

## Community Calendar

Khmer celebrations for the year are listed below. Many of these are holidays but some are not. Please note that the exact dates of these festivals are determined by the Lunar calendar.

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<b>February</b>	<b>បុណ្យមាឃបូជា</b>  Meakbochea Celebration of the Meak month	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Occurs on the 15<sup>th</sup> Keit of Meak (Margarisha) or the full moon of the 3<sup>rd</sup> month.</li><li>2. We celebration this day to commemorate the day that Buddha found enlightenment and entered Nirvana.</li></ol>
<b>April</b>	<b>បុណ្យចូលឆ្នាំ</b>  Chaul chhnam thmei New Year	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Ancient astrology determined when we celebrate the New Year. (It usually occurs from April 13 to April 15 of the Solar calendar).</li><li>2. The first day of New Year is called Moha Sangkran, and it can be described simply as the inauguration of the New Angels who come to take care of the world for a one-year term. People need to clean and decorate the houses by preparing fruits, drinks, and flowers for the New Year inauguration. This preparation is to welcome the New Angels of the new year. Elderly people like to meditate or chant the Dharma at that time because they believe that any angel who comes to their houses at that time will stay with them and take good care of their family for the whole year.</li><li>3. We offer food, fruits and clothing to the monks who in-turn prays for our ancestor and deceased relatives. We also offer gifts to our parents to ask for their forgiveness.</li></ol>
<b>May</b>	<b>បុណ្យពិសាខបូជា</b>  Pisak Bochea  <b>បុណ្យច្រត់ព្រះនង្គ័ល</b>  Chroat Preah Nongkoal Royal Ploughing Ceremony	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Occurs on the 15<sup>th</sup> Keit of Visak/Pisak (Vaisakha) or on the full moon of the 6<sup>th</sup> Month.</li><li>2. This is the celebration of the birth of Buddha, his enlightenment, and the date that Buddha entered Nirvana.</li></ol> <p>The Royal Ploughing Ceremony inaugurates the planting season and involves symbolic ploughing and sowing of seed.</p>
<b>July</b>	<b>បុណ្យចូលព្រះវស្សា</b>  Chaul Preah Vosa Celebration of the Rains Retreat	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Occurs on 15<sup>th</sup> Keit of Asadha or 15<sup>th</sup> Keit of Thutiyasadh for leap-month year.</li><li>2. This signifies the beginning of the rainy season.</li></ol>

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<b>September</b>	<p>បុណ្យកាន់បិណ្ឌ</p> <p>Kann Ben 1 – 14 Commemoration of the spirits of the dead</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Occurs on the 1<sup>st</sup> Roaj to the 14<sup>th</sup> Roaj of Badrapadha or the 1<sup>st</sup> day after full moon of the 10<sup>th</sup> month to the last day of the moon (the end of the 10<sup>th</sup> month).</li> <li>2. This is the commemoration of the spirits of the dead and takes place in the temple. It is also known as Dak Ben.</li> </ol>
	<p>បុណ្យភ្ជុំបិណ្ឌ</p> <p>Pchum Ben Celebration of all commemorations</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Occurs on the 15<sup>th</sup> Roaj of Badrapadha..</li> <li>2. This celebration is very important for all Cambodian families. During this celebration Hell opens its gate for the 15 days to allow the souls that have done bad karma in the past life to come out to this world to visit their relatives and receive the offerings through the monks' chanting of the Dharma.</li> <li>3. We pray to transfer the merits to our ancestors and deceased relatives.</li> <li>4. We ask the cattle for their forgiveness after year long of labor by feeding them good food.</li> <li>5. We offer new clothing and gifts to our parents who are alive to ask for their forgiveness for all the things that we said or done wrong onto them intentionally or not.</li> </ol>
<b>October</b>	<p>បុណ្យចេញព្រះវស្សា</p> <p>Chegn Preah Vosa Celebration of the end of the rain retreat</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Occurs on the 15<sup>th</sup> Keit of Asvina or on the 1<sup>st</sup> day after full moon of the 11<sup>th</sup> month to the full moon of the 12<sup>th</sup> month.</li> <li>2. This signifies the end of the rainy season.</li> </ol>
	<p>បុណ្យ-កម្រិន</p> <p>Kaathen Robe offering ceremony</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Occurs on the day after Chegn Preah Vosa on the 1<sup>st</sup> Roaj of Asvina or 1<sup>st</sup> day after full moon of the 11<sup>th</sup> month to the full moon of the 12<sup>th</sup> month.</li> <li>2. This 29-day religious festival centers on the temple where offerings of new robes and other requisites are given to the monks.</li> <li>3. When we participate in this ceremony, we gain merits (good karma) that we can take with us to our next life. In Buddhism, merits that you have gained determine whether you will be born in the Human realm, Heaven or enter Nirvana. The amount of merits can also determine the quality life as humans.</li> </ol>