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**🌕 Loy Krathong: Detailed History**

**🔹 Name Meaning**

* **Loy** (ลอย) means *to float*.
* **Krathong** (กระทง) refers to a *small floating container* traditionally made from banana leaves, decorated with flowers, candles, and incense sticks.

**🕰️ Origins**

**1. Sukhothai Era (13th Century)**

* The festival likely began during the **Sukhothai Kingdom** (1238–1438), Thailand's first capital.
* According to Thai legends, **Nang Noppamas**, a royal court lady, made the first Krathong and floated it down the river to honor the water goddess.
* King **Ramkhamhaeng the Great** was so impressed that it became an annual royal tradition.

**2. Hindu-Buddhist Influence**

* **Hinduism:** The festival may have roots in ancient Hindu traditions, such as honoring **Ganga**, the goddess of the Ganges River.
* **Buddhism:** Loy Krathong also honors **Buddha**, especially a hair relic said to be placed in the river. People float Krathongs to pay respect and wash away sin or misfortune.

**🌊 Spiritual Significance**

* **Apologizing to Mae Khongkha** (Mother of Waters) for polluting rivers.
* **Letting go** of grudges, anger, and bad luck.
* **Wishing for good fortune**, love, or success.
* Couples often float Krathongs together to strengthen their relationship.

**📅 When Is It Celebrated?**

* Celebrated on the **full moon night of the 12th lunar month** in the Thai calendar.
* In **2025**, it will fall on **November 5th** (Wednesday).

**🎉 How Is It Celebrated?**

* **Floating Krathongs** in rivers, lakes, or canals.
* **Parades, lanterns, fireworks**, and **beauty pageants** (Noppamas Queen Contests).
* In **northern Thailand**, the festival overlaps with **Yi Peng**, where people release **sky lanterns**.

**🌺 Modern Krathongs**

* Originally made from banana leaves and trunks.
* Modern Krathongs can be made from **bread (eco-friendly)**, **ice**, or even **recyclable materials**.