

# THAIPUSAM FESTIVAL

## Information for Devotees

### A. INTRODUCTION

1. The Hindu festival of Thaipusam is celebrated on the full moon day in the Tamil month of Thai. Thaipusam is a thanksgiving festival where devotees celebrate the fulfilment of their vows.
2. During Thaipusam, Hindu devotees walk from the **Sri Srinivasa Perumal Temple (SSPT)** to the **Sri Thendayuthapani Temple (STT)** over a distance of about 4km with their offerings for Lord Sri Murugan.
3. The Thaipusam procession is expected **to start from SSPT on 04/02/2023 from 11.30pm. Doors at STT will open at 12.01am on 05/02/2023.**
4. **All devotees have to complete their walk/ vows and reach STT by 11.00pm on Thaipusam day, 05/02/2023.**

### B. POINTS TO NOTE

5. The comfort and safety of devotees are of primary concern at a festival like Thaipusam. Devotees are advised to move along the procession route at a steady pace and comply with directions given by route marshals. Devotees are kindly advised to follow traffic rules when on the streets and help maintain public order.
6. Annathanam (pre-packed) will also be available on the day of Thaipusam between 12.00pm and 3.00pm at STT.
7. Advisories for the playing of music and musical instruments enroute can be found at the website [www.thaipusam.sg](http://www.thaipusam.sg) closer to the event.

### C. PARTICIPATION DETAILS

8. Devotees are encouraged to be attired appropriately. Painting of faces or bodies and wearing any form of disguise is not permitted.
9. Anyone below the age of 16 years is only allowed to carry a Paal Kudam or a Paal Kavadi. Piercing of hooks and spikes for persons below the age of 16 years is not allowed.
10. Participants carrying any form of Kavadi are requested to assemble and dismantle their Kavadis at the designated areas at SSPT and STT respectively.
11. All Spike and Chariot Kavadi leaving SSPT will be tagged by temple officials and the tag must be retained until it is removed by temple officials at STT. Kavadis without tag will not be permitted to enter at STT.
12. Every Spike or Chariot Kavadi bearer accompanied by an entourage, shall nominate one adult (above 21 years old) from that entourage as the Kavadi Representative to act as liaison with the Temple representatives in case of an emergency or clarifications. Kavadi bearers and the representatives would be required to sign an acknowledgement at the time of purchasing participation tickets. Kavadi bearers are requested to keep the entourage as small as possible to allow for smoother flow of the procession.
13. Kavadi bearers briefing was held on 24 Dec 2022, Saturday 7pm at SSPT. The briefing slides can be found at [www.thaipusam.sg](http://www.thaipusam.sg).
14. Paalkudam tickets for Thaipusam 2023 can only be purchased online through [www.thaipusam.sg](http://www.thaipusam.sg), by booking devotees' preferred Time Slots. While booking, devotees may choose Temple Prepared Paalkudam (to be collected at STT) at \$20 or Self-prepared Paalkudam at \$15. For self-prepared Paalkudams, participants may collect 2 pieces of numbered stickers from any of the two temples of which one can be placed on the Paalkudam and the other retained to identify and collect the respective Kudam after the Paal Abishegam at STT.

15. Devotees booking Temple prepared Paalkudam and accompanying Kavadis will have to complete the Kavadi offering before collecting the Paalkudam at STT for offering.
16. Tickets for Thaipusam-related services can be purchased at the following locations from **04.01.2023 to 03.02.2023** daily from **8.00am to 12 noon and 5.00pm to 8.30pm**.

Type of Service	Cost	Place To Purchase Tickets
Paal Kudam	\$15/ \$20	Online <a href="http://www.thaipusam.sg">www.thaipusam.sg</a>
Paal Kavadi	\$30	SSPT and STT
Thottil Kavadi	\$30	SSPT and STT
Ratha (Chariot) Kavadi	\$75	<b>ONLY AT SSPT</b>
Alagu (Spike) Kavadi	\$75	<b>ONLY AT SSPT</b>

17. Devotees carrying paal kudams, paal kavadis and thottil kavadis devotees to enter SSPT via Perumal Road & Race Course Road.
18. Devotees carrying spike/chariot kavadis are to enter via Lavender Street-Balestier Road to Race Course Road and reach Gate 2 of SSPT for unloading kavadis.
19. Race Course Road will be closed to all traffic and only be opened for spike/chariot kavadis to access SSPT Gate 2 from 2.00am (05.02.2023) onwards. Thus, any spike/ chariot kavadis arriving earlier will be unable to enter into Race Course Road and the Temple until the road is re-opened to traffic from 2.00am. Kavadis will be informed via WhatsApp if the kavadis may arrive earlier.
20. The **Morning (AM)** spike/chariot kavadis are to enter SSPT via Gate 2 between 2.00am and 9.00am on 05.02.2023 and leave SSPT by 12Noon the same day.
21. The **Afternoon (PM)** spike/chariot kavadis are to enter SSPT via Gate 2 between 9.00am and 3.00pm on 05.02.2023 and leave SSPT by 5.00pm the same day.
- Kavadis arriving at SSPT Gate 2 after 3.00 pm will **not** be allowed access into SSPT.
  - PM Kavadis **must** leave SSPT by 5.00 pm and reach STT by 11.00 pm.
22. Untagging of kavadis will be performed at the entrance to Sri Thendayuthapani Temple.
23. Devotees performing vows are to arrive and leave the temple by the stipulated times given to prevent congestion and delay to the procession. With the procession running for almost a whole day, there is ample time for devotees to complete their respective vows. Devotees who violate the event timing will be subjected to the following conditions in subsequent years' Thaipusam festival.
- Year 2020 defaulters to lodge \$500 security deposit and AM slot only
  - Year 2019 & 2020 defaulters to lodge \$1,000 security deposit and AM slot only

