

List of major Fairs and Festivals for the year 2017.

| Sl no | Name of the Festival/ Venue | Date | Significance |
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| 1 | Loosong/Namsong | 1 st to 3 rd January 2017 | <p>Lossong celebrated all over Sikkim marks the end of the harvest season at the end of the tenth month of the Tibetan Year. Taking cue from a good harvest and praying for even better prospects for the next crop, the festival is marked by religious masked dances in Enchey Monastery. The dances symbolize the exorcizing of the evil spirits and the welcoming of the good spirits for the new year. Lossong has now become an important festival where visitors from all over the world can get to see the local sporting events like archery, climbing of greased pole.</p> <p>Local cuisine, handicrafts, floriculture and cultural programmes are some of the added attractions during the festival. The festival is organized by Tribal Youth Association of Gangtok.</p> |
| 2 | Jorethang Maghey Mela, Jorethang, South Sikkim. | Jan 14-16, 2017 | <p>Maghey Sankrati is celebrated all over Sikkim as one of the major festivals of the Hindu community. However, it is not confined to only one religious group. People of different religions come together to take part in this festival. There are fairs in almost all parts of Sikkim. People gather to take a holy dip in the rivers of Teesta and Rangit. One of the biggest celebration of this festival is in Jorethang, South Sikkim, which lies on the banks of river Rangit. The main activities during this fair are sale and exhibition of local handicrafts and handlooms, floriculture and horticulture products, cultural programme and competitions in local dance and music. The festival carries on for almost a week. People from neighboring State as well as tourists from all over the country as well as abroad visits Jorethang during this festival. Some of the adventure activities which are popular in this area are paragliding and angling.</p> |
| 3 | Sonam Lochhar | 28 th January, 2017 | <p>Lho means year or age and Sar means new or fresh. The word Lhosar means New Year or beginning of new era. Tamang community in Sikkim celebrates their new year on the first day of new moon or in other words the very next day after the no-moon day of month of Magh. The Tibetan calendar is made up of twelve lunar months and Losar begins on the first day of the first month.</p> |
| 4 | Losar | 27 th Feb | <p>It is the Tibetan New year and is marked with a lot of gaiety and festivity across the State.</p> |
| 5 | Bhumchu at Tashiding Monastery, Tashiding , West Sikkim | March | <p>The Bhumchu which takes place on the 14th and 15th day of the first month of the Tibetan lunar calander, is one of Sikkim's most intriguing festivals. The water contained in the sacred Bhumpa or vase is</p> |

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| | | | measured into 21 cups of equal measure. The level of water is studied to divine the fortunes of Sikkim for the next year. Devotees from Nepal, Bhutan and the neighboring hills all come for blessings. |
| 6 | Dentam Rhododendron Festival. | March | The three day long Dentam Rhododendron Festival is celebrated under Maneybong – Dentam Constituency in West Sikkim. The festival will be staged in popular tourist destinations viz. Uttarey, Dentam, Hee Bermoik, Chyataal, Gurasaydara, Changay Village with host of activities ranging from nature to adventure based. |
| 7 | Ram Nawami (Chaitey Dasain) | 4 th April, 2017 | This is one of the most auspicious festivals of Sikkim and is observed in the honor of Lord Rama. The grand celebrations commemorate the birth of the virtuous king Rama who is universally adored for his flourishing and righteous sovereignty. People from all over the state gather together to celebrate this festival with much excitement and vigor. Also known as Chaitey Dasain it is also celebrated as tourist festival. Devotees hikes towards Tendong Hill, South Sikkim for offering prayers. |
| 8 | Lampokhari Paryatan Mahotsav, Aritar | April | Located at a height of 5100 ft, Aritar is surrounded by lush green forest, lakes and paddy fields. The entire Khanchendzonga range can be viewed from this place. Aritar offers adventure sports, nature trails. Lampokhari is one of the serene lakes where one can enjoy boating. Added attractions are Aritar Monastery, Mankhim Dara, Phusray Lake, Pango Lakha and Rachela. |
| 9 | Baisakhi Festival, Makha Tumin -Lingee | April | Organised to herald the spring season and the Nepali New Year. Cultural programme, traditional customs, local cuisines and other local activities can be experienced. |
| 10 | Sakewa | 10 th May, 2017 | Sakewa is celebrated with great fervor by all the Kirat Khambu Rai community. Also known as Bhumi/ Chandi Puja or land worshipping ceremony it is celebrated all over the State. It is celebrated at that time of the year when cranes migrate to the Northern Hemisphere this indicates sowing season of cucumber, pumpkin and other kharif crops. The festival begins with Shakti Puja at Mangkhim (temple) performed by a Chief Priest (Mangpa) for good harvest followed by the Shova Yatra. Various traditional dishes like Wachipa, Bongchipa, Arakha Hengmawa, Baksa and Okrukma are served. |
| 11 | Saga Dawa | 9 th June 2017 | Full moon day of the 4th month in the Tibetan Lunar Calendar, around end of May and early June. Saga Dawa is a very important festival for the Buddhists. This day is considered to be the holiest of the holy Buddhist Festival. On this day Lord Buddha took birth, achieved Enlightenment and passed away |

