



MYANMAR FESTIVALS/ PUBLIC HOLIDAYS - 2015

Starting Date	Events & Festivals in Year 2015	City
28 December - 19 January	<p>Ananda Pagoda Festival Ananda Pagoda festival will be held. There are evening entertainments such as Zats: a variety of dances, songs, short and long plays, Anyeints: a performance of a few hours in which number of jokers caricature current situations and or person strung together by a traditional dances, popular movies shown in open air. It is also a popular sales fair where all kinds of goods, some of them are locally produced and sold. The most interesting aspect of this festival is the caravan of bullock carts in the pagoda compound, camped under the shady trees. It is very crowded around the full moon day on 04 January 2015. There may be noise from loudspeakers everywhere during festival.</p>	Bagan
04 January	<p>Independence Day Celebrations organized by the government at People's Park in Yangon and across the whole country. Ceremonies starts as early at 04:20 a.m. and can usually attended by special invited guests. General Public celebrate in their respect wards and tracks various kinds traditional games (adults arrange for children for fun) in the morning time up to the afternoon in their particular wards (especially in Yangon). All government offices and markets are closed.</p>	The whole country
07-10 January	<p>Kachin Manaw Festival (State Day Festival) Kachin Manaw Festival in Myitkyina, Kachin State day is on 10 Jan 2015, the festival will be held three days ahead of Kachin State day. But they celebrate once in 4th year or 10th year. Please check with us whether celebrate or not.</p>	Myitkyina / Kachin State
14-15 January	<p>Naga New Year festival On the 1st day, an opening ceremony is held in the morning and in the evening there is traditional dance with bonfires. On New Year day they have a competition of traditional sports, and gathering of sub-tribes of Naga, once fierce warriors in their bright and exotic dresses, celebrate with rice wine roasted meat and tribal dances performed with loud beating of drums.</p>	Chin State
27 January - 03 February	<p>Mahamuni Ceremony This ceremony in which a number of monks chant Buddhist scriptures non-stop is held by the Burmese calendar from 8th Waxing day till full moon day). , The full moon day is: the real festival days with evening entertainment such as Zats (a variety of dance, song and short & long plays), Anyeints (a performance of a few hours in which a number of "Jokers" (usually four) caricature current situations and / or persons strung together by a traditional dancer) and popular movies shown in open air. In the day time, there are many stalls selling various kinds of Myanmar snacks displayed in continuous rows of long tables. On the 1st day, there is a communal offering of food (dry rations) and various domestic articles to monks from the 100 nearby monasteries.</p>	Mandalay
27 January - 04 February	<p>Kyaik Khauk Pagoda Festival (at Syriam, near Yangon) Most of the pagoda festivals have evening entertainments such as Zats,. Anyeints, some stage shows and movies shown in the open air the whole night for every day. Villagers nearby come to the festival by ox-carts, which can be seen just before and on full moon day.</p>	Kyaik Khauk Pagoda (Syriam, near Yangon)

