

January 2025

Festivals

Karamel Muchilottu Perumkaliyattam
Theyyam, Kannur, Kerala
1st to 6th January

Athikkavu Vela, Thrissur, Kerala
04th January

International Yoga Festival, Pondicherry,
Tamil Nadu
04th to 07th January

Bikaner Camel Festival, Bikaner, Rajasthan
11th to 12th January

International Kite Festival, Sabarmati
Riverfront, Gujarat
11th to 14th January

Lohri, All across Punjab and Delhi
13th January

Varakkara Pooram
13th January

Magh Bihu Festival, All across Assam
14th January

Makar sankranti, All across Northern India
14th January

Pongal, All across Tamil Nadu
14th to 17th January

Gangasagar Mela, Gangasagar, West Bengal
15th January

Modhera Dance Festival, Modhera, Gujarat
18th to 19th January

Kala Ghoda Art Festival, Mumbai, Maharashtra
25th Jan to 2nd Feb

Jaipur Literature Festival, Jaipur, Rajasthan
30th January to 03rd February

Sanatkada Festival, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh
31st January to 04th February



January 2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	



Karamel Muchilottu Perumkaliyattam Theyyam

The Karamel Muchilottu Perumkaliyattam Theyyam is an annual festival held at the Muchilottu Perumkaliyattam temple in Kannur, Kerala. This Theyyam festival, celebrated with great enthusiasm, features vibrant performances of the ancient Kerala dance form, Theyyam. The festival attracts devotees and tourists from across India and the world, who come to witness the spectacular dance form, music, and rituals. The Theyyam performances, accompanied by traditional musical instruments, are a mesmerizing experience, showcasing Kerala's fascinating cultural history and its traditions.

Highlights:

- Enticing performances highlighted by elaborate costumes, intricate body painting, and dramatic make-up
- The performers, embodying divine and heroic figures, engage in intense, ritualistic dances

 **When:** January 1 - 6, 2025

 **Where:** Kannur, Kerala



Athikkavu Vela

Athikkavu, a small, privately owned temple in Thrissur's suburbs, boasts a beautiful riverside setting and a relaxed ambiance. The temple's annual festival, Athikkavu Vela, takes place in the first week of January. Although smaller than other major temple festivals in the region, it features an afternoon procession with three elephants and traditional percussion, drawing the local community. The serene environment and easy accessibility of the festival make it an attractive option for visitors seeking to experience local culture and traditions in a picturesque setting.

Highlights:

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



When: January 4, 2025



Where: Thrissur, Kerala



International Yoga Festival

The International Yoga Festival in Pondicherry is a vibrant four-day celebration of yoga, organized by the Government of Pondicherry. Held annually from January 4th to 7th at the Kamarajar Manimandapam, this festival attracts yoga enthusiasts from around the globe. Participants can immerse themselves in a variety of workshops, lectures, demonstrations, and competitions, covering aspects such as meditation, yoga therapy, music, and dance. Additionally, the event includes guided tours to local attractions, allowing attendees to explore Pondicherry's rich cultural heritage. The festival aims to foster individual well-being and societal harmony through the ancient practice of yoga.

Highlights:

- A four-day event celebrating the ancient practice of yoga and its holistic benefits
- Aims to develop the conscious process at all levels - physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual



When: January 4 - 7, 2025



Where: Pondicherry, Tamil Nadu



Bikaner Camel Festival

The Camel Festival in Bikaner is a vibrant annual celebration showcasing spectacular displays of camels adorned in colorful bridles, traditional necklaces, and heavy anklets. The festival features competitions such as best decorated camels, camel milking, and best fur cutting designs. While it primarily glorifies the "kings of the Desert," traditional Rajasthani folk dance performances and music add to its charm. Visitors can also indulge in local delicacies, shop for souvenirs, and capture the lively atmosphere through photography, making it a captivating and culturally rich experience.

