



# Festivals and celebrations

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# HAMPI UTSAVA

📍 Hampi, Karnataka

January 11-12, 2020

The UNESCO World Heritage Site of Hampi was the capital of the erstwhile southern kingdom of Vijayanagara that ruled over the region from early 14th century till mid-16th century. Now a city in ruins, it presents a surreal landscape of stunning architecture.

This two-day cultural extravaganza is a melting pot of music, dance, puppet shows, and carnivals. It is believed that the festivities date back to the era of the Vijayanagara Empire. The special Light and Sound Show is yet another draw of the festival.

*35 kilometers from Jindal Vijaynagar Airport*

*16 kilometers from Hospet*



# INTERNATIONAL YOGA FESTIVAL

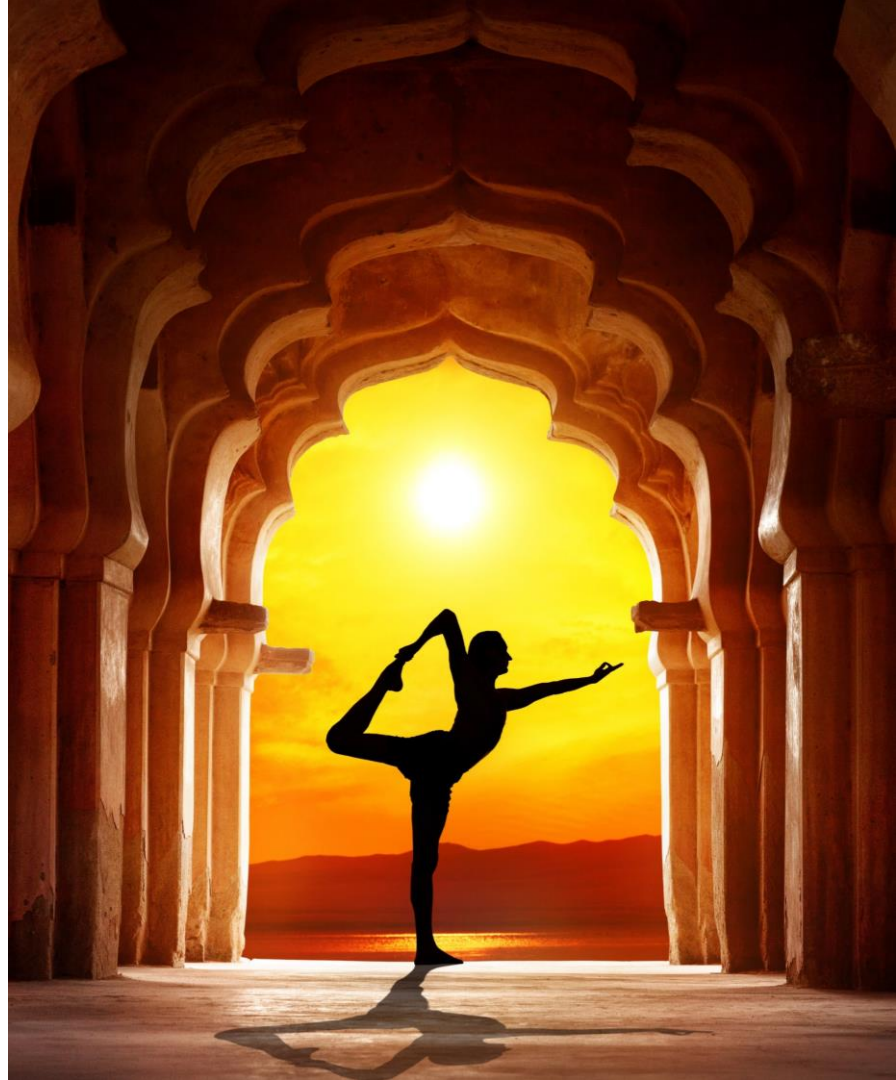
📍 Rishikesh, Uttarakhand

March 1-7, 2020 (tentative)

The yoga capital of the world hosts the International Yoga Festival where aficionados from around the world partake in various forms of yoga for seven days, under the guidance of master yoga teachers and wellness specialists at Parmarth Niketan Ashram, the largest *ashram* in Rishikesh and one of the largest interfaith yoga institutions in India.

