



## MYANMAR FESTIVALS/ PUBLIC HOLIDAYS - 2010

Starting Date	Events & Festivals in Year 2010	City
23 December - 14 January	<p><b>Ananda Pagoda Festival</b> Ananda Pagoda festival will be held starting from 23 Dec 2009 to 14 Jan 2010. There are evening entertainments such as Zats: a variety of dance, song, 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 dancer, 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, camp under the shady trees. It is very crowded around the full moon day on 30 Dec 2009. <b>There may be noise from loudspeakers everywhere during festival.</b></p>	Bagan
04 January	<p><b>Independence Day</b> Celebrations arranged by the government at People's Park in Yangon and across the whole country. Ceremonies are very early at 04:20 a.m. and can usually not be attended by the public. All government offices and markets are closed.</p>	The whole country
09-10 January	<p><b>Kachin Manaw Festival (State Day Festival)</b> Kachin Manaw Festival in Myitkyina, Kachin State day is on 10 Jan 2010, the festival will be held one day ahead of Kachin State day. But they celebrate once in 4th year or 10th year. Please check with us whether celebrate or not.</p>	Kachin State
12 January	<p><b>Kayah State Day</b></p>	Kayah State
14-15 January	<p><b>Naga New Year festival</b> The New Year is celebrated from 14 to 15 January 2010. On the 14th, 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
15 January	<p><b>Solar Eclipse</b> On 15th of January 2010 afternoon (Local time), there will be a solar eclipse. The central and western part of Myanmar will be visible. The best place will be <b>Shwebo</b> and other places are Monywa, Mandalay, Popa and Bagan in central Myanmar. At western part, Sittwe would be visible area.</p>	
22-29 January	<p><b>Mahamuni Ceremony</b> 22 - 28 Jan (Burmese calendar 8th Waxing day till full moon day), ceremony in which a number of monks chant Buddhist scriptures non-stop. 29 Jan : the real festival days with evening entertainment such as Zats (a variety of dance, song and short&amp; 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</p>	Mandalay

	displayed in continuous rows of long tables. On the 8th waxing day (22 Jan), there is a communal offering of food (dry rations) and various domestic articles to monks from the 100 nearby monasteries.	
22 -30 January	<b>Kyaik Khauk Pagoda Festival (at Syriam)</b> Kyaik Khauk Pagoda Festival will be held starting from 22 January to 30 January. Most of the pagoda festival has evening entertainments such as Zats. Anyeints, some stage show 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.	Kyaik Khauk Pagoda (Syriam)
28 January	<b>Htamane (Glutinous rice) Festival</b> 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 after finished, Glutinous rice are distributed as donation to people and followed by the prize giving ceremony for the winners.	On Shwedagon Pagoda
29 January	<b>Alaungdaw Kathapa Pagoda (lighting) Festival</b> 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 Monywa
Around 13 to 15 February	<b>Chinese New Year</b> 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 decorate 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 give 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
03 February	<b>Feast of Shan Harvest day</b> The festival is usually celebrated in the rural regions of Shan State.	Shan State
07 February	<b>Shan State Day</b>	Shan State
12 February	<b>Union Day</b> 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
13 -27 February	<b>Maw-Tin Pagoda Festival</b>	Ngapudaw, near Pathein
13 -27 February	<b>Pakhan Ko Gyi Kyaw Festival</b> 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
13 -27 February	<b>Shwe Saryan Pagoda Festival</b> 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	Shwe Saryan Village in Patheingyi Township near Mandalay

	best selling village products in this festival.	
20 - 27 February	<b>Indawgyi Festival</b> Ca.160 km from Myitkyina. Approximately 5 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
21 - 27 February	<b>Zalun Pyidawpyan Image Festival</b> 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
22 - 27 February	<b>Baw-gyo Festival</b> Once a year, only during the festival days, the locked up "four Buddha images" are bought 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.	near Hsipaw
24 - 28 February	<b>Kakku Pagoda Festival</b> On 27 February, 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 27 February (full moon day).	Kakku near Taunggyi
24 - 28 February	<b>Pindaya Cave Festival</b> It is held on 26 February to 28 February on full moon day 27 February 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
26 - 27 February	<b>Nyan Taw Pagoda Festival (Shwe Myin Tin Pagoda)</b> 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)
26 - 27 February	<b>Nay Win Taung Pagoda Festival</b> 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)
27 February	<b>Tabaung Full moon Day</b> Ceremonies are held at Pagodas all over the country.	The whole country
02 March	<b>Peasant's Day</b>	The whole country
22 March -03 April	<b>Shwemawdaw Pagoda Festival</b> 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
27 March	<b>Armed Forces Day</b>	The whole country
29 March or 27 April	<b>Shitthaung Pagoda Festival</b> This pagoda festival will be on 3rd Full Moon day as same as the others pagoda festival but they have one exiting thing is they have traditional boxing show. Festival may held on 29 March or 27 April or on both. Please check with us.	Mrauk Oo
11 April	<b>Popa Ceremony</b>	Mt. Popa

