



Festival Calendar

2022





Dear Travel Partners,

In this Festival Calendar prepared by our Destination Knowledge Centre we bring to you a selection of some of the best festivals of India for the year 2022 from the popular ones to small local community celebrations to festivals which are centuries old that haven't yet attracted the hordes of tourists and have retained their original essence. Our insiders at the Destination Knowledge Centre will tell you how to plan your itinerary as well as provide tips on what not to miss.

Come Explore with us

Dipak Deva
Managing Director



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2022



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Date to be announced

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Theyyam, Kerala

08th to 09th January, 2022

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14th January, 2022

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Athiikkavu Vela, Kerala

04th January, 2022

- ❖ A low key festival of a privately owned Temple located by a River in Thrissur, Central Kerala.
- ❖ Procession of elephants and percussion ensemble.

Athiikkavu is a small privately owned temple in the suburbs of Thrissur. The main attraction of the temple is its riverside setting and laid back ambience. The temple celebrates its annual festival every year in the first week of January. Going by major temple festivals in and around Thrissur, Athiikkavu Vela is not very big. Usually the afternoon procession with three elephants and percussion accompaniment attracts the local population. The beautiful setting of the temple and ease of accessing the festival makes it an attractive proposition for visitors.



Karamel Muchilottu Perumkaliyattam Theyyam, Kerala

Date to be announced

- ❖ The main attraction is a plethora of cultural dance performances in an exceptional way.
- ❖ Usually held between the months of November to April according to the festival calendar Kerala.

Theyyam is a fascinating religious ritual of Kerala; intense and dark, which incorporates dance, mime and music, to celebrate an ancient tribal culture, which attaches a great importance to the worship of heroes and ancestral spirits. Kannur and Kasargod are the best places in North Kerala to go see a Theyyam. Of the two Kannur is the stronghold of Theyyam and is best recommended. A Theyyam can happen in a temple, in a forest shrine, in a private shrine or a private home. In a Theyyam session, an oracle offers his body to the spirits –sometimes that of an ancestor, maybe a great forest hero of the yore or a serpent goddess – as a medium to communicate with the villagers, understand their problems, offer solutions and bless them. People wanting counsel approach the Oracle in a trance-eyes bulging and rolling back- with their questions. Answers are given in whispers and sometimes in extensive outbursts. It is believed by the locals that the Oracle of a Theyyam possessed by spirits can cure an illness, ensure a good harvest or drive away evil spirits.





Bikaner Camel Festival, Rajasthan

08th to 09th January, 2022

- ❖ Camel races, safaris for tourists and camel fur cutting.
- ❖ Folk and fire dances and spectacular fireworks will light up the night sky

The Camel Festival is a lively and colourful annual festival in Bikaner. Enjoy the spectacular displays of camels dressed in vibrant bridles, traditional necklace and heavy anklets showing off wonderful footwork to the lovely tunes on desert sands. There are competitions like best decorated camels, camel milking and best fur cutting designs on camels. Though the festival is exclusively organized to glorify the kings of the Desert, traditional Rajasthani folk dance performances and music add to the charm of the festival. There is also plenty of scope for eating, souvenir-shopping and photography at this festival.





Pongal, Tamil Nadu

13th to 16th January, 2022

- ❖ A harvest festival in Tamil Nadu, South India.
- ❖ Pongal refers to the traditional practice of preparing sweet rice infused with milk and jaggery in a new clay pot.

Pongal is a 4 day harvest festival which sees the entire state in a tizzy of celebrations as giving thanks to the Sun God for overflowing abundance of harvest for the year. The 4 days are named differently with a unique ritual followed on each of the days. Day one, Bhogi, sees the disposal of useless household things into a bonfire marking riddance of worthless things; Day two, Thai Pongal, is when the first rice harvest of the season is cooked and offered to the Sun God after decorating the house; Day three, Mattu Pongal, cattle are adorned with garlands, worshipped and taken around the village in a procession and Day four, Kaanum Pongal, the families visit each other to share the festivities of Pongal. The spirit of celebration for these 4 days is infectious with positivity dripping in every corner.





International Kite Festival, Gujarat

14th January, 2022

- ❖ A spectacular community festival where master kite makers and kite flyers from across the globe wow the crowds with their quaint kites and kite flying skills.

A day when the sky looks like a kaleidoscope of colours across the cities from dawn till after dusk, Uttaryan is a celebration that marks the end of winter. A uniquely Gujarati phenomenon, this festival is all about coming together as a community. The festival is dominated by friendly neighbourhood competitions and mouth-watering Gujarati delicacies. The Kite festival held at Ahmedabad is a ritual since 1989 where master kite makers and kite flyers from across the globe participate to wow the crowds with their quaint kites. It is here that you will get to see and appreciate this age-old sport and the spirit it embodies.





Gangasagar Mela, West Bengal

14th January, 2022

- ❖ This festival is celebrated with great zeal in Sunderbans, West Bengal.
- ❖ Thousands of Hindus take a holy dip at auspicious time on Makar Sankranti day morning and offer prayers to Lord Surya (Sun god).

Gangasagar Mela is a significant gathering of the Hindu pilgrims during the auspicious time of 'Makar Sankranti'. It takes place at the Sagar Island or 'Sagardweep' in West Bengal before the Ganga merges into the Bay of Bengal. Hindu devotees gather at this place to take a holy dip in River Ganga. People believe that a dip in the holy river during this auspicious time frees them of their previous and present life's sin ridding them of the cycle of death and rebirth. During the Gangasagar Snan, a large fair is organized which starts a few days before and ends one day after Sankranti. Similar spectacular sights can be witnessed in varying intensities at the banks of River Ganges and its tributaries across the Northern region.



Varakkara Pooram, Kerala

14th January, 2022

- ❖ Festival of various temples in and around the Varakkara village in the suburbs of Thrissur, Central Kerala
- ❖ Grand procession with twenty-three caparisoned elephants

The transition of Sun from Sagittarius to Capricorn is a major event in the Hindu calendar. Around Thrissur several temples celebrate their annual festival on this day. One of the most important festivals associated with this event is the Varakkara Pooram. Several temples in and around the Varakkara village in the suburbs of Thrissur take part in this festival. Each temple represents a locality and organizes its own festivity and procession in which the local population joyously joins. The final grand procession with twenty-three caparisoned elephants and grand percussion ensemble is a spectacular sight. Since the final procession happens in a vast open space, it is very amenable for viewing by visitors.



India Craft Week

14th to 17th January, 2022

- ❖ India Craft Week aims at reviving the various art and craft forms in India.
- ❖ This event brings many renowned artists out into the spotlight.

2018 was marked as the new beginning of India's first official craft week. The project was born out of an intense desire among its founders, Iti Tyagi and Somesh Tyagi, to narrate the untold stories of artisans of India. It is a celebration of Craftsmanship and a salute to craftsmen and artisans who devote their entire lives in developing and preserving their heritage. This week-long event showcases the work of various innovators and traditional artists, weavers, crafts people from all over India. India Craft Week also has engaging symposiums and the craft awards. It is now a part of the country's cultural calendar.





Magh Bihu Festival, Assam

14th to 15th January, 2022

- ❖ It is the second largest Bihu festival of Assam.
- ❖ The occasion coincides with the celebrations of Pongal and Makar Sankranti in many states.

Magh Bihu is one of the most auspicious community festivals of Assam which marks the end of the harvest season. The night before the day of Bihu is called Uruka when the entire community comes together for a time of merry-making. They cook together and have a feast which sees people dancing and singing. The next morning, the community gathers to light the Meji, a large bon fire and pray for a better harvest in the year ahead. This festival though most important for farmers across the region, is celebrated by everyone across cities and towns alike.



Thaipooyam, Kerala

18th January, 2022

- ❖ Festival at the temples dedicated to Murugan, the God of War in Hinduism
- ❖ Elephant procession and traditional percussion ensembles

Thaipooyam is a festival celebrated in all Murugan temples across South India. Kavadi attam (dancing with decorated wooden altars) to the accompaniment of percussion and songs is the most important and colourful ritual associated with Thaipooyam. Koorkkenchery and Thayamkulangara are two important Murugan temples near Thrissur and both celebrate the festival with a lot of pomp. The former temple is famous for its extensive Kavadi attam while the latter organizes an elephant procession with traditional percussion in addition to Kavadi .



Modhera Dance Festival, Gujarat

Third week end of January for 3 days

- ❖ The beautiful Sun Temple acts as the backdrop during the festival of Indian classical dances held every year in January for three days.
- ❖ The Sun Temple at Modhera is positioned in such a manner that the sun's first rays illuminate the deity in the innermost sanctum through the main entrance.

Modhera Dance festival is set against the majestic backdrop of the magnificent Sun temple built in 11th century. Beautiful lighting at the temple highlights the intricate details of the sculptures and architectural splendour, creating an atmosphere of magic. Some of the best dance groups in the country participate in this attractive event. The main highlights of the event are Gujarati classical dances, folks and music performance.





Elephanta Festival, Maharashtra

Dates to be announced

- ❖ This week-long festival is one of the most prominent ones in Mumbai.
- ❖ The festival showcases the heritage of dance, art and sculpture in India.

This renowned festival is held on the Elephanta Island, adjacent to the Elephanta Caves, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The week-long festival encompasses classical dances, plays, skits and instrumental and vocal recitals. Seats are arranged under the open sky, making a perfect atmosphere for this cultural festival. The festivities start with a folk dance performance from the local fishermen (Koli community) who are considered to be the original residents of the city of Mumbai. Also witness India's leading artists enthral the audience on a marvellously decorated stage.







