

August 2025

Festivals

Janai Purnima, Kathmandu, Nepal
09th August

Nehru Trophy Boat Race, Alleppey, Kerala
09th August

**Raksha Bandhan, All across Northern
India**
09th August

Namkhan Festival, Spiti, Himachal Pradesh
Dates TBA

Gai Jatra, Bhaktapur, Nepal
10th August

**Krishna Janmashtami, All across Northern
India**
15th August

Fete De Puducherry, Pondicherry, Tamil Nadu
15th to 17th August

Teej Festival, Northwest India
26th August

Ganesh Chaturthi, Maharashtra
27th August

Tarnetar Mela, Tarnetar, Gujarat
27 August to 29 August



August 2025

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Janai Purnima

Janai Purnima, also known as Raksha Bandhan or Raksha Bandhan in Nepal, is a significant Hindu festival celebrated on the full moon day of the month of Shrawan (July-August). The festival has deep cultural and religious significance, primarily for the Brahmin and Chhetri communities. Janai Purnima is a celebration of religious devotion, sibling bonds, and community spirit, marked by various rituals and traditions that reflect the rich cultural heritage of Nepal.

Highlights:

- Male members of the Brahmin and Chhetri communities replace their sacred thread (Janai), which symbolizes purity and commitment to their religious duties.
- A special dish made of sprouted beans, called Kwati, is prepared and consumed, believed to boost immunity and health.



When: August 9, 2025



Where: Kathmandu, Nepal



Nehru Trophy Boat Race

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.

Highlights:

- 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.



When: August 9, 2025



Where: Alleppey, Kerala



Raksha Bandhan

Raksha Bandhan, also known as Rakhi, celebrates the bond of love between brothers and sisters in India. "Raksha" means protection and "Bandhan" means tie. On this day, sisters tie Rakhi threads or colorful bands on their brothers' wrists as a symbol of affection. In return, brothers promise to protect their sisters and give them gifts. This tradition strengthens the sibling bond and highlights the mutual respect and love in their relationship.

Highlights:

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

 **When:** August 9, 2025

 **Where:** All across Northern India



Namkhan Festival

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.

Highlights:

- Elaborate ceremony to appease the village deity after which the villagers ride on horseback
- Meeting with the Nono (title for the King of Spiti), who prefers to be known as a progressive farmer



When: Dates TBA, 2025



Where: Spiti, Himachal Pradesh



Gai Jatra

Gai Jatra, celebrated by the Newari community in Kathmandu, Bhaktapur, and Kritipur, commemorates the death of loved ones and helps families cope with their grief. The festival, meaning "cow festival" in Nepali, is based on the belief that cows guide the souls of the deceased to heaven. Originating in the 17th century by King Pratap Malla to console his grieving queen, the festival involves families parading a cow or a bamboo structure resembling a cow (Taha-Macha) along a pre-defined route, accompanied by music and dance. Gai Jatra expresses grief, honors the departed, and seeks their blessings for prosperity and happiness.

Highlights:

- Gai Jatra is a festival celebrated by the Newar community of Nepal
- A festival of expressing grief, honouring the departed souls, and seeking their blessings



When: August 10, 2025



Where: Bhaktapur, Nepal



Krishna Janmashtami

Janmashtami, the birthday of Lord Krishna, is celebrated with great enthusiasm across India in July or August. The main celebrations occur at midnight, the believed time of Krishna's birth on a dark, stormy night. Mathura and Vrindavan, where Krishna spent his early years, hold special significance and host elaborate festivities. The celebrations include devotional singing, dancing, and dramatizations of Krishna's life, creating a deeply spiritual and joyous atmosphere.

Highlights:

- 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



When: August 15, 2025



Where: All across Northern India



Fete De Puducherry

Fete De Puducherry celebrates Pondicherry's independence from French rule in 1962. Held from August 15 to 17, coinciding with India's Independence Day, it commemorates the formal merger with the Indian Union on August 16, 1962. The festival features cultural performances, exhibitions, and competitions, showcasing Pondicherry's local culture and heritage. It also reflects the harmony between India and France, with retired soldiers marching the streets singing both national anthems. Fete De Puducherry is a time to enjoy the festive spirit and appreciate the history and heritage of Pondicherry.

Highlights:

- Fete De Puducherry celebrates the independence of Pondicherry from French rule in 1962.
- The festival also reflects the harmony and respect between the two nations.



When: August 15 - 17, 2025



Where: Pondicherry



Teej Festival

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 blissful marriage.

Highlights:

- 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



When: August 26, 2025



Where: All across Northwest India



Ganesh Chaturthi

Ganesh Chaturthi is a ten-day festival celebrating the birthday of Ganesha, the elephant-headed Hindu deity. It begins with the installation of beautifully sculpted Ganesha idols in homes and mandaps (large canopies). During the festival, Ganesha's favorite sweets and savories are made and shared. On the 11th day, idols are taken in a grand procession with singing and dancing, culminating in immersion in water. This ritual symbolizes Ganesha's return to his abode, carrying away the worries of his devotees. The longest immersion procession is Mumbai's Lalbaughcha Raja, lasting nearly 24 hours from start to finish.

Highlights:

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



When: August 27, 2025



Where: Maharashtra



Tarnetar Mela

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 on young tribal men and women seeking marriage partners.

Highlights:

- 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



When: August 27 - 29, 2025



Where: Tarnetar, Gujarat