

# CALENDAR OF FESTIVALS AND EVENTS

Greater Lumbini Area, Nepal



2074 BS (2017/18 AD)



Government of Nepal  
Ministry of Culture, Tourism & Civil Aviation  
**Lumbini Development Trust**  
Sacred Garden, Lumbini, Nepal | [www.lumbinidevtrust.gov.np](http://www.lumbinidevtrust.gov.np)



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## 1. Nepali New Year

Nepal has more than 125 ethnic groups each having its own unique cultures. These ethnic groups celebrate 9 different new years' days according to their respective tradition and calendar. However, Baishakh 1, the first day of Bikram Sambat or Nepali calendar also known as Navavarsh, is the official New Year of the country. Friends and families get together and celebrate the day by organizing parties and picnics and traveling. Musical concerts are organized in many places, drawing huge crowds of young and music lovers. New Year day is considered auspicious, so people make new resolutions, exchange gifts and wish each other peace, progress and prosperity.

Lumbini Development Trust (LDT) decorates the Mayadevi Temple with lights and organizes special puja, which is participated by a large number of pilgrims, peace lovers, visitors and locals. Similarly, international monasteries in Lumbini are brightly adorned with lights and hummed with peace prayers. Hotels and restaurants are busy welcoming the guests and organizing various programs to celebrate the occasion.

Various business organizations including Siddharthanagar Hotel Association Nepal (SHAN) has been organizing Food Festival and Fares at Mahilawar Bazaar, Parsa Chowk, Bhairahawa etc. on the eve of every New Year. A large number of domestic as well as foreign tourists attend the festivals.

**Date:** Baishakh 1,  
2074/ April 14, 2017

**Venue:** Lumbini,  
Parsachowk, major  
parks, hotels,  
restaurants in the  
cities across the  
Greater Lumbini Area  
(GLA)

**Key Features:**  
*Get-together of  
friends and families,  
visiting monasteries,  
temples, parties,  
picnics, travelling,  
musical concerts,  
exchanging gifts and  
best wishes*



**Date/Duration:**  
Baishakh 27, 2074/  
May 10, 2017

**Venue:** Lumbini,  
Ancient Kapilavastu,  
Devadaha,  
Ramagrama,  
Buddhist  
monasteries across  
the region

**Key Features:**  
Paying homage to  
Lord Sakyamuni  
Buddha; worshipping,  
praying and reciting  
Buddhist sutras,  
offering flowers,  
lighting, serving  
food to Vikkhsus and  
helpless.

## 2. Buddha Jayanti

The full moon during the month of May is celebrated as Buddha Jayanti or Buddha Purnima or Baishakh Purnima or Vesak Day around the world. Lord Sakyamuni Buddha was born on Purnima meaning full moon in Sanskrit, of Baishakh, the first month of Nepali calendar in 623 BC, got enlightenment on Baisakha Purnima of 588 BC and passed away on Baishakh Purnima of 543 BC. This auspicious day is therefore a *Trisamyoga* (threefold blessed) and is celebrated to mark the birth anniversary, the day of enlightenment and the day of *Mahaparinirvana* (passing) of Lord Sakyamuni Buddha.

The event is celebrated enthusiastically but in a gentle manner, keeping in mind the Buddha's teaching of peace and compassion. People go to viharas, stupas and shrines to pay homage to Lord Sakyamuni Buddha by offering prayers and recite Buddhist sutras. Kheer (rice pudding) is served to recall the story of Sujata, who offered Lord Sakyamuni Buddha a bowl of Kheer to give up extreme austerity that eventually helped him get enlightened.



Lumbini Development Trust organizes special Buddha Jayanti celebration to mark the red-letter day in Lumbini amidst presence of thousands of national and international dignitaries, venerable monks and nuns, delegates, scholars and general public. The Mayadevi Temple in Lumbini is adorned with flowers and lights where Paritrana (Buddhist sutras) are chanted at the night before the Purnima. Cultural procession is held with



thousands of people in the morning, formal program is held during the day and Mayadevi Temple is illuminated with thousands of lamps and lights in the evening. Large number of devotees from around the world visits the temple to pay homage to Lord Sakyamuni Buddha.

Apart from Lumbini, the celebrations also take place in other Buddhist sites like Kapilavastu, Devadaha and Ramagrama. The statue of Baby Buddha is carried to Ancient Kapilavastu from Lumbini on the second day of the Buddha Jayanti in the presence of most venerable monks and nuns, delegates, scholars and general public.













### 3. Ramadan (Ramazan)

*Ramadan*, also pronounced as *Ramazan*, *Ramadhan*, or *Ramathan* is the ninth month of the Islamic calendar. The Muslims observe fasting (Sawm or Roza) for the whole month of *Ramadan* to commemorate the first revelation of the holy Quran to Muhammad. Observing *Roza* is regarded as one of the Five Pillars of Islam.

All Muslims, except those who are ill, travelling, elderly and women who are pregnant, breastfeeding or having menstrual period fast during Ramadan that lasts for 29–30 days, based on the sightings of the crescent moon. The Muslim communities in and around Lumbini region also observe *Ramadan* with equal devotion. They fast from dawn till the sunset (they do not drink even water) and refrain from smoking, and engaging in sexual relations and sinful behavior like false speech (insulting, backbiting, cursing, lying etc.) and aggressive actions. Muslims eat and drink before dawn and after sunset only during the whole month. They believe that spiritual rewards (thawab) are multiplied if the fasting is observed in the month of Ramadan.

During this festival people gather in Mosques, offer salat (prayers) to Allah and recite the verses of Quran. They give Zakat (charity, alms) to needy people. The day of Eid al-Fitr marks the end of Ramadan on which people exchange greetings to each other and feast on the best food.

**Date:** 29-30 days, starting on Jestha 13 2074/May 27 to June 25, 2017

**Venue:** Muslim communities and mosques

**Key Features:** Fasting (Sawm or Roza), refrain from sinful behaviour, gathering in mosques, offer of salat (prayers) to Allah, giving Zakat (charity) to needy people, exchange greetings etc.



## 4. Ropain Festival (Festival of Paddy Plantation)

Rice is the staple diet for all Nepali people. Therefore, every year the 15<sup>th</sup> day of *Asadh* (June/July) is celebrated as Ropain Festival (National Paddy Day) in Nepal. *Ropain*, meaning rice plantation in Nepali, marks the period when farmers plant seedlings of paddy during the monsoon season. Traditionally, men prepare smooth muddy fields by repeatedly ploughing it and women plant the rice seedlings. Oxen are used to plough the fields in remote and terraced farmlands of Nepal while modern tractors are used in the plains.



During *Ropain*, the farmers sing traditional folk song *Asare Geet* (songs of joy and lamentation of village farmers) and play tug-of-war, friendly wrestling matches and lots of other friendly wallowing and splashing in

the mud. The farmers and guests are served with delicious food, popularly *Dahi Chiura* (curd and beaten rice).

**Date:** *Asadh 15/ June 29*

**Venue:** *Paddy fields near Bhairahawa, Chhapiya, Lumbini, Kapilavastu, Devadaha*

**Key Features:** *Mud working, planting of rice seedling, ploughing, singing folk song and dancing, friendly wrestling in the muddy waters; serving delicious food, popularly Dahi Chiura (curd and beaten rice) and homemade brew to the workers and guests.*



**Date/Duration:** Every Monday of Shrawan, starting on Monday Shrawan 2/July 17

**Venue:** Tauleshor Nath, Laxmanghat (Kapilavastu), Paryoha Dham (Sainamaina), Prakateshor Mahadev (near Bethari), Triveni Dham etc.

**Key Features:**

*Carrying the water from the Ganges or other nearby holy rivers, the devotees march to Shiva temples sprinkling water, chanting the slogan "Bol Bam", singing Bhajans, pouring the holy water on Shiva Linga (Shiva phallic).*

## 5. Bolbom Parva

Bolbom festival is observed every year by worshiping the Lord Shiva throughout the month of *Shrawan* (July–August), from the first Monday of the month. The pilgrims or *Shiva Bhaktas* (disciples of Shiva) carry the holy water from the Ganges or other sacred rivers, in the urns on a stick known as *Kanwar* and march barefooted to Shiva temples in saffron robes usually in groups of family, friends and neighbors. The pilgrims continuously sprinkle water and chorus "*Bol Bom*" (chant the name of Bam, the Lord Shiva !) and sing Bhajans (hymns) to praise the glorious name of the Lord Shiva. After covering a long distance of the holy march, the pilgrims return to their own local or other more significant Shiva Temples and pour *Gangajal* (holy water of the Ganges) on *Shiva Linga* (phallus of Lord Shiva) on the last Monday of *Shrawan*. Huge numbers of Hindu pilgrims from around the world gather in the Pashupatinath Temple in Kathmandu.

Tauleshor Nath Mahadev and Laxmanghat in Kapilavastu, Paryowa Dham in Sainamaina, Prakateshor Mahadeva in Lumbini and Triveni Dham in Nawalparasi also see a large crowd on this day.