*35 kilometers from Dehradun Airport*

*25 kilometers from Haridwar*



# HOLI

📍 Mathura and other parts of North India

March 9, 2020

The festival of colors is one of the most celebrated in India and marks the advent of spring. Enjoy the spectacle in Rajasthan with colors, good food and excellent desserts.

**Lathmar Holi**, celebrated a few days before Holi, in Barsana, is a festival of sticks and colors where the air is filled with vibrant energy and ample excitement.

*64 kilometers from Agra Airport*

*2 kilometers from Mathura Junction*



# FESTIVALS IN LADAKH

📍 Ladakh

Throughout 2020

Yet another way to celebrate Ladakh's ample bounties is through its colorful festivals. Some of these are Losar, celebrated in the eleventh month of the Tibetan calendar, Hemis Festival, a commemoration of the birth of Guru Padmasambhava (the legendary Indian Buddhist mystic who introduced Tantric Buddhism to Tibet) with masked dances (*Cham*) by the monks, Matho Nagrang with the oracles as its highlights and Dosmoche, another important festival celebrated in Leh, Likir and Diskit monasteries. An enriching and cultural experiences await visitors in one of India's newest union territories.



# DURGA PUJA

📍 Rural Bengal (near Kolkata)

October 22-26, 2020

The biggest festivals of the Bengalis, Durga Puja pays homage to *Ma* (Mother) Durga, the Hindu Goddess, and her victory in the battle against the demon, Mahishasura. Although Kolkata is synonymous with the five-day festival, celebrating it in rural Bengal can be an engaging experience. Observe the customs and traditions up close, savour *bhog* (offerings to the Gods), partake in rituals like *Anjali* (rituals and prayers), *Sandhya Aarti* (evening prayers), performance by *Dhaakis* (drummers), *Dhunuchi Naach* (a form of dance during the pujas), and *sindoor khela* (farewell ritual).

*50 kilometers from Kolkata Airport*

*36 kilometers from Howrah Station | 32 kilometers from Sealdah Station*



# DIWALI

📍 With a local family in North India

November 14, 2020 (tentative)

The festival of lights is emblematic of the victory of light over darkness. Homes are decorated with *diyas* (clay lamps), prayers are offered to Gods and Goddesses, gifts are exchanged, artworks are designed on the floor with powdered colours (*Rangoli*), and Diwali is celebrated with fireworks, and abundant pomp and gusto.

One of the best ways to enjoy the festival is with an Indian family. Visit their home, observe the various customs, traditions, and puja rituals, chant mantras, sample delectable sweets and share a meal with them.



