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LATVIA

Positivus Festival is an annual, two day summer music and culture festival held in Salacgrīva, Latvia. The idyllic location is praised both by the festival visitors as well as the performing artists. Each year, the festival offers its visitors not only a variety of amazing performers, but also plentiful entertainment options and a lively atmosphere, which together create an unforgettable experience. First held in 2007, Positivus combines a variety of genres, including indie, pop, folk, electronic and many more styles. Positivus festival has 3 main stages – Tele 2 stage, Nordea stage and the red Bull Music Academy stage. In addition, there also are several smaller stages, including the I Love You and Palladium stages that offer various world famous musicians alongside local and fresh acts. The festival is known for combining various music genres with exciting recreational activities, from sports to vintage, arts and crafts shopping, yoga, theatre, film etc. The Arts and Music stage offers modern dancing, theatrical and improvisation shows, graffiti performance, circus and many more. The Nokia Cinema tent offers the relaxing opportunity to watch a variety of movies. The festival camping grounds are located in close proximity to the venue, allowing the visitors easy access to their belongings at any time.

Studentu Paradīze is the most spectacular celebration of opening academic year in Baltics that will gather together thousands of students in Arena Riga. It is held at Arena Riga in Riga, Latvia and usually attracts a crowd of more than 10,000 current and prospective students. At this event students are able to attend several stages, where many different artists from Latvia and other countries perform. Studentu Paradīze is organized to create feeling of unity amongst students as well as organize one celebration of opening academic year for all Latvian students. It is organized by students from 25 Latvian universities. In 2011 40 Latvian and foreign artists performed on 6 stages.

The International Sacred Music Festival traditionally takes place at a time when Riga's concert life is scarce but the tourism season is in full swing. The Sacred Music Festival brought a diversity of genre into the festival movement in Latvia with its foremost emphasis on the performance of large-scale vocal, instrumental and acapella

pieces. This year it will be the 15th summer when the State Choir Latvija and its artistic director Māris Sirmāis invites everyone to the International Sacred Music Festival. Concerts will be held between 28th of August till 8th of September. Also in this year the organizers of festival will continue one of most important traditions in International Sacred Music Festival – commission new pieces by Latvian composers. Tickets for all of the concerts are available at “Biļešu paradīze” box offices.

From 1-9 September, “Riga Food 2012” presents the Gastronomy Festival, an event aimed to all those who love cooking and those who enjoy good meal. The most outstanding Riga’s restaurants, cafes, pizzerias and bars will offer visitors special prices, new menus, outstanding discounts and a high-class professional service. Visitors will be given an opportunity not only to enjoy delicious food and drinks, but also to enjoy the hospitality and eating-out culture at these establishments.

The Latvian Song and Dance Festival is an important event in Latvian culture and social life. The All-Latvian Song and Dance Festival has been held since 1873, normally every five years. During the festivals exhibitions of photography, art and folk craft, orchestra concerts, and a festive parade also take place. Events and competitions leading up to the event occur throughout the period between festivals. Approximately 30,000 performers altogether participate in the event. Although usually folksongs and classical choir songs are sung, with emphasis on a cappella singing, recently modern popular songs have been incorporated into the repertoire.

Baltic Pearl Film Festival. Baltic Pearl is one of the oldest film festivals in the Baltic States introducing cinema professionals and enthusiasts to the films that have won awards in the most significant international film festivals, revealing names of young talents and demonstrating masterpieces of classical films in a special programme. The festival will take place in Riga from 14th to 24th of September. Traditionally the film programme consists of two parts. The most topical and significant film premieres of the season 2011-2012, that astonished the audiences of Cannes, Venice and Berlin film festivals, and retrospective shows, revived masterpieces, world cinema classics.

Sound Forest is organised both to give an overview of the latest developments within the music world as well as to create interesting musical events in Riga, Latvia. The festival has a goal to widen the audience's horizons, and to offer alternatives to dominant views on culture by introducing them to music, cinema and art. This year it will take place on 6, 11, 12 and 13 October. Setting the tone for this year's festival is the appearance of abstract electronic sound artist Machinefabriek whose pieces have been inspired by Latvian author Imants Ziedonis' work "Krāsainās pasakas" (Multicoloured Tales). This performance will be accompanied by visuals created specifically for Sound Forest by the Lesley Moore studio from the Netherlands together with the Latvian designer Zigmunds Lapsa. In keeping with Skaņu Mežs' traditions an evening of dance music will take place on 12 October in the Palladium concert hall as well as an evening of acoustic and electronic performances in the Anglican Church on 13 October.

LEBANON

The Baalbeck International Festival is the oldest and best-known cultural event in the Middle East and the eastern Mediterranean. Since 1955, hundreds of thousands of people from around the world have flocked to the city of Baalbek in the Beqaa Valley of Lebanon to attend the annual festival. Cultural events such as classical music, opera, jazz, modern world music, Lebanese Nights, rock and pop music as well as ballet and theater regained their past location with over 40,000 yearly spectators watching in the unique historic setting of Baalbek. It is performed each July and August in the ancient Roman Acropolis, one of the largest and well preserved Roman temples ever built. Dramatic lighting and a unique historic setting provides the background to the varied presentations. Highlights have included Deep Purple, Ella Fitzgerald, Nina Simone, Miles Davis, Sting, The Royal Ballet and The New York Philharmonic Orchestra.

The Beirut Nights are numbers of events that take place from time to time in Beirut, Lebanon. It's usually active in the summer; however, some other festivals might happen in spring or fall. The city is known of its huge crowd from different nationalities participating in these events. Over the years, Beirut witness many concerts or performances that include classical music, dance, theatre, opera, jazz, and modern world music. It had also caught the eyes of many artists such as Sting, Johnny Hallyday, Mariah Carey, Phil Collins, 50 Cent, Ricky Martin, Mika, Tiësto, David Guetta, Akon, The Pussycat Dolls, Snoop Dogg, Michael Bolton, Sean Kingston, Armin Van Buuren, Inna, Shaggy, Kelly Rowland, Keane, and many other world wide artists. Sabah, Fairuz, Ziad Rahbani and other local and Arabian stars that have been a part of these events. Many theatre plays have been part of such events by the passage of time like La Comédie Française.

The Beiteddine Festival is one of the leading festivals in the Middle East. It takes place in a large and magnificent 200-year old Palace in the Chouf Mountains, in Lebanon. Each year, in the months of July and August, the Festival presents outstanding performances by world famous stars and Lebanese artists. Over the years it has included concerts or performances related to classical music, dance, theatre, opera, jazz, and modern world music. Every summer, around 50,000 spectators gather

in the Palace's spectacular courtyards to attend different performances. Festival highlights have included Mariah Carey, Phil Collins, UB40, José Carreras, Elton John and many more. Concurrent with the performances, the Palace houses one or more international art exhibits.

The Byblos International Festival is a Lebanese festival held in Byblos, believed to be the first Phoenician city, founded around 5000 BC. The festival is one of the biggest in Lebanon, and attracts thousands of tourists from all over the world. It takes place by the seaside in the historic quarter, in front of the castle built by Crusaders in the 12th century. The festival's aims are to boost tourism, promote the Lebanese culture, and spread music and art from the Middle East to the rest of the world.

The Schueberfouer is the annual Luxembourg City fair held every year. It takes place every year from the end of August until early September at the huge Glacis-field near the city-centre. In 2010, the fair comprised 184 attractions including 27 major rides, 13 children's rides and 54 restaurants and snacks bars. The Schueberfouer is the place where showmen from all over Europe meet once a year! This year's Schueberfouer - edition number 672 - begins on Thursday, August 23rd and lasts till Tuesday, September 11th. The venue is the Glacisfield in the Limpertsberg district, between Allée Scheffer and boulevard de la foire. The Schueberfouer is open every day from 2 p.m. till 1 a.m. (on Friday and Saturdays till 2 a.m.). The over 670-year-old Schueberfouer has succeeded over all these years and maintained a mix of tradition and culture. It is an event deeply anchored in the Luxembourg's consciousness and is nowadays more than ever the place to be from young to old.