February 2022

festivals

01st to 16th February, 2022

Surajkund Crafts Mela, Haryana

02nd February, 2022

Losar, Sikkim

05th to 13th February, 2022

Kala Ghoda Art Festival, Mumbai

06th to 09th February, 2022

Nagaur Cattle Festival

12th to 14th February, 2022

Baneshwar Fair, Rajasthan

14th to 16th February, 2022

Jaisalmer Desert Festival, Rajasthan

Mid February

Andalur Kavu Temple Festival, Kerala

17th to 19th February, 2022

World Sacred Spirit Festival, Rajasthan

18th February, 2022

Palakkad Pariyanampetta Pooram, Kerala

18th February, 2022

Kuttanellur Pooram, Kerala

18th February, 2022

Attukal Pongala Festival, Kerala

20th to 26th February, 2022

Khajuraho Dance Festival

26th February - 01st March, 2022

Goa Carnival

February 2022

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Surajkund Crafts Mela, Haryana

01st to 16th February, 2022

- ❖ This is the largest crafts fair in the world.
- ❖ Showcases regional and international crafts and traditions.

The Surajkund Mela celebrates the unique diversity of Indian traditions and culture in an ambience, created to represent the ethos of rural India. Surajkund International Crafts Mela showcases some of the most exquisite handlooms and handicrafts of India that are fading away due to cheap machine made imitations. It is one of the most popular and largest fairs in the world where the footfall is estimated to be in millions. The prime highlight of the Surajkund fair is that one Indian state gets a special honour of being the Theme State of the year. The concept of the Theme State was brought upon with a view to promote and focus on the art, craft, culture, and cuisine of one State per year.





Losar, Sikkim

02nd February, 2022

- ❖ Losar Festival celebrates the Tibetan New Year.
- ❖ It's an extravagant display of Tibetan traditions, customs and beliefs.

Losar Festival celebrates the Tibetan New Year which originated in the 15th century. It is a significant festival of the North East Indian state of Sikkim and is celebrated with great enthusiasm for 8 -15 days every year. Losar is a mix of ancient rituals, music, dance, and drama deeply rooted in Tibetan traditions. The highlight of the Losar festival in Sikkim is the Cham masked dance performance by the lamas in monasteries of Sikkim which lures travellers from across the globe. A day in the festival is also dedicated to the ritual of offering buckets of Tsampa (a mixture of roasted barley flour and butter) on home altars praying for a good harvest in the current New Year.





Kala Ghoda Art Festival, Maharashtra

05th to 13th February, 2022

- ❖ Held in Mumbai, it is one of the biggest free art and culture festival in the world.
- ❖ Funds raised from the festival go towards the restoration and upkeep of the area.

The Kala Ghoda Arts Festival is a community celebration of the arts within one of the most beautiful and historic precincts of Mumbai, The Kala Ghoda Art District. It is nine day long annual festival and is created to draw attention towards the development of the area, restoring buildings and porticos, building people-friendly street furniture and improving the amenities. Several heritage buildings and institutions in the area have benefited from this. With a mix of music, dance, theatre, literature, food, street stalls, cinema, workshops, visual arts, urban design and architecture and heritage walks, the festival continues to present a medley of arts for the city to savour.





Nagaur Cattle Festival, Rajasthan

06th to 09th February, 2022

- ❖ There is folk music and dance performances that are organized in the evening.
- ❖ Enjoy camel and bullock races, cock fights and tug-of-war competition during the festival.

Nagaur Cattle Festival, also known as Ramdeoaji Cattle Fair, is celebrated every year and boasts of being the 2nd largest cattle festival in India attracting thousands of curious travellers. A variety of animals like cattle, bullocks, camels and horses are traded by owners who come from every corner of the state. The animals are finely decorated to lure the buyers. The fair is also popular for its Mirchi Bazaar (red chilly market), which is biggest in India and also trades wooden items, iron- crafts and camel leather accessories.





Baneshwar Fair, Rajasthan

12th to 14th February, 2022

- ❖ Baneshwar Fair is considered to be the Maha Kumbh Mela of the Bhil Tribe of India with hundreds of thousands of Bhils from Rajasthan, Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh attending the fair.
- ❖ Traditions and Rituals of the Bhil Tribe.

Baneshwar fair is a popular tribal fair held in Dungarpur district in Rajasthan which is attended by a large number of population of Bhils. The Bhil tribe, renowned for their archery skills, are characterized by the bows and arrows they carry. This five-day religious fair held at a small delta formed by the rivers Som and Mahi, pays homage to Shiva and Vishnu. 'Baneshwar', meaning the 'Master of the Delta' in the local language, is derived from the revered Shivlinga kept in the Mahadev Temple in Dungarpur. The fair sees vendors selling their wares like clothing, medicinal herbs, musical instruments, wickerwork and knives as well as the famous bows and arrows. If you are lucky, you can also witness folk songs and dances being performed at the fair.



Jaisalmer Desert Festival, Rajasthan

14th to 16th February, 2022

- ❖ Some interesting sights include puppet show, snake charmers and also lively folk music performances.
- ❖ The Gair and the fire dance are highlights of the festival.

Jaisalmer Desert Festival is a famous cultural and colourful event. The festival showcases the rich and vibrant culture of Rajasthan against the backdrop of the Sam dunes. The festival is host to quirky competitions like Best Moustache, Camel polo, turban tying, Mr. Desert pageant and many more. You will also get a chance to witness Kabelia dancers dancing to the folksy tunes or even fire dancers showing off their skills. This festival also gives you the opportunity to indulge in the authentic Rajasthani cuisine and purchase quirky souvenirs to take back home.





Andalur Kavu Temple Festival, Kerala

Mid February

- ❖ The main attraction is plethora of cultural dance performances in an exceptional way.
- ❖ Usually held between the months of November to April according to the festival calendar Kerala.

Theyyam is a fascinating religious ritual of Kerala; intense and dark, which incorporates dance, mime and music, to celebrate an ancient tribal culture, which attaches great importance to the worship of heroes and ancestral spirits. Kannur and Kasargod are the best places in North Kerala to go see a Theyyam. Of the two Kannur is the stronghold of Theyyam and is best recommended. A Theyyam can happen in a temple, in a forest shrine, in a private shrine or a private home. In a Theyyam, an oracle offers his body to the spirits -sometimes that of an ancestor, maybe a great forest hero of the yore or a serpent goddess - as a medium to communicate with the villagers, understand their problems, offer solutions and bless them. People wanting counsel approach the Oracle in a trance-eyes bulging and rolling back- with their questions. Answers are given in whispers and sometimes in extensive outbursts. It is believed by the locals that the Oracle of a Theyyam possessed by spirits can cure an illness, ensure a good harvest or drive away evil spirits.





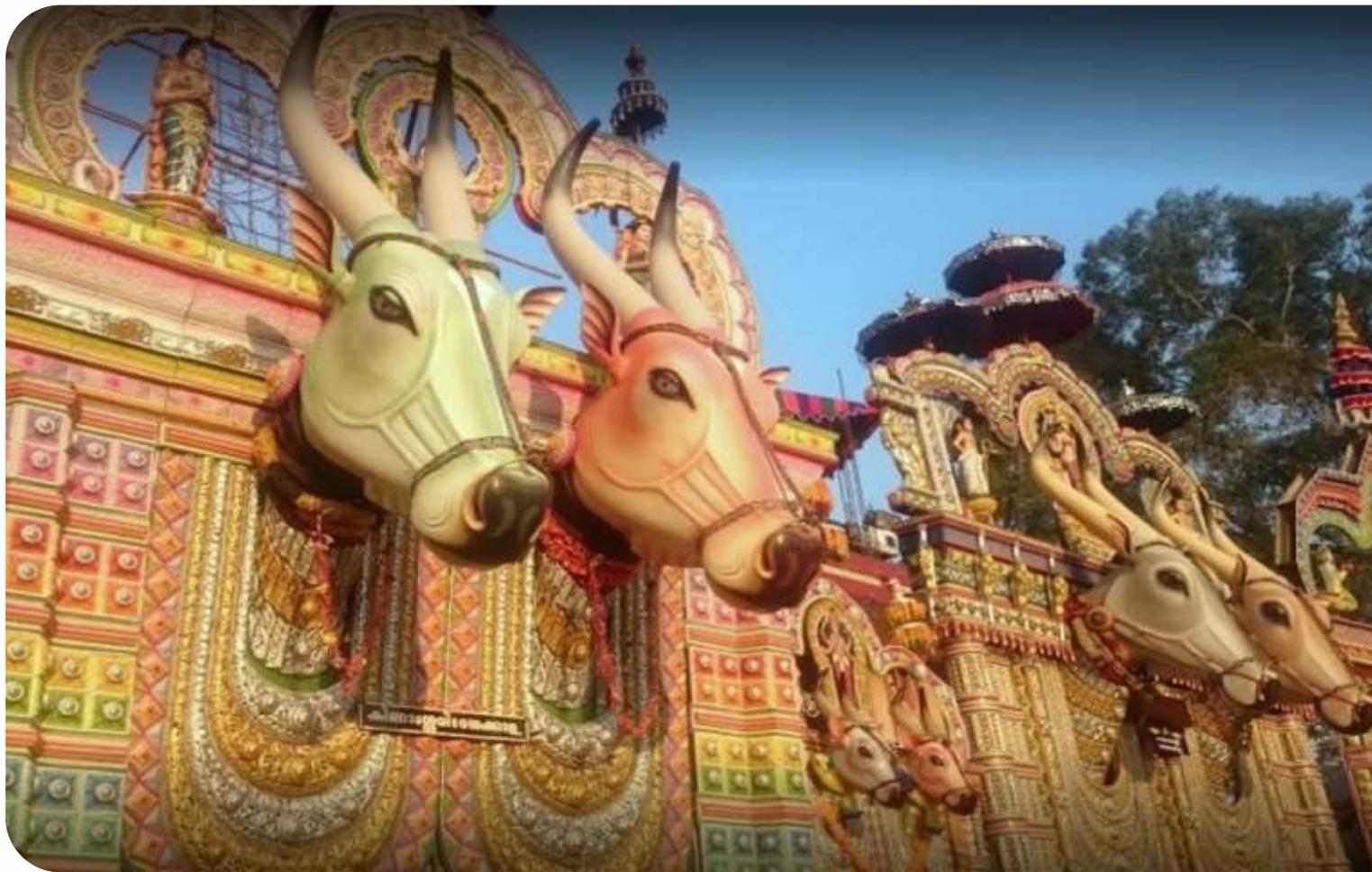
World Sacred Spirit Festival (Nagaur & Jodhpur)

17th to 19th February, 2022

- ❖ It showcases some of the rare talents from the Sufi world.
- ❖ A strong amalgamation of the Sufi and the Rajasthani culture.

