

## Tibet Festivals 2010 - 2012

<b>Festival Name</b>	Tibetan Calendar	2010	2011	2012
Tibetan New Year/Losar	Day 1 Month 1	14/Feb	5/Mar	22/Feb
Monlam prayer festival	Day 4-11 Month 1	17/Feb	8/Mar	25/Feb
Butter lamp / Choe-nga Choepa	Day15 Month 1	28/Feb	19/Mar	8/Mar
Saga Dawa	Day 15/Apr Month 4	27/May	15/Jun	4/Jun
Gyantse horse race	Day 14-18 Month 4	20/Jul	20/Jul	20/Jul
Thangka unveiling Tashilungpo	Day 15 Month 5	26/Jun	15/Jul	3/Jul
Zamling Chisang / Samye Dolde	Day 15 Month 5	26/Jun	15/Jul	3/Jul
Choekor Duechen / Tukbe Tseshi	Day 4 Month 6	15/Jul	3/Aug	23/Jul
Ganden Thangka unveiling	Day 15 Month 6	25/Jul	13/Aug	2/Aug
Shoton festival	Day 30 Month 6	10/Aug	29/Aug	17/Aug
Labrang Rikda	Day 8 Month 7	17/Aug	7/Aug	25/Aug
Karma Dunba	Day 17 Month 7	26/Aug	14/Sep	2/Sep
Nagchu horse race		10/Aug	10/Aug	10/Aug
Jerkhundo horse race (Yeshu)		25/Jul	25/Jul	25/Jul
Litang horse race		1/Aug	1/Aug	1/Aug
Lhabab Duechen	Day 22 Month 9	29/Oct	17/Nov	6/Nov
Palden Lhamo festival	Day 15	21/Nov	10/Dec	28/Nov

	Month 10			
Ganden Nga-Choe	Day 25 Month 10	1/Dec	20/Dec	8/Dec

=====EXPLANATIONS OF TIBETAN FESTIVALS=====

**Tibetan new year:**

Losar is celebrated in homes and with friends, eating special food and drinking jugs of barley chang. On the first day pilgrims go to pay homage to the most sacred statue of Sakya Muni in Jokhang temple and burning incense all around Jokhang as well as at all Tibetan homes. Every one dresses in his/her finest clothes to do holy circuit around monasteries and temples.

**Great prayer ( Mon Lam Chenmo )**

Was founded in in 1409 by Tsong Khapa to celebrate the miracles performed by Buddha at Sravasti in India, Molam is greatest religious event of the year. In the former times over 10 thousand monks from Drepung, Sera and Ganden monasteries would come to gather in Jokhang temple for the event. This festival still continues in large nos of monks in Labrang and Rongwo Gon Chen monasteries in Amdo although this festival in Lhasa is held in Jokhang temple in fewer nos of monk.

**Saga Dawa:**

Celebrating the enlightenment of Buddha and his attainment of Nirvana upon his death. Tens of thousands of Tibetan pilgrims crowd to do the sacred circuit around Jokhang and old Lhasa city known as Linkor.

**Tashilunpo Thangka:**

The huge Gegu ( embroidered thangka ) displayed in Tashilunpo monastery in Shigatse and thousands of pilgrims flock there to touch their foreheads to the sacred Thangka in order to be blessed.

**Universal incense offering ( Dzam Ling Chipsang )**

Commemoration of Guru Rimpoche subduing the obstructive deities and spirits in Tibet and converting them to protectors of Buddhism, in preparation for the founding of Samye, The very first Buddhist monastery in Tibet. Tibetans burn incense offerings to these deities all over Tibet.

**Yogurt festival(Shorton):**

The huge Gegu ( embroidered thangka ) displayed in Drepung monastery in Lhasa and thousands of pilgrims go there to touch their foreheads to the sacred Thangka in order to be blessed. This Yogurt festivals operas also begins there in the monastery courtyard. Tibetans flock in Norbulinka ( the summer palace of the Dalai Lama ) to start their summer picnic.

**Yogurt festival Opera at Norbulingka:**

A week long summer picnic is held at Norbulinka ( Summer palace ) by Tibetans and the picnic is accompanied by a historical and interesting Tibetan opera for the first 3days. Summer palace fills with the melody of happiness.

**Labrang monastic opera ( Cham ):**

Monks at Labrang monastery perform the ritual dances by wearing Buddhist masks. Thousands of Tibetans flock there for the special ceremony the miracle festival.

**Labrang monastic opera ( Summer ): Duration 1**

Monks at Labrang monastery perform the ritual dances by wearing Buddhist masks. This perform telling the story of Milarepa who get enlightenment.

**Labrang monastic opera ( Winter ):**

Monks at Labrang monastery perform Kalarewa dance, this perform also has thousand of Tibetans from all over and celabrat the special ceremony.

**Horse racing festival at Labrang Sangke grassland:**

This is a special ceremony held by the nomads of Sangke including mainly horse race, Yak race and wrestling.

**Kangding Horse Racing Festival:**

This is a special ceremony held by the nomads of Kangding of Kham-region including mainly horse race, Yak race and wrestling.

**Lithang horse racing festival:**

The Tibetan area of Kham in West-Sichuan is comprised of Garze Tibet Autonomous Prefecture and this area features snowy mountains. Here also plants of various shapes and colors and numerous wild animals exist.