## 6. Janai Purnima/Raksha Bandhan and Rakhi Festival

Janai Purnima, also known as Rakshya Bandhan by the Hindus, is celebrated on *Shrawan Purnima* (full moon of Shrawan or Bhadra month according to Nepali calendar) corresponding to August/September of Gregorian calendar. *Janai* is the sacred thread worn around the chest. Hence *Janai Purnima* is the festival of the Sacred Thread. Hindu men, especially the Brahmins and Chhetris change their old Janai with a new one, which is purified by holy water amidst rituals and recitation. Heaps of such sacred threads can be seen being purified by the priest on the bank of a river or in the premises of Shiva temple.

The day is also celebrated as Rakhi festival in Terai region of Nepal. Rakhi festival is marked by tying a rakhi, or holy thread, by sisters to brothers. In the morning of Raksha Bandhan the brothers and sisters gather together with family members. The oil lamps (diya) or candle are lighted. The sister ties the rakhi around her brother's wrist wishing him prosperity, good health and long life. Sisters offer her brothers the best foods including varieties of sweets.

**Date:** Bhadra 2/  
August 18

**Venue:** Every household in the Hindu communities

**Key Features:**

Change old sacred thread worn (Janai) especially by men of -Brahmin, Chhetri and Giri/Puri communities; tying of the holy thread by all women and children of Hindu communities; the sisters offer to her brothers the sacred Rakhi

## 7. Gai Jatra (Cow Festival or Procession)

*Gai Jatra (Procession of Cow)* is one of the most popular festivals in Nepal. King Pratap Malla of Kathmandu introduced it in the medieval period in order to make his queen smile, who was grief-stricken by untimely death of her beloved son. Today, it is celebrated with humorous acts, parody, mimicry comedy etc. to forget the grief caused by the death of close relatives and family members. Traditionally, the family whose member had died in the preceding year must participate in the public procession in the streets of the city leading a cow. If cow is not available, young kids dressed as cow are taken in the procession. The participants act like monkeys and other animals to remind people that the death eventually befell in their family too. Once the cow procession is over, participants dress up and wear masks and entertain people with songs, jokes, mockery and humors until late evening. The Newar communities in Bhairahawa, Butwal and Tansen observe *Gai Jatra* with more fervor.

**Date:** Bhadra 3/  
August 19

**Venue:** Tansen, Palpa, Butwal and Bhairahawa (especially among Newari communities)

**Key Features:**

Observed by the family which has lost member in the preceding year; procession of cow; dressing up and wearing masks and entertaining people with songs, jokes, mockery and humors until late evening.



## 8. Krishna Janmastami (Birth Anniversary of Lord Krishna)

The festival is celebrated as the birth anniversary of Lord Krishna on the eighth day (Ashtami) of the *Krishna Paksha* (dark fortnight) in the month of Bhadra (August/September) of Nepali calendar. The Hindus observe *Krishna Janmashtami* by fasting, observing *jagrama* (staying awake) until midnight when, according to Hindu mythology, Krishna, an incarnation of Lord Bishnu, was born.

People cradle the image of infant Krishna and swing it with much love and devotion. At places, people gather for devotional songs, dance and *Krishna puja*. *Srimadbhagawata Gita*, the holy compilation of the teachings of the Lord Krishna is recited with much reverence at Krishna temples and homes. Numerous devotees flock to the Krishna temples to keep vigil through the night of his birth. People chant together many names of Lord Krishna, such as Narayan-Narayan, Gopal-Gopal, Govinda-Govinda, Murari-Murari etc. and celebrate the birthday of Lord Krishna.

**Date:** Bhadra 9/  
August 25

**Venue:** Krishna  
temples in the region

### **Key**

**Features:** Observed  
by fasting and  
observing *jagrama*  
(staying awake)  
until midnight when  
Krishna was born;  
chanting many  
names of Krishna,  
and singing hymns.



**Date:** Bhadra 19/  
September 4

**Venue:** Observed  
by Hindu women  
at home and in  
Shiva temples in  
Bhairahawa, Butwal,  
Tansen, Triveni etc.

**Key Features:**  
Feasting, fasting,  
performing cultural  
dance in finest  
red attire, visiting  
nearby Shiva temple,  
worshipping and  
offering flowers,  
taking bath and  
chewing Dattivan.

## 9. Teej Vrata (Haritarika)

Teej festival is observed by Hindu women on the third day of the waning moon of Nepali month of Bhadra to worship Lord Shiva. Commemorating Goddess Parvati's union with Lord Shiva, the Hindu women observe it for well-being and long life of their husband and children and purification of one's body and soul in this as well as next lives to come.

The festival is a three-day-long celebration that combines lavish feasts as well as austere fasting. The first day of Teej is called *Dar Khane Din* (feasting day). Women visit their parents' home or assemble with family members and friends at a place in their finest attire and enjoy the grand feast, normally hosted by male members of the family. It provides an opportunity for women to share their happiness and pains with families, siblings and old friends. The second day is the day of austere fasting. Some women live without food and a drop of water while others take liquid and fruit. Married women observe the fasting for long life, happiness and prosperity of their husband and family while unmarried women fast wishing for a good husband.

The Hindu women line up at Shiva temple in their finest sartorial ensembles and offer flowers, sweets, coins, oil lamps etc. and worship the Lord Shiva with profound devotion. Once the worship is over they indulge in dancing and singing with equal fervor. On third day of the festival, *Rishi Panchami*, the women pay homage to *saptarshi* (seven Hindu sages), offer prayers to deities, and brush their teeth with 360 small twigs of *dattivan* (sacred plant). The women are considered absolved from all their sins which have been committed knowingly or inadvertently after completing this ritual. The Hindu women follow similar rituals and organize cultural programs in and around Lumbini during this festival.



## 10. Jitiya Parva

*Jitiya Prava* is observed by Nepali married women of eastern and central Terai region and Tharu women for the wellbeing and long life of their sons on the day of *Ashwin Krishna Astami* [August-September].

People believe that the children of the mothers, who observe *Jitiya vrata* properly, grow in prosperity, enjoy good fortune and escape life-threatening accidents.

Traditionally, fish and *chapatti* (roti or bread) made of millet are eaten the day before *Astami*. The mothers observe *Nirjala* (without water) fast on the day of *Astami* and break only the next day on *Nawami*. The women may have to fast for two days sometimes, when *Astami* begins in the afternoon. After bathing in the morning and praying *Lord Jimutvahana*, the *Nirjala* fast begins. They offer mustard oil and *khilli* to the female ancestors and *Lord Jimutvahana* and bangles and curd to the eagle and jackal. They make image of *Lord Jimutvahana* out of grass and put it into the water and worship with incense, bamboo leaves, chandan, flowers, rice and prayers. Similarly, the idols of eagle and jackal are made from sand or cow dung and worshiped with *sindoor* (sacred red powder). The story of *Lord Jimutvahana*, eagle and jackal is recited for the adherents. The fast concludes after the sunrise of the *Navami*, and the mothers offer foods and money to the priests.

**Date:** *Aswin 7/ September 23*

**Venue:** *By Hindu and Tharu households and community spaces in and around Lumbini, Kapilavastu, Ramagrama and Devadaha.*

**Key Features:**  
*Fasting, praying Lord Jimutvahana, worshiping idols of eagle and jackal with vermilion powder.*





**Date/Duration:**

Ashwin 22-27/  
October 8-13

**Venue:** Hindu households, Durga temples, public spaces

**Key Features:**

Worshipping of Goddess Durga, growing Jamara (seedlings of maize or barley); family get together; getting Tika on forehead and blessing from seniors.

## 11. Durga Puja/Dashain

*Durga Puja* in Nepal is celebrated as *Dashain* or *Tika*. The festival marks the victory of Goddess *Durga* over demon king *Mahishasura*. The festival also epitomizes the victory of virtue over vice or good over evil. It is the longest, and auspicious festival celebrated by Nepali and its diaspora all over the world.

It is also an occasion when all the family members get together and meet old friends. The festival is observed for 15 days, starting from the *shuklapaksha* (bright lunar fortnight) of the month of *Ashoj* (September or October) and concluding on *purnima*, the full moon.

The first day of *Dashain* is observed as *Ghatasthapana* by worshipping the Goddess *Durga*, setting up a *kalash* (a brass, copper or silver pitcher with large base and narrow mouth to dispense water) with holy water and sowing *jamara* (seeds of barley and maize sewn in a bed of soil, cow dung and sands in a plate made of *sal* leaves left left in the dark area for sprouting). Goddess *Durga* and the *kalash* are worshiped for nine days in a row. The seventh, eighth and ninth days are grandly celebrated as *Fulpati*, *Mahaastami* and *Mahanawami* respectively. The Goddess *Durga* is worshiped in *saktipith* (the temples dedicated to Goddess *Durga* and her other incarnations) in many ways with or without animal sacrifices. The tenth day is celebrated as *Vijaya Dashami* or *Tika* (victory day of Goddess *Durga* over *Mahishasura*). The senior family members bless the younger ones with *Tika* and *jamara*. The Hindus in and around Lumbini celebrate *Dashain* by worshipping image of Goddess *Durga* for fifteen days.





**Date/Duration:** Kartik  
14-16/October 30 to  
November 1.

**Venue:** Hindu  
households, temples,  
public spaces

**Key Features:**  
Worshipping crows,  
dogs, cow/oxen  
and offering food;  
welcoming and  
worshipping Laxmi  
(goddess of wealth);  
lighting oil lamps;  
playing Deusi and  
Bhailo; eating sel  
roti, offering tika and  
garland and delicious  
food to brothers by  
sisters.