A private music festival, open only to the guests staying at the charming Ahichhtragarh Fort in Nagaur, lit by thousands of lamps, is a perfect way to experience the transcendental Sufi music culture in the company of royal attendees who mingle with the crowds. The festival culminates at the majestic settings of the Mehrangarh fort in Jodhpur which is open to the general public. The World Sacred Spirit Festival brings in Sufi artists from across the globe to mesmerize the crowds with their soulful composition and is ranked one of the top Sufi festivals in the world.





Palakkad Pariyanampetta Pooram, Kerala

18th February, 2022

- ❖ A temple festival lasting seven days.
- ❖ Rare and lesser known folk art of Kerala, Elephant processions and traditional percussion ensembles

Seven days of cultural and spiritual revelry is what draws people to the great Pariyanampetta Pooram in Pallakad, North Kerala. The rare and the lesser known traditional ritual of Kerala Kalamezhuthu Pattu, where the images of the Goddesses are drawn on the floor using different natural colours is one of the highlights. At night, one gets to see the another rare and lesser known folk art form Tholpavakoothu (Shadow Puppetry). The event ends with a procession of around 21 elephants and visitors can also see rare folk arts such Kaalavela (bull effigy) and Kuthiravela (horse effigy) of Kerala.



Kuttanellur Pooram, Kerala

18th February, 2022

- ❖ Dedicated to Durga, the Goddess of War in Hinduism in Thrissur, Central Kerala
- ❖ Pageantry of caparisoned elephants, percussion ensemble, performances of art forms and musical renditions

This is one of the classical temple festivals of central Kerala. Kuttanellur Devi temple is an ancient temple in the outskirts of Thrissur. Though the festival rituals are quite elaborate, two processions (one in the afternoon and one early in the morning) are the central events of the festival. Both processions feature seven elephants and are accompanied by an elaborate percussion orchestra (melam). Of these the procession early in the morning is especially scenic and is a favourite among festival connoisseurs.



Attukal Pongala, Kerala

18th February, 2022

- ❖ Entered Guinness records for being the largest single gathering of women for a religious activity.
- ❖ It is observed strictly by the womenfolk.

Attukal Pongala is a one of its kind festival which has also entered the Guinness Book of World Records as the largest congregation of women in the world in a single place on a single day irrespective of caste, creed or religion. The festival has the entire city engulfed in a festive mood. The women folk cook Pongala, a ritualistic offering of a sweet dish consisting of rice porridge, sweet brown molasses, coconut gratings, nuts and raisins to appease the Goddess presiding the Attukal Bhagavathi Temple. The Pongala is cooked in earthen pots over a traditional firewood hearth made from scratch with the items brought from home. The Priests then come around and sprinkle the holy water used to worship the goddess in each of the pots which is then taken home by the women to distribute amongst their family, friends and relatives.





Khajuraho Dance Festival, Madhya Pradesh

20th to 26th February, 2022

- ❖ This event is to promote cultural heritage and traditional dances of India.
- ❖ This week-long dance festival takes place in the open spaces in front of the Khajuraho temples.

Every year, a week-long festival for Indian classical dances is hosted against the spectacular backdrop of the UNESCO World Heritage Site. The venue for this festival are the magnificently lit Chitragupta & Vishwanatha Temple, jewels in the crown of the temples of Khajuraho. The festival has become a popular tradition paying tribute to classical dance, music and art of India. This cultural festival highlights the richness of various Indian classical dance styles such as Kathak, Bharatanatyam, Odissi, Kuchipudi, Manipuri and Kathakali. There are performances from some of the best exponents in the field.





Goa Carnival, Goa

26th February to 1st March, 2022

- ❖ The Goa Carnival is held in February or March, just before Lent.
- ❖ The Carnival is a 4 day razzmatazz that is observed with great gusto and zeal.

Goa Carnival is based on the Christian tradition that was brought to Goa in 16th century by the Portuguese. This colourful festival represents the commencement of the 40 days of fasting of Lent. It is a 3-day non-stop festival of dance, song, music and lots more. The city glares with lights, colourful ribbons and glittering papers. The streets are alive with the multi-coloured procession with dances, bands and floats. The entertaining performances of the live bands is another attraction of the festival.





The background of the image is a repeating floral pattern in a light pink or lavender color. It features stylized flowers of various sizes, some with multiple petals, and elegant, swirling vines with small leaves. The pattern is dense and covers the entire area.

March 2022

festivals

First Week of March

Parippally Gajamela, Kerala

05th to 14th March, 2022

Jaipur Literature Festival

08th to 14th March, 2022

International Yoga Festival

13th to 14th March, 2022

Braj Festival, Rajasthan

17th March, 2022

Arattupuzha Pooram, Kerala

18th March, 2022

Holi

18th to 20th March, 2022

Hola Mohalla

20th to 29th March, 2022

Taj Mahotsav

Dates to be announced

Hoysala Mahotsava, Karnataka

March 2022

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Parippally Gajamela, Kerala

First Week of March

- ❖ Gajamela means elephant procession.
- ❖ Over 50 elephants are taken out on a ritual procession on the tenth day of the festival.

A host of as many as 50 caparisoned elephants parade majestically as a tribute to the deity during the Parippally Gajamela which is a part of the annual festival at the Kodimoottil Sree Bhagavathy Temple dedicated to Goddess Bhadrakali. A host of cultural programmes are staged as part of this event on the temple premises for the entertainment of the devotees. The elephants are paraded on the concluding day of the ten-day festival. A unique practice observed during these festivities is the ritual offering of elephants to deities in a belief that this offering of elephants satisfies the deity and grants all the wishes of the devotees.



Jaipur Literature Festival, Rajasthan

05th March to 14th March, 2022

- ❖ Started in 2006, it is one of the biggest free events of its kind in India.
- ❖ It has attracted over a million book lovers over the years.

With its humble beginnings in 2006, the Jaipur literature festival has become the largest festival of its kind in the Asia Pacific region. Diggi Palace was the main venue of the event. However, with the kind of attention it has gathered over the years, the festival now has multiple venues, including the iconic Hawa Mahal and Amber fort. An event that brings together some of the greatest minds across the globe, this festival is host to readings, debates, discussions, live music sessions and interactive workshops. Some of the known speakers to have attended the lit-fest include Pulitzer Prize winners Andrew Sean Greer and Colson Whitehead, Markus Zusak - author of 'The Book Thief' and Vikram Chandra of the 'Sacred Games' fame, to name a few. This year the festival is taking place at Clarks Amer, Jaipur.





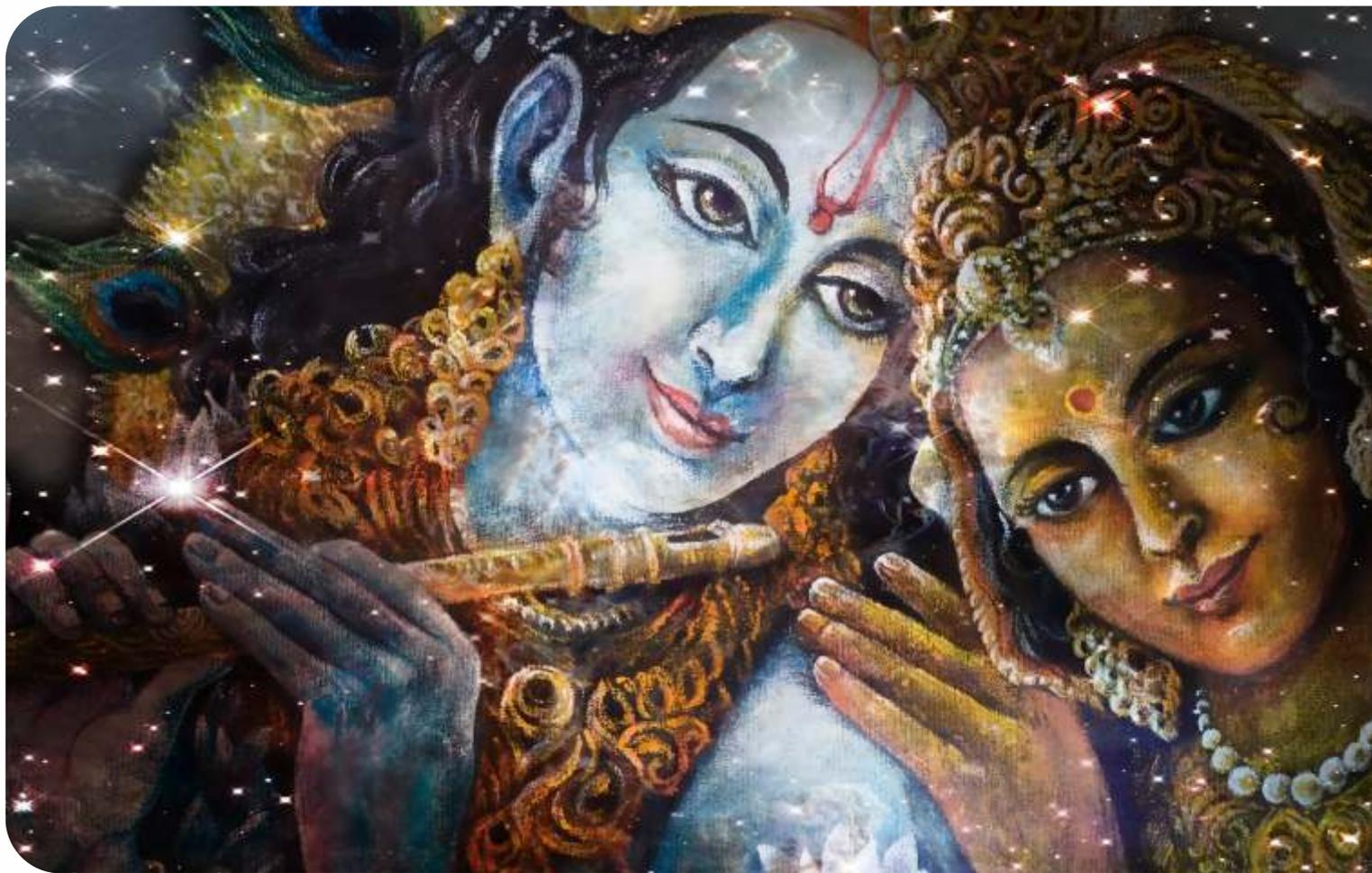
International Yoga Festival, Uttarakhand