02 February	Htamane (Glutinous rice) Festival Htamane (Glutinous rice) Festival is held on the eve of the day before full moon day in one night on Shwedagon Pagoda (start from around 4:00 p.m.). This is a competition between teams of men for donation of Glutinous rice to the great Lord Buddha at early morning on full moon day. There are lots of people enjoy watching the demonstrations and when finished, Glutinous rice are distributed as donation to people and followed by the prize giving ceremony for the winners.	On Shwedagon Pagoda
03 February	Full moon Day of Taboetwe	The whole country
03 February	Alaungdaw Kathapa Pagoda (lighting) Festival Alaungdaw Kathapa Pagoda (lighting) Festival is held on the full moon day. It is crowded with the local people from surrounding area and far distances. The festival is held by lighting to the Pagoda and National Cave.	near Mandalay
03 February	Feast of Shan Harvest day The festival is usually celebrated in the rural regions of Shan State.	Shan State
07 February	Shan State Day	Taunggyi
12 February	Union Day Celebrations arranged by the government at People's Park in Yangon and across the whole country. Mostly early morning. All offices and markets are closed (the whole country)	The whole country
18 February -01 March	Maw-Tin Pagoda Festival	Ngapudaw, near Pathein
18 February -01 March	Shwe Saryan Pagoda Festival 45 minutes drive from Mandalay on the way to Pyin Oo Lwin (Maymyo) near Hton Bo. You can also take a small boat on the Douhtawaddy River and visit the pagodas nearby. Myanmar traditional toys, boxes, baskets and mats made of dried toddy palm leaves are the best selling village products in this festival.	Shwe Saryan Village in Patheingyi Township near Mandalay
19 February	Chinese New Year Celebration starts from New Year day about 10 days. The lion and dragon dances are festivities of New Year. Red and gold colors are lucky color for Chinese so houses and shops are decorated with that color at New Year. On the New Year Eve Day, all family members gather together, pay respect to ancestor and have meal to be a good year. Next tradition of Chinese is giving a present or money in red envelope, called Ann-pond, from old people to young single people. On the eve and New Year days, really crowded at china town and Chinese temple. Festival is held the whole country, but only crowded in big cities (e.g. Yangon & Mandalay).	The whole country
20 February -04 March	Pakhan Ko Gyi Kyaw Festival Regional Nat Festival like Taung Byone and Yadanar Gu. (Shwe Gu Ni Village between Pakokku and Mingyan)	Shwe Gu Ni Village between Pakokku and Mingyan
25 February -04 March	Indawgyi Festival Ca. 160 km from Myitkyina. At least 8 hours drive to Indawgyi Lake. This festival is held annually for ten days. One intriguing fact is that two sandbanks are washed up by the waves before the festival begins so that people can walk from the bank to the pagoda. People believe that one is for human use and the other is a passage for the gods these two sandbanks disappear into the lake shortly after the festival.	Hopin, near Myitkyina
26 February -04 March	Zalun Pyidawpyan Image Festival Zalun is situated near Hinthada town in Ayeyarwaddy Division. The pagoda is crowded with the local people and there is a festival market also.	Zalun town
27 February -04 March	Baw-gyo Festival Once a year, only during the festival days, the locked up "four Buddha	near Hsipaw

	images" are brought out for display, worship and gilding with gold leaf. We can see tea-growing Palaung tribes from the hills and jewelers from Kyauk Me who try and sell their products there. Many kinds of gambling are allowed during the festival days only.	
01-05 March	Kakku Pagoda Festival On 04 March, alms offering is carried out by the native Pa-O people dressed in their traditional black outfits. There is a festival market also. The best time to see the festivities is on 04 March (full moon day).	Kakku near Taunggyi
01-05 March	Pindaya Cave Festival It is held on 01 to 05 March on full moon day 04 March in Pindaya with offerings made by the native tribes such as Danu, Pa-O, Taung Yoe and Palaung. Festivities include performances with roaming artisans and the festival market.	Pindaya
02 March	Peasant's Day	The whole country
03 -04 March	Nyan Taw Pagoda Festival (Shwe Myin Tin Pagoda) Similar to most of the pagoda festivals with most of the ingredients as in the Mahamuni Pagoda Festival. It is a famous pagoda festival in Pyin Oo Lwin. In additions, we can observe several Shan and other ethnic groups who come from the hills to sell their products.	Pyin Oo Lwin (Maymyo)
03 -04 March	Nay Win Taung Pagoda Festival Same as Nyan Taw Pagoda Festival. Traditional Shan festival. It takes place in the northern part of Pyin Oo Lwin, about an hour's drive from the downtown area.	Pyin Oo Lwin (Maymyo)
04 March	Full moon Day of Tabauung Ceremonies are held at Pagodas all over the country and most of the famous pagodas are very much crowded with local people. People celebrate today by donating drinking water and juices at pagodas and in some wards and streets, people donate traditional foods. Everyone can enjoy it.	The whole country
27 March	Armed Forces Day Celebration arranged by the government at Nay Pyi Taw. Ceremony starts at very early around 3:00 a.m. and can usually not be attended by the public. All government offices are closed.	Nay Pyi Taw
27 March -05 April	Shwemawdaw Pagoda Festival Same with the other pagoda festival. There are evening entertainment such as Zats, Anyeints, stage show and also a popular sales fair where all kinds of goods, most of them are clothes, toys and kitchen supplies. (not expensive one)	Bago
13-16 April	Water Festival Myanmar people celebrate the famous water festival called "Thingyan". One cannot avoid of getting very wet because every one throws water at everybody. People drive through the city in open cars and there are stages along the street where people throw water. During this time, most restaurants, shops, markets, museums etc. are closed.	The whole country
17 April	Myanmar New Year This is the start of the new year and the end of the Water Festival. The whole country is very quiet and everything is closed.	The whole country
01 May	May Day	The whole country
02 May	Shitthaung Pagoda Festival This pagoda festival will be on Full Moon day as the others pagoda festival but they have one exiting thing is they have traditional wrestling show and boat racing show. Festival may held on either days or on both. Please check with us.	Mrauk Oo
02 May	Shwe Kyet Yet Pagoda Festival	Shwe Kyet Yet near Amarapura
02 May	Full moon Day of Kasone Pouring water to the sacred Bo-Tree. No other special entertainment.	The whole country

