

March 2025

Festivals

Goa Carnival, All across Goa

01st to 04th March

**Kallyot Bahgavathy Temple Theyyam,
Kasaragod, Kerala**

5th to 12th March

Hoysala Mahotsava, Belur, Karnataka

9th to 12th March

**International Yoga Festival, Rishikesh,
Uttarakhand**

09th to 15th March

Parippally Gajamela, Kollam, Kerala

10th March

Masi Magam, Pondicherry, Tamil Nadu

12th March

Attukal Pongala Festival, Trivandrum, Kerala

13th March

Holi, All across North India and Nepal

14th March

Hola Mohalla, Anandpur, Punjab

14th to 16th March

Shigmo, All across Goa

15th to 29th March

Braj Festival, Bharatpur, Rajasthan

25th March

Eid-Ul-Fitr, All across India

31st March

Gangaur Festival, All across Rajasthan

31st March to 1st April

Mewar Festival, Udaipur, Rajasthan

31st March to 1st April



March 2025

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Goa Carnival

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.

Highlights:

- 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



When: March 1 - 4, 2025



Where: All across Goa



Kallyot Bahgavathy Temple Theyyam

Theyyam is a captivating religious ritual from Kerala, celebrated with dance, mime, and music, honoring ancient tribal culture and the worship of heroes and ancestral spirits. Kannur, known as the stronghold of Theyyam, and Kasargod in North Kerala are the best places to witness it. Theyyam can occur in temples, forest shrines, private shrines, or homes. During the ritual, an oracle offers his body to spirits, acting as a medium to communicate with villagers, understand their problems, offer solutions, and bless them. Locals believe the possessed Oracle can cure illnesses, ensure good harvests, and drive away evil spirits.

Highlights:

- 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



When: March 5 - 12, 2025



Where: Kasaragod, Kerala



Hoysala Mahotsava

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.

Highlights:

- 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



When: March 9 - 12, 2025



Where: Belur, Karnataka



International Yoga 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 which 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 this 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.

Highlights:

- 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



When: March 9 - 15, 2025



Where: Rishikesh, Uttarakhand



Parippally Gajamela

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.

Highlights:

- Gajamela, meaning elephant procession, is a prominent feature
- Over 50 elephants are taken out on a ritual procession on the tenth day of the festival



When: March 10, 2025



Where: Kollam, Kerala



Masi Magam

Masi Magam is a vibrant festival celebrated in Pondicherry, a former French colony with diverse cultural influences. Occurring on the full moon day of the Tamil month of Masi, it involves deities from various temples being taken to the sea for a ritual bath to cleanse their sins and those of their devotees. One significant deity is Sowriraja Perumal, believed to have married a fisherwoman. The festival is marked by colorful processions, music, dance, and devotion, with thousands gathering to witness the divine procession and take a holy dip. Masi Magam highlights Pondicherry's rich heritage and faith.

Highlights:

- On this day, the deities from various temples are taken to the seashore for a ceremonial bath
- Various devotees gather to take a holy dip in the sea



When: March 12, 2025



Where: Pondicherry, Tamil Nadu



Attukal Pongala Festival

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.

Highlights:

- Entered Guinness records for being the largest single gathering of women for a religious activity
- It is observed strictly by the womenfolk who cook pongala together



When: March 13, 2025



Where: Trivandrum, Kerala



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.

Highlights:

- 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!

 **When:** March 14, 2025

 **Where:** All across North India and Nepal



Hola Mohalla

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 that 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.

Highlights:

- Mock battles, sword-fighting, archery and horse-riding displays by the warrior clan
- Interaction with Nihang Sikhs, the sect of Sikh warriors



When: March 14 - 16, 2025



Where: Anandpur, Punjab



Shigmo

The Shigmo Festival in Goa is a vibrant spring festival celebrated by the Konkani community. It marks the arrival of spring and the Hindu New Year, coinciding with the festival of Holi. The festival features colorful processions, traditional folk dances, music, and elaborate floats depicting scenes from mythology. There are two variants: Dhakto Shigmo (small Shigmo) celebrated by rural communities, and Vhadlo Shigmo (big Shigmo) celebrated by everyone. The festival culminates in a grand parade with music, dance, and a festive atmosphere.

Highlights:

- This spring festival features vibrant parades with traditional folk dances, music, and elaborate floats
- It also showcases Dhakto Shigmo (rural Shigmo) and Vhadlo Shigmo (urban Shigmo)

 **When:** March 15 - 29, 2025

 **Where:** All across Goa



Brij Festival

The Brij Festival honors Lord Krishna, who spent much of his childhood in Brij near Bharatpur. Villagers splash colors on each other and paint their houses in vibrant hues. The festival's highlight is the Raslila dance, depicting Krishna and Radha's moments of deep intimacy and affection. Professional artists also perform folk music and Rajasthani dance forms, adding to the festive spirit. This celebration brings together the community in a joyous expression of devotion and cultural heritage.

Highlights:

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



When: March 25, 2025



Where: Bharatpur, Rajasthan



Eid-Ul-Fitr

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.

Highlights:

- 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

 **When:** March 31, 2025

 **Where:** All across India



Gangaur Festival

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 (Shiva) home.

Highlights:

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



When: March 31 - April 1, 2025



Where: All across Rajasthan



Mewar Festival

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.

Highlights:

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

 **When:** March 31 - April 1, 2025

 **Where:** Udaipur, Rajasthan