08th to 14th March, 2022

- ❖ A week-long Yoga Festival in Rishikesh, considered to be the Yoga capital of the world.
- ❖ Masters of different schools and styles of Yoga impart their knowledge to the participants of the festival.

Yoga focuses on harmony between body and mind and derives its philosophy from Indian metaphysical beliefs. The word yoga is derived from the Sanskrit language and means union. The ultimate aim of this philosophy is to strike a balance between mind and body and attain self-enlightenment. Rishikesh, considered the Yoga Capital of the world, organizes a week-long Yoga Festival every year. It is held at Paramartha Niketan, located on the bank of the River Ganga. This seven day program witnesses various sessions from global Yoga experts and also hosts a variety of programs for the awareness of a healthy body, mind and soul.





Brij Festival, Rajasthan

13th to 14th March, 2022

- ❖ Lord Krishna is worshipped during this festival.
- ❖ This festival is held in a grand, elaborate and colourful manner.

Brij Festival is dedicated to Lord Krishna who is believed to have spent a considerable time of his childhood in an area called Brij, near Bharatpur. The villagers splash colours on each other and paint their house in different and bright colours. The major highlight of the festival is the dance called Raslila which it is said was performed by Krishna and Radha in moments of deep intimacy and affection. Many professional artists can also be seen playing folk music and performing Rajasthani dance forms.



Arattupuzha Pooram, Kerala

17th March, 2022

Considered to be the mother of all Pooram festivals in Kerala, the annual Arattupuzha Pooram is the annual festival at Arattupuzha Temple in Thrissur. A well-attended event, this vibrant Pooram is considered to be the oldest of all and a rich visual spectacle. The ornately decked up venues host many caparisoned elephants and the festival witnesses the rendition of Panchavadyam, the traditional Kerala percussion ensemble. The venue for the festivities, the Sree Sastha Temple dedicated to Lord Ayyappa is believed to be more than 3000 years old. A ceremony that sets this festival apart from the rest is the Devamela - a procession of as many as 23 deities from different temples are brought here and worshipped which makes for an arresting visual.





Holi (Festivals of Colours), North India

18th March, 2022

- ❖ India's Festival of Colours.
- ❖ The most common phrase used on this day: bura na mano, Holi hai - don't be offended, it's Holi!

Holi is the most fun-filled and boisterous of Hindu festival. It's an occasion that brings in unadulterated joy and mirth, fun and play, music and dance and of course, lots of bright colours. It is a two-day festival; the first day is known as Holika Dahan or Chhoti Holi and the second as Rangwali Holi or Dhulandi. The festival date, which is determined by the Hindu calendar, varies from year to year on the Gregorian calendar, usually comes in March. The festival signifies the victory of good over evil, the arrival of spring, end of winter and for many, a festive day to meet family and friends.





Holla Mohalla, Punjab

18th to 20th March, 2022

- ❖ Mock battles, sword-fighting, archery and horse-riding displays by the Nihang Sikhs.
- ❖ Interaction with Nihang Sikhs.

Holla Mohalla is celebrated in Anandpur Sahib in the month of March, the day after Holi - the festival of colours. Holla Mohalla was started by the tenth Sikh Guru, Shri Guru Gobind Singh, in 1701 as a gathering of Sikhs for military exercises and mock battles who were at that time battling the Mughal Empire. Mock battles, sword-fighting, archery and horse-riding displays are the highlights of the festival. Holla Mohalla is celebrated for three-days with organized processions (Nagar Kirtan) in the form of an army column accompanied by war drums and standard-bearers moving from one location to another or gurdwara to gurdwara.





Taj Mahotsav, Uttar Pradesh

20th - 29th March, 2022

- ❖ Reveals the rich cultural heritage of the country.
- ❖ India's authentic dance forms, handicrafts and cuisines are found in one grand platform.

Taj Mahotsav is an annual 10-day event held at Shilpgram in Agra. This festival invokes the memories of the old Mughal era and Nawabi style prevalent in Uttar Pradesh in the 18th and 19th centuries. The festival starts with a procession entailing decorated elephants and camels like the victory processions of Mughal emperors and warlords. Drum beaters, trumpet players, folk dancers, skilled craftsmen and artisans also join the procession. Artists from all over India come here to display their art and craftsmanship.





Hoysala Mahotsava, Karnataka

Dates to be announced

- ❖ A dance festival at the magnificent Hoysala era temples of Belur and Halebid.
- ❖ Dancers and musicians from across India captivate the audience with their enthralling performance.

The dance festival at the magnificent Hoysala era temples at Belur and Halebid is a celebration of Indian culture and heritage. In this one day festival many expert dancers and musicians from across the country captivate the audience with their enthralling performance. The splendid Hoysala temples with their sculptural extravaganza make the perfect venue for this cultural feast. The hamlets of Belur and Halebid come alive with the reverberation of melody, jingle of the dancer's moves and glitter of lamps during this festival.





The background of the image is a repeating floral pattern in a light purple or lavender color. It features stylized flowers of various sizes, some with multiple petals, and elegant, swirling vines with small leaves. The pattern is dense and covers the entire area.

April 2022

festivals

03rd April, 2022

Nenmara Vallanghi Vela, Kerala

04th to 05th April, 2022

Gangaur Festival, Rajasthan

04 to 06th March, 2022

Mewar, Rajasthan

14th April, 2022

Vaisakhi, Punjab

14th April, 2022

Bohag Bihu, Assam

14th or 15th April, 2022

Thirunelli Temple Vishu Festival, Kerala

April 2022

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Nenmara Vallanghi Vela, Kerala

03rd April, 2022

- ❖ A harvest festival where two villages indulge in friendly competition in the courtyard of a temple
- ❖ Rare and lesser known folk art of Kerala, Elephant processions and traditional percussion ensembles

Hosted by two villages - Nenmara and Vallangi of Palakkad in North Kerala - the friendly competition between the two to outdo each other spices up the entire festival. One gets to witness some wonderful lesser known folk art forms of Kerala during the festival. Magnificent processions with caparisoned elephants being taken out from the two villages and they enthusiastically perform several traditional percussion ensembles in a bid to outshine each other.



Gangaur Festival, Rajasthan

04th to 05th April, 2022

- ❖ The festival is dedicated to Lord Shiva and Goddess Parvati.
- ❖ It starts just after Holi and continue for the next 16-18 days.

Gangaur Festival is observed with great enthusiasm and devotion by womenfolk who worship Gauri, the consort of Lord Shiva. The word 'Gangaur' is made up of two words, 'Gana' and 'Gaur'. 'Gana' is synonymous with Lord Shiva and 'Gaur' which stands for Gauri or Parvati. The celebration starts just after Holi and continue for the next 16-18 days. A procession of beautifully ornamented camels, horses, elephants and dancing people with joyous drummers & children carries the idol of Gauri in beautifully decorated gold and silver a palanquin. The procession is symbolic of return of Gauri to her husband's (Shiv's) home.





Mewar Festival

04th to 06th April, 2022

- ❖ The festival is celebrated to welcome the spring season.
- ❖ This 3-day festival is concluded with a glittering show of fireworks.

Mewar Festival is a famous festival celebrated in Udaipur to welcome the spring season. The festival is celebrated with great enthusiasm especially among the womenfolk; they dress and decorate the idols of God Isar (Lord Shiva) and Goddess Gangaur (Mata Parvati) and take them to the Pichola Lake in the grand procession. Once there, they offer the images in the lake while singing traditional songs. The unique aspect of the festival is the procession of boats that takes place in the Pichola Lake. Boats are also used while immersing the idols. The procession is followed by a number of cultural events, including presentation of dance forms such as Ghoomar and Kalbeliya. This 3-day long festival is brought to an end with an impressive display of fireworks.





Vaisakhi, Punjab

14th April, 2022

- ❖ Vaisakhi is the spring harvest festival of Punjab.
- ❖ It marks the beginning of the Sikh and Hindu New Year.

Celebrated worldwide, Vaisakhi marks the beginning of the Sikh and the Hindu New Year coinciding with the spring harvest . It also commemorates the formation of Khalsa Panth or the Order of the Saint-Soldiers under the Sikh Guru, Guru Gobind Singh in 1699.