## 12. Deepawali/Tihar (Festival of lights)

*Tihar*, also known as *Deepawali*, *Deewali* and *Yamapanchak*, is a five-day long festival where crow, dog, cow and Laxmi (the Goddess of wealth), oxen and kin brothers are worshipped.

It is second biggest Hindu festival after *Dashain* in Nepal. Popularly known as the *festival of lights* among visitors, the houses are illuminated with *diyas* (oil lamps) and colorful tinsel lights throughout the night.

The first day of the festival is *Kaag Tihar* and crows are worshiped and offered foods with a believe that it prevents grief and untimely death in the family. The following day is *Kukur Tihar* or the day to worship the dog. People offer garlands, tika and food to dogs and acknowledge its loyalty and service to human beings. The third day is celebrated as *Gai Tihar* and *Laxmi Puja*. Cows are worshiped in the morning with garland and offered the food they like. In the evening, people worship *Laxmi* and welcome her to their homes with much enthusiasm by illuminating their rooms, houses and surroundings believing that she likes those places which are well lit and bright in the night. The fourth day is observed as *Goru Tihar* or *Govardhan Puja* and oxen are worshiped with garland and offered foods. The fifth or the final day of *Tihar* is *Bhai Tika*. Sisters worship their brothers by offering a long and colorful vertical *tika* on their foreheads, garland of marigold and delicious dishes wishing them long and prosperous life. The brothers, in turn, promise to look after the sisters, offer gifts and money and thank them for their love and care. This festival which tightens the warm relationship between brothers and sisters is celebrated by the Hindus living in and around Lumbini region with equal enthusiasm and indulgence.





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**Date:** Kartik 21/  
November 6

**Venue:** Danda river,  
Tinau river, Jharahi  
river (Ramagrama),  
Bhagirathi river and  
Triveni Dham

**Key Features:** Taking  
a bath at holy rivers  
or ponds; offering  
fruits (mainly  
babanas) and  
flowers to Sun god;  
worshiping of earth.

## 13. Chhath Parva

The four-day long Chhath Parva is primarily observed from Kartik Shukla Chaturthi to Kartik Shukla Saptami (October/November) by natives of Mithila region, but it is gaining popularity in other parts of Nepal in recent days. The festival is dedicated to the Sun (Suryadev) and observed by thanking him for sustaining life and prosperity on the earth. People worship the sun to ensure the longevity, stability and prosperity of family members, friends and relatives.

The first day of the Chhath is *Naha Kha* meaning bathe and eat. People clean their home and surroundings and take a holy dip in nearby river or pond. They offer water, flowers, and fruits to the sun and take only one meal on this day. *Kharna* or *Lohanda* is the second day of the festival and people break fasting after the sunset by worshiping the earth and offering *kheer* (rice pudding), *puris* (bread), and fruits, mainly bananas. *Chhath* is the third day on which people prepare *Prasad* (holy fruits and foods offered after puja) whole day at homes. In the evening, all adherents gather at the nearby river, lake or pond to make *Sanjhiya Arghya* (evening offerings) to the setting sun. Holy lamps are lit under a canopy of five sugarcane sticks to mark *Kosi puja* on the third night by the families having new birth or marriage in the family. The five sticks signify the human body elements or *Panchatatva*: the earth, water, fire, air and sky. Evening cultural programs with folk songs, music and dances add to festivity of *Chhath*. The fourth and final day is *Bihaniya Argha*, meaning morning offerings to the sun. The devotees, along with their family and friends, assemble at river, lake or pond before sunrise and make morning offerings to the rising sun. People break fasting after morning offerings and *Prasad* along with foods are distributed to the families and friends.



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**Date:** Kartik 18/  
November 4

**Venue:** Holy rivers,  
Shiva Temples;  
Ramghat at  
Bhagirathi river,  
Triveni Dham at Sapta  
Gandaki river

**Key Features:**  
Taking ritual bath  
at a sacred water  
body, worshipping  
Lord Shiva, paying  
homage to Shiva;  
floating oil lamps in  
miniature boats in  
rivers.

## 14. Kartik Purnima (Nahana Puja)

*Kartik Purnima* is celebrated during the *Purnima* (full moon) of *Kartik* (November–December) to commemorate the destruction of the demon *Tripurasura* by *Lord Shiva*. It is also known as *Tripurari Purnima* and *Deva-Deepawali* or the festival of lights to the gods. The destruction of demons and their cities by *Lord Shiva* brought joys to the gods who declared the day as “*Deva-Deepawali*”.

Devotees perform *Kartik snan* (ritual bath) at a sacred water body, lake or river and the images of *Lord Shiva* are worshiped and carried around in procession honoring his great victory. Shiva temples and houses of devotees are illuminated throughout the night by “*Kartik Diparatna*” meaning the jewel of lamps in *Kartik*. Oil lamps are sent floating in miniature boats in rivers or placed under *Tulsi* (sacred fig) and *Amla* (gooseberry) trees. The fishes, insects and birds that see these lights on the day are believed to attain salvation by the mercy and blessing of *Lord Shiva*. This festival is observed at *Prakateshor Mahadev temple*, *Parawaparmeshor Mahadev temple*, *Tauleshor Nath temple*, *Triveni Dham temples* in Greater Lumbini area.







## 15. Sakya Monlam

Sakya Monlam is a mass peace prayer in which *Samantabhadra's aspiration to noble deeds*, the Buddha's prayer composed by Bodhisattva Samantabhadra, is recited by thousands of monks and nuns together. The benefits of its recitation are enumerated as higher rebirth, happiness and joy in this life, purification from sins, achieving perfect wisdom, beholding the Buddha of Boundless Light and attaining perfect Buddhahood. The Monlam is being observed in Lumbini in every winter (November/December) since 1993.

An assembly of thousands of monks and nuns chants over 100,000 recitations of Samantabhadra's Aspiration to Noble Deeds, and other prayers like lineage of great masters, the Sixteen Arhat Ritual, the Manjushri Namasamgita for world peace. The main purpose of the Monlam puja is to prolong the lives of the upholders of the Buddha's doctrine and to pray for the benefit of sentient beings, harmony and pure conduct of Buddhist sanghas, dispelling of epidemics, famine and warfare through the blessings of the Buddha and holy masters, and to spread happiness and peace around the world. Great Masters give reading transmissions on various Buddhist texts and canonical teachings during the puja. His Holiness Sakya Trizin gives a blessings for the public towards the end of the Monlama puja.

Some 4000 Buddhist monks and nuns from different countries turn Lumbini into a colourful haven during the Monlam puja. Large number of pilgrims from Nepal and abroad visits Lumbini to receive Wang (blessing) from His Holiness during the puja.

**Date/Duration:**  
*Every winter (10 days in November/ December)*

**Venue:** *In Lumbini by Tashi Raptan Monastery*

**Key Features:**  
*Reciting Samantabhadra's aspiration to noble deeds by thousands of monks and nuns together; offering blessings to the public by His Holiness Sakya Trizin towards the end of the Monlam puja.*



## 16. Tamu Lhosar

The Gurungs are also known as *Tamus* and *Lhosar* means New Year. *Tamu Lhosar*, hence, is the Gurung's New Year celebrated on every 15 Poush of Nepali calendar (December/January). *Tamu Lhosar* marks the end of winter and beginning of spring. As per Gurung's calendar 12 months make one *Lho* (each of 12 years is named after one animal - garuda, serpent, horse, sheep, monkey, bird, dog, deer, mouse, cow, tiger and cat respectively) and 12 *Lhos* make one *Lohokor* (a period of 12 years). Hence, this *Lhosar* marks a cycle of twelve animal-years and the repetition.

Family members, relatives and friends get together and exchange greetings and feast on best foods in *Lhosar*. The Gurungs gather at common courtyards to celebrate *Lhosar* in village while in big cities, they utilize public spaces to rejoice festivity with various cultural processions, feast and exchange of greetings. The Gurungs visit monasteries and Buddhist shrines and worship Lord Sakyamuni Buddha. They also invite *Lamas* at home and conduct puja. Folk Gurung, songs and dances in traditional attires are the attractions of the celebration. A large number of Gurungs visits Lumbini during *Tamu Lhosar* to celebrate this festival.

**Date:** Poush 15/  
December 30

**Venue:** The Gurung communities living in Jagadishpur, Butwal, Bhairahawa, Khairahani etc.

**Key Features:**  
Family members, relatives and friends get together and exchange greetings and feast on the best foods; visit monasteries and Buddhist shrines and worship Lord Buddha; invite *Lamas* and performing puja; celebrations with singing and dancing in traditional attires.



**Date/Duration:**  
Poush 16 and 17/  
December 31, 2017  
and January 1, 2018.

**Venue:** Mahilwar  
Bazaar, Lumbini,  
Bhairahawa, Butwal  
etc.

**Key Features:**  
Dancing, eating,  
drinking; enjoying  
Food Festival at  
Mahilwar Bazar  
on the eve; visiting  
Mayadevi temple etc.

## 17. English New Year and Eve

The last day of Gregorian calendar, December 31 is celebrated as New Year's Eve. People dance, eat, drink, and light fireworks to mark the New Year's Eve in many countries, especially in the western countries. This festival is coming into vogue in Nepal in recent days especially among the youths and at tourist hubs even among non-Christians.

