

PUNAKHA TSHECHU

Date: 9th – 11th March, 2025

Venue: Punakha Dzong, Punakha

Significance: One of the biggest festival in Bhutan held for three days to honor Guru Rinpoche, the saint recognized for introducing Tantric Buddhism across the Himalayan region. The festival features masked dances performed by monks dressed in vibrant brocade attires followed by chants and recitations of Buddhist texts. The highlight of the event is the unveiling of a large Thangka, a sacred scroll that illustrates Padmasambhava and various figures from the Buddhist pantheon.

THARPALING TSHECHU FESTIVAL

Date: 14th March, 2025

Venue: Tharpaling monastery, Bumthang

Significance: The festival takes place on the death anniversary of Shabdrung Ngawang Namgyal and it is celebrated for a single day. Monks perform various mask dances, including the Black Hat Dance and the Three Gings. During the festival, a Throngdroel, depicting the Maitreya Buddha is unveiled for public viewing and is the highlight of the day. This event is rooted in community participation in Bhutan.

CHORTEN KORA FESTIVAL

Date: 14th & 29th March, 2025

Venue: Chorten Kora Lhakhang, Trashigang

Significance: The Festival stands as the most celebrated annual event in eastern Bhutan. A central feature of the festival is the circumambulation of the Chorten Kora temple. This event also draws participants from the adjacent Indian state of Arunachal Pradesh and surrounding districts. Notable highlights of the festival include traditional mask dances, the exquisite textiles and brocades donned by the local populace and the overall jubilant ambiance of the celebration.

TALO TSHECHU FESTIVAL

Date: 5th – 7th April, 2025

Venue: Talo Monastery, Punakha

Significance: This remarkable festival is renowned for its mask dances and the Atsara (clown) performances. A key highlight, Zhungdra, is presented by the local dance troupe and holds significant religious and historical importance. It represents the Bhutanese interpretation of classical music and songs. The three pieces of Muni Sum (Zhungdra) are showcased as the concluding act each day of the festival. The songs Samyi Sala (first day), Drukpa Dungey (second day), and Thowachi Gangi Tselay (third day) are a source of pride for the Talo community. This event is a traditional, community-oriented annual mask dance festival.

PARO TSHECHU

Date: 8th - 12th April, 2025

Venue: Rinpung Dzong, Paro

Significance: The five day spring festival is celebrated for its vibrant display and attracts numerous visitors from around the world. The first day is dedicated to mask dances, which take place in the courtyard of Rinpung Dzong, while the remaining days feature activities in the courtyard outside the Dzong. Participants can look forward to witnessing an extraordinary showcase of one of the finest Thankas during the event.

RHODODENDRON FESTIVAL

Date: 22nd - 24th April, 2025

Venue: Rinpung Dzong, Paro

Significance: Spanning three days, this festival commemorates the vibrant blooming of the beautiful rhododendron flower across Bhutan. The event includes a walk through the garden and an exhibition of arts and crafts. Traditional games and cultural programs are part of the festivity. Currently, 46 species of rhododendrons have been documented with 29 species and some rare orchids are found in the park. The park features numerous viewpoints providing an opportunity to engage with the area's rich biodiversity.

DOMKHAR TSHECHU FESTIVAL

Date: 7th - 9th May, 2025

Venue: Domkhar Lhakhang, Bumthang

Significance: The festival, taking place over three days is celebrated in the Chumey valley of Bumthang. This festival enjoys immense popularity among both locals and tourists. It was initiated in the 16th century by Lama Kuenkhen Longchen Rabjam and serves to honor the birthday anniversary of Guru Rinpoche, the saint who made his journey to Bhutan in the 8th century.

URA YAKCHOE TSHECHU FESTIVAL

Date: 9th - 13th May, 2025

Venue: Ura Lhakhang, Bumthang

Significance: This festival, celebrated annually is distinguished by its celebrated dance. A sacred relic is exhibited for attendees to receive blessings. Legend has it that an elderly woman encountered a lama who asked for a glass of water. Upon return with the water, the lama had vanished leaving behind a sack containing a revered statue, which is now an annual highlight of the festival.

NIMALUNG/ KURJE TSHECHU FESTIVAL

Date: 3rd - 5th July, 2025

Venue: Nimalung/Kurje Lhakhang, Bumthang

Significance: Nimalung and Kurje monasteries hosts the three day festivals respectively. The Kurje festival takes place on 5th July and lasts for one day. About 100 monks who are renowned for their musical abilities reside at the temple. The fifth lunar month, which is often July, is when this celebration is held. The unveiling of Guru Rinpoche's Throngdroel, which is nine meters high and twelve meters broad is the festival's highlight.

HAA SUMMER FESTIVAL

Date: (THREE DAYS)

Venue: Nimalung/Kurje Lhakhang, Bumthang

Significance: With religious performances, distinctive local dishes and traditional sports, the Haa summer festival is an exciting occasion. It sheds light on the customs and way of life of the nomadic herders of Bhutan. Songs, traditional dances, relics, religious performances and alpine flowers can all be seen.