	Nat dances on Mt. Popa. Very crowded and difficult to get up the mountain.	
13-16 April	<b>Water Festival</b> 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	<b>Myanmar New Year</b> 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
27 April	<b>Shwe Kyet Yet Pagoda Festival</b>	Shwe Kyet Yet near Amarapura
27 April	<b>Kason Full moon Day</b> Pouring water to the sacred Bo-Tree. No other special entertainment. Just only a small ceremony all over the country. Especially lots of crowds at Shwekyetyet Pagoda.	The whole country
01 May	<b>May Day</b>	The whole country
19 May -03 June	<b>Thihoshin Pagoda Festival</b> This pagoda festival will be held from 19 May - 03 June. There is festival market and also evening entertainments such as Zats, Anyeints and Movies.	Pakkoku
25 - 26 June	<b>Shinbinsagyo Pagoda Ceremony</b>	Sale (Salay) near Bagan
19 July	<b>Martyr's Day</b> 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
26 July - 23 October	<b>Fish Feeding Ceremony</b>	Pwinphyu near Magwe
26 July	<b>Waso Full moon Day</b> 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
12- 18 August	<b>Shwe Kyun Pin Festival</b> 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
21- 25 August	<b>Taung Byone Festival</b> 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
02 - 08 September	<b>Yadanar Gu Festival</b> Traditional Nat festival on the Mandalay - Sagaing road, around 30 min. drive from Mandalay. We can take a small sampan along the lake up to the Nat Shrine hall.	Amarapura
09 -26 October	<b>Phaung Daw Oo Pagoda Festival</b> 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	Inle (Inlay) Lake

	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.	
16 -23 October	<b>Kyauktawgyi Pagoda Festival</b> 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
18 October -06 November	<b>Myathalon Pagoda Festival</b>	Magwe
22-23 October	<b>Elephant Dance Festival</b> 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 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. 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.	Kyaukse, south of Mandalay
22-24 October	<b>Thadingyut Festival</b> 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.	The whole country
23 October	<b>Tadingyut full moon Day</b>	The whole country
24 October	<b>Light floating Festival</b> Lit candles light on paper boat and let them float onto the river	Shwekyin
14 November -06 December	<b>Shwezigon Festival</b> Shwezigon Festival will be held starting from 14 November to 06 December. 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 (21 November ), 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.	Bagan
16 -21 November	<b>Thanboddag Pagoda Ceremony</b> 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
16 -21 November	<b>Po Win Daung Festival</b> Like other pagoda festival 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.	Monywa
16 -21 November	<b>Hot-air Balloon Festival</b> Taunggyi Hot-air balloons festival will be held from 16th to 21st 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,	Taunggyi

	pig, mythical Hintha bird and hen etc. Also see the fireworks and firecrackers of hot air-balloon at night time.	
16 -21 November	<b>Kaunghmudaw Pagoda Festival</b> 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.	Sagaing
20 November	<b>Robe Weaving Contest</b> 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.	Big Cities
20 - 21 November	<b>Shin Mar Le pagoda Festival</b> 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.	Thazi
21 November	<b>Tazaung Daing Full moon Festival</b>	The whole country
21 November	<b>Sagaing Tazaung Daing Full moon Festival</b> 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. Especially 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.
01 December	<b>National Day</b>	The whole country
14 - 21 December	<b>Shwemyetmhan (Golden Spectacles) Pagoda Festival</b> This pagoda festival is as same as the others pagoda festival. But one interesting thing is during the British time; Mrs. Hurno 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	<b>Christmas Day</b>	The whole day