

**Maghe Sankranti:** As the Sun enters the southern hemispheres, people in Nepal celebrate Maghe Sankranti. On this day, people take early morning baths in holy rivers, wear clean clothes, and visit Lord Vishnu's temples to pay homage with puja items like flowers and fruits. Families enjoy meals comprising rice cooked with lentils, yams, and sweets like laddu made from sesame and sugarcane paste. Devotees gather around Devghat in Chitwan for a cleansing dip where rivers Kali, Gandaki, and Trisuli meet.

Maghe Sankranti festival is one of the major festivals celebrated in the month of Magh (According to the Bikram Sambat calendar or about 14th January). The festival is also known as Makar Sankranti as well. It is celebrated in Nepal as the beginning of the auspicious month of Magh. The festival is considered to be the beginning of warmer days in comparison to the cold month of Poush (December). It is believed that from this day the sun starts to move toward the Northern hemisphere. It is a solstice festival celebrated in Nepal.

Hindu followers take holy baths during this festival in the auspicious and religious rivers in Nepal. Some of the major holy river locations of Nepal are Shankamul on the Bagmati River, Gandaki/Narayani River in the Triveni, Devghat in Chitwan, Ridi on Kaligandaki, and in the Koshi River basin at Dolalghat on the Sunkoshi. People worship Lord Vishnu and organize Pujas, and read Hindu holy epic Bhagavad Gita.

Families get together on the first of Magh and eat meals together. They do share Til Laddoo, Ghee, Sweet potatoes during this festive occasion. The priest wishes good health and a better future for all family members. The Brahmins and Chhetris community of Nepal celebrate the month of Magh by inviting their married daughters and close relatives to their home and offer them special meals and best wishes.