Bohag Bihu (Assam)

14th April, 2022

- ❖ Bohag Bihu is the spring harvest festival of Assam.
- ❖ It also marks the beginning of the Assamese New Year and is all about dance, song, music, food and merry making .

Bohag Bihu or Rangali Bihu marks the beginning of the Assamese New Year and the coming of spring. It is the most important of the 3 Bihus celebrated in Assam. During this 7 day festival, each day is dedicated to a different ritual where people engage in festivities, make traditional sweets, meet relatives, sing, dance and make merry. Among many other rituals, it is during this festival that the folk ceremonially bathe their livestock, paint their hives in colours and decorate them with garlands before cutting their old ropes and letting them loose. When the cows return home, they tie new ropes on them and offer cakes prepared specially for them. These 7 days are a glimpse into the roots and culture of Assam.



Thirunelli Temple Vishu Festival, Kerala

14th or 15th April, 2022

- ❖ 2 days Festival celebrated during the Hindu New Year of Kerala
- ❖ Kolkali (a tribal art form) performance by the Kuruma tribe

The Thirunelli Maha Vishnu Temple in Wayanad, North Kerala is one of the most prominent temples in Kerala which embodies classical, traditional Kerala architecture. This famous pilgrim centre attracts hordes of devotees especially for performing ancestral rites at Papanasini, a stream that originates from the Brahmagiri hills. It is believed that a ritual dip is believed to wash away one's worldly sins. This two-day festival celebrated during the Hindu New Year of Kerala is noted for the Kolkali (a tribal art form) performance by the Kuruma tribe.



The background of the image is a repeating floral pattern in a light pink or lavender color. It features stylized flowers of various sizes, some with multiple petals, and elegant, swirling vines with small leaves. The pattern is dense and covers the entire area.

May 2022

festivals

03rd May, 2022

Eid-Ul-Fitr

11th May, 2022

Thrissur Pooram, Kerala

16th May, 2022

Buddha Purnima

Dates to be announced

Lumbini Festival, Andhra Pradesh

May 2022

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Eid-ul-Fitr

03rd May, 2022

- ❖ Eid ul Fitr marks the end of the month of Ramadan, where Muslims fast from sunrise to sunset.
- ❖ The festival is celebrated on different dates across the world, based on the sighting of the moon.

Eid-ul-Fitr or Id-ul-Fitr is one of the most widely celebrated festivals of the Muslims worldwide. It marks the end of Ramadan, where Muslims to fast from sunrise to to sunset for a month. A special Eid prayer is performed in congregation at mosques or public areas. Families have a simple breakfast ahead of morning prayers and then visit friends and relatives where a lavish feast is served. Men, women and children dress in their best and exchange gifts .





Thrissur Pooram, Kerala

11th May, 2022

- ❖ It is the biggest and most colourful temple festival of Kerala.
- ❖ It is well-known for its magnificent display of fireworks.

Thrissur Pooram is a magnificent spectacle merging the spiritual and cultural essence of Kerala. This Pooram, a 7 day festival celebrated at the Vadakkumnathan temple in Thrissur is considered to be the mother of all temple festivals in Kerala. With a history panning 3 centuries, it is a friendly competition between the temples to the east and west of Thrissur who try to out-do each other. The festival is mix of carnival spirit and religious conservatism which makes it stand apart. The highlight, which is on the 7th day, is the 15 stunningly decorated elephants on each side and the outstanding firework display that marks the end of the festival which turns out to be a 36 hour hi-tempo non-stop celebration.





Buddha Purnima

16th May, 2022

- ❖ Buddha Purnima marks the birth, enlightenment and death of Lord Buddha.
- ❖ People go to monasteries to offer prayers to the Buddha and food to the Monks.

Buddha Purnima marks the birth, enlightenment and death of Lord Buddha. On the day of Buddha Purnima, people gather at monasteries before sunrise to chant hymns, exercise, dance and to express gratitude for the simple joys of life. The Buddhist prayer flag is hoisted after the sunrise post which the entire day witnesses acts of charity and thanks giving programmes .





Lumbini Festival, Andhra Pradesh

Dates to be announced

- ❖ This 3 day festival highlights the Buddhist impression of the state.
- ❖ It recollects the teachings of Gautam Buddha in different forms and activities.

This festival is organized at Nagarjunasagar for three days in the month of December every year. The Lumbini Festival is celebrated to commemorate and relive the Heritage of Buddhism. The festival is named after the birthplace of Gautama Buddha - who brought Buddhism to the people. This festival is the perfect opportunity to relive the 2000 year old past of Andhra Pradesh when Buddhism was the only prevalent religion here. The Buddhist culture, tradition, art and religion are the main attractions of this festival.





June 2022

festivals

09th June, 2022

Ganga Dussehra

(Allahabad / Haridwar / Rishikesh / Varanasi)

Dates to be announced

Kttiyoor Vaishaka Mahothsavam, Kerala

June 2022

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Ganga Dussehra (Allahabad, Haridwar, Rishikesh and Varanasi)

09th June, 2022

- ❖ A festival dedicated to the Ganga, India's most venerated River.
- ❖ Prayers, charity and ritual bathing.

Ganga Dussehra is commemorated as the day when Goddess Ganga descended on the Earth in the form of a River. It is believed that a dip in Ganga on Ganga Dussehra day can purge all types of sins. Devotees flock to Allahabad, Haridwar, Rishikesh, Varanasi and other places located on the banks of the holy river Ganga on the day of Ganga Dussehra.





Kottiyoor Vaishaka Mahothsavam, Kerala

Dates to be announced

- ❖ 28 day festival in a stunning natural setting by a river
- ❖ Elaborate rituals

Kottiyoor Vaishaka Mahothsavam is a 28-day festival, in the heart of a dense forest and in front of a roaring river in Kannur, North Kerala. The festival is hosted by two temples, Akkara Kottiyoor, and Ikkara Kottiyoor on the banks of the mighty River Baveli which opens only during the festival. The devotees worship a diety made out of river stones and the rituals are performed in thatched huts.





July 2022

festivals

01st July, 2022

Jagannath Rath Yatra, Odisha

09th to 10th July, 2022

Hemis Festival, Ladakh

26th to 27th July, 2022

Phyang Tsedup Festival, Leh & Ladakh

31st July to 01st August, 2022

Teej Festival, Northwest India

July 2022

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Jagannath Rath Yatra, Odisha

01st July, 2022

- ❖ The chariots used during Rath Yatra are built every year. Carpenters began the construction of chariots on the Akshaya Tritiya day (sometime in April).
- ❖ The chariots are painted with bright colours and the tops are covered with red, black, yellow, or green canopies.
- ❖ Lord Jagannath uses red and yellow, Lord Balabhadra uses red and green, while Goddess Subhadra uses red and black. All the chariots have separate features to distinguish from each other.

Jagannath Rath Yatra is a popular Hindu festival organized each year at the famous Jagannath Temple in Puri, Odisha. Rath Yatra commemorates Lord Jagannath's annual visit to Gundicha Mata temple. It is said that to honour the devotion of Queen Gundicha, the wife of the legendary King Indradyumna who built the Puri Jagannath Temple. Lord Jagannath, Lord Balabhadra and Goddess Subhadra leave their regular abode in the main temple and spend a few days in this temple built by Gundicha in their honour. After resting eight days in Gundicha temple they all return to their main abode - the Jagannath Temple. Idols of all the three are carried in procession in huge, beautifully decorated wooden chariots pulled by a great number of enthusiastic devotees falling over each other to get a chance to serve the deities. All of this makes for a unique sight and forms the core of the Rath Yatra or Chariot festival, one of the most sacred Indian occasions.





Hemis Festival, Ladakh

09th to 10th July, 2022

- ❖ Hemis Gompa, a Tibetan Buddhist monastery, dates back to the 11th century.
- ❖ The key attraction is the masked dance performance by the Lamas.

The courtyard of Hemis Monastery, the biggest Buddhist monastery of the state, is the stage for this famous festival that celebrates the birth anniversary of Guru Padmasambhava. The colourful two-day pageant falls on the 10th day (Tse-Chu) of the Tibetan lunar month. The local people are seen dressed up in their finest traditional garb for the occasion. Lamas perform splendid masked dances and sacred plays to the accompaniment of cymbals, drums and long horns. The head lama presides over the function. A colourful fair, displaying some beautiful handicrafts, is the special highlight of the festival.





Phyang Tsedup Festival, Leh & Ladakh

26th to 27th July, 2022

- ❖ The Buddhist sacred monastery Phyang is a religious haven to 70 Buddhist monks and is situated at 17 Kms to the west of Leh.
- ❖ The Phyang Tsedup festival is celebrated with special prayers, chanting of auspicious Buddhist mantras, and sacred mask dance by Buddhist monks.

The Monastery of Phyang is home to about 70 monks belonging to the Red Hat Sect of Buddhists where Phyang Tsedup festival is held annually and goes on for 2 days. On the day of the Tsedup, special prayers are performed. The sacred mask dance of monks in rich silk costumes is the prime attraction. Along with this, dramas or 'Chhams' are the main part of the festival. Devotees perform a pilgrimage to the huge Thangka of Skyabje Jigten Gombo (the founder of the Dringungpa monastic order), which is exhibited during this 2-day festival. This is unveiled once in 3 years in the years of the pig, the snake and the monkey of the Tibetan calendar.





Teej Festival, Northwest India

31st July to 01st August, 2022

- ❖ It is celebrated in July or August annually, in India's monsoon season.
- ❖ Teej is in praise of marital bliss and the well-being of spouse and children.

Also known as Haryali Teej, Teej is a popular festival that welcomes the monsoon season to North Western India and coincides with the legend that Lord Shiva finally accepted Goddess Parvati's love and married her. This festival is celebrated by married women who keep a fast during the festival and pray to Goddess Parvati to bless their husbands with a long and healthy life. As part of the celebrations, women dress up in traditional attires and put henna on their hands and feet, bright green bangles are also worn on their wrists. Even unmarried women keep the fast, praying to the Goddess to bless them with a good husband, and a blissful marriage.