WANGDUE TSHECHU FESTIVAL

Date: 30th September – 2nd October, 2025

Venue: Tencholing army ground, Wangdue

Significance: Over the course of three days in the fall, the festival is held in Wangdue. The Raksha Mangchum, or the dance of the ox, is the most famous performance. Furthermore, a wide variety of mask dances are performed and unfolding the Guru Tshengye's Throngdroel marks the end.

TAMSHING TSHECHU FESTIVAL

Date: 2nd – 4th October, 2025

Venue: Tamshing Lhakhang, Bumthang

Significance: The yearly Tamshing Phala Choepa celebration is the grandest festivals celebrated in Bhutan. Visitors can watch the sacred Throngdroel unfold and receive blessings in addition to traditional mask dances and the people are blessed by the holy Nangtens (relics) that are unveiled on the final day of the celebration.

THIMPHU TSHECHU FESTIVAL

Date: 2nd – 4th October, 2025

Venue: Tashichho Dzong, Thimphu

Significance: According to the Bhutanese lunar calendar, the festival of Thimphu falls on the tenth day of the eighth month. To invite the deities, a ceremony and prayer are held inside the Dzong prior to the event. The monks execute mask dances that represents the eight aspects of Guru Rinpoche. There vibrant

dances are done in remembrance of Guru and are an essential component of Bhutanese Buddhism. It is also a time for Bhutanese people to enjoy and wear new outfits. It is one of the popular tourist attractions.

GANGTEY TSHECHU FESTIVAL

Date: 5th – 7th October, 2025

Venue: Gangtey Goempa Monastery, Gangtey

Significance: In the Phobjikha Valley, at Gangtey Goempa, the festival takes place where the locals and monks perform a variety of folk and mask dances. The festival comes to a close with receiving of blessing for the spiritual wisdom and power – Ngedup Langwa.

THANGBI MANI TSHECHU FESTIVAL

Date: 7th – 8th October, 2025

Venue: Thangbi Mani Lhakhang, Bumthang

Significance: One of the well-attended festivals in Choekhor Gewog, Bumthang, is this festival. The Mewang (fire blessing) ceremony, which is held outdoors is the festival's high point. While people jump over the flames to purify themselves, monks carry out cleansing ceremonies, mask and folk dances. The festival is said to bring peace and prosperity and a better harvest for the whole community.

CHHUKHA TSHECHU FESTIVAL

Date: 29th – 31st October, 2025

Venue: Chhukha Dzong, Chhukha

Significance: The three-day annual Festival is held at the Chhukha Dzong courtyard. During the celebration, monks and locals perform a variety of mask dances and traditional folk dances. These dances are offered to Guru Rinpoche, the patron saint of Bhutan. The festival's high point is the unveiling of a massive Throngdroel (Tapestry) of Guru Rinpoche on the third day. People receive blessings during the festive.

JAKAR TSHECHU FESTIVAL

Date: 30th October – 1st November, 2025

Venue: Jakar Dzong, Bumthang

Significance: The Jakar Dzong hosts the yearly three day Jakar Tshechu festival. Several religious mask dances are performed here and the locals presents a wide variety of traditional songs and dances. It is one of the most famous festivals in Bhutan which attracts tourists. People can be seen wearing colorful attires during the event.

JAMBAY LHAKHANG DRUP FESTIVAL

Date: 5th – 8th November, 2025

Venue: Jambay Lhakhang, Bumthang

Significance: The 7th century old Lhakhang is the site of the renowned festival in Bhutan. Srongtsen Gampo of Tibet constructed the 108 temples in a single day, including this one. At midnight, a naked dance, sometimes referred to as “Ter Cham” or “The Fire Ritual” is performed during the festival.

BLACK NECKED CRANE FESTIVAL

Date: 11th November, 2025

Venue: Gangtey Goempa monastery, Gangtey

Significance: The arrival of the magnificent and endangered birds is celebrated by the villagers during the festival and is intended to raise awareness and comprehension of the significance of protecting the endangered cranes. This festive features cultural and traditional event of singing and dancing. Locals perform mask and crane dances while the school children plays songs about environmental conservation.

JAMBAY LHAKHANG SINGYE CHAM FESTIVAL

Date: 4th December, 2025

Venue: Jambay Lhakhang, Bumthang

Significance: Once a year, on a single day, the Jambay Lhakhang Singye Cham is performed to honor the spiritual guru, Guru Rinpoche, who introduced Buddhism in Bhutan.

NALAKHAR TSHECHU FESTIVAL

Date: 4th – 6th December, 2025

Venue: Ngaa Lhakhang, Bumthang

Significance: This three day celebration is held to bring happiness and prosperity to the community and the country as a whole. It is also a symbolic prayer for everyone's health and a bountiful harvest. This festive is one of Bhutan's utmost community-based celebration.

DRUK WANGYEL TSHECHU FESTIVAL

Date: 13th December, 2025

Venue: Dochu La pass, Punakha

Significance: This highly special occasion rituals are performed by the Royal Bhutanese Army. This occasion honors His Majesty the King Jigme Singye Wangchuck's sage leadership. It also honors the Royal Bhutan Army's contributions to preserving the nation's stability and sovereignty. The stunning Dochu La pass, which has 108 well-organized stupas, is the site of this celebration.