

Festivals of Sikkim 2026, Name List, Features, Importance

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The **Festivals of Sikkim 2026** reflect the state's rich cultural heritage, religious diversity and centuries old traditions. People belonging to Buddhist, Hindu, Christian, Muslim, Lepcha, Bhutia, Nepali, Limboo, Rai, Tamang, Gurung, Mangar and Newar communities celebrate their festivals together with harmony and mutual respect. These celebrations preserve local customs and strengthen the social unity of Sikkim.

Festivals of Sikkim 2026

Festivals of Sikkim are religious, cultural and seasonal celebrations observed according to Hindu, Tibetan, **Buddhist**, Islamic and local community calendars. They mark harvests, New Year celebrations, birth anniversaries of saints, important events in Buddhism and Hinduism and nature worship. Traditional Chaam masked dances, monastery ceremonies, river fairs, archery competitions, music, local cuisine, handicrafts and community participation make these festivals an important part of Sikkim's cultural life.

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List of Festivals of Sikkim 2026

The list of Major Festivals of Sikkim has been provided below:

- **Maghe Sankranti:** Celebrated on 14 January, this major Nepalese festival marks the beginning of warmer weather and the month of Magh. Holy river bathing, fairs at Jorethang, Saramsa, Rorathang and Triveni, handicrafts and cultural programmes are major attractions.
- **Sonam Lochar:** The Tamang community celebrates its New Year on the first day of the twelfth lunar month with traditional rituals, music, dances and joyful community gatherings.
- **Losar:** The Tibetan New Year falls on the first day of the first Tibetan lunar month, generally in February. Families gather for prayers, feasts and festivities, while Gutor Chaam is performed before the celebrations.
- **Holi:** Celebrated on the Phalgun full moon, Holi marks the victory of good over evil and welcomes spring with colourful celebrations across Sikkim.
- **Ramnavami (Chaita Dasain):** Observed on the ninth day of Chaitra, this Hindu festival celebrates the birth of Lord Rama and honours his righteous and ideal rule.
- **Sakewa:** Celebrated by the Kirat Khumbu Rai community during Baisakh full moon, this nine day Bhoomi Puja honours Mother Earth through rituals, prayers and the traditional Sakewa Silior dance.
- **Saga Dawa:** The holiest Mahayana Buddhist festival commemorates Lord Buddha's birth, enlightenment and Mahaparinirvana on the fourth Tibetan lunar month's full moon. Monastic processions carrying holy scriptures are organised across Sikkim, especially in Gangtok and Gyalshing.
- **Drukpa Tshechi:** Celebrated on the fourth day of the sixth Tibetan lunar month, it commemorates Lord Buddha's first sermon on the Four Noble Truths at Sarnath.
- **Guru Rinpoche's Thungkar Tshechu:** Celebrated on the tenth day of the fifth Tibetan lunar month, this festival marks the birth anniversary of Guru Padmasambhava with processions, Chaam dances and monastery ceremonies.
- **Tendong Lho Rum Faat:** One of the oldest Lepcha festivals, celebrated on 8 August, it honours Mount Tendong, believed to have saved the Lepcha people during the great flood of Mayel Lyang.
- **Indrajatra:** The Newar community celebrates this festival to honour Lord Indra and his mother for timely rainfall and a good harvest.
- **Pang Lhabso:** Unique to Sikkim, Pang Lhabso honours Mount Khangchendzonga as the guardian deity and commemorates the Lepcha-Bhutia blood brotherhood. Masked Lama dances, Pang-Toed, Warrior Dance and Chaams are its major highlights.
- **Durga Puja (Dasain):** Celebrated during Ashvin, this major Hindu festival commemorates Goddess Durga's victory over Mahishasura and symbolises the triumph of good over evil. Elders bless younger family members with tika.
- **Diwali (Laxmi Puja/Tihar):** Celebrated as the festival of lights, **Diwali** symbolises the victory of light over darkness. Homes are decorated with lamps, flowers and lights and Goddess Lakshmi is worshipped.
- **Lhabab Dhuchen:** Observed on the 22nd day of the ninth Tibetan lunar month, it marks Lord Buddha's descent from heaven after teaching his mother and celestial beings.
- **Losoong/Namsoong:** The Sikkimese New Year and harvest festival begins on the 29th day of the tenth Tibetan month. Bhutias celebrate Losoong, Lepchas observe Namsoong, while Chaam dances, monastery rituals and archery competitions continue for about a week.

- **Kagyed Dance:** Held on the 28th and 29th days of the tenth Tibetan month, monks perform colourful masked Chaam dances. Burning effigies made of wood, paper and flour symbolises the destruction of evil and the arrival of prosperity.
- **Other major festivals:** Teyongsi Sirijunga Sawan Tongnam (23 December), Barahimizong, Christmas (25 December), Tamu Lochar (30 December), Bumchu at Tashiding Monastery, Kalchakra Puja, Mha Puja, Guthor Chaam, Tyohar, Geel and Sunwar Sagoon are also important cultural and religious celebrations of Sikkim.

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