

Celebrate The Festival of Lights – Diwali

Festival Dates: Between October and November



Diwali is a five day festival that represents the start of the New Year on the Hindu calendar. It honors the victory of good over evil, and brightness over darkness. It also marks the start of winter. Diwali is actually celebrated in honor of Lord Rama and his wife Sita returning to their kingdom of Ayodhya.

On the day of Diwali you will witness a sensorial splendor of lights and colours. Doorways are hung with torans of mango leaves and marigolds, rangolis are drawn with different colored powders to welcome guests where the traditional motifs are often linked with auspicious symbols of good luck, firecrackers are enjoyed and oil diyas are arranged in and around the house. Because of these flickering lamps, the festival has acquired its name: Dipawali or Diwali meaning 'rows of lamps'.

On this day, it is auspicious to buy something metallic, such as silver. People buy something for the house or jewelry for the women of the house and cook delicious sweets and snacks. The celebrations start with an exchange of sweets amongst neighbors, wearing of new clothes and jewelry, and celebrating with characteristic card parties. This magical and vibrant display is one festival which is celebrated by all age groups in full fervor and where friends and families eat, drink, shop and bond together.

Diwali has become commercialized as the biggest annual consumer spree because every family shops for sweets, gifts and fireworks. However, in all this frenzy of shopping and eating, the steady, burning lamp is a constant symbol of an illuminated mind.

