

June 2025

Festivals

Ganga Dussehra, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand

05th June

Hemis Festival, Hemis, Ladakh

22nd to 23rd June

San Joao Festival, Goa

24th June

Jagannath Rath Yatra, Odisha

27th June

Ropain Jatra, All across Nepal

29th June



June 2025

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



Ganga Dussehra

Ganga Dussehra celebrates the day when Goddess Ganga descended to Earth in the form of a river. It is believed that bathing in the Ganga on this day can cleanse all sins. Devotees gather in large numbers at places like Allahabad, Haridwar, Rishikesh, and Varanasi to take a holy dip in the sacred river. The festival is marked by prayers, rituals, and offerings, symbolizing purification and spiritual renewal.

Highlights:

- A festival dedicated to the Ganga, India's most venerated River
- Prayers, charity and ritual bathing are a major part of it



When: June 5, 2025



Where: Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand



Hemis Festival

The courtyard of Hemis Monastery, the biggest Buddhist monastery of the state, is the stage for this famous festival that celebrates the birth anniversary of Guru Padmasambhava. The colourful two-day pageant falls on the 10th day (Tse-Chu) of the Tibetan lunar month. The local people are seen dressed up in their finest traditional garb for the occasion. Lamas perform splendid masked dances and sacred plays to the accompaniment of cymbals, drums and long horns. The head lama presides over the function. A colourful fair, displaying some beautiful handicrafts, is the special highlight of the festival.

Highlights:

- Hemis Gompa, a Tibetan Buddhist monastery, dates back to the 11th century
- The key attraction is the masked dance performance by the Lamas



When: June 22 - 23, 2025



Where: Hemis, Ladakh



San Joao Festival

The San Joao Festival, celebrated on June 24th in Goa, India, honours Saint John the Baptist. According to tradition, Saint John leapt in his mother Elizabeth's womb upon hearing Mary's greeting, announcing the birth of Jesus. The festival coincides with the monsoon season, and it's marked by young men leaping into wells, ponds, and streams. Participants wear floral crowns (kopels) and sing traditional songs. The festival is a vibrant celebration of life, joy, and the arrival of the monsoon, with music, dance, and communal gatherings.

Highlights:

- Tradition involves young men jumping into wells, ponds, and streams
- Participants wear floral crowns (kopels) and sing traditional songs



When: June 24, 2024



Where: Goa



Jagannath Rath Yatra

Jagannath Rath Yatra is a significant Hindu festival held annually at the Jagannath Temple in Puri, Odisha. It commemorates Lord Jagannath's visit to Gundicha Mata temple, honoring Queen Gundicha's devotion. Lord Jagannath, Lord Balabhadra, and Goddess Subhadra leave their main abode for eight days to stay in the temple built by Gundicha. Idols of the deities are carried in a grand procession on huge, decorated wooden chariots, pulled by enthusiastic devotees. The return journey marks the conclusion of the festival. This Chariot festival is one of the most sacred and visually stunning occasions in India.

Highlights:

- The chariots used during Rath Yatra are built every year by carpenters beginning in April
- All the chariots have separate features to distinguish from each other



When: June 27, 2024



Where: Odisha



Ropain Jatra

Celebrating the start of the rice planting season, Ropain Jatra is an agricultural festival that takes place on the 15th day of the Nepali month of Asadh, which falls in late June or early July. On this day, farmers and their families, friends, and neighbours gather in the paddy fields to transplant young rice seedlings into the prepared soil. They also enjoy playing with mud, singing folk songs, dancing, and eating delicious Nepali food. Ropain Jatra is a way of expressing gratitude for a successful harvest and praying for good weather and abundant yields. It also showcases a strong connection between the land and its people.

Highlights:

- An agricultural festival expressing gratitude for a successful harvest season
- It is popular amongst travellers who want to experience the authentic rural life and culture of Nepal



When: June 29, 2024



Where: All across Nepal