

Festivals of Himachal Pradesh 2026, Names, Top 25 List, Significance

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Festivals of Himachal Pradesh 2026 reflect the state's rich cultural heritage, ancient traditions, local deities, seasonal cycles, trade history, and tribal customs. These celebrations combine religion, agriculture, commerce, sports, music, dance, and community participation. From the Himalayan tribal regions of Lahaul-Spiti and Kinnaur to the valleys of Kullu, Chamba, Shimla, and Mandi, every festival showcases unique rituals, folk performances, fairs, and centuries-old cultural practices that continue to preserve Himachal Pradesh's identity.

Festivals of Himachal Pradesh 2026

Festivals of Himachal Pradesh are community celebrations connected with local deities, temples, changing seasons, harvests, trade, and traditional beliefs. Folk dance forms like Natti, devotional processions, cultural performances, fairs, sporting events, and traditional markets form their main attractions. Many festivals have been celebrated for centuries and continue to strengthen social harmony while preserving the cultural diversity of different valleys, districts, and tribal communities across the state.

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List of Festivals of Himachal Pradesh 2026

The following are the major fairs and festivals celebrated across different districts and tribal regions of Himachal Pradesh:

1. **Kullu Dussehra:** Started in 1651 at Dhalpur Ground, Kullu, this internationally known festival celebrates local deities gathering together and is one of Himachal Pradesh's most famous cultural events.
2. **Lavi Fair:** Held annually at Rampur in November (Kartika), this historic commercial fair originated after a trade treaty between the former Bushahr State and Tibet and remains famous for wool, dry fruits, medicinal herbs, cultural programmes, and Natti dance.
3. **Minjar Fair:** Celebrated at Chamba during August, this historic festival, started by Raja Sahil Varman, is among the state's important traditional fairs.
4. **Mandi Shivratri Fair:** Started by Raja Ajbar Sen, this famous fair is organised at Paddal Ground, Mandi, bringing together numerous local deities and large public gatherings.
5. **Renuka Fair:** Organised in Sirmaur during November, this important religious fair attracts pilgrims and visitors from different parts of the state.
6. **Nalwari Fair:** A state-level animal fair of Bilaspur, started by W. Goldstein in 1889 during the reign of Raja Amar Chand of Kehlur, celebrated every March.
7. **Holi Fair:** Celebrated at Sujanpur Tihra (Hamirpur), this traditional fair was started by Raja Sansar Chand and is known for colourful festivities.
8. **Bharara Fair:** Organised near Kumharsain on 1st Jaistha (May), this ancient fair honours Devta Koteswar with traditional rituals, Natti dance, Hindola rides, and community participation.
9. **Bhoj Fair:** Held for three days at Guman village, Rohru in November, this fair honours Devta Bansor, Parshu Ram, and Kilbaru and is well known for Natti performances.
10. **Mahasu Jatar:** Celebrated near Mahasu village on the third Tuesday of Baisakha (May) for two days, this historic fair features Durga temple rituals, archery competitions, folk songs, Natti dance, and traditional customs.
11. **Pathar Ka Khel:** Observed at Halog on the second day of **Diwali**, this unique fair is famous for its traditional stone-throwing contest, Kali worship, and Hindola rides.
12. **Sipi Fair:** Held at Sihpur near Mashobra on 1st Jaistha (May) in honour of Sip Devta, this old fair includes archery, Karyala, variety shows, jugglers, magicians, acrobats, and cultural performances.
13. **Rohru Fair:** Celebrated on 9th and 10th Baisakha (April) along the Pabbar River, this fair honours Devta Shikru and combines religious traditions with commercial trading and Natti dance.
14. **Summer Festival:** Organised every May on The Ridge, Shimla, this cultural festival features folk performances, school programmes, and shows by renowned artists.
15. **Winter Sports Festival:** Conducted at Shimla's natural ice-skating rink from December to February, it includes ice-skating, ice hockey, gymkhanas, fancy dress carnivals, dances, and other winter sporting activities.
16. **Ladarcha Fair:** Celebrated at Kaza during the third week of August, this historic trade fair has evolved into a cultural meeting point for Spiti, Ladakh, Kinnaur, Kullu, and Lahaul.
17. **Pauri Fair:** Organised at Triloknath during the third week of August, this three-day festival combines pilgrimage, Buddhist and Hindu traditions, religious processions, folk dances, and local markets.

18. **Tribal Fair Keylong:** Celebrated from 14 to 16 August at Keylong, this state-level fair showcases tribal culture through performances by artists from Chandigarh, Dharamshala, Leh, Chamba, Kullu, Spiti, and local cultural groups.
19. **Tsheshu Fairs:** Celebrated during June at Shashur, Gemur, Kyi, Kardang, Tabo, and Mane Monasteries, these festivals are famous for colourful masked devil dances performed by Buddhist Lamas.
20. **Festival of Light (Khogla and Halda):** Celebrated in January, Khogla in Pattan Valley and Halda in other Lahaul valleys involve torch processions, deity worship, community gatherings, and traditional rituals.
21. **Fagli Festival:** Celebrated in Pattan Valley during February, this important tribal festival includes Baraza worship, symbolic farming rituals, offerings, family ceremonies, gift exchanges, and community feasts.
22. **Gochi Festival:** Celebrated in Bhaga Valley during February, this unique festival marks the birth of sons during the previous year through village worship, processions, music, dancing, and traditional rituals.
23. **Losar Festival:** Celebrated in Kinnaur as the traditional New Year festival, Losar marks the beginning of a new year with religious ceremonies, prayers, cultural celebrations, traditional rituals, and community gatherings, especially in the Buddhist-influenced **Himalayan region**.
24. **Other Major Festivals:** Important celebrations include Naina Devi Fair, Gugga Festival, Markanda Fair, Dungri Fair, Saarhi Yatra, Dal Fair, Nagini Fair, Kaleshwar Fair, Dyot-Sidh Fair, Gasota Festival, and Phulech Festival, each reflecting the religious, cultural, and regional traditions of different parts of Himachal Pradesh.

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