A large number of Nepali visits Lumbini on the occasion; some stay overnight and celebrate New Year by worshipping the Lord Sakyamuni Buddha's birthplace. Siddharthanagar Hotel Association Nepal (SHAN) organizes Lumbini Food Festival at Mahilwar Bazar on the Eve. Many domestic as well as foreign tourists attend the street food festival.

The main attraction of the festival is showcasing of wide variety of cuisines, among them Japanese, Thai, Chinese, Korean, Indian/ South Indian, Nepali etc. to choose from, served by different hotels of Lumbini. The festival also include cultural programmes including Biraha dance and music. Lumbini Development Trust organizes special celebrations and illuminates the entire premises with lamps and lights in the evening. The international monasteries in the monastic zones also organize puja and celebrations in their respective premises.

### For further information:

Siddharthanagar Hotel Association Nepal (SHAN), Lumbini Chapter,  
Tel.: 977-71-580432, Email: shanlumbini@gmail.com





**Date:** Magh 1/  
January 15.

**Venue:** Tharu villages,  
Magar villages  
(Jagadishpur,  
Sainamaina,  
Khudabagar,  
Sispuur, Panditpur,  
Ramagrama)

**Key Features:** Taking  
holy bath (Makar  
Snan) in Holy rivers;  
enjoying a big feast  
with lavish amount of  
meat and homemade  
liquor; organizing  
cultural programs  
and processions in  
traditional costumes.

## 18. Maghi Parva/Maghe Sankranti

*Maghe Sankranti*, the first day of the month of *Magh* (January/February) marks the beginning of the sun's journey to northern hemisphere from the south according to the Hindu Lunar calendar. Tharu communities of Nepal celebrate the day as *Maghi*, their new year. The Hindus take holy bath known as *Makar Snan* in holy rivers and Lord Vishnu and the sun are worshipped for good health and prosperity. The Hindus also believe that the person died on this auspicious day attain *moksha* (salvation). Traditional salubrious foods such as sesame *Laddu* (ball-shaped sweet), ghee, yam and sweet potatoes are enjoyed in the households.

*Maghi* is celebrated from last week of *Paush* (ninth month) to 3rd of *Magh* (tenth month) of Nepali calendar and is the biggest festival of the Tharu community. Nomination of *Bhalmansa* (chief of community), *Guruwa* (a necromancer for community worship and healing of people) and *Chiragi* (security chief to defend the community) is an important social event during the festival. The responsibility of each member of the family is also assigned on the day of *Maghi* for the entire year. All the family members, relatives and friends come together for the celebration. The Tharus in the Lumbini area enjoy a big feast with lavish amount of meals and homemade liquor in the festival. The Tharu communities in and around Lumbini completely immerse themselves in cultural programs and processions of folk music, songs and dances during *Maghi*.







## 19. Sonam Lhosar

*Sonam Lhosar* is the new year of *Tamang* community and is celebrated on *Magh Sukla Pratipada* (the new moon) of *Magh* month of the Nepali calendar (January/February) to mark the end of winter and beginning of spring. The *Tamangs* use ancient Tibetan-Chinese calendar that has a cycle of 12 months each named after an animal - rat, ox, tiger, rabbit, dragon, snake, horse, goat/sheep, monkey, rooster, dog and pig/boar respectively. Hence, *Sonam Lhosar* marks a cycle of twelve animal-years and the repetition.

The *Tamangs* clean their homes and surroundings to welcome the New Year (*Sonam Lhosar*). The monasteries perform a special ritual to expel negative forces. Windows and doors are decorated with colorful papers, cloths in different themes like good fortune, peace, happiness, prosperity, or longevity of family and society. People go to monasteries, stupas and chaityas to perform rituals and worship Lord Sakyamuni Buddha. Family members, relatives and friends get together and exchange greetings and feast on the best foods. *Tamang Selo* (Tamang song and dance in the beat of *Damfu*), which is a unique musical performance of *Tamangs* is played during *Sonam Lhosar*.

**Date:** Magh 15/  
January 28.

**Venue:** Monasteries,  
Buddhist shrines,  
households of  
*Tamang* community  
across the region

**Key Features:**  
Cleaning and  
decorating houses  
and surroundings,  
performing  
special rituals at  
monasteries, stupas  
and chaityas to  
expel negative  
forces; exchanging  
greetings; feasting  
the best foods;  
singing *Tamang Selo*.





**Date:** *Falgun 30/  
March 13*

**Venue:** *Public spaces,  
tourist centres,  
neighborhoods and  
households.*

**Key Features:** *The  
effigy of wicked  
Holika is placed on  
the pyre and set fire,  
signifying Holika  
Dahan (bonfire);  
feasting, singing,  
dancing, colouring  
each other for whole  
day.*

## 21. Fagu Purnima/Holi Parva (Festival of Colours)

*Holi*, or *Fagu Purnima* is a Hindu spring festival, also known as the festival of colours or the festival to splash love, care and colors among families and friends. The festival signifies the victory of good over evil, a festive day to meet family and friends, forget and forgive, and repair broken relationships. It is celebrated on the *Purnima* (full moon) of *Falgun* month in Nepali calendar (February/March).

Like in many other places in Nepal, the effigy of wicked *Holika* is placed on a pyre, signifying *Holika Dahan* (destruction of *Holika*) in the Lumbini region also. People gather around the fire to sing and dance. *Holi* fervor begins after *Holika* bonfire. Children and young people play with dry colours, coloured solution, water guns and balloons filled with coloured water and roam around the neighborhoods and other places to splash colours on each other. People enjoy party, drinks and festive foods such as *bhujija*, *mathri*, *malpuwas* and other regional dishes in the evening. Visitors to Nepal enthusiastically join the local youths to celebrate the *Holi* and some appear totally immersed in the colors.







## 22. Ram Nawami/Chaite Dashain

Ram Navami is celebrated by the Hindus on ninth day of 'Shukla Paksha' or waxing moon to commemorate the birth of Lord Rama according to Hindu lunar calendar. All the Hindus enjoy the festival but people in the eastern plains of Nepal celebrate it with more enthusiasm. The Hindu communities in Lumbini area also celebrate it.

At some places the festival lasts the whole nine days of the Navaratri. The festival is marked by incessant recitals of the *Ramacharitamanas* (the epic story of Lord Rama), other Hindu scriptures with devotional hymns (bhajan-kirtan), *puja* and *aarti* followed by distribution of prasada. Images of infant Rama placed on cradles are rocked by devotees to pay homage to the Lord. Temples and shrines dedicated to Lord Rama are decorated with flowers and lights where the devotees gather and chant Vedic mantras and prayers together. The devotees also organize *Til Havana* (oblation of black sesame seeds to scared fire) and offering of fruits, flowers and other puja ingredients to the Lord. Many followers also observe *vrata* (religious fasting) in the name of Lord Rama to mark the festival. The plays about the life of Rama are also performed at some public spaces to educate the people on ideals and morals of the Lord.

**Date:** Chaitra 11/  
March 25

**Venue:** Triveni  
Dham, Bhawanipur,  
Siddhababa,  
Tauleswor Nath  
temple etc.

**Key Features:** *Vrata* (fasting), worshipping Lord Rama, singing of devotional hymns (bhajan-kirtan), evening Arati/chanting followed by distribution of prasada.





## 23. Chaite Purnima

*Chaite Purnima* is celebrated in Lumbini during full moon in the month of *Chaitra* (last month of Nepali calendar), one month prior to *Buddha Purnima* every year. Large numbers of Hindus from Nepal and India throng to Lumbini to observe the festival. A fair is also organized for the pilgrims and visitors. Lumbini Development Trust provides water, electricity, space and other services needed for the festival and fair. Local traders and communities set up stalls and temporary shops with various interesting produces for the large number of fair attendants.

The devotees bathe early in the morning and worship at Mayadevi temple with camphor, red and yellow colors, incense, oil, fruits, and flowers for worship to the Mayadevi Temple. They worship Mayadevi (Buddha's mother) as Lumbini Mai, pray for their wellbeing and chant the hymns. A unique feature of Lumbini Mai worship is that devotees offer children's hair, paper and plastic hats to the deity and wish for their children's long life and prosperity. They also cook vegetarian meals and offer it to Agni (fire god) at the Sacred Garden of Lumbini. Significance of this festival are multifold: it upholds social ties providing an opportunity to share joy and sorrow with each other, generates income and provides recreation and healthy entertainment to the visitors and local people.

**Date:** Chaitra 17/  
March 31

**Venue:** Celebrated by the Hindus of Nepal and India at Sacred Garden, Lumbini

**Key Features:** Locals prepare stalls and temporary shops; take bath early in the morning; worship Mayadevi temple (Buddha's mother) as Lumbini Mai with puja paraphernalia; pray for their wellbeing and chant the hymns; offer their children's hair, paper and plastic hats to the deity and wish for their children's long life and prosperity.