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| | | | attaining Nirvana. |
| 12 | Bhanu Jayanti | 13 th July 2017 | A cultural festival organised to celebrate the birth anniversary of the Nepali poet, Bhanu Bhakta Acharya. Competitions for school children are organised in various field such as poetry, drama etc. Other programmes include cultural parade and culture programmes. |
| 13 | Drukpa Tshechi | 27 th July, 2017 | This festival celebrates Lord Buddha's first preaching of the Four Noble Truths to his first five disciples at Saranath. The festival is held on the 4th day of the 6th month of the Tibetan lunar calendar. Prayers are conducted in the major monasteries all over the State. |
| 14 | Guru Rinpoche's Thrunkar Tshechu | 2 nd August 2017 | <p>“Guru Thrunkar Tshechu is celebrated as the birth day of Guru Padmasambhava, reverentially referred as ‘Guru Rinpoche’ in Eastern Himalayan region and Sikkim in particular.</p> <p>Guru Rinpoche is revered and worshipped as guardian saint in Sikkim who blessed this land as ‘Bayul Demojong’ (hidden valley of rice) and transmitted tantric Buddhism in the region adjoined by Bhutan and Tibet in the 8th Century AD. Among the galaxy of Buddhist monks, Arahats and Rinpoches, the prominence of Guru Padmasambhava as the principal associate and disciple of Lord Buddha stands out. It was his prominence that transformed this land into predominantly a Buddhist land. Guru Padmasambhava is not only revered by Buddhist but is held in high regard by the Sikkimese across all faiths.</p> |
| 15 | Tendong Lho Rum Faat | 8 th August 2017 | <p>Tendong Lho Rum Faat is the oldest festival of indigenous Lepcha community of Sikkim. The festival is related to with a legend of deluge.</p> <p>The indigenous Lepchas residing in the Himalayan belt had earlier named each and every mountain, hills, rivers, valleys and ravines which was known as Nye-Mayel-Lang. Some of these mountains and rivers, hills and ravines have not only carried beautiful and romantic folk lore but historical significance as well. These mountains and valleys figure prominently in their local myths and folklores.</p> <p>Tendong Lho Rum Faat is celebrated with great pomp and grandeur in Sikkim on 7th and 8th August every year. It is a unique ritual maintained by our fore-fathers since time immemorial which is a matter of great pride for all of us.</p> <p>Realizing its importance and need to preserve this age old tradition and culture of the indigenous Lepchas, the Tourism Department has included this festival in the tourism calendar of events.</p> <p>The festival is organised annually by the Tendong Lho Rum Faat celebration committee.</p> |
| 16 | Bhadauria Purnima Festival - | August | “Bhadauria Purnima Festival” which was revived by the Tsomgo Pokhari Samrakshan Samiti (TPSS) in |

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| | Tsomgo Lake | | 2013 after a hiatus of many years is celebrated with zeal and vigour at the premises of one of Sikkim's best tourist spot that is Tsomgo Lake. Jhakris or Faith Healers performs rituals around the lake, the faith healers moves around the lake chanting hymns and synchronizing their bodies to the rhythm of their musical instrument , creating a picture that leaves most tourists in awe. |
| 17 | Indrajatra | 5 th September 2017 | Indrajatra is an important religious festival celebrated with pomp and fanfare by the Newar community in Sikkim. It is belived that many centuries ago, Indra (king of Heaven)'s mother needed specially scented flowers (Parijat). Indra looked for them but could not find them in heaven. Indra discovered Parijat flowers in the Kathmandu Valley and tried to steal them for his mother. He was caught and imprisoned by people in the Valley. Indra's mother came searching for him and people were shocked to know what they had done. They released Indra and dedicated one of the most colourful festivals of Nepal to him to calm down his anger. |
| 18 | Pang Lhabsol | 6 th September 2017 | <p>Pang Lhabsol, a festival unique to Sikkim is celebrated to offer gratitude to Mt Khanchendzonga, the Guardian Deity of Sikkim and to Yabdu, the Supreme Commander. Rabong is now emerging as one of the important Buddhist Pilgrimage Destinations.</p> <p>Situated at the base of Maenam Hill, a sub-divisional headquarter and transit point for beautiful spots such as Chozo Lake, Ralong Monastery, Manilakhang Sakyamuni Cultural and Pilgrimage Centre and various tourist destinations of South Sikkim, Base Camp for trekkers to Maenam Hill and Borong Hot Spring. A trek down to the sacred lake "Shar Chok Bhepu", one of the four holiest caves in Sikkim, would be a memorable experience.</p> |
| 19 | World Tourism Day | 27 th September 2017 | <p>World Tourism Day is one of the main events for the Tourism Department as well as tourism stake holders of the State. The World Tourism Day is considered as the big landmark for the global tourism as it aims to aware people about the significant role of the tourism inside the international community as well as to exhibit how the social, economic, cultural, political values are affected by it globally.</p> <p>Workshops and Seminars based on World Tourism Day on theme as declared by the UNWTO as well as other tourism related matters such as Village Tourism, Eco- Tourism and Adventure Tourism are conducted.</p> <p>Stakeholders from all over the State are invited to participate and interact with each other. Tourism & Civil Aviation Department presents the <i>State Tourism Awards of Excellence</i> for those who excel in this field. This is done with the view to encourage those involved in tourism promotion for quality service.</p> |