The Rock um Knuedler outdoor rock festival is free to attend. It has been a key pillar of the Luxembourg rock and pop scene and open-air festive culture for 22 years. Each year around 15,000 music fans gather on the Place Guillaume II in a great atmosphere. The festival is part of the "Summer in the City" summer programme. Many local artists and bands perform in a programme beginning in the morning and stretching until late in the evening. This year, 20 bands will compete for the attention of the audience on three outdoor stages. The large Lion Stage welcomes Roger Hodgson & Band, the legendary voice of Supertramp and nationally recognised groups. The small Horse Stage makes room for new talents on the Luxembourg rock scene. Also featured is a third stage on Place Clairefontaine with a local rock programme.

Since 1975, Echternach, which is situated in the Grand-Duchy of Luxembourg, has been hosting the internationally renowned festival. Musically speaking the Festival ranges from medieval and classic music to jazz and world music. Famous names like Benny Goodman, Yehudi Menuhin, Mstislav Rostropovitch, Montserrat Caballé, Anne-Sophie Mutter, Gidon Kremer, Alfred Brendel or, in 2009, Arcadi Volodos, Christian Zacharias, George Benson have performed at the festival as well as young talents and award winners from the country and abroad. Every year during the months of May and June, the locality of Echternach, which counts a little bit over 5000

inhabitants, is focusing on music. The historic and cultural atmosphere of Echternach with its more than 1200-year-old history and its many architectural jewels is the perfect scenery for the concerts which take place in the Basilica and the Peter and Paul Church.

Carnival is a festive season which occurs immediately before Lent; the main events are usually during February. Carnival typically involves a public celebration or parade combining some elements of a circus, mask and public street party. People often dress up or masquerade during the celebrations, which mark an overturning of daily life. Luxembourg's main parade is in Diekirch, which is about half an hour by train from the main station in Luxembourg City.

The dancing procession of Echternach is an annual Roman Catholic dancing procession held at Echternach, in eastern Luxembourg. Echternach's is the last traditional dancing procession in Europe. The event begins in the morning at the bridge over the River Sauer, with a sermon delivered by the parish priest. The procession then moves through the town streets towards the basilica, a distance of about 1.5 kilometres. While the musicians play the "Sprangprozessioùn" tune - a traditional melody. A large number of priests, nuns and monks also accompany the procession, and not infrequently there are several bishops as well. On arrival at the church, the dance is continued past the tomb of Saint Willibrord.

Buergbrennen is a celebration centred around a huge bonfire which takes place on the first Sunday in Lent in Luxembourg and surrounding areas. It is based on old traditions representing the end of winter and the coming of spring. The local authorities or youth organisations usually make the arrangements for the Buergbrennen. They collect wood, often old Christmas trees, from the inhabitants and make the buerg or bonfire, usually on the top of a neighbouring hill and clad with hay to ensure rapid burning. There is often a cross rising high above the centre of the fire. Torchlight processions to the bonfire sometimes take place and there are usually stands for food and drink. The firemen are present to ensure against accidents. In some areas, the most recently married couple have the honour of lighting the fire.

The Europe Marathon (sponsored by ING) is an annual marathon in Luxembourg which was held for the first time in 2006. The course leads from the Kirchberg banking

and financial district through the historic old town, past magnificent villas, gracious townhouses and the Grand Ducal Palace. The marathon is an exceptionally beautiful course marked by symbols of European history, spectators from around the world and an atmosphere infused with the international flair of the city give this marathon its unique character. The time limit for runners of the marathon distance is 6 hours.

MALAYSIA

The Rainforest World Music Festival is an annual three-day music festival celebrating the diversity of world music. The festival is held in the grounds of the Sarawak Cultural Village nestled against the base of Mount Santubong, about 35 km. north of Kuching. The festival runs daytime music workshops, cultural displays, craft

displays, food stalls, and main-stage evening concerts. It is now one of the largest musical events in Malaysia with a total weekend audience approaching 30,000. It brings dazzling performances from across the globe. For 15 years the festival has mesmerised audiences from around the world. The festival features a wide range of performances from traditional music, to world fusion and contemporary world music. The festival emphasizes the use of traditional acoustic world instruments, although electric accompaniment instruments are common.

Merdeka Parade is an annual parade held every August 31 in commemoration of Malaysia's independence. The event has been usually held at Merdeka Square, Kuala Lumpur in commemoration of it being the original site of the first independence parade, which was held on September 1, 1957. The national parade has also been held in Malacca Town, Johor Bahru, Kuching, Kota Kinabalu, George Town, Shah Alam, Putrajaya and Kuantan. The human graphic display is one of the many regular features of the parade, together with the mass presentation by members of Soka Gakkai Malaysia, dressed in the colours of the national flag, forming different displays in the ground. The chief guest of honour is the Yang di-Pertuan Agong and the Raja Permaisuri Agong (King and Queen of Malaysia). It is also attended by the Prime Minister of Malaysia and other Cabinet members, plus government employees. In every parade, floats representing the various companies and corporations celebrating the occasion drive past the street to the amazement of everyone, due to their intricate designs and various features, as well as the people which are on the floats themselves.

This annual event sees jazz groups from around the world converging at the Miri Resort City. Around 7,000 spectators and participants, comprising of locals, expatriates and visitors, are expected at this exciting musical galore. Miri International Jazz Festival is now known as Borneo Jazz! This change is to reflect the growing stature of the festival among leading jazz festivals in the region. 'Borneo' gives a unique positioning of Sarawak among jazz music aficionados. With this, comes a reimagining to reflect the vibrancy of the festival and the destination. Be prepared for exciting things to come as we bring you a richer experience at the Borneo Jazz.

Enjoy the excitement of fulfilled activities specially programmed along Melaka River. You will be fascinated by the various activities that had been arranged to make this festival as a memorable one. During this thrilling event, visitors will be able to enjoy an array of exciting activities such as pillow hitting, sling shot balloon tossing or catching the duck. Be sure to check out some of the paces of interest that are located around the event's venue such as Spice Garden (Taman Rempah), Melaka Fort, Admiral Cheng Ho Gallery and Dataran Sungai Melaka. At the Melaka River Fiesta you will have the opportunity to fulfil your gastronomic experience by tasting famous Melaka chicken or savour a plate of Pulet Basquaise.

Since the first edition of the Malaysian Film Festival organised by Entertainment Journalist Association in 1980, MFF continues to be the arena for appreciation and honouring the products of film arts and film artistes. The event indirectly becomes the benchmark in evaluating and adjudicating the exceptional qualities in the film produced nationally either in their film genres, short documentaries, animations and advertisements. Malaysia Film Festival is an accolade bestowed by the Malaysian Entertainment Journalists Association of Malaysia for the appreciation and honouring the products of film arts and artises. The formal ceremony at which the awards are presented is one of the most prominent award ceremonies and the highlights for the film industry in Malaysia. It is among one of the major annual awards presented in Malaysia, along with Anugerah Bintang Popular for the entire entertainment industry and Anugerah Industri Muzik for the music industry. There are 13 contested awards.

MTV World Stage is a global series that brings multi-genre talents with global relevance to an audience in over 550 million households. Recorded "live" at the most exclusive gigs, world renowned music festivals and unique concert locations from around the world, MTV World Stage is the "front row seat" for music lovers to experience the biggest artists on the globe without leaving the comfort of their sofas. On August 15, 2009, MTV Asia staged the first ever outdoor MTV World Stage Live In Malaysia at Sunway Lagoon Resort in Kuala Lumpur. The event was attended by over 15, 000 fans. The 2011 event took place in I-City. The event also featured a live,

real-time microblogging application where comments and 'tweets' via SMS were displayed on giant screens at the concert venue.

