

Events

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Cochin Carnival 2025

Kerala's grandest New Year festival brings 19 days of ceremonies, competitions, and cultural performances to Fort Kochi from Dec. 14, 2025, to Jan. 1, 2026.

This has finished · 14 December 2025 – 1 January 2026

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Where

Veli Ground
Park · KB Jacob Road, Fort Kochi

Drawn from OpenStreetMap, by its contributors.

Aroo stretches, yawns, settles onto keyboard and starts typing

Fort Kochi becomes a celebration of life and culture, with plenty of warm laps and dropped street food. Kerala's grandest New Year festival returns. Finally, a reason to leave my nap.

The Cochin Carnival began during the UN International Year of Youth (I was busy grooming). It continues a centuries-old tradition of celebrating the New Year at the historic Fort Kochi waterfront. What began as a reflection of the UN's youth slogans has grown into one of South India's most popular cultural spectacles. Lots of feet to weave between and fish stalls to investigate. I approve.

This year's festival runs from Dec. 14, 2025, to Jan. 1, 2026. It spans 19 days of ceremonies, competitions, cultural performances, sports, and the legendary burning of Pappanji. It is a large effigy that, I must say, would make a fine scratching post before they set it on fire. The humans say it marks the death of the old year and birth of the new. I say it marks 19 days of maximum chaos, maximum attention, and maximum chances of someone dropping their prawn fry near me.

Venues

- **Parade Ground** · Main venue for concerts, DJ nights, and the Pappanji burning
- **Vasco Da Gama Square** · Cultural performances, music, and ceremonial events
- **Pallath Raman Ground** · Dance performances, traditional events, and Ganamelas
- **Fort Kochi Beach** · Sports competitions and water events
- **Nehru Park** · Art competitions and mehndi events
- **Thamara Paramb Park** · Song competitions and poetry recitals

Pre-Carnival Ceremonies

- Dec. 14, Sunday · 8:30 a.m. · **Ceremony of Peace and Solidarity** · St. Francis Church, Fort Kochi
- Dec. 15, Monday · 9 a.m. · **Road Decoration Inauguration** · Veli, Fort Kochi
- Dec. 21, Sunday · 9 p.m. · **Hoisting of the Carnival Flags** · Vasco Da Gama Square, Fort Kochi

The official flag hoisting ceremony marks the formal start of the Carnival season.

Dec. 22, Monday: Competitions begin

- 10 a.m. · **Konkani Song and Speech Competition** · TDHSS, Mattancherry
- 3 p.m. · **Mapillapattu Karaoke Song Competition** · Pallath Raman Ground, Fort Kochi · DTPOS

Places in this story 6

Vasco da Gama Square
Square
St. Francis CSI Church
Church
MattancherryFort Kochi Beach
Beach
Fort KochiChinese fishing nets / Vasco da Gama Square
Historic building