## FESTIVALS AND EVENTS CELEBRATED BY THE MONASTERIES AND MEDITATION CENTERS IN LUMBINI

There are 32 Buddhist monasteries in Lumbini Master Plan area. One of them is situated at New Lumbini Village, 29 at Monastic Zone and two at the Sacred Garden. There are five monasteries and one meditation centre in operation in the East Monastic Zone while, three monasteries are under construction. Similarly 14 monasteries and two meditation centres are in operation and four monasteries are under construction in the West Monastic Zone. The list of monasteries in Lumbini is as follows:

### In The Sacred Garden

1. Rajkiya Buddha Vihara, Nepal
2. Dharmaswami Maharaja Buddha Vihara, Nepal

### In New Lumbini Village

1. World Peace Pagoda, Japan

### In the East Monastic Zone

1. The Royal Thai Monastery, Thailand
2. Bodhi Institute Monastery and Dharma Center (Under Construction)
3. Mahabodhi Society of India
4. Nepal Theravada Buddha Vihar (Under Construction)
5. Cambodian Temple, Cambodia (Under Construction)
6. Myanmar Golden Temple, Myanmar
7. International Gautami Nuns Temple, Nepal
8. Sri Lankan Monastery, Sri Lanka
9. Dhamma Janani Vipassana Center, Nepal

## In the West Monastic Zone

1. Ka-Nying Shedrup Monastery (Seto Gumba), Nepal (Under construction)
2. Zarong Tgupten Mendol Dogna Chholing, Nepal (Under construction)
3. Urgen Dorjee Chholing Buddhist Center, Singapore
4. Nepal Vajrayana Maha Vihara, Nepal (Under construction)
5. French Buddhist Association, France (Shechen Stupa)
6. The Great Lotus Stupa (Tara Foundation), Germany
7. Drigung Kagyud Meditation Center, Laddakh, India
8. The World Linh Son Buddhist Congregation, France
9. United Tungaram Buddhist Foundation, Nepal
10. Japanese Monastery, Japan (Under construction)
11. Thrangu Vajra Vidhya Buddhist Association, Canada
12. Chinese Monastery China, People's Republic of China
13. Geden International Monastery, Austria
14. Vietnam Phat Quoc Tu, Vietnam
15. Dae Sung Shakya Temple, South Korea
16. Karma Samtenling Monastery, Nepal
17. Manang Samaj Stupa, Nepal
18. Swayambhu Mahavihara, Nepal
19. Drubgyud Chhoeling Monastery (Nepal Mahayana Temple)
20. Pandirarama Lumbini International Meditation Center, Myanmar

These Buddhist establishments organize religious and spiritual events and programs throughout the year on daily basis, occasionally and annually. Schedules of the programs in some of the completed monasteries are as below:

# 1. Rajkiya Buddha Vihara, Nepal

## Daily Activities

- 7:00 to 7:30 am: Buddha Puja, Paritrana Sutta recitation
- 8:00 to 9:00 am: Refreshment to the Vikkhus
- 6.00 to 7.00 pm: Paritrana Sutta recitation

## Annual Programs

- Baisakh 1 (Mid April/May): Nepali New Year
- Two days prior to Buddha Jayanti: Ven. Bimalananda's Anniversary
- Baisakh Purnima (May/June): Buddha Jayanti
- Purnima (June-August): Barsavassa
- At the conclusion of Barsavassa: Kathina Chivar Dana ceremony
- Shrawan Purnima to Bhadra Purnima: Gunla Dharma (One month)



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# 2. Dharmaswami Maharaja Buddha Vihara

## Daily Activities

- 6:00 to 7:00 am: Tara Puja
- 7:00 to 8:00 pm: Mahakal Puja

## Annual Programs

- January 1: English New Year
- January or February: Mahakal Puja
- January or February: Ha Bajrayogini Puja
- Baisakh 1 (Mid April/May): Nepali New Year
- Baisakh Purnima (May/June): Buddha Jayanti
- November/December: Sakya Monlam Puja for 10 days







### 3. World Peace Pagoda

#### Daily Activities

- 4.30 to 6.00am: Buddha Puja, Chanting, prayers.
- 4.30 to 10.00am: Walking prayer in Mayadevi and village sites.
- 4.30 to 6.00pm: Buddha puja, chanting, prayer
- Every Saturday: Fasting Prayer



#### Annual Programs and Ceremonies

- January 9: Fuji Guruji's Death Anniversary
- Baisakh Purnima (May/June): Buddha Jayanti
- July 3: Rev. Y. Nawatame's Death Anniversary
- August 6: Fuji Guruji's Birth Anniversary and Hiroshima Day
- November 3: Peace Pagoda Anniversary
- December 1-8: Week of Fasting (Rohachi-Session)

#### Contact information for further details

Ven. Sato Tatsuma, the Chief Abbot

Phone: 0977-71-580148, 621612, Email: shantistupalumbini@hotmail.co.jp

## 4. The Royal Thai Monastery

### Daily Activities

- 05.00 to 05.30: Dhamma Talk (Desana)
- 05.30 to 06.00: Meditation
- 06.00 to 06.45: Morning Chanting
- 19.00 to 20.00: Evening Chanting and Reflection



### Annual Program

- Jan/Feb: Magh Day to commemorate the gathering of 1,250 Arhants to whom the Buddha gave the teachings on the discipline (Ovada Patimokkha).
- April 13: Songkran Day
- Baisakh Purnima (May/June): Buddha Jayanti (Vessakh Day)
- Aug 12: The Queen's birthday as Thai's Mother's Day
- Dec 5: The King's birthday as Thai's Father's day

### Occasional activities

- Full Moon Prayer (Chanting, Puja with other monks and nuns at Lumbini Asoka Pillar).
- Upasatha Sangakamma (The monks recite the Patimokkha [the 227 Rules for Vikkhus].
- Ordination ceremony (Thai and Nepali novice are ordained).



### Contact information for further details

Ven. Pharajaratannarangsi, Ph. D. the Chief abbot

Ven. Phramaha Suphot Kitivonno, the Secretary

Phone: 0977-71-580222; Fax: 0977-71-580221

Email: website: [www.watthailumbini.org](http://www.watthailumbini.org)



## 5. Mahabodhi Society Vihara of India

### Daily Activities

- 6:00 to 7:00 am: Buddha Puja and Pali Sutta recitation
- 6:30 to 7:30 pm: Buddha Puja and Pali Sutta recitation

### Annual Programs

- January 1: English New Year
- April 13 (for 3 days): Cambodian New Year
- Baisakh 1 (Mid April/May): Nepali New Year
- Baisakh Purnima (May/June): Buddha Jayanti
- Purnima (June-August): Barsavassa (Monastics do not spend night out of station)
- At the conclusion of Barsavassa: Kathina Chivar Dana ceremony
- September 17 : Anagarika Dhammapala's birth anniversary:



### Contact information for further details

Ven. Suddham Lankara Thero, Gen. Cot. Ven. (Saddha tissaThero)

Phone: 0977-71-580144 Bhikkhu; Fax: 0977-71-580144/ 984742851 (Ven.)

## 6. Myanmar Golden Temple, Myanmar

### Daily Activities

- 6:00 to 7:00 am: Buddha Puja, prayers and chanting
- 5:00 to 6:00 pm: Buddha Puja, prayers and chanting

### Annual Programs

- January 1: English New Year
- Baisakh 1 (Mid April/May): Nepali New Year
- Baisakh Purnima (May/June): Buddha Jayanti







- Purnima (June-August): Barsavassa
- At the conclusion of Barsavassa: Kathina Chivar Dana ceremony

### Contact information for further details

The Vikkhu Incharge

Phone: 0977-71-580179, Fax: 9777-71-580179

## 7. Cambodian Monastery

### Daily Activities

- 6:00 to 7:00 am: Buddha Puja, prayer, chanting
- 5:00 to 6:00 pm: Buddha Puja, prayer, chanting

### Annual Programs

- January 1: English New Year
- April 13 (for 3 days) : Cambodian New Year
- Baisakh 1 Mid (April/May) : Nepali New Year
- Baisakh Purnima (May/June): Buddha Jayanti
- Purnima (June-August): Barsavassa
- At the conclusion of Barsavassa: Kathina Chivar Dana ceremony



### Contact information for further details

Ven. Poeuy Metta, The Founder Chairman

Ven. Poeuty, The Vikkhu in charge

Phone: 0977-9847053848, 9806912956

Email: sumethear@yahoo.com, sevinchan2003@yahoo.com

## 8. Sri Lankan Monastery, Sri Lanka

### Daily Activities

- 6:00 to 7:00 am: Buddha Puja, prayers and chanting
- 7:00 to 8:00 pm: Buddha Puja, prayers and chanting

### Annual Programs

- January 1: English New Year
- February 4: Sri Lankan Independence Day
- Baisakh 1 (Mid April/May): Nepali New Year
- Baisakh Purnima (May/June): Buddha Jayanti
- Purnima (June-August): Barsavassa
- At the conclusion of Barsavassa: Kathina Chivar Dana ceremony



### Contact information for further details

Ven./ The chief Abbot

Phone: 0977-71-580193, 977-9847039468

Email: [lumbini@sudeesa.net](mailto:lumbini@sudeesa.net)

Website: [www.lumbinisudeesa.org](http://www.lumbinisudeesa.org)

## 9. International Gautami Nuns Temple

### Daily Activities

- 5:00 to 6:00 am: Buddha Puja/chantings/ recitation of Sutra/ meditation
- 2:00 to 3:00 pm: Meditation/Buddha Puja
- 6.00 to 8.30pm: Buddha Puja, chantings, meditation



