

April 2025

Festivals

Nenmara Vallanghi Vela, Palakkad, Kerala
03rd April

Arattupuzha Pooram, Thrissur, Kerala
09th April

Mahavir Jayanti, All across India
10th April

Vaisakhi, All across Punjab
13th April

Bisket Jaatra, Bhaktapur, Nepal
13th to 14th April

Bohag Bihu, All across Assam
14th April

Thirunelli Temple Vishnu Festival, Thirunelly, Kerala
14th to 15th April

Easter, All across Goa
20th to April

Rato Machhindranath, Patan, Nepal
30th April to 07th May



April 2025

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Nenmara Vallanghi Vela

Hosted by two villages - Nenmara and Vallangi of Palakkad in North Kerala - it features a friendly competition to outdo each other between the villages, 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.

Highlights:

- 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

 **When:** April 3, 2025

 **Where:** Palakkad, Kerala



Arattupuzha Pooram

The Arattupuzha Pooram festival in Thrissur, Kerala, is one of the oldest and most grand Pooram festivals. Held at the Sree Sastha Temple, believed to be over 3000 years old, this vibrant event features ornately decorated venues, caparisoned elephants, and traditional Panchavadyam percussion ensembles. A unique ceremony called the Devamela involves a procession of 23 deities from different temples, creating a captivating visual spectacle. This well-attended festival is a rich showcase of Kerala's cultural heritage, drawing many visitors each year. The event celebrates the temple's traditions and the community's devotion to Lord Ayyappa.

Highlights:

- Processions feature deities from 41 neighbouring temples, caparisoned elephants, and a display of fireworks
- Fanfare includes traditional music, and Sasthavinte Melam, a grand percussion ensemble with over 200 artists



When: April 9, 2025



Where: Thrissur, Kerala



Mahavir Jayanti

Mahavir Jayanti is a globally celebrated Jain festival marking the birth of Mahavira, the last Tirthankara of Kalyuga. Observed with humility and simplicity, it includes a Rath Yatra procession with Lord Mahavira's idol, ceremonial anointment (Abhishek), and recitation of religious rhymes. Jains engage in philanthropy, prayers, pujas, and fasting. Temples host lectures by monks and nuns on Mahavira's teachings. Ancient Jain temples such as Dilwara and Ranakpur in Rajasthan, Palitana in Gujarat, and Gomateshwara in Karnataka attract numerous devotees, highlighting the festival's significance.

Highlights:

- The day is celebrated in memory of the last spiritual teacher of Jainism, Lord Mahavira
- Lord Mahavira spread the message of salvation and non-violence



When: April 10, 2025



Where: All across India



Vaisakhi

Vaisakhi, celebrated worldwide, marks the beginning of the Sikh and Hindu New Year, coinciding with the spring harvest. It also commemorates the formation of the Khalsa Panth, or the Order of the Saint-Soldiers, established by Guru Gobind Singh in 1699. This festival is a time of joyous celebrations, with processions, traditional dances, and community feasts, reflecting the rich cultural and religious heritage of Sikh and Hindu communities.

Highlights:

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

 **When:** April 13, 2025

 **Where:** All across Punjab



Biska Jaatra

Biska Jatra is a colorful nine-day festival in Bhaktapur, marking spring's arrival and the Nepali New Year. Celebrated in mid-April, it features erecting a massive wooden pole (lyo sin dyo), pulling chariots of Bhairava and Bhadrakali, and throwing vermilion powder (sindoor). The festival includes traditional Newar dances, music, crafts, and competitions like tug-of-war and archery. Originating in the Licchavi period, it commemorates two serpents' defeat. Masked dances of Goddess Durga and other deities are major attractions. Biska Jatra draws thousands of visitors, showcasing rich cultural heritage.

Highlights:

- Biska Jatra marks the new year day in Nepal as per the regional traditions
- It is a festival that showcases the tradition, art and crafts of the Newar community

 **When:** April 13 - 14, 2025

 **Where:** Bhaktapur, Nepal



Bohag Bihu

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.

Highlights:

- Bohag Bihu is the spring harvest festival of the state of Assam
- It marks the beginning of the Assamese New Year and features dances, song, music, and food

 **When:** April 14, 2025

 **Where:** All across Assam



Thirunelli Temple Vishnu Festival

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.

Highlights:

- Celebrated for 2 days., it marks the Hindu New Year of Kerala
- Kolkali (a tribal art form) performance by the Kuruma tribe

 **When:** April 14 - 15, 2025

 **Where:** Wayanad, Kerala



Easter

Easter in Goa is a vibrant celebration that blends faith, fun, and food. The festivities begin with Palm Sunday, where churches are adorned with fragrant flowers and lights, and devotees carry elaborately woven palm fronds. Easter Sunday is marked by grand masses, midnight celebrations, and the cherished tradition of painting Easter eggs. Families come together for a lavish feast featuring Goan delicacies like Sanna, Pork Sorpotel, Xacuti, Bebinca, and Dodol. Unique traditions like the Fonna Kacheri (music program) and the Sugarcane Breaking ceremony add to the festive spirit.

Highlights:

- Churches are adorned with flowers and lights; devotees carry elaborately woven palm fronds
- Traditional painting and decorating of Easter eggs

 **When:** April 20, 2025

 **Where:** All across Goa



Rato Machhindranath

Rato Machhindranath Jatra is one of Nepal's oldest and longest chariot festivals, dating back to the 7th century AD. Celebrated in Patan, it honors the god of rain and harvest. The festival starts with the construction of a large chariot from bamboo, wood, and cane at Pulchowk. The idol of Rato Machhindranath, or the Red Fish God, is placed in the chariot and pulled through Patan's streets for a month. King Narendra Dev is said to have invited the deity from Assam to end a severe drought. The festival concludes with Bhoto Jatra, where a jeweled vest belonging to the god is displayed to the public. This event highlights the rich heritage and faith of the Newar people of Patan.

Highlights:

- Dating back to the 7th century AD, this festival is one of the oldest and longest chariot festivals
- The idol of Rato Machhindranath is taken out for a 'yatra' through the streets of Patan

 **When:** April 30 - May 7, 2025

 **Where:** Patan, Nepal