MALTA

The Malta Jazz Festival has been held annually since 1990 between the 19th and 21st July in the picturesque backdrop of Ta' Liesse in Valletta's Grand Harbour. Ta' Liesse is a stunning location in Valletta situated just beneath the bastions surrounding the World Heritage City. The festival has over the years created an impact on the local cultural scene. The Festival is organised by the Malta Council for Culture and the Arts

under the artistic direction of Sandro Zerafa. The Malta International Jazz Festival is known as a hub for the exchange of musical experience; an encounter between musicians of international fame and gifted local artists. As in past years, the Festival will showcase the contemporary jazz scene in all its forms, from cutting-edge jazz to flamenco fusion, from vocal to Latin jazz.

The Malta Arts Festival, which will be held between the 1st and 18th of July 2012, has an extensive programme of excellent artistic events including music, theatre, dance and a visual arts exhibition. The Malta Arts Festival has invited top performers of international repute in its constant commitment to present to its audiences events of the highest quality. Foreign and Maltese artists are expected to appear on the Festival's platform in a three-week extravaganza of artistic events. The Festival direction is confident that the programme of events, covering an array of diverse styles and genres, will appeal to audiences of all demographics. Featuring an extensive assortment of workshops, talks, demonstrations, and performances, Theatre Week offers theatre practitioners and enthusiasts a unique opportunity to get up close and personal with some of today's most distinguished thespian visionaries. A string of world-renowned artists and ensembles performing in this year's edition continues to make the Malta Arts Festival one of the most sought-after events in the Maltese Cultural calendar. While aiming at highlighting Maltese artistic identity the Festival projects Maltese art within a wider European dimension as well as promoting diversity and collaboration in order to ensure the highest possible standards. Particular attention is given to present the Festival audiences more popular events that appeal to a broad audience with different styles and tastes for all.

Malta's Carnival dates back several hundred years to the 16th century when Maltese and the Knights of St John would hold a week-long event leading up to Ash Wednesday. Today, carnival is celebrated in numerous towns and villages, but especially in Valletta, Floriana and Nadur, Gozo. It is a riot of colour with decorated floats and extravagant costumes and also an excuse for families to join in the merrymaking and marvel at the inventiveness of the float designers and crews. The Malta Council for Culture and the Arts organises the official carnival festivities that

take place in Valletta from the Friday until the following Tuesday before Ash Wednesday. On the last day, a big Carnival defile ends in the main street of Floriana with a fireworks display. Some of the events are held inside an enclosure close to Freedom Square in Valletta. The events held here may be attended against a nominal fee.

Notte Bianca is held in Valletta each year and is a spectacular, night-long celebration of culture and the arts in Malta's capital. The streets and cultural venues come alive with a programme of entertainment designed to hold something of appeal for everyone. Cultural venues, state palaces and museums open their doors almost all night, with many playing host to visual art exhibitions, dance and theatre performances. Streets and squares become venues for open-air concerts, while many cafes and restaurants extend their hours and also run pavement stalls. All art and musical forms are represented from classical to pop and contemporary. The Malta Council for Culture & the Arts organises Notte Bianca with the support of the Ministry for Education, Culture, Youth and Sport. The event sees Valletta become an 'open city' of culture. The programme is designed to ensure every area of Valletta is involved, from City Gate to the far end of the peninsula.

Ghanafest- Malta Mediterranean Folk Music Festival is a fabulous three day festival of Mediterranean folk music. Besides għana (Maltese folksong), the festival presents a selection of local folk ensembles, Maltese songwriters and folk musicians from neighbouring Mediterranean countries. The backbone of Ghanafest is a showcase of Maltese folksong in all its different styles featuring around 50 għanneja (folk singers) and 20 guitarists. It includes the Nisga Project with an up-beat programme of World Music, Middle Eastern influences, Flamenco, Jazz and local traditional instruments. Another ethnic combo is Hamam, led by Andrew Alamango featuring musicians from Malta, Italy and Turkey. This year's programme will also present a selection of Marči tal-Festa which constitute an important part of Malta's music heritage. It also hosts a series of workshops on traditional instruments and a special programme for children. A wonderful event ideal for the whole family complemented

by traditional Maltese food and the marvellous surroundings of the Argotti botanical gardens in Floriana, situated within walking distance from Valletta.

MEXICO

The Feria Nacional de San Marcos is a national fair held in the Mexican state of Aguascalientes every year for threeweeks. The fair was celebrated for the first time in 1828. Nowadays, it is an important tourist attraction that is heavily associated with bullfighting and cock fighting. It is estimated that seven million people visit the fair every year and as a consequence hotels are usually filled to capacity, however some

locals rent out their houses to visitors and go on vacation during this time. Usually a concert is given by a prominent Mexican singer after a series of cockfights; this event tends to draw more attention than the fights themselves. Located in the main fair venue are an assortment of sponsored stands and mechanical games, as well as stages where various concerts and theater plays are performed. Parties where traditional Mexican music are also celebrated on the streets of Aguascalientes. Concerts, art exhibits and other cultural events complement the fair in many locations around the state.

Vive Latino - Festival Iberoamericano de Cultura Musical is an annual rock music festival held in Mexico City. It is one of the most important rock en español music festivals in the world, featuring a great variety of Latin and Spanish groups of many genres. In 1998, OCESA the most important Latinamerican company in entertainment and concert promotion, had the idea and the vision to produce a festival that hold rock bands which only played Rock en Español. That was how the first Latinamerican Rock Festival born and the promoters named it Vive Latino. The festival it is not only about music, there are artistic activities where fans can interact, watch, learn and participate while bands are playing. For this year edition ViveLatino will take a step forward and will be a three day festival. This idea will be a milestone in the history not only of the festival itself it will make history in Latinamerica.

The Guadalajara International Film Festival is a week-long film festival held each March in the Mexican city of Guadalajara since 1986. The Guadalajara International Film Festival is the most important cinematographic event in Latin America and is the premier showcase for new work from Mexican and international independent filmmakers. The quality and relevance of the film program; the celebrities and renowned filmmakers that stop-by; the professionals that pin-down projects; along with the public enjoying a myriad of cultural, educational and entertainment activities; have positioned the Festival as the a premier event for Ibero-american cinema.

The Festival Internacional Cervantino takes place each fall in the city of Guanajuato, located in central Mexico. This is a small colonial-era city with history of having a large cultural scene. The festival has grown to become the most important

international artistic and cultural event in Mexico and Latin America, and one of four major events of its type in the world.

The Oaxaca FilmFest is an international film festival held every November in the Mexican city of Oaxaca during ten days in the second week of November. The Oaxaca Filmfest holds the best film material on an international level and it counts with the presence of world-renowned directors, actors, screenwriters and filmmakers. Designed to be a competitive event, the ten days provide a platform for both the talents of seasoned filmmakers as well as emerging artists to showcase their work. In just two seasons the festival received nearly 2000 submissions from 77 different countries. With an extremely high standard for surviving the selection process, Oaxaca FilmFest has discovered some of the most brilliant filmmakers and screenwriters emerging on the international cinema scene today!

Day of the Dead is a Mexican holiday celebrated throughout Mexico and around the world in other cultures. The holiday focuses on gatherings of family and friends to pray for and remember friends and family members who have died. Like many indigenous traditions in Mexico, this festival was adapted to and mixed with Christian traditions after the Spanish conquest of the area. It is particularly celebrated in Mexico, where it is a national holiday, and all banks are closed. Traditions connected with the holiday include building private altars honoring the deceased using sugar skulls, marigolds, and the favorite foods and beverages of the departed and visiting graves with these as gifts. They also leave possessions of the deceased. Scholars trace the origins of the modern Mexican holiday to indigenous observances dating back hundreds of years and to an Aztec festival dedicated to the goddess Mictecacihuatl.