August 2022

festivals

11th August, 2022

Raksha Bandhan, North India

13th August, 2022

Nehru Trophy Boat Race, Kerala

18th August, 2022

Krishna Janmashtami

31st August, 2022

Ganesh Chaturthi, West India

Date to be announced

Namkhan, Demul, Spiti, Himachal
Pradesh

August 2022

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Raksha Bandhan, North India

11th August, 2022

- ❖ The word Raksha means to protect, whilst Bandhan means to tie.
- ❖ Raksha Bandhan celebrates the love between brothers and sisters in India.

Raksha Bandhan or Rakhi celebrates the love between brothers and sisters in India. The word Raksha means to protect, whilst Bandhan means to tie. On the day of Raksha Bandhan, sisters tie threads or colourful bands, called Rakshis on their brother's wrist as a mark of affection. The brothers in return promise to protect their sisters and offer them gifts.





Nehru Trophy Boat Race, Kerala

13th August, 2022

- ❖ Started in the year 1952, The Nehru Trophy Boat Race is the most popular boat race of Kerala.
- ❖ The boats used in this race measure over 100 feet in length and can accommodate over 100 people.

The Nehru boat race is the most popular boat race of Kerala which sees participation across the state. The boats used in this race measure over 100 feet in length with a raised prow and each boat can accommodate over 100 people comprising a leader, oarsmen, helmsmen and those who sing songs to keep the tempo going. This is truly a high adrenaline and action packed festival in Kerala which sees as many as two hundred thousand visitors every year.



Krishna Janmashtami

18th August, 2022

- ❖ Krishna Janmashtami celebrates the birthday of Krishna, a major deity of the Hindu religion.
- ❖ It is widely celebrated across India with devotional songs, dances and pujas. The Janmashtami celebrations of Mathura and Vrindavan, not too far away from Agra are very special.

Janmashtami, the birthday of Krishna, a major deity of Hindu religion is celebrated with great enthusiasm across India in the month of July or August. The actual celebrations take place at midnight as Krishna is believed to be born on a dark, stormy night. The Janmashtami celebrations of Mathura and Vrindavan, where Krishna is said to have spent his early years, are very special.





Ganesh Chaturthi, West India

31st August, 2022

- ❖ Ganesh Chaturthi is a ten-day festival that celebrates the birthday of Ganesha; the elephant headed Hindu deity.
- ❖ The immersion processions of the Ganesha idols are a highlight of the festival.

Ganesh Chaturthi is a ten-day festival that celebrates the birthday of Ganesha; the elephant headed Hindu deity. The festival begins with the installation of beautifully sculpted Ganesha idols in the homes and mandaps (large canopies). During the 10 day festival, Ganesha's favourite sweets and savouries are made and distributed among the people. On the 11th day, the Ganesha idols are taken in a procession with much fanfare, singing and dancing and finally immersed in the water symbolizing a ritual in which Ganesha returns to his abode, taking along with him the worries and troubles of his devotees. The longest immersion procession is that of Mumbai's Lalbaughcha Raja, which starts at around 10 am and ends the next morning, taking nearly 24 hours.





Namkhan, Himachal Pradesh

Dates to be announced

- ❖ Elaborate ceremony to appease the village deity after which the villagers ride on horseback to an auspicious spot believed by the locals to house all the 5 monasteries of Spiti in a world which can be seen only by enlightened beings.
- ❖ Visit to the auspicious place on Yaks a day before Namkhan. It has an amazing 360 view of the mountain ranges.
- ❖ Folk Dance by the girls of Demul.
- ❖ An insight into the Green initiatives of Demul their agricultural practices along with the intricate system of irrigation which ensures minimal wastage of water.
- ❖ Meeting with the Nono (title for the King of Spiti), who prefers to be known as a progressive farmer.

The Namkhan festival at the highland village of Demul at an altitude of 4350 meters in the cold desert of Spiti is wrapped around the agricultural practices of the village. The main objective of this small community festival is to appease and pray to the Gods for a good harvest. Namkhan provides an interesting insight into the relationship and significance of the village deity in the day to day life of the village. Demul also happens to be the village where our Friends in Spiti have launched their "Off the Grid" project. From lighting to water heating to room heating using solar energy and cultivation of vegetables using Greenhouses, Demul is being developed as a sustainable village.







September 2022

festivals

08th September, 2022

Onam, Kerala

09 September to 05 October, 2022

Ramnagar Ramlila, Uttar Pradesh

10th to 12th September, 2022

Tarnetar Mela, Gujarat

11th September, 2022

Pulikali Tiger Dance, Kerala

26th September to 05th October, 2022

Navratri, Gujarat

26th September to 05th October, 2022

Mysuru Dasara, Karnataka

september 2022

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Ramnagar Ramlila, Uttar Pradesh

09th September to 05th October, 2022

- ❖ Ramlila at Ramnagar has been performed for almost 200 years, making it the world's oldest Ramlila performance.
- ❖ This 31 day long festival is held in the outskirts of Varanasi when the entire town is turned into a stage for the Ramlila artists.

Ramlila, literally means “Rama’s play”, is a fascinating screenplay of Ramayana in a series of scenes that include songs, narrations, recitals and dialogues. It is performed across northern India during the festival of Dussehra, held each year according to the ritual calendar in autumn. It is believed to have been born in the country between 1200 and 1500 A.D. when Akbar, the Mughal Emperor, used to be the spectator of a live Ramlila show during his rule. The present day staging of the Ramayana is based on the Ramacharitmanas, the sacred text devoted to the glory of Rama, the hero of the Ramayana, which was composed by Tulsidas in the sixteenth century. The Ramlila in Ramnagar is very popular in India and held for a time span of 31 days as opposed to the normal duration of 10 days.



Tarnetar Mela, Gujarat

10th to 12th September, 2022

- ❖ The festival is assumed to have initiated about 200 to 250 years ago.
- ❖ The fair is based around young tribal men and women who are seeking suitable marriage partners.

This 3-day fair is held on the grounds of the temple of Triniteshwar Mahadev, which means "the three-eyed God." Legend says that this fair has been held here since ancient times. Its origin is linked with the story of Draupadi's swayamvar, where the great archer Arjun performed the difficult task of piercing the eye of a rotating fish with an arrow, by only looking at its reflection in the water. The fair is a celebration of ethnic Gujarat's folk-dance, music, costumes and the arts, centred around young tribal men and women seeking marriage partners.





Pulikali Tiger Dance, Kerala

11th September, 2022

- ❖ Get a ringside view of the preparations of this spectacular event of colour, sound and movement right behind your hotel. Great photo opportunities.
- ❖ Interact with the “Tigers” and get to know first-hand the painstaking efforts of the performers before they take to the streets.
- ❖ If you are adventurous, the painters there are happy to paint a Tiger face on your belly and you can learn a few Pulikali moves too from the performers.
- ❖ Cheer for the Tigers as they roam the streets of Thrissur, dancing to rustic drumbeats.

Potbellied men dance with tiger faces painted on their rotund bellies to rustic drumbeats in this pantomime-cum-parade dance at on the streets of Thrissur. It is held on the 4th day of Onam every year. The Pulikali Tiger Dance is said to be a nearly 200 year old tradition. But no one knows how it all began at Thrissur. While some locals say that Pulikali was brought to Kerala by Muslims who performed the dance during their mourning festival of Muharram; others say the local Maharaja wanted a new dance, something macho, as a part of the Onam celebrations with steps that mime hunting moves and tactics.





Navratri, Gujarat

26th September to 05th October, 2022

- ❖ Navratri in ancient Sanskrit language of India means 9 nights and it is a part of a fortnight long celebration called Devi Paksha where people worship Shakti; the divine feminine of Hinduism.
- ❖ Fasting, abstinence from certain diets, rituals, dances and prayers mark these 9 nights dedicated to the 9 different forms of the Mother Goddess.

Navratri is celebrated over 9 days dedicated to the 9 different forms of the Mother Goddess . Fasting, abstinence from certain diets, rituals, dances and prayers mark these 9 nights. The people of Gujarat are known for their extravagant 'Garba' dance on each night during Navaratri with Ahmedabad being the centre of all the revelry.



Mysuru Dasara, Karnataka

26th September to 05th October, 2022

- ❖ Mysore Dasara, which is a 400 year old tradition is the biggest and the most prominent festival of Karnataka.
- ❖ The Mysore Palace is lit up with 100,000 light bulbs in the evenings for the entire duration of the festival.

Mysuru Dussehra is the biggest and the most prominent festival of Karnataka. It is a 400 year old tradition. The Mysore Palace is lit up with 100,000 light bulbs in the evenings for the entire duration of the festival. The highlight of the festival is the grand parade of decorated elephants and guards on horse backs, escorting the idol of the Mother Goddess through the streets of the city.



The background of the image is a repeating floral pattern in a light pink or lavender color. It features stylized flowers of various sizes, some with multiple petals, and elegant, swirling vines with small leaves. The pattern is dense and covers the entire area.

October 2022

festivals

02nd to 05th October, 2022

Durga Puja, West Bengal

05th to 14th October, 2022

Dussehra in Kullu, Himachal Pradesh

05th October, 2022

Dussehra, Delhi

06th to 10th October, 2022

Rajasthan International Folk Festival (RIFF)

08th to 09th October, 2022

Marwar Festival, Rajasthan

24th October, 2022

Diwali (Festival of Lights)

october 2022

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Durga Puja, West Bengal

02nd to 05th October, 2022

- ❖ Durga Puja is a part of a fortnight long celebration called Devi Paksha where people worship Shakti; the divine feminine of Hinduism.
- ❖ It is most significant for the Bengali community of West Bengal in particular, who celebrate Durga puja with great enthusiasm.

