

Nepali Festivals

Nepali Cultural Calendar, 2069

Although linked to the Nepali Year 2069 (2012), this resource, contributed by Mr Ram Hari Adhikari (UKNFS Initiator and General Secretary), contains an invaluable overview of Nepal's festivals; there in fact being more of these than actual days in the year!

Month	Name of Festival	Description/importance of the festival	Date
Baishak	Naya Barsha 2069	Nepali new year based on Bikram Era	April 13
	Mata tirtha Aunshi (Mother's day)	This is one of the widely celebrated festivals that falls on the first month, Baisakh (April/May), of the Nepali Year. It is also called Mata Tirtha Aunsi as it falls on a new moon night	April 21
	Akshya tritiya	worship of Lord Vishnu & Goddess Lakshmi and purchase of gold by the Hindu refer to:- http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Akshaya_Tritiya	April 24
	Budda Purnima	This day is celebrated to mark the birthday of the Lord Buddha which dates back in about 543 BC. It falls on Jestha Purnima (Full moon night-May/June). Refer to:- http://www.nepalhomepage.com/society/festivals/buddhajayanti.html	6th May
	Ubhauri	Ubhauri Sakela celebrated by the Kirats originally in the eastern hills of Nepal now in the Capital city and in the eastern Terai as well. See:- http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sakela	6th May
Jestha	Republic Day	Political function. The day when Nepal was declared as republic	28th May
Ashar	Asar pandhra	Regarded as the starting date of plantation of rice, Specially organised in the hills and the lower part of Nepal. Cord and bitten rice (dahi chyura) is eaten on that day. See:- http://lovefromnepal.blogspot.co.uk/2010/06/asar-pandhra-farmers-festival.html	29th June
	Guru Purina	Regarded as the "Teachers Day "celebrated all over Nepal. See:- http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Guru_Purnima	3rd of July

	Bhanu Jayanti	Birth date of Great Poet Bhanubhakta, organised by telling poems and literature activities. See:- http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bhanubhakta_Acharya	13 th July
Shravan	Saune sakranti	Firsyt day of Shravan, regarded as the final day of plantation of rice, fire wood thrown as “Lutto”	16 th July
	Naag Panchami	Celebrate to worship the “Naag”:- (snakes) by posting the pictures the snakes on the walls of homes and temples. See:- http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nag_Panchami	24 July
	Rakshya Bandhan (janai Purnima)	Hindu men go to the temples and wear the holy thread on the body (janai) and both men and women on the wrist (dhago) from the priests. It is organised only by the Brahman, Kshetries and Newars (upper class Aryans), “ Rakhi” in India, see:- http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Raksha_Bandhan	2 nd August
	Gaijatra	Organised by the Newars in the memory of the dead persons of that years by performing comedies and demonstrating cows. The mourned families take part. Mostly in the capital and Newar areas of the country. See:- http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gaijatra	3 rd of August
	Shrikrishna Janmastami	This is the birth date of lord Krishna (8 th incarnation of the Hindu Lord). People sing various bhajan (traditional religious sermons) during the night in the Krishna temples and do fasting. See:- http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Krishna_Janmashtami	9 th of August
	Gaura parva	It is celebrated by the people of far eastern Nepal. But they celebrate it in the capital city as well. They perform Gaura dance in a big circle of people.	9 th of August
Bhadra	Kushe Aunsi	It is regarded as “ Father’s day”. Father’s are fed by children (in the Brahman and Kshetries community).	17 th August
Ashwin	Bishwakarma Puja	It is especially the worship of the Lord of machines by worshiping the machines especially the mechanics, factory workers and vehicle owners.	17 th Sept

	Teej	It is spilt is specially the women's festival. It is specially celebrated by the arayan community in the central and western hills and the lower plain areas.	18 th September
	Indrajatra	It is organised only in the capital city in the Newar community and the government also involves on that. It is the worship of the Live goddess "Kumari"	29 th September
	Ghatasthapana	It is the first day of the Hindus biggest festival Dahsai. Jamara (baby corn) is planted on that day. Durga Puja starts this day. It is called Dashahara in India.	16 th October
Kartik	Phulpati	It is the seventh day of Dashain. Flowers are brought inside the house in the evening.	21st Octobe r
	Mahastami	Eighth day of Dashain. The hill Aryan community celebrate it by sacrificing a goat and non Aryan c=sacrifice a buffalo on that day.	22 nd October
	Mahanawami	9 th day of Dashai. Durga puja is performed.	23 rd October
	Bijaya Dashami	It is the main day of Dashain. The people go to the elders to receive Tika (red colour) on the forehead while the some Mangol community take white tika. See:- http://66.7.193.115/culture/gaura-parva-festival-of-wedding-of-goddess-gaura	24 th October
	Kojagrat Purnima	His is the last day of Dashain. The idol of Durga is put in the rivers or ponds on that day. See also :- http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dasain	29 th October
	Kukur Tihar/Laxmi Puja	This is the second biggest festival of Hindu named Tihar (It is called Diwali in India). Dog is worshiped in Kukur tihar and goddess of worth "Laxmi" is worshiped in laxmi Puja. This year both are on the same day, See:- http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tihar_(festival)	13rd Nov
	Gobardhan Puja/Newari New Year/ Mha Puja	<i>In this</i> day Bull is worshiped. Newar community of Nepal celbretae their new year Nepal Sambat and do Mha puja (worshipping self) See:- http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mha_Puja	14 th Nov
	Bhaitika/ Laxmi Jayanti	This is the most important day of Tihar. The sisters worship their brothers and put Tika and garlands on theoir neck. Especially 'roti' (circled bread) is eaten	15 th Nov
Mangsi r	Chhath Parva	It is originally celebrated in the terai region of Nepal but the Madehsi celebrate in Kathmandu as well. It is the worship of 'Surya' (sun)Deeping their half body in water from	19 th Nov

