



Diwali

October 20 – October 21

Diwali, also known as Deepavali, is one of the most important and widely celebrated festivals in India and across South Asia. Observed by Hindus, Jains, Sikhs, and Buddhists, it symbolizes the triumph of light over darkness and good over evil. The word “Diwali” comes from the Sanskrit term Deepavali, meaning “row of lights.” It’s a time of joy, reflection, and renewal that brings families together, strengthens community connections, and encourages spiritual growth and fresh beginnings.

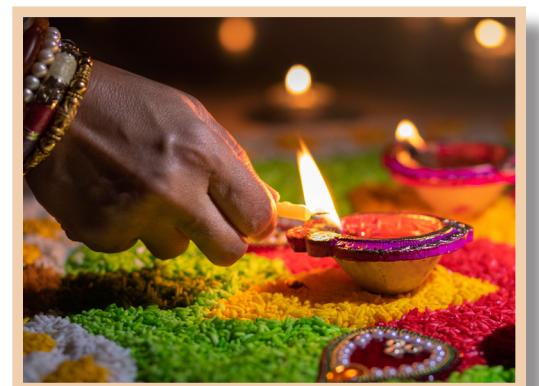
KEY TRADITIONS AND RITUALS

- **Lighting Diyas and Fireworks:** Oil lamps and candles are placed around homes and temples to symbolize light overcoming darkness, while fireworks add excitement to the festivities.
- **Rangoli Designs:** Rangoli is a traditional art form created on the floor using colorful patterns made from rice, sand, or flowers. They are typically placed at entrances of homes to welcome guests and Lakshmi, the bringer of wealth and prosperity.
- **Lakshmi and Ganesha Worship:** During Diwali, families worship Goddess Lakshmi and Lord Ganesha by setting up decorated altars, offering flowers, sweets, and prayers to seek blessings for prosperity and wisdom.
- **Festive Meals and Exchanging Gifts:** Families prepare a variety of traditional treats such as laddoos, barfis, gulab jamun, and samosas to enjoy and share with others.
- **Colorful Traditional Clothing:** People often dress in traditional attire such as sarees, kurtas, lehengas, and sherwanis, choosing vibrant colors like red, gold, orange, and royal blue to reflect the festive spirit.



COMMON GREETINGS

- “Shubh Deepavali” (Shoobh Dee-paa-va-lee): Wishing you an auspicious Diwali
- “Diwali Mubarak” (Dee-vaa-lee Moo-baa-rak): Wishing you a blessed Diwali



WAYS TO CELEBRATE AND LEARN

- **Join and Explore:** Attend local Diwali events, cultural programs, or workplace celebrations. Learn about the holiday’s meaning through articles, books, and videos.
- **Decorate and Create:** Light diyas, hang lanterns, make rangoli, and try traditional Diwali recipes or crafts to bring festive energy into your space.
- **Share and Connect:** Exchange stories, sweets, and traditions with friends, neighbors, and colleagues to strengthen community bonds.
- **Reflect and Give Back:** Practice gratitude through journaling, acts of kindness, or participating in community service and charity.

