

# October 2025

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## Festivals

**Mysuru Dasara, Mysuru, Karnataka**

02nd October

**Dussehra, All across Northern India**

02nd October

**Rajasthan International Folk Festival (RIFF),  
Jodhpur, Rajasthan**

02nd to 06th October

**Marwar Festival, Jodhpur, Rajasthan**

06th to 07th October

**Kullu Dussehra, Kullu, Himachal Pradesh**

15th October

**Bateshwar Fair, Bateshwar, Uttar Pradesh**

"Animal: 18th October to 24th October

Religious: 2nd November to 9th November"

**Tihar Festival, All across Nepal**

18th to 23rd October

**Diwali, All across India**

20th October

**Chhath Puja, Many parts of North India**

27th to 28th October

**Pushkar Mela, Pushkar, Rajasthan**

30th October to 05th November



# October 2025

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# Mysuru Dasara

Mysuru Dussehra, Karnataka's largest and most prominent festival, boasts a 400-year-old tradition. During this grand celebration, the Mysore Palace is illuminated with 100,000 light bulbs each evening, creating a stunning visual spectacle. The festival's highlight is a grand parade featuring decorated elephants and guards on horseback, escorting the idol of the Mother Goddess through the city's streets. This vibrant event showcases Karnataka's rich cultural heritage, bringing the entire city to life with its elaborate and festive atmosphere, making it a truly mesmerizing experience for both locals and visitors alike.

## Highlights:

- Mysore Dasara, a 400 year old tradition, is the biggest and the most prominent festival of Karnataka
- The Mysore Palace is lit up with 1,00,000 light bulbs in the evenings for the entire duration of the festival



**When:** October 2, 2025



**Where:** Mysuru, Karnataka



# Dussehra

Dussehra marks the end of Devi Paksha, a fortnight of worshiping Shakti, the divine feminine. Highlighting this festival is the Ramlila, a captivating dramatization of the Ramayana with songs, narrations, and dialogues. Effigies of Ravana, his son, and brother, antagonists in the Ramayana, are filled with firecrackers and set ablaze in an open field at night, creating a spectacular sight. Delhi is renowned for its grand Dussehra celebrations at the Ramlila ground and other venues across the city, attracting visitors from around the world to witness this remarkable blend of devotion and dramatic tradition.

## Highlights:

- It marks the end of the fortnight long celebration where people worship Shakti; the divine feminine of Hinduism
- Ramlila, a fascinating screenplay of the epic Ramayana is a grand re-enactment of the great story.



**When:** October 2, 2025



**Where:** All across Northern India



# Rajasthan International Folk Festival (RIFF)

Every year, musicians from Rajasthan and around the world gather at the magnificent Mehrangarh Fort in Jodhpur for a four-night music festival that coincides with Sharad Purnima, the brightest full moon of the year. This festival includes interactive sessions with artists, providing visitors and students with a rich, immersive experience during the day. The event celebrates musical diversity and fosters cultural exchange, all set against the stunning backdrop of the historic fort. The combination of live music and the enchanting atmosphere of the fort create a magical experience that draws music lovers from far and wide.

## Highlights:

- Musicians from Rajasthan and all over the world get together at the Mehrangarh Fort in Jodhpur
- The pre-dawn concerts at various venues in and around the Mehrangarh Fort are a highlight of the festival.



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



**Where:** Jodhpur, Rajasthan





# Marwar Festival

The Marwar Festival is a two-day annual music and dance event held in Jodhpur, the former capital of Marwar. This festival celebrates the rich cultural heritage of princely Rajasthan, with the main attraction being vibrant Rajasthani folk music and dance. Performers from across the region gather to showcase their traditional arts, creating a lively and festive atmosphere. The festival not only preserves and promotes the unique cultural traditions of Marwar but also offers visitors an immersive experience of Rajasthan's royal legacy, making it a significant cultural event in the region.

## Highlights:

- The festival is celebrated in remembrance of Rajput heroes of the state's glorious princely past
- Umaid Bhawan Palace, Mandore and Mehrangarh Fort are the venues of the Marwar festival

 **When:** October 6 - 7, 2025

 **Where:** Jodhpur, Rajasthan



# Kullu Dussehra

The internationally famed Kullu Dussehra which is held in Kullu Valley dates back to the 17th century. The concept of local deities, or devtas, is ancient and is prevalent across the Himalayan region of India. The belief that these local deities rule over the land as owners, and take care of the people and their possessions, has led to a unique cultural system in the region. Kullu Dussehra is week-long congregation of many such local deities from the various villages of Kullu Valley. They arrive in colourful processions to pay respect to Raghunathji who is considered to be the head of all the local deities of Kullu Valley.