## Annual Programs

- January 1: English New Year
- Baisakh 1 (Mid April/May): Nepali New Year
- Baisakh Purnima (May/June): Buddha Jayanti
- Purnima (June-August): Barsavassa
- At the conclusion of Barsavassa: Kathina Chivar Dana ceremony

## Contact information for further details

Ven. Khamesi, the Vikkhuni Incharge

Phone: 0977-71-580177 (9847127758)

Email: nunkhamesi@yahoo.com; bhikkhunikhamesi@gmail.com

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## 10. The Great Lotus Stupa (Tara Foundation)

### Daily Activities

- 6:00 to 7:00 am: Buddha Puja prayers and chantings/Guru yoga
- 5:00 to 6:00 pm: Mahakal Puja, prayers and chantings







## Annual Programs

- January 1: English New Year
- February: Tibetan New Year
- Baisakh 1 (Mid April/May): Nepali New Year:
- Baisakh Purnima (May/June): Buddha Jayanti
- Purnima (June-August): Barsavassa
- At the conclusion of Barsavassa: Kathina Chivar Dana ceremony

## Contact information for further details

Most Ven. Drubpon Sonam Jorpel Rinpoche, the chief Abbot  
 Phone: 0977-71-580275/ 1-6914465/6914704  
 Email: rinchenpalri@wlink.com.np





## 11. Chinese Monastery

### Daily Activities

- 4:30 to 6:00 am: Buddha Puja, prayers, chanting
- 4:00 to 6:00 pm: Buddha Puja, prayers, chanting
- 7:00 to 8:00 pm: Buddha Puja prayers, chanting

### Annual Program and Ceremonies

- January 1: English New Year
- February: Chinese New Year
- Baisakh 1 (Mid April/May): Nepali New Year
- Baisakh Purnima (May/June): Buddha Jayanti
- Purnima (June-August): Barsavassa
- At the conclusion of Barsavassa: Kathina Chivar Dana ceremony
- 15th of every English month: Rice daana to 155 persons (10 kg bag to each)

### Contact information for further details

Most Ven. Shu Zhung Young, Chief Abbot

Phone: 0977-71-580264/266

## 12. Dae Sung Sakya Temple (Korean Monestary)

### Daily Activities

- 5:00 to 5:50 am: Buddha Puja, prayers and chanting
- 7:00 to 7:30 pm: Buddha Puja, prayers and chanting

### Annual Programs

- January 1: English New Year
- Baisakh 1 (Mid April/May): Nepali New Year
- Baisakh Purnima (May/June): Buddha Jayanti
- Purnima (June-August): Barsavassa



### Contact information for further details

Ven. Bubshin Snim, the chief Abbot/ Bo Hyun  
Phone: 0977-71-580123/ 9860621973

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## 13. Vietnam Phat Quoc Tu

### Daily Activities

- 4:00 to 5:30 am: Buddha Puja, prayers and chanting of the Langnghiem sutra
- 5:30 to 5:50 am: Inviting the bell
- 9:00 to 10:00 am: Meditation
- 3:00 to 4:00 pm: Meditation
- 6:00 pm: Inviting the bell
- 7:00 to 9:00 pm: Chantings and meditation

### Annual Programs

- January 1: English New Year
- February - full moon day: Gratefulness Festival
- Jan/Feb.: Vietnamese New Year



- Baisakh 1 (Mid April/May): Nepali New Year
- Baisakh Purnima (May/June): Buddha Jayanti
- Purnima (June-August): Barsavassa

### Contact information for further details

Ven. Thay Huyen Dieu, the Founder President of the Monastery

Phone: 0977-71-580178

Email: vietnamphatquoctu@gmail.com; Website: www.vietnamphatquoctu.net

## 14. Geden International Monastery (Austria)



### Daily Activities

- 7.00 am to 8.00: puja, chanting and prayers (except Monday)

### Annual Programs

- February: Tibetan New year
- 22nd February: Buddha's Great Miracle prayers
- 25th February: Parinirvana Day, Robten Guru Rinpoche
- Baisakh Purnima (May/June): Buddha Jayanti
- 10th and 25th of every Tibetan month: Puja for Tsog

### Contact information for further details

Ven. Sonam Palden

Tel: 0977-71- 580013/14, 977-9808215763

## 15. Drubgyud Chhoeling Monastery (Nepal Mahayana Temple)



### Daily Activities

- 7:00 to 8:00 am: Tara Puja
- 3:30 to 5:00 pm: Mahakal Puja

### Annual Programs

- September 12: Guru's Birthday
- Winter (Oct. - Feb): Debate on Buddhist teachings
- Baisakh Purnima (May/June): Buddha Jayanti

### Contact information for further details

The Chief Abbot- Lama Sotop  
Tel: 0977-71-580241 / 9857021382  
Email: [sotoplmb@gmail.com](mailto:sotoplmb@gmail.com)



## 16. Karma Samtenling Monastery

### Daily Activities

- 5.00 am to 6.00 am: Tara Puja
- 3.00 pm to 4.30 pm : Mahakal Puja
- 11.00 am to 11.30 am : Sakyamuni Puja

### Annual Programs

- January 1: English New Year
- Jam/Feb.: Lhosar Celebrations
- Baisakh 1 (Mid April/May): Nepali New Year
- Baisakh Purnima (May/June): Buddha Jayanti



### Contact information for further details

Lama Khakhap, the Chief Abbot  
Tel: 0977-71- 9808665731

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## 17. Urgen Dorjee Chholing Buddhist Center [Singapore]

### Daily Activities

- 6.00 to 7.00 am: Puja, prayers, chanting
- 3.00 to 4.00 pm: Puja, prayers, chanting

### Annual Programs

- Baisakh Purnima (May/June): Buddha Jayanti
- Lhosar celebration
- Twice a month : Guru Rinpoche puja (5 days before and 10 days after purnima)



### Contact information for further details

Ven. Tashi Gurung /Ven. Wangchuk, The Chief Abbot  
Tel: 0977-71 - 9813578588 / 9868156353

## 18. Shechen Stupa French Buddhist Association

### Daily Activities

- 6.00 to 7.00 am: Meditation, chanting  
Tranki, Vajrayana Puja
- 4.00 to 6.00 pm: Mahakala prayer,  
Dharmapath

### Annual Programs

- January 1: English New Year
- Jan/Feb.: Tibetan New year
- Baisakh 1 (Mid April/May): Nepali New Year
- Baisakh Purnima (May/June): Buddha Jayanti
- October 1: Mahaparinirvana Anniversary  
of HH Dilgo Khyentse Rimpoche



### Contact information for further details

Ven. Tchewang Gurung c/o Methu Rechar, The Chief Abbot  
Tel: 0977-71- 01-4470721, 9841544341

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## 19. Thrangu Vajra Vidhya Buddhist Association, Canada

### Daily Activities

- 6.00 to 8.00 am : Puja,  
prayer and chanting
- 3.00 to 4:30 pm : Puja,  
prayer and chanting

### Annual Programs

- 9th February: Tibetan  
New Year
- February: Lhosar  
Celebrations
- Baisakh Purnima (Mid  
April/May): Buddha Jayanti



- May/June/July: Barsawas Puja, fullday
- June 26th: Birthday of H.H. Karmapa Lama
- July 10th: Birthday of H.H. Dalai Lama
- November 10th: Birthday of H.H. Thrangu Lama
- 10th and 25th of every Tibetan month: Vajra Dakini Puja

### Contact information for further details

Lama Karma Sonam, the Chief Abbot  
Tel: 0977-71- 580280

In addition to celebrating the major events such as Buddha Jayanti, the following monasteries also perform daily prayers, chanting and worships in their respective premises:

## 20. United Tungram Monastery



## 21. Manang Sewa Samaj Monastery, Nepal



## 22. The World Linh Son Buddhist Congregation, France



### Contact information for further details

Ven. Thich Linh Quang, the President

Email: [linhsonlumbini@yahoo.com](mailto:linhsonlumbini@yahoo.com)

Moreover, monasteries which are still under construction will start daily, annual and special events upon the completion of the construction works.

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## 23. Dhamma Janani Vipassana Center

The center offers a wide range of meditation courses as follows:

- 10 days meditation course: From the 1st to 15th of every English month
- 20 days meditation course: Once a year
- Satipatthana course: Twice a year
- 3- day meditation course: Twice a year
- 1-day meditation course: 26th of every month
- 1-day child meditation course: As per request of the visitors.
- Group sitting: Every Friday (4:00-5:00 pm)



### Contact information for further details

Mr. Maheshor Man Shakya, the secretary; Mr. Gopal Bahadur Pokharel, Assistant Teacher

Mr. Babu Ram Sharma, Advisor

Phone: 0977-71-580282, 541549; Fax: 0977-71-542969

Email: [info@janani.dhamma.org](mailto:info@janani.dhamma.org);

Website: [www.janani.dhamma.org](http://www.janani.dhamma.org)



## 24. Panditarama Lumbini International Meditation Center (Myanmar), Lumbini

- Ven. Vivekananda, who learnt Vipassana from Ven. Sayadaw U Panditabhivamsa, has been teaching Vipassana and Brahma vihara meditation in Lumbini since 1998.
- Ven. Sayalay Bhadda Manika (a Nun) has been peacefully guiding meditators in Lumbini with much patience since long.
- The meditation center is open the year round. Retreats may go for seven days to several months.