The Guelagueta is an annual indigenous cultural event in Mexico that takes place in the city of Oaxaca. The celebration centers on traditional dancing in costume in groups, often gender-separated groups, as is traditional, and includes parades complete with indigenous walking bands and native food. Although the celebration is now an important tourist attraction, it also retains deep cultural importance for the peoples of the state. The celebration takes place on consecutive Mondays at the end of July in towns around the state and in the capital city's open-air amphitheater built into the

"Cerro del Fortín", a hill that overlooks central Oaxaca City. The Guelaguetza celebration also includes many other side events, including a performance of "Princess Donaji", an epic prehispanic theatrical presentation performed the day before the Guelaguetza itself begins.

Puerto Vallarta International Gourmet Festival is an annual culinary festival held in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico, every November since 1995. Every year the Festival invites culinary professionals from all over the world to cook and to demonstrate their cuisines. The Festival is supported by local restaurants. During the Festival, international and local food and beverage professionals run events around town, with each of the participating restaurants hosting a guest master chef and creating its own events to complement its food offerings. Events during the festival include the Sunday Festival Gourmet Brunch, Wine Tasting, and Cheeses of the World. There are also Chef's Table and Winemakers' dinners hosted by restaurants. The traditional Gala Dinner, called The Spirit of Mexico, concludes the Festival.

Sombrero Festival is a two-nation fiesta and an annual four-day pre-Lenten celebration held in Matamoros, Tamaulipas, Mexico, in cooperation with Brownsville, Texas, United States. This festival is a shared heritage celebration between the two border cities of Matamoros, Tamaulipas and Brownsville, Texas. The Sombrero Festival includes a jalapeño-eating contest, 1-mile and 3-mile running competitions, music and dancers, arts and crafts selling and activities, numerous food stands and cooking contests. Several rock stars, corrido singers, and Tejano music entertainers perform in this annual event.

MONGOLIA

Naadam is a traditional type of festival in Mongolia. The festival is also locally termed "eriin gurban naadam" - "the three games of men". The games are Mongolian wrestling, horse racing and archery and are held throughout the country during the midsummer holidays. Naadam begins with an elaborate introduction ceremony featuring dancers, athletes, horse riders, and musicians. After the ceremony, the competitions begin. Women have started participating in the archery and girls in the

horse-racing games, but not in Mongolian wrestling. Naadam is the most widely watched festival among Mongols, and is believed to have existed for centuries in one fashion or another. Naadam has its origin in the activities, such as military parades and sporting competitions such as archery, horse riding and wrestling, that followed the celebration of various occasions. Now it formally commemorates the 1921 revolution when Mongolia declared itself a free country. Another popular Naadam activity is the playing of games using shagai, sheep anklebones that serve as game pieces and tokens of both divination and friendship. In the larger Nadaam festivals, tournaments may take place in a separate venue.

Mongolian Lunar New Year, commonly known as Tsagaan Sar is the first day of the year according to the Mongolian lunar calendar. Tsagaan Sar is one of the most important Mongol holidays. Around the New Year families burn candles at the altar symbolising enlightenment. Mongols also visit friends and family on this day and exchange gifts. Many people will be dressed in full garment of national Mongol costumes. During the greeting ceremony, family members hold long pieces of colored cloth called khadag. After the ceremony, the extended family eats rice with curds, dairy products and buuz and drinks airag, and exchanges gifts. The day before Tsagaan Sar is called Bituun, the name of the lunar phase of dark moon. On the Bituun day, people thoroughly clean around home, herders also clean the livestock barns and shades, to meet the New Year fresh. In the evening, families gather together--immediate family usually. Traditionally, Mongolians settle all issues and repay all debts from the old year by this day. Traditional food for the festival includes dairy products, rice with curds or rice with raisin, a pyramid of traditional cookies erected on a large dish in a special fashion symbolising Mount Sumeru or Shambhala realm, a grilled side of sheep and minced beef or minced mutton steamed inside pastry, a dish known as buuz, horse meat and traditional cookies. Tsagaan Sar is a lavish feast, requiring preparation days in advance, as the women make large quantities of buuz and freeze them to save for the holiday.

Travel south to the Gobi Desert to attend the renowned "Thousand Camel Festival" organized by a local non-governmental organization working to protect and

perverse the Bactrain camel population, which has been steadily declining over the past twelve years. This extraordinary festival allows travelers a rare opportunity to interact with and learn first-hand about these amazing animals and the camel herders' nomadic lifestyle. Highlights of the festival include camel races, performances by traditional Mongolian musicians and dancers, and visits to significant paleontological and cultural sites of the Gobi. Attend the camel races at the Thousand Camel Festival, a unique opportunity to witness the speed and agility of Bactrian camels.

The Eagle festival, or Golden Eagle festival, is an annual traditional festival held in Bayan-Ölgii aimag, Mongolia. In the eagle festival, Kazakh hunters (Burkitshi) celebrate their heritage and compete to catch small animals such as foxes and hares with specially trained golden eagles, showing off the skills both of the birds and their trainers. Prizes are awarded for speed, agility and accuracy, as well as for the best traditional Kazakh dress, and more.

MOROCCO

The International Film Festival of Marrakech is an international film festival held annually in Marrakech, Morocco. Since its inaugural year in 2000, the FIFM has been one of the biggest events devoted to Moroccan cinema. It is also the site of the principal photography of many international productions. The festival's jury gathers international writers, actors and personalities, and endeavors to reward the best Moroccan and foreign feature and short films. During its closing ceremony, the FIFM

issues the following awards to the best movies, filmmakers and actors in the competition: Golden Star/Grand prix, Ex-Aequo Jury Prize, Feminine Interpretation Prize, Masculine Interpretation Prize, Masculine Interpretation Prize.

Boulevard des Jeunes Musiciens is a yearly held music festival contest organized in Casablanca, Morocco. The Boulevard was initially thought to be a competition aiming to reward the best formation in its own category. The festival lasts four days and its main categories include Electro, Hip Hop, Rock and Fusion. The afternoon typically features competitions between various young and new bands whilst in the evening well known groups are invited to perform.

Islamic New Year is the day that marks the beginning of a new Islamic calendar year, and is the day on which the year count is incremented. The first day of the year is observed on the first day of Muharram, the first month in the Islamic calendar. The event also commemorates the death of the Prophet Muhammad's grandson Imam Hussein who, along with his family and followers, was martyred by Umayyad Caliph Yazid I in the Battle of Karbala in 680 on the tenth day of Muharram. This is celebrated by Shi'a Muslims with public enactments of grief. Since the Islamic year is eleven to twelve days shorter than the Gregorian year, the Islamic new year does not come on the same day of the Gregorian calendar every year.

This multiday race is held every year in southern Morocco, in the Sahara desert. It is considered the toughest foot race on Earth. The Marathon des Sables is a six-day, 251 km ultramarathon, which is the equivalent of six regular marathons. The longest single stage is 91 km long. In addition to that, competitors have to carry everything they will need for the duration (apart from a tent) on their backs in a rucksack (food, clothes, medical kit, sleeping bag etc). Water is rationed and handed out at each checkpoint. The heat, distance and rubbing will trash your feet and may cause severe trauma if incorrect shoes and equipment are used. Most competitors run for charity.