Durga Puja is a part of a fortnight long celebration called Devi Paksha where people worship Shakti; the divine feminine of Hinduism. It is most significant for the Bengali community of West Bengal in particular, who celebrate Durga puja with great enthusiasm. The multi-day festival is particularly fascinating in Kolkata where it is all about exquisite idols of Goddess Durga, extravagant thematic pandals (stages), rituals, dances, good food, huge crowds and chants of “Bolo Ma Durga ki Joi” (Hail Mother Durga). It is that time of the year when Bengalis plan each day meticulously – what to dress, where to go, whom to meet, what to eat, what to cook et al. Nothing else matters. The women folk bring out all the traditional jewellery and the best traditional saris which otherwise lie wasted in some corner of the wardrobe during other times of the year.



Dussehra In Kullu, Himachal Pradesh

05th to 14th October, 2022

- ❖ Kullu Dussehra begins when Dussehra festivities ends elsewhere in India.
- ❖ The flavour of the festivities, rituals and traditions of Kullu Dussehra makes it totally different from the Dussehra celebrations elsewhere in the country.

The internationally famed Kullu Dussehra which is held in Kullu Valley dates back to the 17th century. The concept of local deities, or devtas, is ancient and is prevalent across the Himalayan region of India. The belief that these local deities rule over the land as owners, and take care of the people and their possessions, has led to a unique cultural system in the region. Kullu Dussehra is week-long congregation of many such local deities from the various villages of Kullu Valley. They arrive in colourful processions to pay respect to Raghunathji who is considered to be the head of all the local deities of Kullu Valley.



Dussehra, Delhi

05th October, 2022

- ❖ Dussehra marks the end of the fortnight long celebration called Devi Paksha where people worship Shakti; the divine feminine of Hinduism.
- ❖ Ramlila, a fascinating screenplay of the Indian epic Ramayana which includes songs, narrations, recitals and dialogues is performed.

Dussehra marks the end of the fortnight long celebration called Devi Paksha where people worship Shakti; the divine feminine of Hinduism. Ramlila, a fascinating screenplay of the Indian epic Ramayana which includes songs, narrations, recitals and dialogues is performed. Effigies of Ravana; along with his son and brother, all antagonists of Ram, the central character of the Ramayana, are stuffed with fire crackers and set ablaze at night in an open field which is a spectacle to behold. Delhi is world famous for its Dussehra at the Ramlila ground and several other venues across the city.



Rajasthan International Folk Festival (RIFF), Rajasthan

06th to 10th October, 2022

- ❖ Musicians from Rajasthan and all over the world jam together at the Mehrangarh Fort in Jodhpur.
- ❖ The pre-dawn concerts at various venues in and around the Mehrangarh Fort are a highlight of the festival.

In this music festival held every year, musicians from Rajasthan and all over the world gather to jam for four nights at the magnificent Mehrangarh Fort in Jodhpur. The festival coincides with the brightest full moon of the year, the Sharad Purnima. Interactive sessions with the artists are held for visitors and students during the day time.





Marwar Festival, Rajasthan

08th to 09th October, 2022

- ❖ The festival is celebrated in remembrance of Rajput heroes of its glorious princely past.
- ❖ Umaid Bhawan Palace, Mandore and Mehrangarh Fort are the venues of the Marwar festival.

Marwar Festival is a 2 day annual music and dance festival held in Jodhpur which was once the capital of the state of Marwar. The main attraction of the festival is Rajasthani folk music and dance dedicated to princely Rajasthan.



Diwali (Festivals of Light)

24th October, 2022

- ❖ The largest and brightest festival on the Hindu calendar.
- ❖ Diwali is celebrated by millions across the world.

Diwali is India's festival of lights. It celebrated by decorating homes with lamps and candles, bursting firecrackers, eating good food, praying to Gods and Goddesses, wearing new dresses and ornaments, visiting friends and relatives whilst exchanging wishes and gifts.





The background of the image is a repeating floral pattern in a light pink or lavender color. It features stylized flowers of various sizes, some with multiple petals, and elegant, swirling vines with small leaves. The pattern is dense and covers the entire area.

November 2022

festivals

01st to 09th November, 2022

Pushkar Mela, Rajasthan

07th to 09th November, 2022

Chandrabhaga Fair, Rajasthan

07th November, 2022

Dev Deepavali, Uttar Pradesh

07th November, 2022

Majuli Raas Mahotsav, Assam

Animal Fair - 21st to 27th November 2022

Religious Fair - 05th to 12th December 2022

Bateshwar Fair, Uttar Pradesh

21st to 30th November, 2022

The Sangai Festival of Manipur

Dates to be announced

Kochi-Muziris Biennale, Kerala

Dates to be announced

Hampi Utsav, Karnataka

November 2022

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Pushkar Mela, Rajasthan

01st to 09th November, 2022

- ❖ India's most popular animal fair.
- ❖ A great mix of age old commerce and religious fervour in one of Rajasthan's most sacred towns dedicated to Brahma; the creator of the Hindu pantheon.

The Pushkar Mela is India's most popular animal fair held in the town of Pushkar in Rajasthan. It is visited by hundreds of thousands of people from all over India and the world.





Chandrabhaga Fair, Rajasthan

07th to 09th November, 2022

- ❖ A lesser known animal and religious fair of Rajasthan by the River Chandrabhaga.
- ❖ A fantastic opportunity to mingle with the locals, witness their rituals and traditions, enjoy folk music performances and purchase colourful traditional Rajasthani arts and craft

The lesser known Chandrabhaga Fair which is a mix of commerce and religion is held every year in the town of Jhalarapatan in Rajasthan. Known as the “city of bells”, Jhalarapatan is home to some of Rajasthan’s most beautiful temples. This fair is held on an auspicious day of the Hindu calendar, where thousands of pilgrims take a dip in the waters of the Chandrabhaga River. Alongside the rituals, the venue also hosts a cattle fair. Chandrabhaga Fair is a fantastic opportunity to mingle with the locals, witness their rituals and traditions, enjoy folk music performances and purchase colourful traditional Rajasthani arts and craft





Dev Deepavali, Uttar Pradesh

07th November, 2022

- ❖ The Ghats of Varanasi come alive with thousands of earthen oil lamps.
- ❖ The evening ceremony by the Ganga on Dev Deepavali is very elaborate compared to other days.

On Dev Deepavali the Ghats of Varanasi is lit with thousands of earthen oil lamps. It is also known as the Diwali of the Gods and Goddesses. It is believed that the Gods and Goddesses descend on earth to bathe in the River Ganga on Dev Deepavali. Varanasi on Dev Deepavali is a spectacle worth beholding with thousands of earthen oil lamps lit all over the Ghats. The view is enchanting and magical. Firecrackers are burnt at night, processions of decorated deities are taken out into the streets and oil lamps are set afloat on the river. Even the Ganga Aarti on the evening of Dev Deepavali is an elaborate one compared to other days.





Majuli Raas Mahotsav, Assam

07th November, 2022

- ❖ The Raas Mahotsav celebrates the life and times of Krishna, a major deity of the Hindu religion.
- ❖ It is held in Majuli, Asia's largest freshwater River island and the hub of Assamese culture accessible only by a 2 hr ferry ride.

The Raas Mahotsav is celebrated with immense enthusiasm by the residents of Majuli, Asia's largest freshwater River island and the hub of Assamese culture accessible only by a 2 hr ferry ride. The festival celebrates the life and times of Krishna, a major deity of the Hindu religion. Almost every person on the island is involved in the preparations and performances of this festival, making it the grandest one of Majuli.





Bateshwar Fair, Uttar Pradesh

Animal Fair - 21st to 27th November, 2022 | Religious Fair - 05th to 12th December, 2022

- ❖ The second largest animal fair, and the largest gathering of horses in India.
- ❖ A great mix of age old commerce and religious fervour by the Yamuna River.

The ancient temple complex at Bateshwar consists of more than a hundred temples built along the banks of the River Yamuna, dedicated to the Hindu God Shiva. Bateshwar has long been celebrated for its annual fair, which is believed to have commenced over 2000 years ago. Although the origins of this historic fair are religious, it is also of great commercial importance and is renowned as the 2nd largest animal fair in the country (Sonapur in Bihar being the largest). The fair begins with cattle trading, followed by the trading of camels, horses and finally donkeys. The fair is a very real and authentic glimpse of rural India.





The Sangai Festival Of Manipur

21st to 30th November, 2022

- ❖ The festival is named after the brow-antlered Sangai deer found only in Manipur.
- ❖ The highlight of the Festival is the game Sagol Kangjei which is considered the precursor of the modern-day game of Polo (will be held on 23 and 24 November 2020).

Named after the Sangai, the brow-antlered deer found only in Manipur, the festival showcases Manipur's fine workmanship and culture, handloom, handicraft and art, indigenous games, food and music. A combination of the Sangai Festival and the Hornbill Festival in Kohima, Nagaland (01-10 December) makes for an interesting one when it comes to showcasing the diversity of India.



Kochi-Muziris Biennale, Kerala

Dates to be announced

- ❖ It is largest event of its kind in South Asia.
- ❖ This is India's first ever biennial of international contemporary art.

The Kochi-Muziris Biennale is an international exhibition of contemporary art held in Kochi, Kerala. Artists exhibit artworks with variety of mediums including film, installation, painting, sculpture, new media and performance art. This biennale seeks to invoke the historic cosmopolitan legacy of the modern metropolis of Kochi and its mythical predecessor, the ancient port of Muziris. Alongside the exhibition the Biennale offers a rich programme of talks, seminars, screenings, music, workshops and educational activities for school children and students.