# DEV DEEPAWALI

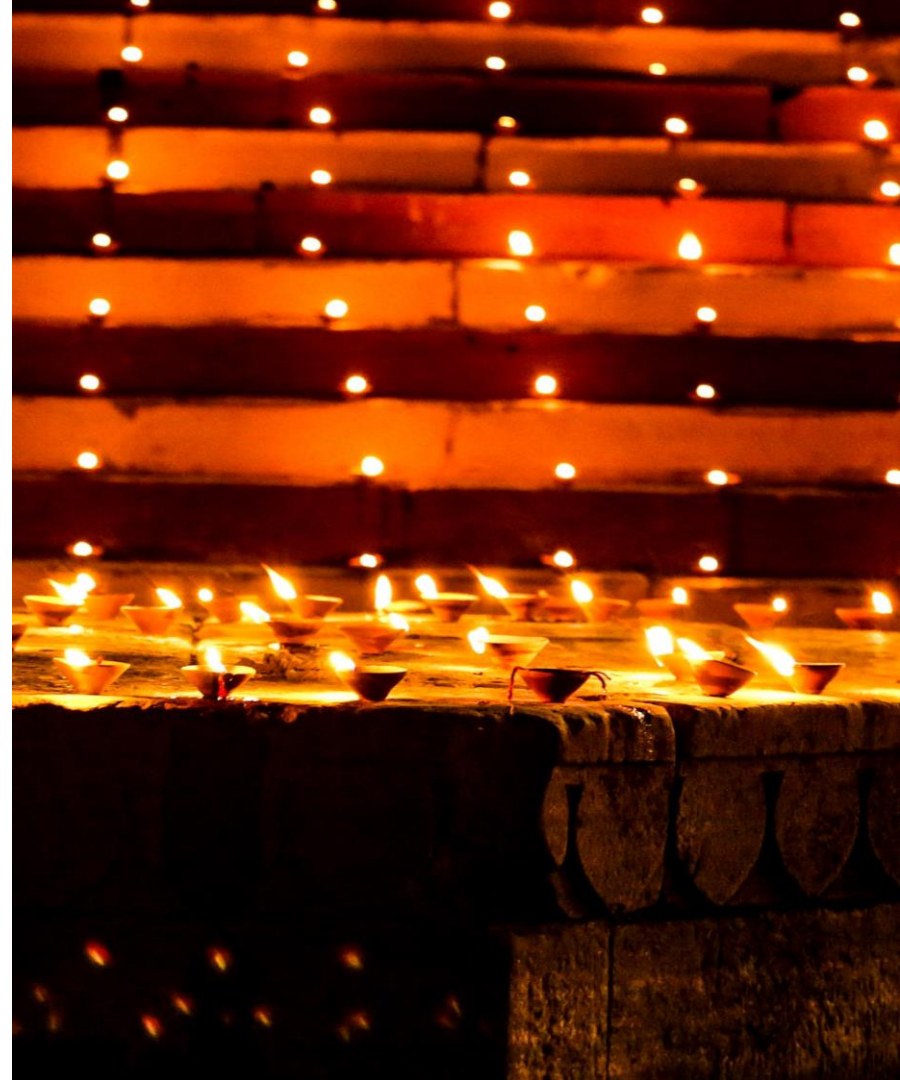
📍 Varanasi

November 29, 2020 (tentative)

On the auspicious day of Dev Deepawali, the *ghats* (river bank) of the holy city are illuminated with tens of thousands of *diyas* (earthen lamps) and bedecked with flower *rangolis* (traditional designs) which are carefully arranged around the diyas. Aarti on this day is an absolute wonder to behold where more than 50 priests and priestesses perform the rituals with their stupendous lamps as sacrosanct chants and hymns, and perfumed smoke from incense sticks lend an ethereal air to the already divine ambiance.

*Varanasi Airport*

*Varanasi Junction*





# RANN UTSAV

📍 Rann of Kutch, Gujarat

November 1, 2020 - February 28, 2021

The festival (*utsav*) celebrates the culture and traditions of Gujarat amid the astounding backdrop of the gorgeous landscapes of the Rann of Kutch. Colorfully-attired local performers showcasing their art in the vividly white salt flats is an otherworldly experience. Guests, also, get to explore local handicrafts during the *Utsav*.

*80 kilometers from Bhuj Airport*



# PUSHKAR CAMEL FAIR

📍 Pushkar

November 22-30, 2020

Held in Pushkar every year in November, this vibrant Camel Fair is one of the biggest in India. Thousands of adorned camels, horses and cattle are traded here but that is not all. There are colorful stalls selling jewelry, handicrafts and more; there are cultural events and competitions some of which can be as bizarre as vying for the spot of longest moustache! Also, witness Hindu devotees as they throng the *ghats* around Pushkar Lake to bathe, cleanse their sins and attain a place in heaven.

*160 kilometers from Jaipur Airport*

*50 kilometers from Kishangarh Airport*

*Pushkar Railway Station*



# HORNBILL FESTIVAL

📍 Nagaland

December 1-10, 2020

If one wants to enjoy cultural celebrations of the colorful tribes of Nagaland, Hornbill Festival is the place to be. Named after the bird which finds pride of place in the local tribal folklore, the festival is a week-long affair. It is held at Naga Heritage Village with performances being showcased by tribal groups of the area. Guests, also get to enjoy traditional archery, Naga wrestling, indigenous games among others.

*75 kilometers from Dimapur Airport*



For more details,  
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