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| | | | <p>World Tourism Day offers an opportunity in bringing then Department of Tourism and Civil Aviation and the Tourism Stakeholders of the State together to share their success stories, views and suggestions for bringing greater economic prosperity to the State.</p> <p>The Tourism & Civil Aviation Department, Government of Sikkim with the unrelenting support of the Ministry of Tourism, Government of India has been successful in putting Sikkim in the global tourist map. The State received over 7 Lakhs Domestic and over 38 thousand foreign tourists in the year 2015.</p> |
| 20 | Dasain (Durga Puja) | 27 th Sep to 1 st October 2017 | <p>Also known as Durga Puja, this fortnight long Hindu festival usually falls in the month of October. The festival symbolizes the victory of the Hindu Goddess Durga over evil. Barley seeds are sown in the soil on the first day of this festival and their growth foretells good harvest. A week later is “Phulpati “meaning the day of flowers, followed by Maha Astami and Kala Ratri and Navami. The 10th day of the festival is known as Vijay Dashmi and also marks the victory of Lord Rama over Ravana. During this day people smear their foreheads with colored rice and the barley sprouts, which was sown on the first day of Dasain, are picked and placed over the ears.</p> |
| 21 | Namchi Mahotsav Namchi ,South Sikkim | October | <p>Namchi – “Top of the Sky”, nestled among the hills at an elevation of 4,400 feet. The town commands a panoramic view of the surrounding hills and snow capped mountains and stretches of the valleys below.It is an excellent place for short stay and village excursions. Samdruptse “The Wish Fulfilling Hill” has 135 ft high statue of Guru Padmasambhava which is the highest in the world. Siddheshvara Dham (Char Dham) is another state of the art pilgrimage centre wherein replica of all four Dham has been built around an eighty seven feet high statue of Lord Shiva. All 12 jyotirlingaas are also built around the temple complex.</p> <p>With so much to offer to the visitors the Toursim Committees are actively involved in promotion and publicity of Namchi, South Sikkim. Every year Namchi Mahaotsav is celebrated in the month of October. There are activities like traditional sports, sale and exhibition of local arts and handicrafts, cuisine, flower show and sale etc.</p> |
| 22 | Maniram Village Tourism Festival, Maniram, South Sikkim | October | <p>Maniram Bhanjyang Tourism Festival is 5rganized for promotion of village tourism. There are number of homestay facilities available offering local cuisine and an experience of traditional customs and other local activities.</p> |
| 23 | Diwali (Tihar) | 19-21 st | <p>Tihar is the “Festival of Light “and symbolizes the</p> |