	Just only a small ceremony all over the country. Especially lots of crowds at Shwekyetyet Pagoda.	
05 May	Popa Ceremony Nat dances on Mt. Popa. Very much crowded and could be difficult to get up the mountain.	Mt. Popa
25 May - 08 June	Shinbinsagyo Pagoda Ceremony	Sale (Salay) near Bagan
25 May - 08 June	Thihoshin Pagoda Festival There is festival market and also evening entertainments such as Zats, Anyeints and Movies.	Pakkoku
17 June - 01 July	Chinlone (Cane Ball) Festival in Mandalay The annual Chinlone Festival is being held at the Mahamuni Pagoda in Mandalay. The festival held not as competitions but as entertainment. Not only local teams but also foreigners are participating in the festival. Aside from Chinlone competitions, there are also folk performances and local food and handicrafts for sale.	At Mahamuni Pagoda in Mandalay
19 July	Martyr's Day The day of the assassination of General Aung San and other ministers. Early morning (private) memorial services at the monument near Shwedagon Pagoda.	The whole country
31 July - 28 October	Fish Feeding Ceremony	Pwinphyu near Magwe
31 July	Full moon Day of Waso Start of Buddhist lent. Donation ceremonies of new robes and other temporal requirements to the monks all over the country at major pagodas, monasteries and even at homes.	The whole country
16 - 23 August	Shwe Kyun Pin Festival Regional Nat festival. Can observe several kinds to ceramic wares from Sagaing Kyaukmyaung are laid out at the bank of river for sale during the festival.	Mingun
26 - 29 August	Taung Byone Festival Traditional Nat Festival. The most famous in upper Myanmar, around 1 hour drive from Mandalay. It lasts five days and every day has special programs. Festival where especially youngsters are merry and enjoy drinking and where people of all ages can join in the Nat dance. Ceremonies are mostly at night and it is very hard to get into the village.	Mataya town near Mandalay
07-13 September	Yadanar Gu Festival Traditional Nat festival on the Mandalay - Sagaing road, around 30 mins. drive from Mandalay. We can take a small sampan along the lake up to the Nat Shrine hall.	Amarapura
14-31 October	Phaung Daw Oo Pagoda Festival The biggest occasion of the Inle Lake. The images of the Buddha from Phaung Daw Oo are placed on a decorated royal barge and taken around the lake, stopping at villages for people to pay homage. The festival is full of pageantry and colorful, and there are fun fairs, music, dances and boat races. Since this festival lasts very long, please check with us for exact dates and events.	Inle (Inlay) Lake
21-28 October	Kyauktawgyi Pagoda Festival It's situated at the foot of Mandalay Hill. It is considered popular sales fair where all kinds of goods (some of them locally produced) are sold. Next to that is the usual organization of events similar to other Pagoda Festivals.	Mandalay
23 October - 11 November	Myathalon Pagoda Festival	Magwe
27-28 October	Elephant Dance Festival Yearly cultural highlight of Kyaukse. The whole town competes, not only for the best "elephant dance"-performance, but at the same time for the nicest-decorated "elephant". For the dance itself: two men get	Kyaukse, south of Mandalay