### Contact information for further details

Ven. Vivekananda; Ven. Sayalay Bhadda Manika

Tel: 0977-71-580118/621084

Email: [info@panditarama-lumbini.info](mailto:info@panditarama-lumbini.info)

Website: [www.panditarama-lumbini.info](http://www.panditarama-lumbini.info)

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## 25. Laddakh Drigung Kagyud Meditation Center

- Usually the full meditation course covers three years and three months.
- For the meditation of shortduration, one can practice meditation here for 7 days and can extend the meditation to 28 days or more at once or in different times.
- The basic meditation technique of this school of Buddhism is followed by a seven-day meditation course along with self-mortification by regular chanting and the Chakachalwa [salutation to Lord Sakyamuni Buddha].



### Daily Activities

- 6.30 to 7.30 am: Buddha Puja/Chantings/ Recitation of Sutra/meditation

### Contact information for further details

HH. Drubpol Sonam Jorpel Rimpochhe, the Chief Abbot

Phone: 0977-71-580275, 977-1-6914465/6914704

Email: [rinchenpalri@wlink.com.np](mailto:rinchenpalri@wlink.com.np)

## 26. Activities at Osho Jetwan, Mahilwar in Lumbini

- Daily meditations.
- 3 days residential meditation camp every month.
- Saturday satsang.
- Osho celebrations and Buddha Purnima celebration.
- Spiritual tours to Buddhist pilgrimage sites.

### Contact information for further details

9857010123, 9843300848, 9804460662, 9807510758

Email: jetbancommune@gmail.com

Website: www.oshojetban.com

## OTHER EVENTS

### 1. Tour De Lumbini (TDL)- Pedal for Peace

#### DATE AND DURATION:

About 4 days during the Buddha Jayanti (24 to 27 Baishakh 2074 or 7 to 10 May, 2017)

#### VENUE/ROUTE:

Kathmandu-Pharping-Narayanghad/Chitwan-Bhairahawa-Lumbini Mayadevi Temple.

#### KEY FEATURES:

- The first international cycling event traversing through one of the scenic landscapes on earth. It connects Nepal's two cultural UNESCO's world heritage sites: Kathmandu valley and Lumbini (the birthplace of Lord Sakyamuni Buddha).
- A cycling journey to spread the message of Peace and Harmony to the humanity by arriving in the birth place of Lord Sakymuni Budhha on his birthday (Buddha Jayanti). The journey concludes by lighting the peace lamp in Mayadevi Temple in the sacred garden of Lumbini
- The purpose of the event is also to



disseminate the message of harmony, peace and unity to all Nepali people living in the mountains, hills and plains of Nepal

- An initiative to promote non-violence, peace and harmony on earth. Where could be a better place in the world than Lumbini in Nepal to spread the message of peace ?

## TENTATIVE ITINERARY

Day 1: Kathmandu (Swayambhunath)-Pharping-Hetauda

Day 2: Hetauda-Chitwan-Kawaswori

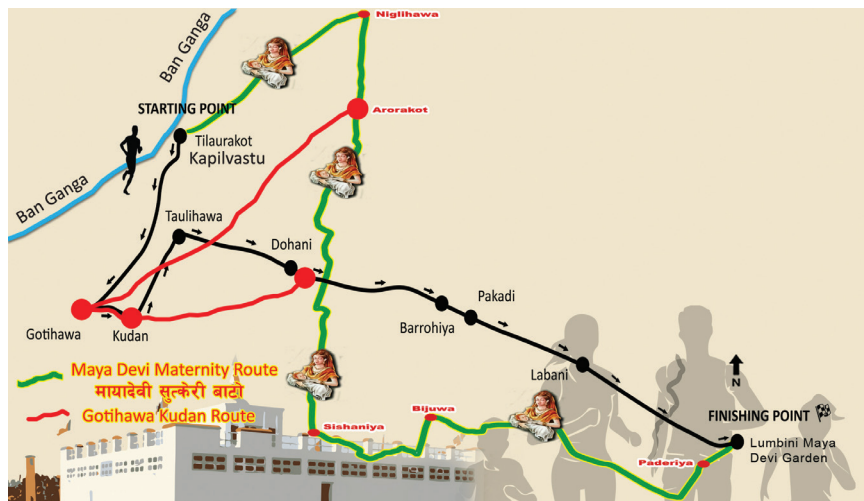
Day 3: Kawaswoti-Devadaha-Butwal

Day 4: Butwal-Bhairahawa-Lumbini, Mayadevi temple

## FOR REGISTRATION PLEASE REFER TO:

<http://tourdelumbini.eventbrite.com>

## 2. Lumbini Peace Marathon



## DATE AND DURATION:

Full Moon of Falgun; 4th episode on March 1, 2018.

## VENUE/ROUTE:

Ancient Kapilvastu to Lumbini; following the (i) Maternity route of Queen Mayadevi, the beloved mother of Lord Sakyamuni Buddha and, (ii) part of the very path followed by Prince Siddhartha during his great renunciation.

## KEY FEATURES:

- Celebrating since 2012 to commemorate the day Lord Sakyamuni Buddha returned to his homeland, the ancient Kapilavastu, as the Enlightened One or Lord Sakyamuni Buddha
- The world's only and the first spiritual sports event in the birthplace of Lord Sakyamuni Buddha
- Objective of the event is to spread the "Message of Peace" from Lumbini to the whole Buddhist & non-Buddhist world
- Cultural performance by Jagadishpur Tharu Homestay members at Ancient Kapilavastu (starting point) and Biraha Cultural Group members at Lumbini (ending point)

## MARATHON CATEGORIES

- Full Marathon (Olympic standard): 42.195 km (for 18 years and above)
- Half Marathon: 21 km (for 16 years and above)
- 5km category (for those who are less than 16 years)

## DESIGNATED ROUTES FOR THE MARATHONS

### ANCIENT KAPILAVASTU TO LUMBINI

- Mayadevi Maternity Route (Tilaurakot-Niglihawa-Araurakot-Dohani-Sisahaniya-Bijuwa-Padaria-Lumbini)
- Tilaurakot-Gotihawa-Kudan-Taulihawa-Dohani-Pakadi-Labani-Lumbini

### GOTIHAWA TO KUDAN

- At Sacred Garden
- 777 meter for ladies and kids (7 times circumambulation or Parikrama of Mayadevi Temple)
- The 7- steps walk by little kids with their mother.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

Himalaya Expeditions; Adventure Sports Nepal  
Bhagwansthan Road, Thamel, Kathmandu  
977-1-4413730/4412322  
Shakyamuni@LumbiniMarathon.com  
[www.facebook.com/lumbinimarathon](http://www.facebook.com/lumbinimarathon)



### 3. Weekly Hat Bazaar (Local Temporary Markets) in the Greater Lumbini Area

Day	Location of Local Hat Bazaar
Sunday	Jhulanipul, Gobarouli, Marjatpur, Jagadishpur
Monday	Padariya, Pipara
Tuesday	Parsa Chowk, Ahirauli, Jogada, Taulihawa, Sukrauli
Wednesday	Mahilwar Bazaar, Suryapura, Kophawa, Odari, Ramghat, Parasi Bazaar
Thursday	Mahajidiya, Aligadhawa, Bhumahi
Friday	Hatibazaar (Bishnupura), Motipur, Baryohiya, Barmelitole (Taulihawa), Patkheuli (Ramagrama)
Saturday	Mahilwar, Karmahawa, Ahirauli, Muglaha, Taulihawa, Parasi Bazaar



## VISITORS IN LUMBINI ARE REQUESTED TO

- Follow Lord Sakyamuni Buddha's Panchasil (Five Precepts).
- Not to pluck flowers and leaves
- Follow the foot trails and walk on the designated paths.
- Not to disturb the wildlives, birds and their habitat.
- Use rubbish bins. Not to litter garbage, plastics and paper etc. Not to spit on the monument sites and walking trails.
- Not to smoke and play games when you are in the monument sites.
- Use designated roads and entry points.
- Not to walk over the archaeological ruins/monuments.
- Not to take away anything from the monument sites such as bricks, soils or any physical object.
- Obtain necessary permission from Lumbini Development Trust to take photographs and filming. Please do not use camera in the prohibited areas.
- Not to ride vehicle/motorcycle/scooter/bicycle and not to use pressure horn in the prohibited areas.
- Not to use loud speakers in the areas designated for meditation/worship/teaching.
- Use the meditation platform for meditation.
- Take off shoes/sandals/slippers while entering into temples, monasteries, sacred sites and shrines.
- Honor local traditions, cultures, social harmony and rituals.
- Not to offer milk, water etc. to the sacred archaeological monuments such as Asoka pillars and the Nativity Sculpture.
- Avoid wearing revealing clothes and display of physical affection.
- Buy local products, seek out indigenous artisans and their crafts.
- Respect privacy of other people. Ask them before taking their photographs.
- Not to encourage begging, rather use donation box to donate for good cause.

