

2018 & 2019 Tibetan Festivals Calendar

Tibetan Festivals	2018 Solar Calendar	2019 Solar Calendar	Region	Related Tour Itinerary
Shigatse New Year (Tsang Losar) Festival	N/A	Jan.6	Shigatse	Contact us to tailor your own trip
Tibetan New Year (The most important)	Feb.16	Feb.5	TAR	7 Days Tibet New Year Festival Tour (Celebrate the festival with local Tibetans)
Great Prayer Festival	N/A	Feb.8	TAR	Contact us to tailor your own trip
Samye Cham Dance Festival	Feb.25	N/A	Samye Monastery	Contact us to tailor your own trip
Butter Lantern Festival	Mar.2	Feb.19	Jokhang Monastery	Contact us to tailor your own trip
Tsurphu Cham Dance Festival	May.24	Jun.12	Tsurphu Monastery	Contact us to tailor your own trip
Saga Dawa Festival (The holiest one)	May.29	Jun.17	TAR	15 Days Tour Kailash in Saga Dawa Festival (Circle around Mt. Kailash for worship)
Drigung Cham Dance Festival	Jun.10	Jun.28	Drigung Monastery	Contact us to tailor your own trip
Tashilhunpo Thangka Festival	Jun.26	Jul.14	Tashilhunpo Monastery	8 Days Tashilhunpo Festival Tour (Participate various religious events)
Universal Prayer Day	Jun.28	Jul.16	TAR	Contact us to tailor your own trip
Yangpachen Monastrey Cham Dance Festival	Jul.12	N/A	Yangpachen Monastrey	Contact us to tailor your own trip
Chokor Duchen Festival	Jul.16	Aug.4	TAR	Contact us to tailor your own trip
Gyantse Horse Racing Festival	Jul.20	N/A	Gyantse	7 Days Gyantse Damar Festival Tour
Ganden Thangka Festival	Jul.27	Aug.15	Gandan Monastery	Contact us to tailor your own trip
Nagqu Horse Racing Festival	Aug.10	N/A	Nagqu	8 Days Tibet Nagqu Horce Racing Festival Budget Travel by Train
Shoton Festival (The most popular)	Aug.11	Aug.30	TAR	5 Days Shoton Festival Experience Tour (Experience the grandest festival to Tibetans)
Drepung Monastrey Lhoobhum Festival	Aug.18	N/A	Drepung Monastrey	Contact us to tailor your own trip
Drak Yerpa Monastrey Cham Dance Festival	Aug.20	N/A	Drak Yerpa Monastrey	Contact us to tailor your own trip
Damxung Horse Racing Festival	Aug.20	N/A	Damxung	Contact us to tailor your own trip
Bathing Festival	Sept.16	N/A	TAR	Contact us to tailor your own trip
Ongkor Festival	End of Sept	N/A	TAR	Contact us to tailor your own trip
Buddha's Descent Day	Oct. 31	N/A	TAR	Contact us to tailor your own trip
Kongpo and Ngari Area's New Year Festival	Nov.8	N/A	Kongpo & Ngari	Contact us to tailor your own trip
Palden Lhamo Festival	Nov.23	N/A	Lhasa	Contact us to tailor your own trip
Tsongkhapa Butter Lamp Festival	Dec.2	N/A	Lhasa	5 Days Gaden Ngachen Chenmo Festival Tour (Join the commemoration of Tsongkapa)

Tibetan Festivals in Details:

Tibetan New Year



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



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



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 held for thousands of years and varied with specific contents. Monks would wear robes with masks on and equip themselves with colorful ribbons and shields.

Saga Dawa Festival



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



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



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



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



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



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



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



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.

Tsongkhapa Butter Lamp Festival



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.