



## local events & festivals: dates 2017, 2018

festival name	dates 2017	dates 2018
spituk gu-stor	jan. 25, 26	jan. 3, 4
leh & likir dosmoche	feb. 24, 25	feb. 13, 14
yargon tungshak	march 2, 3	feb. 19, 20
stok guru tse-chu	march 6, 7	feb. 24, 25
matho nagrang	march 11, 12	march 1, 2
saka dawa this is the most important festival day in tibetan buddhism as shakymuni buddha's birth, enlightenment, and parinirvana are celebrated.	june 9	may 29
yuru kab-gyat	june 21, 22	june 11, 12
hemis tse-chu	july 3, 4	june 23, 24
HH dalai lama's birthday	july 6	july 6
shashukul gu-stor	july 11, 12	june 30, july 1
stongday gu-stor	july 12, 13	july 1, 2
karsha gu-stor	july 21, 22	july 11, 12
phyang tse-dup	july 21, 22	july 11, 12
korzok gu-stor	july 26, 27	july 15, 16
takthok tse-chu	aug. 2, 3	july 22, 13
sani nas-jal	aug. 6, 7	july 26, 27
deskit gu-stor	oct. 17, 18	oct. 7, 8
thiksey gu-stor	nov. 6, 7	oct. 27, 28
chemde wangchok	nov. 16, 17	nov. 5, 6
galdan namchot this day is celebrated to commemorate tsongkhapa, the famous teacher in tibetan buddhism, as well as the beginning of the new year celebrations in ladakh.	dec. 12	dec. 2
ladakh losar / ladakh new year please note that in ladakh there is a different date for celebrating the new year than in tibet and other tibetan societies.	dec. 19	dec. 8



other religious events throughout the year: visitors may assist **pujas**, morning prayers, in the monasteries. please ask for permission first as not all monasteries do allow this. however, you are most welcome to **visit the monastery** rooms. maybe you are lucky to observe monks creating beautifully **colored sand mandalas**. local families invite monks to their homes to recite **specific prayers**.



the **ladakh festival** held every year is a great opportunity for visitors to get an overview of the cultural heritage of ladakh. dances and local songs are performed by men and women dressed in their traditional attire. there are archery competitions, polo matches, mask dances, and other activities.

other social events of ladakh are ceremonies of newly born babies (Idun/dzagang), marriages (bagston ceremony), archery competitions, polo or ice hockey matches, death ceremonies, etc. it is a tradition, too, that farmers remember specific happenings related to field work.