Hampi Utsav, Karnataka

Dates to be announced

- ❖ A festival that dates back to the ancient Vijayanagara Kingdom of the 14th century.
- ❖ Decorated elephants, horses and men dressed in the military fashion of the Golden Era, are posted along the lanes of Hampi.

Hampi Utsav, also known as the Vijaya Utsav, has been celebrated from the times of the Vijayanagara Kingdom. The celebrations is packed with traditional Kannadigas dance, drama, fireworks, puppet shows, spectacular parades and musical instruments like drums and pipes are played to renew the brilliance of yesteryear. Artists from various fields and from every corner of India gather here to enjoy the beautiful splendour of the festival.







December 2022

festivals

01st to 03rd December, 2022

Kumbhalgarh Dance Festival, Rajasthan

01st to 10th December, 2022

Hornbill Festival, Nagaland

Mid December to Mid January

Chennai Festival, Chennai

20th December to 20th January

Mammallapuram Dance Festival

Date be announced

Ram Vivah, Madhya Pradesh

Date be announced

Kallyot Bahgavathy Temple Theyyam

December 2022

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Kumbhalgarh Dance Festival, Rajasthan

01st to 03rd December, 2022

- ❖ It is a 3 day festival where India's finest classical musician, artists and dancers assemble and give their best performances.
- ❖ A few fun competitions among locals and foreigners are also conducted.

Kumbhalgarh Classical Dance Festival is where India's finest classical musician, artists and renowned dancers assemble and give their best performances. The festival is an ode to Maharaja Kumbha, who was a great patron of arts and contributed much to the culture of Kumbhalgarh. The festival is hosted during the day and night. The day sees exhibitions by locals who display their wares ranging from regional ethnic wear, jewellery, handicrafts, souvenirs, etc. The evening is dedicated to the arts where musicians and dancers perform to the cheering crowds. A few fun competitions among locals and foreigners are also conducted and visitors can also witness the historical and popular puppet show organised here.



Hornbill Festival, Nagaland

01st to 10th December, 2022

- ❖ Cultural performances by the various tribes of Nagaland.
- ❖ Ethnic crafts, traditional sports, replicas of traditional Naga houses of the different tribes, food, and age old ceremonies.

Since the year 2000, the Hornbill Festival in Kohima, the capital city of the Northeastern state of Nagaland has been an annual affair. It showcases all the major tribes of Nagaland; their customs, traditions, heritage, food, costumes, handicraft et al. The festival is named after a bird - the Hornbill- widely respected and depicted in the folklore of the different Naga Tribes.





Chennai Festival, Tamil Nadu

Mid December to Mid January

- ❖ The month long dance and music extravaganza will have performances of eminent artistes from various parts of India.
- ❖ This festival is dedicated to South Indian Classical music and dance.

Chennai Music and Dance Festival is a celebration of classical music and dances of South India held during mid-December to mid-January. The festival is held at a number of venues around the city by various 'sabhas' or organizations. Besides the auditoriums, well-known temple premises and heritage bungalows are also used as venues. It is touted to be the largest music festival in the world, with a total of around 1500 individual performances by various renowned and amateur artists throughout the fortnight.

இந்திய நாட்டிய விழா - மாமல்லபுரம்
INDIAN DANCE FESTIVAL - MAMALLAPURAM



Mamallapuram Dance Festival, Tamil Nadu

20th December to 20th January, 2022

- ❖ The event is held at the Pallava Rock Sculptures in Mahabalipuram.
- ❖ Dancers present various dance forms including Odissi, Kuchipudi and the traditional dance of Tamilnadu - Bharatanatyam.

This annual dance festival is performed in an open-air 'stage', against the backdrop of the incredible monolithic rock sculptures of the Pallavas in the city of Mammallapuram. The town is full of ancient monuments, sculptures, caves, monolithic temples and beaches. This four-week long dance extravaganza draws artists, dancers, troupes and eminent dance gurus. The prominent exponents of Kathakali, Bharatanatyam and Kathak are active participants of this cultural show. Besides Classical, folk dances are also performed during the event.





Ram Vivah, Madhya Pradesh

Dates to be announced

- ❖ The small town of Orchha plays host to the marriage of Ram & Sita, the main protagonists of the Indian epic Ramayana.
- ❖ The main highlight is the marriage procession which goes from door to door accompanied by dancing horses, village bands and actors dressed as Ram & his brother Laxman.

Every year around November-December, the small town of Orchha comes alive with the unique festival of Ram Vivah. Devotees from all around come to Orchha to attend the marriage of Ram & Sita, the main protagonists of the Indian epic Ramayana. The two day festival which sees a lot of feasting and merry-making culminates on the evening of the second day with a huge marriage procession where the idol of Ram is carried in a palanquin from door to door accompanied by dancing horses, village bands and actors dressed as Ram & his brother Laxman.





Kallyot Bahgavathy Temple Theyyam

Date be announced

- ❖ The main attraction is plethora of cultural dance performances in an exceptional way.
- ❖ Usually held between the months from November to April according to the festival calendar Kerala.

Theyyam is a fascinating religious ritual of Kerala; intense and dark, which incorporates dance, mime and music, to celebrate an ancient tribal culture, which attaches great importance to the worship of heroes and ancestral spirits. Kannur and Kasargod are the best places in North Kerala to go see a Theyyam. Of the two Kannur is the stronghold of Theyyam and is best recommended. A Theyyam can happen in a temple, in a forest shrine, in a private shrine or a private home. In a Theyyam, an oracle offers his body to the spirits -sometimes that of an ancestor, maybe a great forest hero of the yore or a serpent goddess - as a medium to communicate with the villagers, understand their problems, offer solutions and bless them. People wanting counsel approach the Oracle in a trance-eyes bulging and rolling back- with their questions. Answers are given in whispers and sometimes in extensive outbursts. It is believed by the locals that the Oracle of a Theyyam possessed by spirits can cure an illness, ensure a good harvest or drive away evil spirits.



JANUARY

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2023

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AUGUST

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NOVEMBER

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Tentative Festival Dates 2023

Dates for 2023 are tentative and likely to change based on the traditional Lunar Calendar. This is just to give you a rough idea. Please check with your account manager on the exact dates closer to the year.

04th January, 2023

Athikkavu Vela, Kerala

13th to 16th January, 2023

Pongal, TamilNadu

14th to 15th January, 2023

Bikaner Camel Festival

14th January, 2023

International Kite Festival, Gujarat

14th January, 2023

Gangasagar Mela

14th January, 2023

Varakkara Pooram, Kerala

14th to 15th January, 2023

Magh Bihu Festival, Assam

27th to 30th January, 2023

Nagaur Cattle Festival

01st to 16th February, 2023

Surajkund Crafts Mela, Haryana

03rd to 05th February, 2023

Baneshwar Fair, Rajasthan

03rd to 05th February, 2023

Jaisalmer Desert Festival, Rajasthan

04th to 12th February, 2023

Kala Ghoda Art Festival, Mumbai

05th February, 2023

Thaipooam, Kerala

Mid February, 2023

Andalur Kavu Temple Festival, Kerala

18th February, 2023

Palakkad Pariyanampetta Pooram, Kerala

18th to 21st February, 2023

Goa Carnival

18th to 27th February, 2023

Taj Mahotsav

20th to 26th February, 2023

Khajuraho Dance Festival

21st February, 2023

Losar, Sikkim

01st to 02nd March, 2023

Braj Festival, Rajasthan

07th March, 2023

Attukal Pongala Festival, Kerala

First Week of March, 2023

Parippally Gajamela, Kerala

08th March, 2023

Holi

08th to 10th March, 2023

Hola Mohalla

24th to 25th March, 2023

Gangaur Festival, Rajasthan

24th to 26th March, 2023

Mewar Festival, Rajasthan

03rd April, 2023

Nenmara Vallanghi Vela, Kerala

14th or 15th April, 2023

Thirunelli Temple Vishu Festival, Kerala



Tentative Festival Dates 2023

Dates for 2023 are tentative and likely to change based on the traditional Lunar Calendar. This is just to give you a rough idea. Please check with your account manager on the exact dates closer to the year.

22nd April, 2023
Eid-Ul-Fitr

01st May, 2023
Thrissur Pooram, Kerala

05th May, 2023
Buddha Purnima

30th May, 2023
Ganga Dussehra, Prayagraj/Haridwar/
Rishkesh/Varanasi

28th to 29th June, 2023
Hemis Festival, Ladakh

15th to 16th July, 2023
Phyang Tsedup Festival, Leh & Ladakh

12th August, 2023
Nehru Trophy Boat Race, Kerala

19th to 20th August, 2023
Teej Festival, Northwest India

30th August, 2023
Raksha Bandhan

31st August to 02nd September, 2023
Tarnetar Mela, Gujarat

06th September, 2023
Krishna Janmashtami

19th September, 2023
Ganesh Chaturthi

28th September to 24th October, 2023
Ramnagar Ramlila, Uttar Pradesh

21st to 24th October, 2023
Durga Puja, West Bengal

23rd October, 2023
Dussehra, Delhi

27th to 28th October, 2023
Marwar Festival, Rajasthan

Animal: 09th to 15th November, 2023
Religious: 23rd to 30th November, 2023
Bateshwar Fair

12th November, 2023
Diwali

20th to 27th November, 2023
Pushkar Mela

21st to 30th November, 2023
The Sangai Festival of Manipur

26th to 28th November, 2023
Chandrabhaga Fair, Rajasthan

26th November, 2023
Dev Deepavali

26th November, 2023
Majuli Raas Mahotsav, Assam

01st to 03rd Dec, 2023
Kumbhalgarh Dance Festival,
Rajasthan

01st to 10th December, 2023
Hornbill Festival, Nagaland