## Highlights:

- Kullu Dussehra begins when Dussehra festivities end everywhere else in India
- The flavour of the festivities, rituals and traditions of Kullu Dussehra gives a completely different feel



**When:** October 15, 2025



**Where:** Kullu, Himachal Pradesh



## Bateshwar Fair

The ancient temple complex at Bateshwar consists of more than a hundred temples built along the banks of the River Yamuna, dedicated to the Hindu God Shiva. Bateshwar has long been celebrated for its annual fair, which is believed to have commenced over 2000 years ago. Although the origins of this historic fair are religious, it is also of great commercial importance and is renowned as the 2nd largest animal fair in the country (Sonepur in Bihar being the largest). The fair begins with cattle trading, followed by the trading of camels, horses and finally donkeys. The fair is a very real and authentic glimpse of rural India.

### Highlights:

- The second largest animal fair and the largest gathering of horses in India
- A great mix of age old commerce and religious fervour by the Yamuna River.

 **When:** Animal: October 18 - 28, 2025 | Religious: November 2 - 9, 2025

 **Where:** Bateshwar, Uttar Pradesh



# Tihar Festival

Tihar, Nepal's festival of lights is celebrated for five days and is the second most important festival after Dashain. It honours various animals and gods, especially Yama, the god of death, and his sister Yamuna. Similar to Diwali in India, Tihar involves lighting clay lamps, decorating homes with rangolis, and offering prayers, gifts, and food. Each day has its own significance: Kaag Tihar for crows, Kukur Tihar for dogs, Gai Tihar and Laxmi Puja for cows and prosperity, Goru Tihar and Mha Puja for oxen and self-worship, and Bhai Tika for the bond between brothers and sisters.

## Highlights:

- Tihar is Nepal's festival of lights, celebrated with much gusto
- It is a five-day celebration with each day having its own significance



**When:** October 18 – 23, 2025



**Where:** All across Nepal





# Diwali

Tihar, Nepal's festival of lights is celebrated for five days and is the second most important festival after Dashain. It honours various animals and gods, especially Yama, the god of death, and his sister Yamuna. Similar to Diwali in India, Tihar involves lighting clay lamps, decorating homes with rangolis, and offering prayers, gifts, and food. Each day has its own significance: Kaag Tihar for crows, Kukur Tihar for dogs, Gai Tihar and Laxmi Puja for cows and prosperity, Goru Tihar and Mha Puja for oxen and self-worship, and Bhai Tika for the bond between brothers and sisters. Diwali, known as the festival of lights, is one of the most significant celebrations in India. It symbolizes the victory of light over darkness and good over evil. Homes are decorated with lamps and candles, and people light firecrackers to mark the occasion. The festival includes prayers to deities, especially Lakshmi, the goddess of wealth, for prosperity and well-being. Families gather to enjoy sumptuous meals, wear new clothes, and exchange sweets and gifts with friends and relatives. Diwali's festive atmosphere spreads joy and unity, making it a cherished time for communities across India.

## Highlights:

- The largest and brightest festival on the Hindu calendar
- Diwali is celebrated by millions of Hindus around the world



**When:** October 20, 2025



**Where:** All across India



# Chhath Puja

Chhath Puja is a significant festival celebrated in Bihar, Jharkhand, and eastern Uttar Pradesh to worship the Sun God and his wife, Usha. Observed on Shashti Tithi of Shukla Paksha in Kartik, it is one of the oldest Hindu festivals, mentioned in the Vedas. Devotees seek blessings for well-being and prosperity by offering water and prayers to the Sun, which is believed to remove negativity and darkness while bringing life and positivity. The festival begins with a holy dip in water, and women consume a single meal on this auspicious day.

## Highlights:

- Devotees can be seen observing the fast over the course of 2-3 days
- It is believed offering prayers to the Lord Sun can cure diseases



**When:** October 27 - 28, 2025



**Where:** Many parts of North India



## Pushkar Mela

Chhath Puja is a significant festival celebrated in Bihar, Jharkhand, and eastern Uttar Pradesh to worship the Sun God and his wife, Usha. Observed on Shashti Tithi of Shukla Paksha in Kartik, it is one of the oldest Hindu festivals, mentioned in the Vedas. Devotees seek blessings for well-being and prosperity by offering water and prayers to the Sun, which is believed to remove negativity and darkness while bringing life and positivity. The festival begins with a holy dip in water, and women consume a single meal on this auspicious day. The Pushkar Mela, held in Pushkar town, Rajasthan, is India's most famous animal fair, drawing hundreds of thousands of visitors from India and around the world. This vibrant event features cultural performances, religious rituals, and livestock trading. It's a unique blend of tradition and festivity, making it a significant attraction in the region. The fair is renowned for its lively atmosphere, camel races, music, dance, and a variety of local crafts and food. The city is dedicated to Brahma, the creator God of the Hindu pantheon. It's an excellent opportunity for visitors to experience the fervour first-hand.

### Highlights:

- It is India's most popular animal fair, held annually in Rajasthan
- Age-old commerce and religious fervour in Pushkar, one of Rajasthan's most sacred towns

 **When:** October 30 – November 5

 **Where:** Pushkar, Rajasthan