		the evening to morning. See:- http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chhath	
	Haribodhini Ekadashi	It is called "Thulo Ekadashi" as well. It is regarded as the woke up day of lord Bishnu after six months. The devotee go to the big rivers and garlands are crossed over river. See:- http://www.salagram.net/ekadasi-24.htm	24 th Nov
	Guru Nanak Jayanti	It is celebrated by the Sikhs as the birth date of their guru Nanak.	28 th Nov
	Udhauli	It is the second phase of Kirat Ubhauli. See:- http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sakela	28 th Nov.
	Bala Chaturdashi	Lord shiva is worshiped on this day mainly in the pashupati area of Kathmandu. Food staples are devoted in the remembrance of the dead of that year. See:- http://www.weallnepali.com/hamro-nepal/bala-chaturdashi	12 th Dec
Paush	Bibaha Panchami	It is celebrated as the marriage aniversary of Lord Rama and Sita. It is mainly observed in Janakpur and other Ram temples. See:- http://nepalimana.blogspot.co.uk/2008/12/bibaha-panchami.html	17 th Dec
	Yomari Punhe	It is specially the festivals of the Newar celebrated in the occasion of crops harvesting. See:- http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yomari_punhi	28 th Dec
	Push Pandhra	It is celebrated by the hill Aryans mainly. Latte (sweet rice) is eaten on this day., See:- http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mXMjSx8dZbE	30 th Dec
	Tamu Lhosar	Festival of the Gurungs originally live in the mid central hills but now this is celebrated in the capital Kathmandu and Chitwan as well. See:- http://www.ecs.com.np/living_category.php?category=6&id=122	30 th Dec
Magh	Maghe Sankranti/	Maghe Sankranti is celebrated in the hills by having bath in the main rivers and eating Tarul, Sakharkhanda (sweet potato) Chaku and laddu. See:- http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maghe_Sankranti	
	Maghi	Maghi is celebrated by the Tharus of western terai as their biggest festival. They pay back their debt on that day, See:- http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JZpAScUe2yc	14 th January

	Swasthani Bratarambha	Swastani is a religious story based on Lord Shiva and goddess Parvati. The women read the holy book of Swasthani and do fasting (just one meal a day) for one month. Special worship is organised in the Salinadi of Sankhu in Kathmandu. See also:- http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maghe_Sankranti	26 th January
	Shaheed diwas (Martyr's day)	It is a political day rather than cultural. The people observe it as a state program in the memory of the martyrs.	29 th January
	Sonam Lhosar	It is the biggest festival of the Tamang community:- http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yolmo and http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Losar	11 st February
Falgun	Bashanta Panchami/Shripanchami	It is observed by the worship of the goddess of the Intelligence and education Saraswati. It is mainly in the schools and Saraswati temples. Goddess Saraswati is regarded as the daughter of Lord 'Brahma' creator of the world. See:- http://www.narasimhan.com/SK/Festival/festiv_basant.htm	15 th Feb
	Mahashiva ratri	It is the worship of the Lord Shiva in Pashupati Nath temple of Kathmandu and all other Shiva temples of Nepal. See :- http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shiva_ratri	10 th March
	Ghyalbo Lhosar	It is the main festival of the Mountain Sherpa community. See:- http://www.ekantipur.com/2012/02/22/top-story/gyalpo-losar-today/349357.html	12 th March
Chaitra	Fagu Purnima (Hills)	It is celebrated in the hills as the memory of the defeat of devil 'Holika' by the Lord in the image of "Narshingha" (half man and half lion), see also:- http://www.nepalhomepage.com/society/festivals/fagupurnima.html	26 th of March
	Chaite Dashain	Second phase of Dashain also :-called Ramnavami, see also:- http://www.weallnepali.com/hamro-nepal/ram-navami	31 st March
	Holy (Falgu Purnima Terai)	It is celebrated in the Terai in the following day of Falgu in the hills. They celebrate it as holy by putting red colour to one another	27 th of March
	Ghode jatra	It is specially the festival of the Newar since long. Now it is observed as a state festival. The army shows its capacity in the " Tundikhel" of Kathmandu. See:- http://www.mapsofworld.com/cities/nepal/kathmandu/ghode-jatra.html	10 th of April