

2024 & 2025 Tibetan Festivals Calendar

Tibetan Festivals	2024 Solar Calendar	2025 Solar Calendar	Region	Related Tour Itinerary
Tibetan New Year (The most important)	Feb. 10th	Feb. 28th	TAR(The All Regions)	5 Days Tibet New Year Festival Tour (Celebrate the festival with local Tibetans)
Yak Festival in Tibet	Oct. 17th	Oct. 7th	TAR	Contact us to tailor your own trip
Butter Lantern Festival	Feb. 24th	Mar. 14th	Jokhang Monastery	Contact us to tailor your own trip
Peach Blossom Festival	Mar. 31th	N/A	Nyingchi	https://www.tibettravel.org/tibet-tour/nyingchi-peach-blossom-festival-tour.html (Enjoy the beautiful spring landscape of eastern Tibet)
Tsurphu Cham Dance Festival	Jun. 6th	Jun. 25th	Tsurphu Monastery	Contact us to tailor your own trip
Saga Dawa Festival (The holiest one)	May. 23th	Jun. 11th	TAR	15 Days Tour Kailash in Saga Dawa Festival (Circle around Mt. Kailash for worship)
Gyantse Damar Festival	May. 18th- Jun. 3rd	Jun.3rd- Jun.22th	Gyantse	https://www.tibettravel.org/tibet-tour/gyantse-damar-festival-tour.html (see the entertaining horse racing)
Drigung Cham Dance Festival	May. 18th	Jun. 5th	Drigung Monastery	Contact us to tailor your own trip
Tashilhunpo Thangka Festival	Jun. 23th	Jul. 11th	Tashilhunpo Monastery	8 Days Tashilhunpo Festival Tour (Participate various religious events)
Sera Bengqin Festival	Feb. 6th	Feb. 24th	Sera Monastery	Contact us to tailor your own trip
Nagqu Horse Racing Festival	Sep. 3rd- 8th	N/A	Nagqu	https://www.tibettravel.org/tibetan-festivals/8-days-nagchu-horse-racing-festival-tour.html (enjoy the breathtaking horse racing competitions)
Litang Horse Racing Festival	Aug. 1st	Aug. 1st	Litang	Contact us to tailor your own trip
Yushu Horse Racing Festival	Jul. 25th	Jul. 25th	Yushu	Contact us to tailor your own trip
Xiangxiong Cultural Festival	N/A	N/A	Xiangxiong	Contact us to tailor your own trip
Great Prayer Festival	Feb. 14th- Feb. 21th	Mar. 1st- Mar. 7th	TAR	Contact us to tailor your own trip
Pabang Dangkuo Festival	Sep. 18th	Sep. 7th	Reting Monastery	Contact us to tailor your own trip
Ongkor Festival (Bumper Harvest Festival)	Sep. 3rd	N/A	TAR	Contact us to tailor your own trip
World Incense Festival	Apr. 24 th	May. 13th	TAR	Contact us to tailor your own trip
Buddha's Sermon Festival	Jul. 10th	Jul. 28th	TAR	Contact us to tailor your own trip
Ganden Thangka Festival	Jul. 21th	Aug. 9th	Gandan Monastery	Contact us to tailor your own trip
Shoton Festival (The most popular)	Aug. 4th	Aug. 23th	Lhasa	5 Days Shoton Festival Experience Tour (Experience the grandest festival to Tibetans)
Bathing Festival	Aug. 10th	Aug. 29th	TAR	Contact us to tailor your own trip
Buddha's Descent Day	Nov. 21th	Nov. 11th	TAR	Contact us to tailor your own trip
Tibetan New Year in Kongbo Area	Dec. 2nd	Nov. 21th	Nyingchi & Pulan	Contact us to tailor your own trip
Palden Lhamo Festival or Tibetan Fairy Festival - A Festival in Tibet for Women	Dec. 15th	Dec. 4th	Lhasa	Contact us to tailor your own trip
Tsongkhapa Butter Lamp Festival (Gaden Ngachen Chenmo Festival)	Dec. 25th	Dec. 14th	Lhasa	Contact us to tailor your own trip

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Tibetan Festivals in Details:



Tibetan New Year (Feb.10, 2024; Feb. 28, 2025. 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 (Feb. 24, 2024; Mar.14,2025. 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 (Jun. 6, 2024; Jun. 25, 2025. 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.



Peach Blossom Festival (Mar. 31, 2024; about 1 month)

When spring approaches, most parts of Tibet are still covered with snow, Nyingchi has already been immersed in a sea of peach flowers. In order to celebrate this grandeur of nature and advocate Tibetan culture, the Nyingchi Peach Blossom Festival has been held by local Tibetans and enthusiastic tourists since 2002. During this grand festival, you can not only enjoy the rosy peach blossoms and exotic pastoral scenery but also explore Tibetan villages, watch horsemanship performances, try some local delicacies, etc.



Ongkor Festival (Sep. 3, 2024; about 1-3 days)

Each August in Tibetan Calendar, the Ongkor Festival is held in farming areas to celebrate the bumper harvest; "Ongkor" in Tibetan means "surrounding the farmland." The celebrations include horse racing, shooting, dancing and singing, Tibetan traditional Opera, stone lifting and wrestling, people show all their contentment and happiness on bumper harvest during the festival celebration.



