



Research Unit
Press Information Bureau
Government of India

Hornbill Festival 2024

The Cultural Kaleidoscope of Nagaland

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Every December, the vibrant landscapes of Nagaland come alive with a celebration of **Tradition, Music, and Camaraderie** during the **Hornbill Festival**, a cultural spectacle aptly titled the "**Festival of Festivals.**" Named after the hornbill, a revered bird that symbolizes boldness and grandeur in Naga folklore, the festival embodies the essence of Nagaland's vibrant culture.

Nagaland, often called the "**Land of Festivals,**" is home to 17 major tribes, each with its own unique festivals and traditions. The Hornbill Festival, running from **December 1 to 10**, brings these communities together, offering a glimpse into their cultural richness under one roof. Conceptualized in the year 2000, this festival aims to promote inter-tribal interaction and preserve Nagaland's heritage, blending the traditional with the contemporary in a harmonious display of unity.



The Hornbill festival is to be held at the picturesque **Heritage Village of Kisama**. The goal of creating this heritage village is the protection and preservation of the ethnic cultural heritage through a common management approach and comprehensive data base for the perpetuation of tourism promotion. Since its inception, the festival has brought about radical changes in the tourism scenario of the state. A visitor gets the opportunity to catch a ring side view of all the Naga tribes, their culture and distinctiveness at one place. The Heritage complex consists of a cluster of **seventeen indigenously designed houses (also called *Morung* meaning Youth Dormitory)**, each representative of a different tribe. The village serves as a cultural nucleus, offering insights into the unique traditions and architecture of each tribe.

The **Hornbill Festival 2024**, themed “*Cultural Connect*,” is a grand celebration of Nagaland’s rich heritage and cultural diversity. With **daily cultural performances** featuring folk dances, songs, indigenous games, and rituals, the festival is a spectacular showcase of the state’s living traditions. The **Artists’ Corner**, with its interactive workshops, art battles, and installations, adds a contemporary flair to the festival, while the **Artisans’ Corner** highlights indigenous craftsmanship, connecting visitors to the roots of Naga artistry.

The festival’s appeal extends beyond culture, weaving together modernity and tradition with activities like **Naga wrestling, traditional archery, food and herbal medicine stalls, fashion shows, beauty contests, and musical concerts**. This year, the **Archives Branch** is also hosting a special exhibition titled “**Naga-Land & People in Archival Mirror**”, in collaboration with the National Archives of India, offering an in-depth exploration of the region’s history and cultural practices.

For anyone seeking an immersive cultural experience, the **Hornbill Festival** offers an unparalleled opportunity to witness the beauty and diversity of Nagaland. From its pulsating beats and intricate dances to the serenity of its museums and the bustling energy of its food and craft stalls, the festival truly encapsulates the soul of the Naga people and in turn, the spirit of India itself!

This spirit of cultural diversity and amalgamation mirrors the larger ethos of India, **a nation celebrated for its unity in diversity**. India’s rich assortment of languages, traditions, festivals, and art forms thrives on the harmonious coexistence of varied cultures. Each region, community, and belief system contribute to the vibrant collective identity of the country. Events like the Hornbill Festival are a testament to this national ethos, where **cultural symphony fosters mutual respect, innovation, and resilience, making India a global icon of inclusivity and strength through diversity**.

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