In the Dades Valley in Morocco a small oasis town Kelaa-des-Mgouna is home to Morocco's largest rose water distillery plant. The entire town is fragrant and the spectacular harvest celebrated with song and dance. The Rose Festival takes place annually in the month of May, wherein rose farmers from far and wide assemble to

celebrate the year's crops. During the Rose Festival, a vibrant and colorful souk (market) comes up in the festivities zone, which is El Kelaa's main thoroughfare. The Rose Festival is one of the most popular of the Morocco festivals & events and is an occasion for you to also soak in the breathtaking natural beauty of the region. The process of making rose water is quite impressive. In order to make one single litre of rose water, it is needed about 3,000 kilo rose petals. In all of Kelaa-des-Mgouna there are 4,200 km of rose hedges, and all of this has the capacity of only 1,400 litre of rose water.

NEPAL

Dashain is a 15-day national and religious festival in Nepal. It is one of the longest festivals in the Nepalese annual calendar, celebrated by Nepalese hindu of all casts throughout the globe. Dashain is the biggest festival for the Hindus. This festival is known for its emphasis on the family gatherings, as well as on a renewal of community ties. People return from all parts of the world, as well as different parts of the country, to celebrate together. All government offices, educational institutions and other offices

remain closed during the festival period. Dashain commemorates the victories of the god and goddesses over the demons. The first nine days of Dashain symbolizes the battle which took place between the different manifestations of goddess Durga and the demon Mahishasura. The tenth day is the day when Durga finally defeated Mahishasura. Goddess Durga is worshipped throughout the country as divine mother goddess. Flying kites are a very important part of celebrating Dashain in the country. Colorful kites fill the days during the festival. Buying and wearing new clothes is also an important part of the festival. Almost all the shops in the country have festival offers and discounts. Different kinds of fairs and celebration events are also organized during the festival.

Gaijatra, the festival of cows is celebrated in Nepal, mainly in Kathmandu valley by the Newar community. The festival commemorates the death of people during the year. During the festival, cows are marched in the streets and generally celebrated in the Nepalese month of Bhadra. The festival of cows is one of the most popular festivals of Nepal. The whole complex of Gaijatra festival has its roots in the ancient ages when people feared and worshiped Yamaraj, the god of death. According to the traditions since time immemorial, every family who has lost one relative during the past year must participate in a procession through the streets of Kathmandu leading a cow. In Hinduism, a cow is regarded as the most venerated among all the domestic animals. In the afternoon, nearly everyone takes part in another age-old tradition in which the participants dress up and wear masks.

Himalayan Blues Festival is an annual international music festival showcasing live performances followed by cultural events. The Himalayan Blues Festival has featured a diverse range of blues artist from around the globe and has helped introduce blues music in Nepal. The festival promotes various other genres including folk music. In 2010 the Blues Festival expanded to Mumbai, Bangalore and Delhi.

Tihar is a five-day hindu festival celebrated in nepal which comes soon after Dashain. The festival is celebrated from Trayodashi of Kartik Krishna to Katrik Shukla Dwitiya every year and is of great importance. The name Tihar means the festival of lights. Celebrations include decorating homes with lights and candles, singing and

dancing. The first day of the festival is called Kag Puja or Kag Parva - Worship of Crows. The second day is called "Kukur Puja" or "Khicha Puja" ("worship of the dogs"). On the morning of the third day is Gai Puja - the cow is sign of prosperity and wealth. The third and fourth day of Tihar is especially famous for Deusi and Bhailo, light and fireworks. The fifth and last day of Tihar is Bhai Tika, a day where sisters put "tika" on foreheads of brothers, to ensure long life.

Maha Shivratri is a Hindu festival celebrated every year in reverence of Lord Shiva. It is celebrated every year on the 13th night/14th day of the Maagha or Phalguna month of the Hindu calendar. The festival is principally celebrated by offerings of Bael or Bilva/Vilvam leaves to Lord Shiva, all-day fasting and an all-night-long vigil. In accordance with scriptural and discipleship traditions, penances are performed in order to gain boons in the practice of Yoga and meditation, in order to reach life's summum bonum steadily and swiftly. A week-long International Mandi Shivratri Fair held at Mandi in the Indian state of Himachal Pradesh every year is one of the major tourist attractions in the state. From the very early morning, Shiva temples are flocked by devotees, young and old, who come to perform the traditional Shivalinga worship (puja) and hence hope for favours from the god. Devotees bathe at sunrise, preferably in the Ganga.

The Nepal Music Festival invites the international community to join the Nepalese people in a celebration of hope transformation and peace - highlighting both international as well as Nepalese musicians, bands and performing art. The events involve top international guest speakers in the field of peace building and development. The Nepal Music Festival highlights contemporary and traditional Nepali Culture by bringing together a great variety of Nepalese musicians, artists and speakers to perform and share the festival stage with top international stars.

Chhechu is a ceremony of the Tamang communities in Nepal that takes place over the course of ten days. It contains sportive plays (tsema), exorcisms, and rituals. Chhechu takes place northwest of Kathmandu Valley of Nepal. There are eleven tsema performed, and three exorcisms. The whole community participates in a variety of ways. Throughout the ritual there are different exorcisms performed, intended to

remove threats to the community. There are large scale performances in Mhanegang which villagers exorcise at regular intervals. Men with swords and women with weaving instruments dance around a large effigy constructed from bamboo. At dusk, the effigy is burned in a huge flash fire. On the last day of Chhechu, the Buddhist lamas distribute dough powder balls (Wang ro ro) to the principal headman, then his allies, their wives, then the villagers.

THE NETHERLANDS

The Holland Festival is The Netherlands' oldest and largest performing arts festival, and takes place every June in Amsterdam. The Holland Festival has been the trend-setting performing arts festival in the Netherlands since 1947, annually presenting exceptional work at the international level. The Festival has had an illustrious history, with every artistic director taking it in new directions that have again and again made the Festival a bespoke event for over sixty years. It comprises of

theatre, music, opera and modern dance. In recent years, multimedia, visual arts, film and architecture were added to the festival roster. The festival was founded in 1947 and features some of the world's top artists and performers. Performances take place in Amsterdam venues such as the city theatre, the opera, the Concertgebouw and Muziekgebouw concert halls and the Westergas factory site. Each edition is loosely themed, and the program features both contemporary work and classical pieces presented with a modern edge.

The Netherlands Film Festival is an annual film festival, held in September and October of each year in the city of Utrecht. Initially the festival was oriented towards film makers only, but it gradually reached a broader audience. The 25th edition of the festival, in 2005, attracted more than 100.000 visitors. During the ten-day festival, all Dutch film productions of the previous year are exhibited. Besides feature films, the program also consists of short subjects, documentary films, and television productions. On the closing evening of the festival, the Golden Calves are awarded to the best films, directors, and actors. The popular festival is well known as the main screening venture and platform for the Dutch film industry. It always features a fantastic wide variety of film premieres that are made from both newcomers and seasoned film directors.

The North Sea Jazz Festival is an annual jazz festival held each second weekend of July in the Netherlands at the Ahoy venue. The first edition of the North Sea Jazz Festival took place in 1976 in the Nederland's Congresgebouw in The Hague. In this very first festival year internationally renowned jazz legends performed, such as Sarah Vaughan, Count Basie, Dizzy Gillespie and Stan Getz. In 1990 two sub-festivals were introduced: "North Sea Jazz Heats", a free festival performed in pubs throughout The Hague, and the exclusive "Midsummer Jazz Gala". Both take place on the evening before the actual festival. The North Sea Jazz Festival has grown to fifteen stages, 180 acts featuring 1500 musicians and about 25,000 visitors a day. The festival is known worldwide for the many music styles it presents, from traditional New Orleans jazz to Swing, bebop, fusion, blues, gospel music, funk music, soul music and drum n bass. The festival is widely acknowledged as the biggest jazz festival in the world, and has a strong reputation for showcasing many different areas of jazz from all eras.