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| | | October 2017 | return of Lord Ram to his hometown from exile after victory over Ravana and covers a period of five days. The festival honors certain animals on successive days. The first days known as a “Kak Tihar is dedicated to crows and they are offered rice and some if caught are even garlanded. On the second day, which is known as “Kukkur Tihar”, dogs are garlanded. On the third day the cows are honored with garland and their horns are painted in bright colours. It is the turn of bullocks on the fourth day. Deepali, which falls on the third day is considered to be the most important day when goddess Lakshmi comes visiting every home which is lit bright with candles and electric lights. The fifth day is also known as Bhai Tika in which brothers visit the home of sisters and they apply tikas vermilion to each other’s forehead. It is also an occasion for exchanging gifts. During Tihar, traditional carols called Bailo or Deusi are sung. |
| 24 | Lhabab Duechen | 10 th November 2017 | This festival epitomizes in a significant manner the descent of Buddha from the heaven of the thirty-three Gods after visiting his mother. It is universally believed that Lord Buddha through his spiritual powers came to know about the whereabouts of his mother who did not live for a long time after his birth. After gaining the necessary information about his mother he ascended to Heaven where he delivered sermons to his mother and other celestial beings. During this period the disciples of the lord could not bear his long separation and longed to hear his preaching. Buddha finally relented and descended on earth along a triple ladder that was prepared especially for the occasion by Viswakarma. |
| 25 | Cherry Tea Festival Temi South Sikkim | November | Tea plantation at Temi, South Sikkim was commenced in the year 1969. The plantation ranges between the elevation range from 1460 to 1890 msl. Temi being agro- climatically suitable for cultivation of China variety of tea plants initially procured from Darjeeling Tea Gardens. The tea factory with orthodox type of manufacture was established in 1977. The garden is consistently producing superior quality tea acceptable to wide markets both international and domestic segments. The festival is organised with objectives as under: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To promote Sikkim (Temi) Tea globally. 2. To promote new destinations in and around South District. 3. To promote home stays and village tourism in order to enhance and generate income of the local community. |
| 26 | Teyongsi Sirijunga Sawan Tongnam | 3 rd December 2017 | It is the birth anniversary of Teongsi Sirijungha Singthebe he was a great social awakener of Limbus who revived reading and writing of the Limbu language. The puja is performed for long life and prosperity |
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| 27 | Barahimizong | 7 th December 2017 | The festival of Barahimizong is celebrated by the Mangar community living in Sikkim. The celebration reflects the faith in almighty as the bestower and protector of mankind. Through this festival, the gratitude to God is expressed by offering fresh harvest and seek good fortune for the coming days. |
| 28 | Red Panda Winter Festival, Gangtok | December | <p>The winter season in Sikkim draws a spectacular image of Mt. Khangchendzonga in its ivory grandeur, providing an alluring background while corpuscular rays pierce through the scudding clouds over the skies, adorning Sikkim perfectly for the cold season.</p> <p>Red Panda Winter Festival previously known as Sikkim Winter Carnival is organized in the cold months of December/ January annually. Like most festivals, the Red Panda Winter Festival showcased the traditions and culture of the Sikkimese people. The festival integrates the locals as well as the tourists with events and activities themed on a typical Himalayan winter. From food stalls that serves exquisite and delicious cuisines of various ethnic tribes and communities, to cultural carnival showcasing diverse culture and traditions of Sikkimese people, flower shows, handloom and handicraft exhibitions, adventure sports, photography contests, rock –shows, karaoke and dancing and many more other interactions forms the affair of the festival.</p> |
| 29 | Kagyed Dance | 16 th December 2017 | Kagyed dance, a customary dance festival, celebrated annually in Sikkim falls on the 28th and 29th day of the tenth month according to Tibetan calendar, which according to English calendar falls in the month of December. In the name of eight tantrik Gods and Goddesses commonly called Kagyed, lamas on these days perform dances and sing songs in different monasteries and offer prayers to them requesting these deities to save human beings from the tormenting evil spirits and to bless them for good health and fortune. |
| 30 | Namprikdang Namsoong , Dzongu, North Sikkim | 19 th – 23 rd December 2017 | <p>Namsoong is celebrated to welcome the good spirits for the New Year. Namsoong has now become an important festival where visitors from all over the world can get to see the local sporting events like archery, pole climbing etc</p> <p>Local cuisine, handicrafts, floriculture and cultural programmes are some of the added attractions during the festival.</p> |
| 31 | Loosong/Namsoong | 19 th – 23 rd December 2017 | Lossong celebrated all over Sikkim marks the end of the harvest season at the end of the tenth month of the Tibetan Year. Taking cue from a good harvest and praying for even better prospects for the next crop, the festival is marked by religious masked dances in Enchey Monastery. The dances symbolize |

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| 32 | Pelling Festival Tourism | Dec | <p>Pelling is one of the most popular tourist destinations. Visitors can enjoy a magnificent view of the mountains including Mt. Khangchendzonga, the 3rd highest mountain in the world. There are numerous tourist spots in and around Pelling .A weeklong festival includes cultural extravaganza, sale of local handicrafts, handlooms and local cuisine.</p> |
| 33 | Christmas | 25 th Dec | <p>Christmas is celebrated with much fun & fervor along with the rest of the world. People visit different Churches in Gangtok like St.Thomas the Apostle Church, Bethlehem Fellowship Church, and the House of Grace Church to seek blessings. Gangtok wears festive look during the month of December since Lossong & Christmas fall in this month. Unique feature of Sikkimese people is that every one celebrates & enjoys all the festival with great pomp and show. M.G. Marg in Gangtok is the most happening place. It is wonderfully decorated with lights, candles and Christmas trees. You can see the arrangements till New Year and even beyond.</p> |
| 34 | Tamu Lochaar | 30 th December 2017 | <p>Harvest festival of Gurung Community.</p> |