Highlights:

- Camel races, safaris for travellers and camel fur-shearing
- Folk and fire dances and spectacular fireworks light up the night sky

 **When:** January 11 - 12, 2025

 **Where:** Bikaner, Rajasthan



International Kite Festival

Uttarayan, celebrated with vibrant kite flying, marks the end of winter in Gujarat. This festival fosters community spirit with friendly neighbourhood competitions and delicious Gujarati delicacies. Since 1989, Ahmedabad has hosted the Kite Festival, attracting master kite makers and flyers from around the world. The sky transforms into a kaleidoscope of colours from dawn to dusk, creating a spectacular sight. This event offers a unique opportunity to witness and appreciate the age-old sport of kite flying and the joyous spirit it embodies. It's a celebration that brings people together, showcasing the rich cultural heritage of Gujarat.

Highlights:

- A spectacular event where master kite makers and kite flyers from across the globe wow the crowds
- It embodies the community spirit, creating a joyous and visually stunning celebration



When: January 11 - 14, 2025



Where: Sabarmati Riverfront, Gujarat



Lohri

Lohri marks the beginning of the harvest season in Northern India, especially celebrated in the Punjab region by Sikh and Hindu communities. Known as the winter solstice, it signifies the earth's journey back towards the sun, ending the coldest month and heralding spring. After harvesting the Rabi crop, people gather around bonfires, singing folk songs and dancing to the beats of the dhol. According to folklore, the flames carry prayers to the Sun God, bringing warmth to help crops grow. People throw rewaris, popcorn, and other treats into the fire as offerings. Lohri is particularly auspicious for newlyweds and new parents.

Highlights:

- A winter folk festival celebrating the passing of the winter solstice and the oncoming spring
- Locals gather at a common place and set up a traditional bonfire with folk songs and dances



When: January 13, 2025



Where: All across Punjab and Delhi



Varakkara Pooram

The Varakkara Pooram, celebrated during the transition of the Sun from Sagittarius to Capricorn, is a major event in the Hindu calendar. Several temples around Thrissur, particularly in Varakkara village, participate in this festival. Each temple represents a locality and hosts its own festivities and processions, with enthusiastic participation from the local population. The highlight is the grand final procession, featuring twenty-three caparisoned elephants and a magnificent percussion ensemble, creating a spectacular and easily viewable event in a vast open space. This festival vividly showcases the region's rich cultural and religious traditions.

Highlights:

- Festival of various temples in and around the Varakkara village in the suburbs of Thrissur
- Grand procession with twenty-three caparisoned elephants can be viewed



When: January 13, 2025



Where: Thrissur, Kerala



Magh Bihu Festival

Magh Bihu is a significant community festival in Assam, marking the end of the harvest season. The night before, known as Uruka, brings the community together for feasting, dancing, and singing. The following morning, people gather to light the Meji, a large bonfire, and offer prayers for a prosperous harvest in the coming year. While it holds particular importance for farmers, Magh Bihu is celebrated by everyone across cities and towns, reflecting unity and communal joy. This festival is a vibrant blend of traditions, food, music, and heartfelt prayers, showcasing the cultural story of Assam.

Highlights:

- It is the second largest in the series of Bihu farming festivals of Assam
- The occasion coincides with the celebrations of Pongal and Makar Sankranti in many states

 **When:** January 14, 2025

 **Where:** All across Assam



Makar Sankranti

Makar Sankranti, dedicated to Surya, the sun god, is celebrated with various customs across India, marking the end of winter and the onset of spring. Known by different names like Pongal, Lohri, Maghi, Bihu, and Sakraat, it usually falls in mid-January. The festival features kite flying, bonfires, fairs, ritualistic dips in sacred rivers, prayers to Surya, and traditional sweets made of sesame seeds, rice, and jaggery. A major event during Makar Sankranti is the Kumbh Mela, the world's largest mass pilgrimage, held every twelve years. In 2025, the Maha Kumbh Mela in Prayagraj will occur from January 10th to March 5th, with millions gathering for the holy dip and Shahi Snan on this day.

Highlights:

- Makar Sankranti marks the end of winter and the onset of spring
- It is a festival centred around community celebrations and is known

 **When:** January 14, 2025

 **Where:** All across Northern India



Pongal

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.