Incubate is a multidisciplinary arts festival in Tilburg, the Netherlands. Incubate takes place all over the inner city of Tilburg. Incubate has grown over the years from a one day music event with a pre-party to a multidisciplinary art festival lasting more than a whole week. Incubate is the annual celebration of independent culture in Tilburg, the Netherlands. It is a festival exhibiting a diverse view on indie culture as a whole, including music, contemporary dance, film and visual arts. It brings more than 200 cutting edge artists in an intimate context to an international audience. Black metal next to free jazz. Street art next to academic dance.

Le Guess Who? is an independent music festival for independent music culture such as noise rock, indie rock, IDM, held in Utrecht, Netherlands. The festival takes place in the last week of November in various locations in the city of Utrecht. The line-up consists of more than sixty acts that rarely perform in the Netherlands. Because of the touring schedules of the bands, the line-up has a big overlap with other European festivals taking place in the same period. From Thursday November 29th till Sunday December 2nd, the sixth edition of international music festival Le Guess Who? will be taking place. Le Guess Who visitors will receive discounts at several shops and bars/restaurant when showing their festival wristband.

The International Documentary Film Festival Amsterdam is the world's largest documentary film festival held annually since 1988 in Amsterdam. Since its launch the festival has been one of the world's leading documentary film festivals, dedicated to the exhibition and promotion of ground-breaking creative documentaries. It has consistently served up the latest works of the world's leading documentarians to a discerning and discriminating audience, and has dedicated itself to the task of devising innovative funding structures to ensure continuing production of top-level documentary films. It started as a small festival and has grown to an eleven-day festival, screening more than 200 documentaries and attracting nearly 120,000 visitors. Apart from its international film program, the variety of genres and the many European and world premieres featured each year, the festival also hosts debates, forums and workshops.

Pinkpop Festival is a festival held at Landgraaf, Netherlands. It is held annually on the Pentecost weekend (Pinksteren in Dutch, hence the name). In 1970, the first festival took place in Geleen, now part of municipality Sittard-Geleen and was held on the Monday following that weekend. Today, Pinkpop is a 3 day festival, from Saturday to Monday, and visited by approximately 60,000 people a day with performances on 3 separate stages. The festival currently has a capacity for 60,000 spectators. In 35 years, 1.5 million people have attended Pinkpop. More than 500 musical acts have played at the festival.

NORTHERN IRELAND

The Ulster Bank Belfast Festival at Queen's is an annual arts festival held in Belfast, Northern Ireland. The 50th Festival will take place from 19 to 3 November 2012. The 50th edition promises to be an explosion of music, drama, theatre, talks, film, dance and comedy. One of the Festival's enduring key roles is as an advocate of local work, giving Belfast's arts practitioners a unique opportunity to present their work on an international platform. Eminent figures Seamus Heaney, Paul Muldoon, James Galway, Van Morrison, Stewart Parker and Marie Jones were welcomed early in their

careers and recent productions by local theatre companies such as Tinderbox, Ransom, Prime Cut and Kabosh have thrived during the Festival. More recently, the Festival has welcomed Robert Wilson, Alfred Brendel, Merce Cunningham, Philip Glass, Nick Cave, Ennio Morricone and Yoko Ono as its guests. The festival is held at several venues across the city, including the Mandela Hall, the Naughton Gallery, the Queen's Film Theatre, the Brian Friel Theatre and the Whitla Hall at Queen's, as well as the Grand Opera House, the Waterfront Hall and the Cultúrlann centre.

The Maiden City Festival takes place in Derry, Northern Ireland in the second week in August each year. The festival has a diverse and varied program with a desire to provide something for everyone. Events in the past have included children's visual art workshops, music of all kinds at the Verbal Arts Centre, firwork displays, dance competitions and historical walks and talks. The Festival commemorates the actions of Protestant Apprentice Boys who shut the city gates against the forces of the Catholic King James in December 1688. Festival co-ordinator Billy Moore described the Festival (in 2008) as "the way in which the Protestant community of Derry, a minority community, is able to make a contribution to the life of the city and to the diversity of expression of culture. From the outset we have themed the Maiden City Festival as a showcase for the Protestant culture of tolerance and openness, and a means of showcasing the heritage that is entrusted to the Apprentice Boys of Derry".

The Belfast Film Festival's activities are entertaining and provocative, and in many instances provide an important platform for debate across the religious, social and cultural divides in Northern Ireland. The presentation of innovative ways to screen film is one of the festival's specialities; films can be viewed on a boat in the River Lagan, with live piano accompaniment in St Anne's Cathedral, collaborating with local talent such as Duke Special and David Holmes on audio visual performances and profiling unique architectural sites such as a screening of an episode of the TV series *The Prisoner* in Church of Christ Scientist, Church in Belfast. The Festival promotes film education and practical filmmaking skills and has attracted film industry guests.

Orangefest is a yearly Protestant celebration held on 12 July. It originated in Ireland during the 18th century. Members of the Orange Order and Protestant marching

bands hold large parades throughout Northern Ireland. Streets are also decorated with British flags and bunting. The Twelfth is a public holiday in Northern Ireland. While it is a Protestant celebration, not all Northern Irish Protestants celebrate it, whether due to political or cultural reasons or indifference. Attempts have recently been made to downplay the political aspects of the marches and present the Twelfth as a cultural, family-friendly event at which tourists are welcome. The main way in which the Twelfth is celebrated is through large parades involving Orangemen and supporting bands. The parade usually begins at an Orange Hall, proceeds through the town and out to a large field where the marchers, their friends and family, and the general public gather to eat, drink and listen to speeches by clergymen, politicians and senior members.

PlanetLove is an annual Northern Irish electronic music festival which has been held since 1998. Currently it is held at Shane's Castle near Randalstown in County Antrim. PlanetLove has been famed for its great line up every year. Notably, the festival has been headlined or co-headlined by Paul van Dyk, Tiesto, Ferry Corsten, Rank 1, Pendulum and many more with nine stages. Planetlove also has a chill out area, a traders village, bungee amusements, funfair, licensed bars and more. It tends to sell its tickets very fast so we urge you to buy them as fast as you can to make sure you have a place at this brilliant festival.

Tennent's Vital is an annual music festival in Northern Ireland. Notable headliners throughout the years have included Kasabian, The Killers, Snow Patrol, Kaiser Chiefs, Kings of Leon, Franz Ferdinand, The White Stripes, Ash, The Streets, Primal Scream and Eminem. In 2012 Over 60,000 people attended the two day music festival in Belfast which was headlined by The Foo Fighters, The Stone Roses and Florence and the Machine. Tennent's Vital is an over 16's event. However, a parent aged 25 and over can take up to two under 16's to the show.

The City Of Derry Jazz And Big Band Festival is a jazz festival held annually in Derry, Northern Ireland. The organisers of the City of Derry Jazz and Big Band Festival are proud of the fact that it attracts regular performers and artists to the event each year but a vital part of the festival's success is its ability to attract new acts and attract new

audiences. The festival started in 2002 and is funded by Derry City Council, Guinness and the Department for Culture, Arts and Leisure and is supported by BBC Radio Foyle and BBC Radio Ulster. The Festival is one of leading annual music events in Ireland.

NORWAY

The Norwegian Wood Festival is one of Norway's most popular rock festivals. The festival's name refers to the famous Beatles song "Norwegian Wood". The annual 4-day event is held in mid-June in the open-air bath Frognerbadet in Oslo. Its programme includes Norwegian bands as well as international artists. Notable acts in the past have included Bob Dylan, Johnny Cash, David Bowie and Sting. The festival's unique location in the open-air public bath creates a refreshing atmosphere for its broad audience in the hot summer. There is no age limit to get in. On Thursday and Friday the concerts start in the afternoon, while Saturday and Sunday are filled with concerts the whole day almost until late in the evening. Friday has been established as the "dark" day, with hard rock and metal on the programme.