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## Contact Address of Relevant Tourism Associations

Local Tour Guide Association, Lumbini Bus Park, Lumbini  
Email: [lumbiniocalguide@gmail.com](mailto:lumbiniocalguide@gmail.com), Mobile no. 9847549761 (one of the members of association)

Siddhartha Association of Tour and Travel Agents (SATTA), Bhairahawa  
Tel. : +977-71-522156; [satalumbini@gmail.com](mailto:satalumbini@gmail.com)

Siddhartha Hotel Association of Nepal (SHAN), Bhairahawa  
Tel. : +977-71-525947 (Bhairahawa), 580432 (Lumbini) ; [shanlumbini@gmail.com](mailto:shanlumbini@gmail.com);

Hotel Association of Nepal (HAN), Kathmandu  
Tel. : +977-1-4410522, 4412705; [www.hotelassociationnepal.org.np](http://www.hotelassociationnepal.org.np)

Nepal Association of Tour and Travel Agents (NATTA), Kathmandu  
Tel. : +977-1-4419409; [info@natta.org.np](mailto:info@natta.org.np); [www.natta.org.np](http://www.natta.org.np),

Trekking Agencies Association of Nepal (TAAN), Kathmandu  
Tel. : +977-1-4427473, 4440290; [info@taan.org.np](mailto:info@taan.org.np); [www.taan.org.np](http://www.taan.org.np)

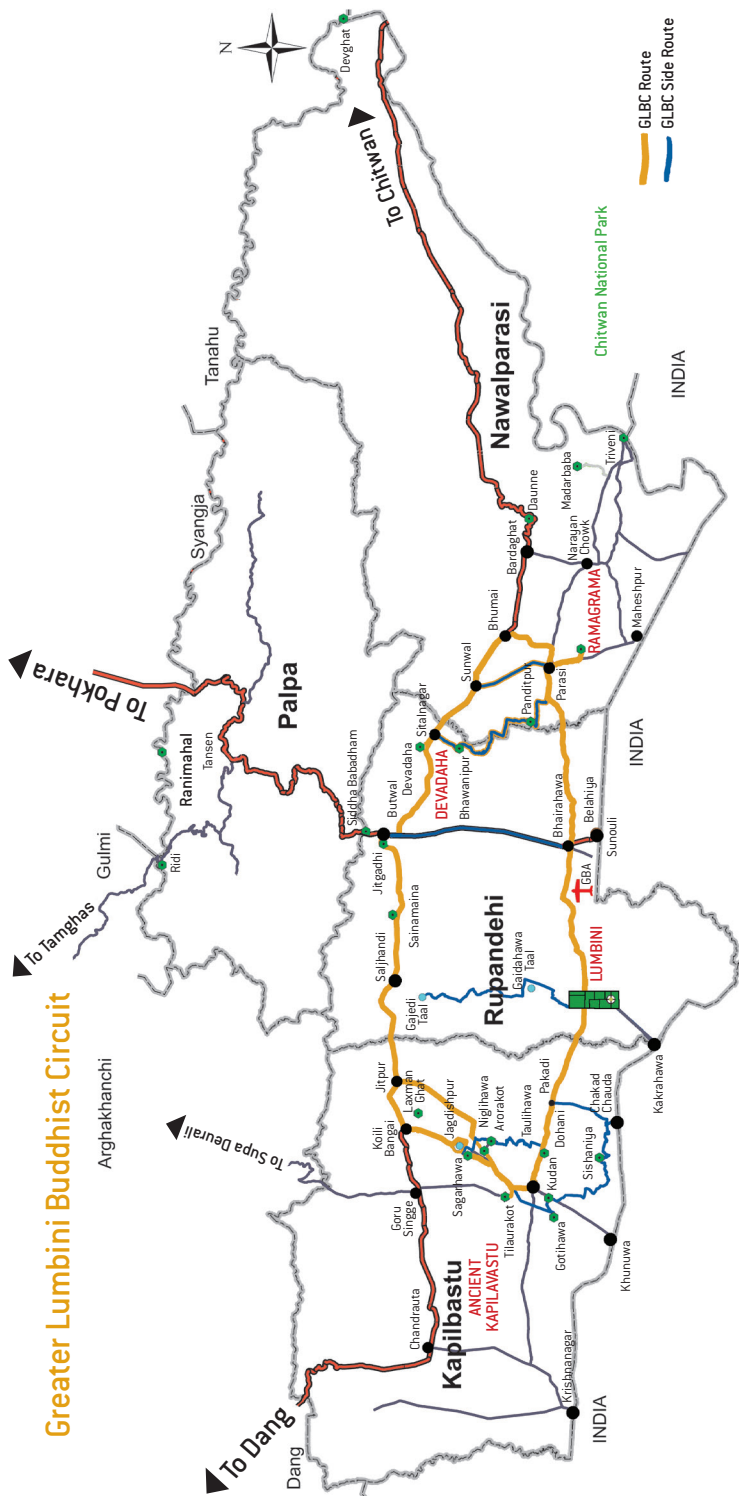
Village Tourism Promotion Forum Nepal (VITOF), Kathmandu  
Tel. : +977-1-4700575; [info@vitofnepal.org](mailto:info@vitofnepal.org); [www.vitofnepal.org](http://www.vitofnepal.org)

Society of Travel and Tour Operators Nepal (SOTTO Nepal), Kathmandu  
Tel. : +977-1-4442748; [info@sottonepal.org](mailto:info@sottonepal.org); [www.sottonepal.org](http://www.sottonepal.org)

Home Stay Association of Nepal (HOSAN), Kathmandu

Tourist Guide Association of Nepal (TURGAN), Kathmandu  
Tel. : +977-1-4225102; [turgan22@gmail.com](mailto:turgan22@gmail.com); [www.tourguidenepal.org](http://www.tourguidenepal.org)

## Greater Lumbini Buddhist Circuit



## Distances between sites in Greater Lumbini Buddhist Circuit

Airport → Mayadevi temple	17.4 km
Bhairahawa → Mayadevi temple	21.1 km
Mayadevi temple → Kudan	29.42 km
Kudan → Gothawa	4.33 km
Gothawa → Tilaurakot	7.32 km

Tilaurakot → Niglihawa	8.85 km
Niglihawa → Aurarakot	1.25 km
Aurarakot → Sagarhawa	5.21 km
Sagarhawa → Devdaha	65.3 km
Devdaha → Ramagrama	25.19 km

Ramagrama → Bhairahawa	28.56 km
Bhawanipur → Butwal	17.0 km
Ramagrama → Triveni	23.0 km



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## Recommended Tour Itinerary for Greater Lumbini Buddhist Circuit (GLBC)

A standard tour itinerary recommended for the GLBC includes the following sites:

**Day 01:** Arrival in Lumbini and pay a visit to the Mayadevi Temple located in the Sacred Garden. Experience spiritual and religious ambience; observe ancient monuments; worship, pray, meditate in the spiritual vibes of the birthplace of Lord Sakyamuni Buddha. Feel eternal peace, blessings, compassion and contemplate the Buddha's teachings in the serene atmosphere and tranquility of Mayadevi Temple complex.

**Day 02:** Visit the World Peace Stupa, Lumbini Crane Sanctuary, Lumbini Visitor Information Center, Lumbini Museum, the West and East Monastic Zones, Lumbini Sacred Garden and again the Mayadevi Temple.

**Day 03:** Travel to Ancient Kapilavastu. Visit Tilaurakot, Gotihawa, Kudan, Sisaniya, Sagarhawa, Jagadishpur reservoir and stay at the Jagadishpur Tharu home-stay or at a hotel in Tilaurakot.

**Day 04:** Visit Niglihawa and Araurakot and travel to Devadaha via Sainamaina and Jitpur Fort (Butwal). Visit Devadaha (at Ghodaha), Khayardanda, Kanyamai, Bairimai, Bhawanipur and Pakadi Tree at Devadaha. Stay in a hotel at Sitalnagar, Khairahani, Sunwal or Parasi Bazar.

**Day 05:** Visit Ramagrama Stupa, Jharahi river and nearby Buddha temple. Visit Triveni Dham, Gajendramokchha Dham, Balmiki Ashram. Travel back to Bhairahawa via Ramagrama or drive to Chitwan National Park via Bardaghat/Daunne Hill.

*Please Contact for Further Information:*

### LUMBINI DEVELOPMENT TRUST (LDT)

Head Office: Sacred Garden, Lumbini, Nepal | Tel: 977-71-404040, 404052, 404047 | Fax: 977-71-404042

Email: [info@lumbinidevtrust.gov.np](mailto:info@lumbinidevtrust.gov.np) | Website: [www.lumbinidevtrust.gov.np](http://www.lumbinidevtrust.gov.np)

LDT Site Office: Tilaurakot

LDT Liaison Office: GPO Box: 4702, Kathmandu, Nepal

Tel: +977-1-4268285, 4268494; Fax: +977-1-4268286

Email: [liaisonoffice@lumbinidevtrust.gov.np](mailto:liaisonoffice@lumbinidevtrust.gov.np)

### NEPAL TOURISM BOARD

Tourist Information Center, Bhrikutimandap, Kathmandu, Nepal

Tel: +977-1-4256909, 4256229, 4226359; Fax: +977-1-4256910

Email: [info@ntb.gov.np](mailto:info@ntb.gov.np); Website: [www.welcomenepal.com](http://www.welcomenepal.com)