

2016 & 2017 Tibetan Festivals Calendar

Tibetan Festivals	2016 Solar Calendar	2017 Solar Calendar	Region	Related Tour Itinerary
Tibetan New Year (The most important)	Feb. 9th	Feb.27th	TAR(The All Regions)	5 Days Tibet New Year Festival Tour (Celebrate the festival with local Tibetans)
Butter Lantern Festival	Feb. 22th	Mar. 12th	Jokhang Monastery	Contact us to tailor your own trip
Tsurphu Cham Dance Festival	May. 17th	Jun. 5th	Tsurphu Monastery	Contact us to tailor your own trip
Saga Dawa Festival (The holiest one)	May. 21st	Jun. 9th	TAR	15 Days Tour Kailash in Saga Dawa Festival (Circle around Mt. Kailash for worship)
Drigung Cham Dance Festival	Jun. 1st	Jun. 18th	Drigung Monastery	Contact us to tailor your own trip
Tashilhunpo Thangka Festival	Jun. 20th	Jul. 8th	Tashilhunpo Monastery	8 Days Tashilhunpo Festival Tour (Participate various religious events)
World Incense Festival	Jun. 21st	Jul. 9th	TAR	Contact us to tailor your own trip
Buddha's Sermon Festival	Jul. 8th	Jul. 27th	TAR	Contact us to tailor your own trip
Ganden Thangka Festival	Jul. 13th	Aug. 1st	Gandan Monastery	Contact us to tailor your own trip
Shoton Festival (The most popular)	Sep. 1st	Aug. 21st	Lhasa	5 Days Shoton Festival Experience Tour (Experience the grandest festival to Tibetans)
Washing Festival	Sept. 16th	Sept. 6th	TAR	Contact us to tailor your own trip
Buddha's Descent Day	Oct. 22nd	Nov. 10th	TAR	Contact us to tailor your own trip
Tibetan New Year in Kongbo Area	Nov. 1st	Nov. 19th	Nyingchi & Pulan	Contact us to tailor your own trip
Palden Lhamo Festival	Nov. 16th	Dec. 3rd	Lhasa	Contact us to tailor your own trip
Butter Lamp Festival	Nov. 26th	Dec. 12th	Lhasa	5 Days Gaden Ngachen Chenmo Festival Tour (Join the commemoration of Tsongkapa)

Tibetan Festivals in Details:

Tibetan New Year (Feb. 27th, 2017, about 15 days)



Tibetan New Year, the traditional New Year for all the Tibetans, is one of the most important festivals celebrated by monks and ordinary people altogether. All kinds of foods have been already prepared on the Tibetan New Year's Eve. Gutu, a special food for Tibet New Year, is usually filled with various kinds of stuffs, including stone, pepper, charcoal, etc.

Butter Lantern Festival (Mar. 12th, 2017, about 1 day)



All the lanterns surrounding ancient Barkor Street are made of butter oil, flour and kinds of dyestuff. When the night comes, hundreds of thousands of butter lanterns would be lighted up at the same time and colorful statues are extremely lifelike. The spectacular statues of gods, figures, animals and plants, magnificent or exquisite, and thousands of brilliant butter lanterns light the whole street.

Tsurphu Cham Dance Festival (May. 17th, 2016, about 1 day)



Cham dance, also called Qiangmu in Tibetan language, is one of the major events in summer dharma assembly at Tsurphu Monastery. It's a traditional religious dance performed by Tibetan Buddhists. The ceremony has already been hold for thousands of years and varied with specific contents. Monks would wear robes with masks on and equip themselves with colorful ribbons and shields.

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**Saga Dawa Festival
(May.21st, 2016, about 15 days)**



Saga Dawa Festival is one of the holiest festivals for Tibetan Buddhists as three memorable events coincide on the same day: Sakyamuni's birth, enlightenment and nirvana. A swarm of sincere Tibetan Buddhists would circle around Jokhang Monastery and Barkhor Street.

**Drigung Cham Dance Festival
(Jun.1st, 2016, about 1 day)**



Drigung Cham Dance Festival is held in summer dharma assembly at Drigung Monastery for commemorating its founder, Jigten Sumgön. Cham dance can be performed by a single, a couple or groups and has been classified as National Intangible Cultural Heritage.

**Tashilhunpo Thangka Festival
(Jun.20th, 2016, about 7 days)**



Tashilhunpo Thangka Festival has a history of more than 500 years. Three different thangkas would be unfurled respectively so as to remind people to cherish the past, enjoy happy lives and hold hope for the future during three days.

**Buddha's Sermon Festival
(Jul.8th, 2016, about 1 day)**



On Buddha's Sermon Festival, Tibetans would go to monasteries nearby, chant sutras and light the butter lamps. Here you can gain a strong sense of religions. In order to celebrate this day, Tibetans would wear the brand new clothes one day ahead and pray at the nearby monasteries for the god blessing.

**Shoton Festival
(Sept. 1st, 2016, about 7 days)**



Since shoton means yogurt, Shoton Festival with abundant activities, also named Yogurt Festival, is one of the most solemn Tibetan festivals. A grand Tibetan opera and Buddhist ceremony would be held on this day.

**Buddha's Descent Day
(Oct.22nd, 2016, about 1 day)**



It's said that Buddha's descent from heaven happened after preaching to his mother on Sep.22nd. Since then, countless pilgrims would swarm into Jokhang Monastery and Barkhor Street and pray for greeting him again on that day.

**Tibetan New Year in Kongbo Area
(Nov.1st, 2016, about 3 days)**



Long time ago, Tibet has undergone a large scale invasion, but the locals were not so strong to resist the enemies. At this critical moment, Kongbo people sent out an army to support the locals to defend their homeland together. Before departing for the frontier, the soldiers were worried that they would miss the chance to taste highland barley wine and refreshments as it was already September. As a consequence, Kongbo people had Tibetan New Year on October 1st in advance.

**Palden Lhamo Festival
(Nov.16th, 2016, about 1 day)**



Palden Lhamo Festival has been a special day for Tibetan women. They would get up earlier than usual, go to Barkhor Street for burning aromatic plant and pray, and then worship Palden Lhamo, the protection god of Lhasa city, at Jokhang Monastery. On this day, all their wishes would come true and they also have a special privilege to ask gifts from men even if they are strangers.

**Butter Lamp Festival
(Nov.26th, 2016, about 2 days)**



The Butter Lamp Day is a festival to commemorate Tsong Khapa who was the Buddhism reformer and found the Gelugpa sect. Lots of activities would be held on 25th October in the Tibetan calendar. When darkness falls, butter lamps would be lighted up in every home and people would pray for intelligence, peace, luck and happiness sincerely.