservation Charge for all Non A/C room is Rs.10/- .

No Advance reservation for A/C Rooms.

### **GURUVAYUR DEVASWOM Sreevalsam rest house**

This guest house is located very near the south side of the temple's east gopuram. There are six air.conditioned 2 bedded suits available here. There is a big lobby in front of the guest house.

### **Accommodation related phone numbers**

Dial (+91 – 487 codes if required) - 255 6335, 255 6799, 255 6347, 255 6365, 255 6538, 255 6670

Now dial the required extension number:

**Sreevalsam Guest House Reception 330,**

**Panchajanyam Rest House Reception 300,**

**Kousthubham Reception 500 Assistant Manager 505**

## THE TEMPLE CUSTOMS

1. Only Hindus are allowed to enter the temple.
2. The temple pond on the northern side is known as Rudratheertham. Devotees can purify themselves by taking bath here and can enter the temple preferably with wet clothes.
3. Follow the temple rules and regulations, so that all can comfortably worship the Lord.
4. Do not enter the temple wearing shirt, banyan, pyjama, lungi, chequered clothes, chapels etc. There are facilities to keep them outside the temple.
5. Co-operate with the Temple officials, who are always ready to guide and help the devotees.
6. Do not take video camera, mobile phone, radio, tape recorder etc. inside the temple wall
7. Do not take, camera inside the Nalambalam
8. Do not touch on the big altar stone (Balikkallu) by foot
9. Immediately after marriage , the couples should not enter the Nalambalam.
10. Do not spit in the temple premises
11. Do not retain babies and children for a long time within the Nalambalam.
12. The receipt for the remittance for offerings (Vazhipad) can be obtained from the booking counters on the ground floor of the oottupura. Be careful not to get deceived by fraud agents for such bookings.
13. Receipts obtained for the feeding of the poor etc. should be put inside the box for the purpose in front of the booking counter.
14. Such items as miniature human figures, replicas of hands, legs, eyes, abnormal body eruptions etc. made of gold and silver can be obtained from the temple official, who are available near the Kodimaram (Flag-staff). Keep these on the platform of the Kodimaram and offer prayers. Put the amount you wish to offer in the Bhandaram (Hundi). Do not buy these items from outside, which are fakes.
15. Udayasthamana Pooja, Vilakku, Bhagavathy Chuttuvilakku, Namaskaram, Krishnanattam and offerings of the like , have to be booked in advance.
16. Ornaments and such other costly offerings can be put in the Bhandaram.
17. Enter the temple with an absolute sense of devotion.
18. Take special care of your valuables.
19. Offerings and the relevant letters should be sent to the Administrator, Guruvayur Devaswom, Guruvayur - 680101, Kerala. Complete information about offerings and full address of the person making the offerings in bold capital letters should be given on the money order coupon or covering letter of DD. If these are not given, the amount sent will be put in to the Bhandaram.
20. Bank drafts or Money orders should be sent well in advance to make the offerings on the desired date.

An endowment can be made by depositing an amount, and the desired offerings can be made with the acquired interest.

## **What to see in Guruvayur.**

### **Mammiyoor Shiva Temple :**

Many of the devotees who visit the temple also visit the Shiva Temple at Mammiyoor, the abode of Lord Shiva. Located about half a Kilometer from Guruvayoor, it is not only a visiting place for the devotees, but also a temple worth visiting by ordinary visitors.

### **ELEPHANT SANCTUARY - Punnathur Kotta**

The Devaswom maintains a unique elephant sanctuary, the only one of its kind in the world and an incredibly captivating place indeed. It has about 55 elephants. These jumbos are the offerings of the devotees to the Lord. A large number of pilgrims and tourists visit this fascinating spot every day.

The present elephant sanctuary is in Punnathur Kotta about 3 kms north of Guruvayur temple. Punnathur Kotta is the ancient palace of the Punnathur Rajas, now in the possession of the Devaswom. It is a 10 acre compound which Devaswom purchased in 1975. There is also an ancient temple where Lord Siva and Bhagavathy are worshipped.

