

September 2025

Festivals

Onam, Kerala
05th September

Indra Jatra Festival, Kathmandu, Nepal
06th September

Ramnagar Ramlila, Uttar Pradesh
06th September to 02 October

Pulikali Tiger Dance, Thrissur, Kerala
08th September

Navratri, Gujarat
22nd September to 01 October

Durga Puja, All across Northern India
28th September to 02nd October

Dashain, All across Nepal
28th September to 02nd October



September 2025

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Onam, Kerala

Onam is Kerala's grandest festival, celebrated by people of all backgrounds. Key highlights include intricately decorated Pookalam (floral arrangements on the floor), the grand Onasadya (traditional festive meal with numerous dishes served on banana leaves), exhilarating Boat Races (thrilling snake boat races), and captivating Kathakali performances (traditional dance with expressive movements and elaborate costumes). This festival symbolizes unity and cultural richness, bringing together vibrant traditions, delicious food, and joyous festivities.

Highlights:

- The harvest festival of Onam is the biggest in Kerala and is celebrated by the entire state
- An elaborate meal called Onasadya (more than 20 dishes) is prepared in every household



When: September 5, 2025



Where: Kerala



Indra Jatra Festival

Indra Jatra, also known as Yenya, is one of the largest religious street festivals in Kathmandu, Nepal, honouring Indra, the king of heaven and god of rain. It begins with the installation of a ceremonial pole and flag at Kathmandu Durbar Square. The festival illuminates shrines and palace buildings with oil wicks. The highlight is Kumari Jatra, featuring the chariot procession of the living goddess Kumari, masked dances of deities and demons, and displays of sacred images. It concludes with the lowering of the Yosin pole and a fireworks display, celebrating rich cultural and religious traditions.

Highlights:

- Indra Jatra is one of the biggest and most celebrated religious street festivals in Kathmandu
- The most spectacular event of the festival is Kumari Jatra, the chariot procession of the living goddess



When: September 6, 2025



Where: Kathmandu, Nepal



Ramnagar Ramlila

Ramlila, meaning “Rama’s play,” is a captivating theatrical portrayal of the Ramayana, featuring songs, narrations, recitals, and dialogues. Performed during the festival of Dussehra across northern India, it dates back to between 1200 and 1500 A.D., with Mughal Emperor Akbar known to have watched live Ramlila shows. The modern-day performances are based on Tulsidas’s Ramacharitmanas from the sixteenth century. The Ramlila in Ramnagar is especially renowned, lasting 31 days compared to the usual 10 days, making it a significant cultural event that vividly brings the epic to life.

Highlights:

- Ramlila at Ramnagar has been performed for almost 200 years, making it the world’s oldest
- This 31 day long festival is held in the outskirts of Varanasi when the entire town is turned into a stage

 **When:** September 6 - October 2, 2025

 **Where:** Uttar Pradesh



Pulikali Tiger Dance

Potbellied men dance with tiger faces painted on their rotund bellies to rustic drumbeats in this pantomime-cum-parade dance at on the streets of Thrissur. It is held on the 4th day of Onam every year. The Pulikali Tiger Dance is said to be a nearly 200 year old tradition. But no one knows how it all began at Thrissur. While some locals say that Pulikali was brought to Kerala by Muslims who performed the dance during their mourning festival of Muharram; others say the local Maharaja wanted a new dance, something macho, as a part of the Onam celebrations with steps that mime hunting moves and tactics.

Highlights:

- Get a ringside view of the preparations of this spectacular event of colour, sound and movement
- Interact with the “Tigers” and get to know first-hand the painstaking efforts of the performers



When: September 8, 2025



Where: Thrissur, Kerala



Navratri

Potbellied men dance with tiger faces painted on their rotund bellies to rustic drumbeats in this pantomime-cum-parade dance at on the streets of Thrissur. It is held on the 4th day of Onam every year. The Pulikali Tiger Dance is said to be a nearly 200 year old tradition. But no one knows how it all began at Thrissur. While some locals say that Pulikali was brought to Kerala by Muslims who performed the dance during their mourning festival of Muharram; others say the local Maharaja wanted a new dance, something macho, as a part of the Onam celebrations with steps that mime hunting moves and tactics.

Highlights:

- Get a ringside view of the preparations of this spectacular event of colour, sound and movement
- Interact with the “Tigers” and get to know first-hand the painstaking efforts of the performers

 **When:** September 22 to October 1, 2025

 **Where:** All across Gujarat



Durga Puja

Durga Puja is a vibrant festival celebrated mainly by the Bengali community as part of the fortnight-long Devi Paksha, honouring Shakti, the divine feminine. In Kolkata, it features elaborate idols of Goddess Durga, grand pandals, rituals, dances, and delicious food, accompanied by chants of “Bolo Ma Durga ki Joi” (Hail Mother Durga). During this time, Bengalis meticulously plan their days, deciding what to wear, where to go, whom to meet, what to eat, and what to cook. Women proudly showcase their finest traditional jewellery and saris. This festival encapsulates community spirit, devotion, and cultural heritage.

Highlights:

- Durga Puja is a part of a fortnight long celebration called Devi Paksha where people worship Shakti; the divine feminine of Hinduism.
- It is most significant for the Bengali community of West Bengal in particular, who celebrate Durga puja with great enthusiasm.



When: September 28 - October 2, 2025



Where: All across Northern India



Dashain

Dashain is the most significant festival in Nepal, celebrated with great enthusiasm and grandeur. It typically falls in late September or early October and lasts for 15 days. This festival commemorates the victory of good over evil, symbolized by the goddess Durga's triumph over the demon Mahishasura. Kite flying is a popular activity during Dashain, as it is believed that flying kites sends messages to the gods. Families gather to enjoy special dishes, including meat, fish, and various traditional Nepali foods. Dashain is a time for family reunions, renewing relationships, and celebrating cultural traditions with joy and devotion.

Highlights:

- The first day marks the planting of barley seeds in a pot, which is worshipped throughout the festival
- On the last day, elders apply (a mixture of rice, yogurt, and vermilion) on the foreheads of younger family members



When: September 28 - October 2, 2025



Where: All across Nepal