



food. Cooking competitions, exotic cocktails and live feni distillation make up for a great time. Adding to that, many of the musical bands of India and foreign add to the **cultural fiesta**. The Goa festival lives up to its expectations and fashions a long lasting memory of its influence in the minds of people.

Mahavir Jayanti, Uttar Pradesh



It is one of the major festivals of the Jain community. Mahavir Jayanti is celebrated as the birth of Mahavira (the last Tirthankara). According to the Gregorian calendar, it is observed either in March or April. On this day, abhisheka (a ceremonial bath) of the statues of Mahavira takes place. People following Jainism, do charity in the name of Mahavir, they offer prayers and meditate in the temples.

Good Friday

Good Friday is celebrated in all over the world and India also observes



the same on the Friday before Easter Sunday. It is celebrated by the Christians to mark the suffering, passion and death of Lord Jesus during his crucifixion on the cross. On this day, the Christians fast, pray, repent and meditate.

Thrissur Pooram, Kerala



Kerala is always associated with elephants. Thrissur Pooram is the place you should visit this April if you want to come closer to the enriching performance of man, elephant and music! As many as 30 elephants are decorated with every possible kind of traditional supplies. It becomes a visual treat to see how these lavishly bedecked elephants assemble in the tunes of 250 musical artists. Ornamental displays and drum concerts add to the appeal of the event. The ecstatic firework display as the sun takes a dip into the waters closes the evening with emphatic satisfaction.

Source: *Travelogy India Blog*

Cultural Calendar - April 2019

7
Sunday
7.00 am

Curtain raiser
International Day of Yoga 2019
Yoga session at World Health Day
by WHO, Sri Lanka
Venue: Independence Square



Avurudu
Sinhala & Tamil New Year celebrations
Venue: SVCC Lawn

25
Thursday
10.30 am

28
Sunday
9.30 am

Curtain raiser
International Day of Yoga 2019
Lecture – Technics for Healthy Life
by Dr. Pramod Hore from India
in association with Astanka Yoga Mandhir
Venue: SVCC Auditorium



International Dance Day
Manipauri and folk dances of India
by Dhanushka Washeera Salgamuwa, Graduate from
Rabindra Bharati University, India and his disciples
Venue: SVCC Auditorium

29
Monday
6.00 pm



Sanskarika

Newsletter of the Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre April 2019



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INDIA'S FAMOUS FESTIVALS AND EVENTS IN APRIL

The month of April is a sign of a new life. For many, spring is a recreational season. You can feel the energy in nature itself with trees, plants, animals and the eloquent insects coming into life after a torrid and harsh winter. People all over the globe cherish this time with Spring Breaks. This year, you should live this invigorating season with the festivals of India. India is perhaps the best country to feel the energy of celebration with a mix of culture. After Holi, a carnival of jovial colours in March, the people of India are fastening their seat belts for some amazing celebrations in the month of April. Join them to savour a feast for you and your family. Here, take a look at major festivals in April .

Mopin Festival, Arunachal Pradesh



You may have read countless stories of the captivating North-East Indians but every time a new story brings a series of **unthinkable adventure**. The story of Mopin festival in Arunachal Pradesh resembles so. The people

of Along-Basar-Bame celebrate Mopin as a harvest festival and as a measure to keep the evil spirits away. It involves a folklore dance “popir dance” performed by some very skilful local tribes’ women. The locally made rice wine (apong) during the festival is a pleasure that comes once in a while.

Mewar Festival, Udaipur



This festival is perfection in itself and often coincides with the arrival of March. The enticing fact about the festival is that its history takes us to the foundation of **Udaipur**. The people of this city celebrate and love this commemoration as their very own. The occasion starts with a procession that is taken in various parts of the enigmatic city and culminates at the Lake Pichola. The event is marked by the confluence of graceful dancing, joyful singing and an exuberant celebration of cultural programmes. The forts and palaces of Udaipur just add to the charisma of Mewar festival.

Godwar Festival, Udaipur



Godwar festival near **Udaipur** is the traditional mela that we were used to back in the 80s and 90s. First of all, the venue of this fiesta is the dry valley region **Ranakpur**. It brings out the **best of Rajput heritage** and opens up for an adventurous week. From turban-tying competition to bullock cart rides, Godwar festival imbibes the true show of a culturally rich country. The Rajasthani songs are accompanied with some heavy feasts ultimately letting you **relax in the wildlife safaris**. This festival will define a new meaning of party for you, which by the way is a million miles ahead from our lame booze discs.

Attuvela Mahotsavam, Kerala



Another Keralan delight. This time we shift our focus from elephants to temples and waterways. Attuvela Mahotsavam is an engrossing water carnival that has its root connected to a legend in which Goddess of Kodungalloor is welcomed

in the state with her sister. The event starts with festooned and illumined models of the **temples of Kerala** floating across the water bodies. The moving entourage is supported with the temple music playing inside each of the models. The lightening of the replicas combines with the dusky evenings to reciprocate a heavenly view. The spectacle is widely adored by the people of **Kerala** and definitely calls for a visit.

Bihu, Assam



Equivalent to Baisakhi is Bihu, which is celebrated in Assam around April 14, 15 and 16, in the north eastern region of India. As celebrated in Mid April, it is called Bohag Bihu. It signifies the commencement of Assamese New Year and the approaching of spring season. It is celebrated for 7 days through folk music, bihu dance, merriment and feasting.

Baisakhi Mela, Amritsar, Punjab

Baisakhi is a harvest festival and it marks the beginning of the Sikh religion. It's an old saying in India that the Punjabis know how to celebrate. Add Baisakhi Mela to their incorporated revelling DNA and you will witness one of the most heartfelt and wildly distinguished festivals in India. Being a harvest festival, Baisakhi



itself rejoices life in its core form. The culture of Punjab becomes its purest form during the festival with folklore music and Bhangra. People celebrate this festival with folk dance and music along with variety of food. Tough it is celebrated in all over the country; you can witness the best of this celebration at the Golden Temple of Amritsar. You can feel the thumping energy of people engraved in blissful enthusiasm. The multitude of cuisines in its saga of feast makes the festival an idyllic favourite.

Sankat Mochan Music Festival, Varanasi



The **holy city Varanasi** will never be behind when it comes to revelries. The Hanuman Jayanti in April brings an arrival of Sankat Mochan Music festival in the **city toured by the river Ganga**. The people who consist of the locals, pundits, and tourists come in tandem to highlight the musical event held from dawn till dusk. The participatory dance shows are just the evidence of how much raw energy this place has. The rituals consisting of aartis and the sights

of monkeys looting fruits creates a euphoric pleasure which can only happen in Banaras. The carnival of Lord Hanuman just never ceases to boggle the onlookers.

Tulip Festival, Srinagar



Our very own Srinagar challenges the elegance of the popular tulip field in Amsterdam. Kashmir just cannot let the world relax when it comes to pristine beauty. Its annual tulip festival is well worth the reason to travel Srinagar. Given that tulips bloom for only a period of 2 weeks makes it a **visit to the land of paradise** a necessity. Spread over 5 hectares and an overlooking Dal Lake, the festival will overwhelm you with some florid loveliness. Crimson, golden, striped, purple, streaked, red, orange are just a few of the glorifying range the festival showcases. The fragrance of the occasion will definitely spell-bound you.

Goa Food and Cultural Festival, Panaji, Goa

Goa is like the adrenaline state of India. You can feel the part of its history the moment you land. Its **Food and culture** festival is just an anecdote of the liveliest place in India. The food carnival is place spread with multi-national cuisines, sea foods, Goan specials, and also the homemade