All the elephants were shifted to the Punnathur Kotta in a grant procession lead by Gajarajan Kesavan, all the elephants from the Kovilakam marched to Punnathur Kotta on 1975 June 25.

Many elephants of Guruvayur have become the part of history. The sweet memories of Gajarajan Kesavan - literally the king of all Elephants- still enthrall the hearts of the elephant lovers worldwide. The mammoth physique, his intelligence and devotion to the Lord were very famous.

### **LIBRARY & READING ROOM**

Devaswom has a well equipped religious library with a wide range of books on religion, philosophy, art and culture. There are hundreds of rare palm-leaf manuscripts in the reference section.

A wide variety of journals and most of the leading newspapers are available in the reading room attached to the library.

The library is functioning in the eastern block of Sathram building. It functions on all days except Sundays from 8.00am to 8.00pm.

### **MUSEUM**

There is a museum in the office Annex building at East nada and a Ganapathy temple. Many rare offerings by devotees to the Lord are exhibited here.

The museum is kept open from 8.00 am to 8.00pm on all days except Tuesdays and other holidays.

### **MURAL INSTITUTE**

In the fire tragedy in Guruvayur temple which shocked the devotees in 1970, the ancient mural paintings on the three walls of the Sreekovil were damaged. But only a few artists were then available,

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with training in this traditional temple art form, to do the renovation. The authorities gave serious thought to the preservation of this art form and decided to setup an Institute of Mural Painting in July 1989.

The institute of Mural painting at East Nada functions in the traditional Gurukula system. Apart from the training in mural painting, Art history, Aesthetics, Sanskrit, Silpa texts, Dhyanasloka etc. are also taught. Periodical exhibition of paintings, camps, workshops, seminars, discussions and study tours also form a part of the curriculum. Many artists who had passed out from this institute have won international and national level recognition.

The famous mural paintings will certainly touch a deep chord in your heart and bring out the hidden artist in you.

### **Chavakkad Beach :**

Chavakkad beach is about 7 kms from the temple on the shore of Arabian sea.

### **FESTIVALS AND CULTURAL PROGRAMMES**

The major cultural festival conducted every year at Guruvayur is Chembai Sangeetholsavam. This is to commemorate Chembai Vaidyanatha Bhagavathar, the great Carnatic musician and an ardent devotee of Lord Guruvayurappan who used to perform here on the Ekadasi day every year. This grand cultural event comes in December.

Poonthanam day and Narayaneeyam day are also celebrated here. Kavi sammelanam, debates, literary seminars etc. are specialties on these days.

## Other resources

**Map of Guruvayur town :** <http://www.wikimapia.org/#y=10595262&x=76040690&z=17&l=0&m=a>  
Official address:

THE ADMINISTRATOR  
GURUVAYUR DEVASWOM  
GURUVAYUR - 680 101, KERALA.  
TEL: 91-487 2556335,2556346(OFF) 2556660(PER)  
FAX: 91-487-2554844.

**HOW TO MAKE AN OFFERING** ( from official web site - [guruvayurdevaswom.org](http://guruvayurdevaswom.org))

Offerings can done in person or be booked and performed by way of Money order, Demand Draft or Cheque drawn in favour of the "Administrator, Guruvayur Devaswom, Guruvayur", and the details should be clearly furnished in the form. All payments should be made to:

THE ADMINISTRATOR  
GURUVAYUR DEVASWOM  
GURUVAYUR - 680 101, KERALA.  
TEL: 91-487 2556335,2556346(OFF) 2556660(PER)  
FAX: 91-487-2554844.

*Courtesy – [www.guruvayurdevaswom.org](http://www.guruvayurdevaswom.org)  
[www.guruvayoor.com](http://www.guruvayoor.com)  
Guruvayur Devaswom publications*