Highlights:

- A harvest festival celebrated with great pomp and show in Tamil Nadu
- Pongal takes its name from sweet rice infused cooked with milk and jaggery in a clay pot



When: January 14 - 17, 2025



Where: All across Tamil Nadu



Gangasagar Mela

Gangasagar Mela is a significant gathering of Hindu pilgrims during Makar Sankranti, held at Sagar Island (Sagar Sweek) in West Bengal, where the Ganga merges into the Bay of Bengal. Devotees take a holy dip in the River Ganga, believing it cleanses them of their sins and breaks the cycle of rebirth. The Gangasagar Snan is accompanied by a large fair, starting a few days before and ending one day after Sankranti. Similar vibrant scenes can be observed at various locations along the banks of the Ganges and its tributaries across Northern India, highlighting the region's deep spiritual and cultural traditions.

Highlights:

- This festival is celebrated with great zeal in Sunderban area, West Bengal
- Hindus take a holy dip at an auspicious time the previous morning and offer prayers to Surya (Sun god)

 **When:** January 15, 2025

 **Where:** Gangasagar, West Bengal



Modhera Dance Festival

The Modhera Dance Festival, set against the stunning backdrop of the 11th-century Sun Temple, is a mesmerizing celebration of dance and culture. The beautifully lit temple highlights the intricate details of its sculptures, creating a magical atmosphere. This festival attracts some of the best dance groups in the country, showcasing vibrant performances of Gujarati classical dances, folk dances, and music. The event not only celebrates the region's rich cultural heritage but also offers a unique opportunity for visitors to experience the artistic splendour of Modhera in a breath-taking setting.

Highlights:

- The beautiful Sun Temple acts as the backdrop during the festival of Indian classical dances
- The sun's first rays illuminate the deity in the innermost sanctum through the main entrance

 **When:** January 18 - 19, 2025

 **Where:** Modhera, Gujarat



Kala Ghoda Art Festival

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, architecture and heritage walks, the festival continues to present a medley of arts for the city to savour.

Highlights:

- 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



When: January 25 - February 2, 2025



Where: Mumbai, Maharashtra

#jaipurliteraturefestival2022
jaipurliteraturefestival.org

PRODUCED BY

TEAMWORK

Front
Lawn



JAIPUR LITERATURE FESTIVAL

TEAMWORK

THE
STRUGGLE
AND THE
PROMISE

Restoring India's
Potential

*A thought-provoking book
that gives meaning and vision to India's
present and potential for great achievement.*

BY NAUSHAD FORBES, FORMER UNION MINISTER OF INDIA

NAUSHAD FORBES

Jaipur Literature Festival

The Jaipur Literature Festival, which began in 2006, has grown into the largest event of its kind in the Asia-Pacific region. Initially held at Diggi Palace, it now spans multiple venues, including Hawa Mahal and Amber Fort. This festival gathers some of the world's greatest minds for readings, debates, discussions, live music sessions, and interactive workshops. Notable speakers have included Pulitzer Prize winners Andrew Sean Greer and Colson Whitehead, Markus Zusak, author of 'The Book Thief,' and Vikram Chandra of 'Sacred Games' fame. The current venue for the event is Clarks Amer, Jaipur.

Highlights:

- 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.



When: January 30 – February 3, 2025



Where: Jaipur, Rajasthan



Sanatkada Festival

The Mahindra Sanatkada Lucknow Festival (MSLF) is a vibrant celebration of Lucknow's rich culture, now in its 16th edition. The festival features a Weaves and Crafts Bazaar showcasing products by artisans from across India. This year's theme, "Raqs-o-Mausiqi" (time of music, pleasure, and comfort), includes a diverse range of activities: talks, workshops, walking tours, book launches, exhibitions, film screenings, and cultural performances. The festival is held across various locations in Lucknow, including Yahiyaganj, Chowk, and Chaupatiyan, offering a unique glimpse into the city's cultural scene.

Highlights:

- Mahinadra Sanatkada Festival celebrates the history, culture, art, music, food and language of Awadh
- This year's theme is 'Raqs-o-Mausiqi', meaning 'time of music, pleasure, and comfort'.



When: January 31 - February 4, 2025



Where: Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh