

May 2025

Festivals

Thrissur Pooram, Kerala, Thrissur

06th May

Buddha Purnima, All across Northern India

12th May

Kottiyoor Vaishaka Mahothsavam, Kannur, Kerala

TBA

Mustang Tiji Festival, Mustang, Nepal

24th to 26th May



May 2025

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19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	



Thrissur Pooram, Kerala

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.

Highlights:

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

 **When:** May 6, 2025

 **Where:** Thrissur, Kerala



Buddha Purnima

Buddha Purnima marks the birth, enlightenment, and death of Lord Buddha. On this day, people gather at monasteries before sunrise to chant hymns, exercise, dance, and express gratitude for life's simple joys. The Buddhist prayer flag is hoisted after sunrise, followed by acts of charity and thanksgiving programs throughout the day. This celebration embodies the core teachings of Buddhism, emphasizing compassion, mindfulness, and community service.

Highlights:

- 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



When: May 12, 2025



Where: All across Northern India



Kottiyoor Vaishaka Mahothsavam

The Kottiyoor Vaishaka Mahothsavam is a 28-day festival set in a dense forest by the roaring Baveli River in Kannur, North Kerala. The festival takes place at two temples, Akkara Kottiyoor and Ikkara Kottiyoor, which open only during this time. Devotees worship a deity made from river stones, and rituals are conducted in thatched huts. This unique setting and the traditional practices make the festival a deeply spiritual and culturally rich experience.

Highlights:

- 28 day festival in a stunning natural setting by a river
- Elaborate rituals involving deity made from river stones



When: Dates TBA, 2025



Where: Kannur, Kerala



Mustang Tiji Festival

The Mustang Tiji Festival is a vibrant cultural event held in the Upper Mustang region of Nepal, particularly in the ancient walled city of Lo Manthang. Celebrated in May, the festival commemorates the myth of Dorje Jono, a deity who defeated his demon father to save the kingdom from drought and destruction¹. The festival features colourful masked dances, traditional music, and elaborate costumes performed by monks from the Choede Monastery. It symbolizes the victory of good over evil and attracts visitors from around the world to witness this unique cultural heritage.

Highlights:

- The festival commemorates the story of Dorje Jono, who defeated his demon father to save the kingdom
- Monks from the Choede Monastery perform colourful masked dances, depicting the triumph of good over evil



When: May 24 - 26, 2025



Where: Mustang, Nepal