Oslo Jazz Festival is a six-day festival held in August every year. The program represents the whole spectrum of jazz and related music, from gospel and blues to latin jazz and electronica. In the past it has held up to 70 concerts with 450 musicians on 18 stages. International stars such as Phil Woods, Dee Dee Bridgewater, Bobby McFerrin, Brad Meldau, Django Bates and Illinois Jaquet Big Band have all featured at the Oslo Jazz Festival.

The Tromsø International Film Festival is Norway's largest film festival, established in 1991. It screens a selection of films from around the world and it is both a popular public festival as well as an important meeting point for the international film industry. More than 300 screenings take place during the festival, some of them on big outdoor screens set up on Tromsø's main square. Documentaries and short films from the region are shown together with feature-length movies by big international names, as well as up-and-coming talent. Talks, quiz, silent film concerts and other events also take place during the week-long festival.

Each year, in the middle of January, Tromsø comes to life after the long polar night. Tromsø, located in the far north of the country, is one of the best places in the world to witness this natural phenomenon that is widely referred to as the Northern Lights. The festival provides the perfect opportunity to combine unrivalled views of the sky with the best of Norwegian culture in the form of traditional music. The programme offers music in concert halls, churches and pubs, as well as dance, theatre and music ensembles of different sizes and types. The festival started out as a purely a classical music festival in 1988, but has since evolved to incorporate genres from opera and jazz to chamber music and symphonic orchestras. In addition to the many concerts staged during the festival week, there are also many other events such as Northern Lights cruises, master classes for musicians as well as outdoor events and lectures.

The Telemark Festival in Bø presents traditional folk music from all over the world. The festival preserves the essential elements of the folk music experience. The programme showcases a cross section of the current folk music scene, whether that be revivals, hybrid genres or new styles. With more than 50 concerts and work-shops for

all ages. The workshops will give you a chance to learn traditional Norwegian dances and play traditional instruments.

The Arts Festival of North Norway has been held in Harstad since 1965. It is the most important art event in Northern Norway. During a hectic week the town of Harstad, located 300 km north of the Arctic circle, is turned into a cultural melting pot for artists. The musical event began with a particular focus on the meeting between amateurs and professionals, it is today a top shelf international event that presents and produces a vast spectrum of musical genres, performance arts, visual arts, literature and cinematic arts. The Festival of North Norway also produces several self-produced concerts annually.

The Lillehammer Jazz Festival is considered one of autumn's most beautiful adventures. DølaJazz, Lillehammer's annual jazz festival, has become one of the most important events on the cultural calendar of this peaceful town. Expect funky tunes and pioneering performances as a lively precursor to winter in this Nordic region. Lillehammer Jazz Festival started its life in 1978 and has over the years grown to become one of the most prominent jazz festivals in Norway. The festival profiles Norwegian and Nordic jazz, but has always included renown foreign performers as well. Lillehammer Jazz Festival is not only a festival of musical expression, but to a large extent a project that connects people across age, professional background and gender.

The Ibsen Festival is a celebration of Scandinavian theatre, visual art, music and dance. The event centers around the opening weekend of Commonweal's annual Ibsen production. The festival's name is a tribute to Henrik Ibsen, Norway's greatest playwright and his ground-breaking work challenging the theatrical conventions of his time. Ibsen Fest offers numerous events and presentations throughout the weekend to satisfy a variety of interests. Throughout the weekend, guests may attend lectures, film presentations, musical concerts and artistic displays. While most events and classes require pre-registration, many are free. Young people from all over Norway participate in Ibsenstafetten.

The Norwegian Festival of Literature is the biggest literary festival in the Nordic countries taking place in May at Lillehammer every year since 1995. The festival was named after the Norwegian author and Nobel laureate Sigrid Undset who lived in Lillehammer between 1919 and her death in 1949. The event encompasses all the Nordic countries in its scope and has developed into a popular festival where both writers and people from the book publishing industry, both domestic and foreign, are represented. In the past few years it has had an increasingly international profile with a particular focus on literature from the Nordic countries. In addition the festival contains everything from large scale events to intimate small events: meetings with authors and authorships, readings, interviews, debates, lectures, concerts, art exhibitions, seminars, theatre, film and quiz. It is so popular that it is Norway's largest meeting point for authors, translators, literary critics, publishers and librarians.

PAKISTAN

Eid Al-Fitr is a Muslim holiday that marks the end of Ramadan, the Islamic holy month of fasting. The religious Eid is a single day and Muslims are not permitted to fast that day. Eid is an Arabic word meaning "festivity", while Fiṭr means "breaking the fast". The holiday celebrates the conclusion of the 29 or 30 days of dawn-to-sunset fasting during the entire month of Ramadan. This is a day where Muslims around the world try to show a common goal of unity. On Eid Al-Fitr in Pakistan, Muslims read Eid Salaat then go to places to enjoy Eid. There are games, rides and different kinds of food in towns and villages. In the city, there is a lot of rush and traffic. In the morning, after Eid Salaat, Pakistanis' make dishes like Halva served with Puri bread or Naan.

Later in the day, some people give away free food to their neighbors. Sometimes, when the mosque doesn't have enough space, people read outside.

Pakistan Day or Republic Day is a national holiday in Pakistan to commemorate the Lahore Resolution of 1940 and the adoption of the first constitution of Pakistan during the transition of the Dominion of Pakistan to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan on 23 March 1956 making Pakistan the world's first Islamic republic. Republic Day parade by the armed forces is a common celebration for the event. The celebrations regarding the holiday include a full military and civilian parade in the capital, Islamabad. These are presided by the President of Pakistan and are held early in the morning. After the parade, the President confers national awards and medals on the awardees at the Presidency. Wreaths are also laid at the mausoleums of Muhammad Iqbal and Muhammad Ali Jinnah.

Islamic New Year is the day that marks the beginning of a new Islamic calendar year, and is the day on which the year count is incremented. The first day of the year is observed on the first day of Muharram, the first month in the Islamic calendar. The event also commemorates the death of the Prophet Muhammad's grandson Imam Hussein who, along with his family and followers, was martyred by Umayyad Caliph Yazid I in the Battle of Karbala in 680 on the tenth day of Muharram. This is celebrated by Shi'a Muslims with public enactments of grief. Since the Islamic year is eleven to twelve days shorter than the Gregorian year, the Islamic new year does not come on the same day of the Gregorian calendar every year.

Defence Day is celebrated in Pakistan as a national day on 6 September in memory of those who martyred in the Indo-Pakistani war of 1965 and successful defence of Lahore, Sialkot and other important areas of the country. Army of Pakistan displays the latest missiles, tanks, guns, army aviation helicopters and armament being used by Engineers, Electrical and Mechanical Corps, Army Air Defence, Signals, Army Service Corps and Army Medical Corps live on various places. Everyone is allowed to watch such functions live by going to the specific places. The change of guard ceremony takes place at Mazar-e-Quaid, Karachi, where the cadets of Pakistan Air Force Academy present Guard of Honour and take the charge.

Basant Festival. The festival is limited in its celebrations in Pakistan. Instead, the celebrations of spring known as 'Jashn-e-baharaan' in Urdu, are carried on in the entire country for almost a month. Basant, in particular, is celebrated in eastern Punjab especially Lahore. Lahore being the historic capital of Punjab celebrates Basant with a lot of vigour and enthusiasm. Although traditionally it was a festival confined to the old-walled city it has spread throughout the city. Other cities in which Basant is mainly celebrated are Gujranwala, Faisalabad, Multan, Karachi, Jhelum, Kasur, Sialkot and Rawalpindi/Islamabad. Although Basant is celebrated throughout Pakistani Punjab, it is Lahore which made it popular not only in Pakistan but all over the world as the largest kite festival. Over the years, the Basant festival has drawn thousands of revellers to Lahore from all over the world. In spite of the fact Basant Festival which has no links with the Muslim culture is becoming very popular and being celebrated in Lahore regularly every year with zeal and fervent.