	<p>inside at life-size hollowed-out papier-mache' elephant figure and imitate the movements of a real elephant. Usually there is a 'lead'-man who coordinates the movements of the dancers, assisted by a small number of musicians.</p> <p>The festival is celebrated on the day before full moon day of Tadingyut. As the day progresses, it is getting more and more crowded because people nearby villages and as far away as Mandalay come to Kyaukse and join in the festivities.</p>	
27-29 October	<p>Thadingyut Festival End of Buddhist lent. And also the festival of lights. Pagodas, houses and streets are brilliantly illuminated. It is not only a time of joy but also thanksgiving and paying homage to teachers, parents and elders.</p>	The whole country
28 October	Full moon Day of Thadingyut	The whole country
29 October	<p>Light Floating Festival Lit candles light on paper boat and let them float onto the river</p>	Shwekyin
19 November -11 December	<p>Shwezigon Pagoda Festival There are evening entertainments such as Zats (a variety of dances, songs, short and long plays), Anyeints (a performance of a few hours in which a number of "jokers" caricature current situations and or person strung together by a traditional dancer, popular movies shown in open air. On full moon day of Tazaung Daing, there is a communal offering of food and various domestic articles to the monks from the nearby monasteries (ca. 600) lined up as in usual offerings.</p>	Bagan
20-26 November	<p>Hot-air Balloon Festival Taunggyi Hot-air balloons festival will be held from 20 to 26 November and can watch the various competitions of hot-air balloons. At day-time, see the competitions of decorated hot-air balloons in different shapes and forms of animals such as elephants, horse, cattle, pig, mythical Hinthu bird and hen etc. Also see the fireworks and firecrackers of hot air-balloon at night time.</p>	Taunggyi
21-06 November	<p>Thanbodday Pagoda Ceremony Like other pagoda festival with the usual entertainment provided. Myanmar thanaka (sandal wood) and woven textiles (cotton blankets and longgyis mainly) can be bought at the various stalls around the pagoda area. Monywa</p>	Monywa
21-26 November	<p>Hpo Win Daung Festival Like other pagoda festivals with the usual entertainment provided. Myanmar thanaka, sandalwood and woven textiles (cotton blankets and longgyis mainly) can be bought at the various stalls around the pagoda area.</p>	Monywa
21-26 November	<p>Kaunghmudaw Pagoda Festival The most interesting aspect of this festival is the caravan of bullock-carts in the pagoda compound. Some of the carts carry their village products, such as hand-woven cotton clothes and cane mats, to sell them there. They like to camp under the shade of the trees.</p>	Sagaing
25-26 November	<p>Shin Mar Le pagoda Festival Celebrated at the time of the Tazaung Daing Festival. People throw with lotus flowers to the top of the stupa, located at the North entrance of the Mahamuni Pagoda, as homage to the Lord Buddha.</p>	Thazi
26 November	<p>Robe Weaving Contest The robe weaving ceremony is held on the eve of the day before full moon day in one night. This is a competition for the weaving skills between teams of women to complete special saffron-colored robes, called "Ma Thoe Thin Gan" from the evening onwards at dawn. It is still done in the traditional way and lots of people enjoy watching the demonstrations. At dawn, the robes are offered to the great image of Lord Buddha and followed by the prize giving ceremony for the winners.</p>	Big Cities

26 November	Tazaung Daing (Tazaung Mone) Full moon Festival Many locals of different status offer yellow robes & other items such as slippers, umbrellas, alms bowls and other domestic articles to the monks. This offering ceremony is commonly called "Kathein" and every local hope - at least once in his /her life - to participate in this event.	The whole country
26 November	Sagaing Tazaung Daing (Tazaung Mone) Full moon Festival Sagaing attracts quite some crowds, as it is known as the Buddhist place of retreat per excellence in the country with a concentration of monasteries, nunneries and pagodas in that area. Many people (even from Mandalay) go and spend the whole night (proceeding full moon day) in Sagaing.	Sagaing.
06 December	National Day	The whole country
19-26 December	Shwemyetmhan (Golden Spectacles) Pagoda Festival This pagoda festival is as same as the others pagoda festival. But one interesting thing is during the British time; Mrs. Hurtno, wife of the commissioner was relieved from her eye disease after she offered a pair of glasses to the Buddha. Local people who lives around this area they believe that whoever have a problem with eyes they make novena to this pagoda.	Shwetaung Near Pyay (Prome)
25 December	Christmas Day	The whole country