## **D IMPORTANT NOTES**

24. There are ongoing renovation works at Sri Thendayuthapani Temple in preparation for Mahakumbabisegham. Special arrangements have been made for devotees to fulfil their vows in front of the temple gopuram.
25. After the first few batches of Paal Kudam devotees leave SSPT by **1.30am**, there will be a quick clean-up of the temple grounds.
26. Devotees are requested to clear their used prayer materials before they leave SSPT in consideration of the next group of devotees who will need the space to prepare their paalkudam/ kavadi . Likewise, devotees completing their vows at STT are requested to keep the temple premises free of litter.
27. At SSPT, teams of piercers will be stationed to assist devotees with piercing services as well as help with putting on a Kavadi. For assistance with piercing, please approach the SSPT office to enquire about this free service on Thaipusam day.
28. Devotees are strictly not to consume alcoholic beverages and/or smoke within the Thaipusam procession route. Those who are seen to be in possession of alcohol or have consumed alcohol will be asked to leave the procession by the organisers. It will be escalated to authorities if those who have drunk refuses to leave. Please note that the entire Little India area and the Thaipusam procession route is under Liquor Control Act and it is illegal to consume. Smoking will negatively impact the sanctity of the Thaipusam festival. See Annex below on related offences.
29. Kavadi bearers who complete their vows and are coming out of STT will be shown to available slots within the dismantling area to remove their kavadis. Once a Kavadi has been dismantled, the Kavadi representative needs to provide the registration counter (located within the dismantling area at STT) with the following info:
  - a. Kavadi bearer's particulars
  - b. Slot number occupied in dismantling area
  - c. The number plate of the vehicle that will pick up the dismantled kavadi

A vehicle will only be allowed into the loading area at STT when a Kavadi bearer's dismantled Kavadi is ready for loading.
30. Information on Thaipusam can be found on the website [www.thaipusam.sg](http://www.thaipusam.sg). Devotees can share their suggestions and views via the feedback channel on this website.
31. Devotees with medical conditions such as hypertension, diabetes or asthma and those who may have undergone treatment for heart conditions are kindly requested to refrain from strenuous kavadi penances. We kindly request you to seek the advice of your doctor on this matter.
32. Devotees, participants and visitors on Thaipusam are encouraged to approach the temple offices at STT and SSPT should they have any queries or need assistance. The contact details of the temples are as follows:

**Sri Thendayuthapani Temple (STT) – Tel: 6737 9393; Email: [office@sttemple.com](mailto:office@sttemple.com)**

**Sri Srinivasa Perumal Temple (SSPT) – Tel: 6298 5771; Email: [sspt@heb.org.sg](mailto:sspt@heb.org.sg)**

*Please help preserve the sanctity and decorum of the Thaipusam festival.*

*May Lord Murugan bless all!*

## **Annex: Related Offenses**

1. All participants and supporters should take due diligence to adhere to the stipulated permit conditions. Violators of permit conditions and other unlawful activities shall be subjected to actions by the authorities.
2. **Liquor is prohibited by law along the procession route.**
3. **Other offences in relation to assemblies or processions (Breach of Permit)**
  - a. S.16(1) of Public Order Act 2009 – Offenders may be guilty of an offence and shall, subject to subsection (3), be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$5,000.
4. **Prohibition against consumption of Liquor**
  - a. **The consumption of liquor in public places will not be allowed from 10.30pm to 7.00am every day.**
  - b. S.12(4) of Liquor Control (Supply and Consumption) Act 2015 – Offenders who contravenes subsection (1) shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction
    - i. To a fine not exceed \$1,000; and
    - ii. Where the individual is a repeat offender, to a fine not exceeding \$2,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 3 months or to both.
  - c. S.14(1) of Liquor Control (Supply and Consumption) Act 2015 – Offenders who is drunk and incapable of taking care of himself or herself in any public places shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction
  - d. S.14(2) of Liquor Control (Supply and Consumption) Act 2015 – Offenders who conduct himself or herself in such a manner as to cause annoyance to any person shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction
5. **Liquor Control Zone**
  - a. Within the specified LCZs, additional restriction for consumption of liquor in public places will be imposed for weekends and public holidays:
    - i. **Weekends:** 7am of Saturday to 7am of the following Monday
    - ii. **Public holidays:** 7pm of the eve of a public holiday to 7am of the day after the public holiday
    - iii. However, members of the public can continue to consume liquor at home, and within licensed premises such as restaurants, coffee shops or bars, in accordance with the hours stipulated in the licenses.
  - b. Within the specified LCZs, additional restriction for retail sale of take-away liquor will start from 7pm on Saturdays, Sundays, public holidays and eves of public holidays, instead of 10.30pm.
  - c. Under the Act, offences committed within the Liquor Control Zones will result in a penalty of one and a half times that in non-designated areas.

# Little India