Gyantse Damar Festival (May. 18, 2024; Jun. 3, 2025. about 15 days)

Gyantse Damar Festival is also known as Gyantse Horse Racing Festival. It is said that the Gyantse Damar Festival started as an athletic competition in the 1400s. As the years went by, it became an important inter-village competition. Buddhist worship and other events and festivities were added in. Of course, if a lot of people from various villages get together, they need to eat together peacefully, and they'll have a picnic. They'll also swap merchandise and have a swap meet, and a market will start as people come to try to sell their merchandise.



Tsongkhapa Butter Lamp Festival (Dec. 25, 2024; Dec. 14, 2025. about 1 day)

Gaden Ngachen Chenmo Festival, also known as Tsongkhapa Butter Lamp Festival, is celebrated to commemorate the parinirvana of Tsongkhapa, the founder of Gelug Sect of Tibetan Buddhism. Tsongkhapa Festival falls on the 25th day of the tenth month in Tibetan calendar. On that day, Tibetan monks would light up numerous butter lamps on the altars in and out of temples, and it's common to see lamps illuminating day and night at Tibetan homes.



Yak Festival (Oct. 17, 2024; Oct. 7, 2025. over 10 days)

Yak was regarded as god and became the best sacrifice for divinities. Then, the Yak Festival finally emerged. It starts from the 15th day of the 8th month in Tibetan calendar and usually lasts more than 10 days or even one month sometimes, with generally more than 1,000 people. During this festival, people will ask "heiba"(wizard) to recite scriptures, play yak horn and kill tens of yaks or over 100 sheep, drinking freely and talking noisily.



Great Prayer Festival (Feb. 14, 2024; Mar. 1, 2025. about 7 days)

The celebration of the Great Prayer Festival would last from January 1st to January 25th according to the Tibetan calendar. Thousands of monks (of the three main monasteries of Drepung, Sera, and Ganden) would gather to chant prayers and perform religious rituals at the Jokhang Temple in Lhasa. The lamas would debate the Buddhist scriptures in the temple, and may also raise questions to the elites of Tibetan Buddhism and debate with them.



Saga Dawa Festival (May. 23, 2024; Jun. 11, 2025. 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 (May. 18, 2024; Feb. 24, 2025. about 1 day)

Drigung Cham Dance Festival is held in summer dharma assembly at Drigung Monastery for commemorating its founder, Jigten Sumgö n. 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. 23, 2024; Jul. 11, 2025. 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. 10, 2024; Jul. 28, 2025. 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 (Aug. 4, 2024; Aug. 23, 2025. 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 (Nov. 21, 2024; Nov. 11, 2025. 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 (Dec. 2, 2024; Nov. 21, 2025. 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 (Dec. 15, 2024; Dec. 4, 2025. 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 (Dec. 25, 2024; Mar.14, 2025. about 2days)

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 25 th 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.



Nagqu Horse Racing Festival (Sep. 3, 2024, about 5 days)

Every year, people from all corners, eager to show off horsemanship skills, and trade for tools and supplies, gather in Nagchu Town and build a "tent city" here. People dress themselves in their finest clothes. Their finest horses are put in the best outfits. Thousands of people will participate in horse races, archery, and horsemanship contests. Those who don't contest can go to various folk activities and commodity fairs.



Litang Horse Racing Festival (Aug. 1, 2024; Aug. 1, 2025. about 4 days)

During the Litang Horse Racing festival horsemanship and horse races are held upon the Tibetan Ponies. These small and fast horses are raced and shown to see who owns the best horse. The horse festival is significant because it helps to establish socio-economic hierarchy in Khampas who participate. A lot of honor and prestige is placed on who owns the best horse.



Sera Bengqin Festival (Feb. 6th, 2024, Feb. 24, 2025. about 1 day)

As a tradition, the pilgrims held pure white hada, a traditional scarf, in hand and prayed while moving slowly in the kilometer-long line outside of the monastery. They proceeded to the Vajra Pestle, a treasure of the monastery, for the blessings. The Vajra Pestle was originally a weapon from India and it was introduced as a Tibetan Buddhist ritual instrument in the late 15th century.



Xiangxiong Cultural Festival (about 7 days)

The most eye-catching event featured in the Xiangxiong Festival is Tibet's most renowned horse competition. The match is divided into three categories: speed racing, endurance racing, and equestrian show.



Pabang Dangkuo Festival (Sep. 18, 2024; Sep. 7, 2025. about 1 day)

Pabang Dangkuo Festival in Reting Monastery was only purely religious prayer activity and then gradually developed into an integrative festival including varied entertainments and goods exchange.



Yushu Horse Racing Festival (Jul. 25, 2024; Jul. 25, 2025. about 7 days)

You can watch the Tibetans camping and dressing up in their costumes. There is a lot of well choreographed dancing to watch. There are Buddhist ceremonies. Tibetan food can be bought cheaply. You can buy Tibetan herbs and handicrafts and watch the Tibetans do various sports and games.