PORTUGAL

Festa de São João do Porto is one of Europe's liveliest street festivals. Every year, on the night of 23 June, the city of Porto, in the north of Portugal, becomes lively and seemingly crazy. Thousands of people come to the city centre and to the most traditional neighbourhoods to pay a tribute to Saint John the Baptist, in a party that mixes sacred and profane traditions. The festivities have been held in the city for more than six centuries. The traditional attractions of the night include street concerts, popular dancing parties, jumping over flames, eating barbecued sardines and meat, drinking wine and releasing illuminated flame-propelled balloons over Porto's summer sky. The show is increasingly sophisticated with the fireworks being associated with themes and multimedia shows.

The first Cascais Jazz Festival took place on November 20, 1971, in the Dramático de Cascais pavilion in Portugal. Today it is a high mix of sounds and trends. Cascais Cool Jazz Festival offers a unique experience for your summer nights: concerts of great players in the open in Cascais, the unique atmosphere of places where nature and architecture complement each other. The festival returns in July 2012 with an interesting proposal for the Portuguese music calendar: great international talents, on a journey through jazz languages and atmospheres. The program includes unforgettable concerts. The 9th edition recaptures the format that characterizes it: outdoor concerts where the most outstanding voices and melodies of today's music scene present themselves in a unique experience.

The Black & White Festival intends to celebrate the black and white aesthetics as a specific, peculiar and unique kind of artistic expression. It celebrates the black & white aesthetics in film, photography and sound. It's located at Universidade Católica Portuguesa - Centro Regional da Foz – through the Escola das Artes in Oporto, Portugal. The 9th Black & White Audiovisual Festival, which receives video, audio and photographs in black and white, will take into competition works from all over the world. Over four days, several activities related to the audiovisual world will be carried out in addition to the competitions: artist talks, screenings and extensions from other international festivals. The nights will also be exciting with a broad cultural program. The festival shows more than videos and photos in two colours, it also encourages the creation of sound environments referring to the black and white.

The Boom Festival The festival features music, paint, sculpture, video art, installations cinema and theatre. It is located in Idanha-a-Nova, Portugal. It is situated in a beautiful place in Portugal's inland, near the Spanish border. The 2008 edition witnessed an influx of 35,000 visitors from 85 countries. Initially it started as a psytrance festival but has now incorporates a stage for world music, acoustic sets and live bands. As well as expanding musically the festival gives space to art galleries, natural sculptures, street theatre and fire dancing. The Liminal Village which is part of the festival houses lectures, yoga, films, meditation and discussions. Boom Festival

does not rely on any commercial sponsor and focuses on the cultural aspects of art and music.

Avante! Festival is held named after the official newspaper of the Portuguese Communist Party. The festival is usually visited and participated in by hundreds of thousands of people, making the outside of the ground seem a gigantic camping park. The party itself consists of a three day festival of music, with the participation of hundreds of Portuguese and international bands and artists in five different stages, ethnography, gastronomy, debates, a book & music fair, theatre, cinema and sporting events.

Situated in the west corner of Europe, the World Heritage City of Porto hosts a one of a kind film festival. Fantasporto, as it is known, started as a haven for sci-fi and fantasy films. Since the very beginning, Fantasporto had as goal the creation of a dynamic forum of all arts, with a strong tendency to show the best of fantasy films and the diversity of the film world. After a huge success in the first two years, the festival has broaden its horizons with thrillers and seven years later with a New Directors competition. In its 27th edition in February the festival reached 104,000 people and 5,000 media references. The Grande Prémio Fantasporto is the highest prize awarded at the Fantasporto Film Festival and is presented to the director of the best feature film of the official competition.

SINGAPORE

The National Day of Singapore is celebrated every year on 9 August, in commemoration of Singapore's independence from Malaysia in 1965. This holiday features a National Day Parade, an address by the Prime Minister of Singapore, and fireworks celebrations. On the 2nd/3rd Sunday after the National Day, the Prime Minister of Singapore makes an annual address to the nation, called the National Day Rally. A yearly event since 1966, the Prime Minister uses this rally to address the nation on its key challenges and its future directions. Firework celebrations feature several local and foreign teams which launch fireworks displays on different nights. The Singapore National Day Parade is a national ceremony that is usually held at the

National Stadium or the Padang. Since 2000, every year's parade would revolve around a theme which would guide the planning of the parade and show. Participants of the parade include members of the Singapore Armed Forces, Singapore Police Force, Singapore Civil Defence Force, representatives of the People's Action Party, different labour unions (including members of the National Trades Union Congress) and Ministries as well as students in uniformed groups and representatives of various Singapore business entities. The flypast of various military aircraft on the parade shows the country's military air offensive and defensive capabilities.

The Singapore International Film Festival is the largest, longest-running film festival in Singapore, and one of the most important in the region. It is held around April/May each year, and screens about 300 films from over 45 countries. Besides screening award-winning and critically acclaimed films, the festival also features workshops, seminars and exhibitions on film-making for film students and the film industry. Originally launched to give local audiences a chance to see independent and non-commercial films, the festival is now recognised worldwide by film critics for its focus on Asian filmmakers and promotion of neglected Southeast Asian films. Many international critics attend this festival to see Asia's new and bright talents. To encourage the Asian film-makers, the SIFF introduced the Silver Screen Awards Competition in 1991. The Awards have become regionally recognized and Asian film-makers vie to have their films entered to gain exposure in world markets. Some internationally-recognised winners of the awards include: Chen Kaige, Park Kwang-Su, Tsai Ming-liang, Edward Yang.

Mosaic Music Festival is an annual 10-day long music festival in Singapore that features both local and overseas acts. It showcases a variety of music genres, ranging from indie-folk to hip-hop. It aims to provide a platform for interaction between Singapore and International artistes. The performances are held at various venues at the Esplanade - Theatres on the Bay. The team behind Mosaic expanded its jazz and world-music repertoire to include folk and rock acts. The aim is to cater to all age groups with a range of music, from experimental to jazz to classical. And it is not just about showcasing the music; the Esplanade also hopes to provide opportunities for

audiences to get to know the artists and their personalities. The Heineken Music Club is a popular venue at Esplanade's annual Mosaic Music Festival. Known for its intimate, personal setting (capacity of approximately 220) the Heineken Music Club has enjoyed near sold-out performances since 2007. The venue provides a unique setting for audiences to get closer to world-class cutting edge music from around the globe.

ZoukOut is an annual dance music festival held in Singapore since 2000. It is one of Asia's biggest music dance festivals. It is usually held at one of the beaches on Sentosa island. ZoukOut has hosted over 150 international and local acts, almost a quarter of a million partygoers and over 350 hours of non-stop music and entertainment over the span of 10 years. Musical genres at ZoukOut include House, Techno, Trance, Electro, Alternative/Indie-Electronic, Hip-Hop and of course the inimitable Mambo Jambo, the iconic clubbing night, playing the classic anthems from the 80's to rocking present-day tunes. DJs that have performed at ZoukOut include Paul Van Dyk, 2ManyDJS, Masters at Work, Gilles Peterson, Richie Hawtin, Sven Väth, Peter Kruder, James Lavelle, Armin Van Buuren and Stereo MCs. Come Dec 11, Siloso Beach will again turn into a magical arena of top quality electronic music featuring spectacular lights and pyrotechnics.

The Singapore Arts Festival is an annual arts festival held in Singapore. Organised by the National Arts Council, it is one of the most significant events in the regional arts scene. The Singapore Arts Festival started in 1977 as a national arts festival to celebrate local arts from the diverse communities in Singapore. The festival, usually held in mid-year for a stretch of one month, incorporates theatre arts, dance, music and visual arts, among other possibilities. Today, the Singapore Arts Festival has become an international showcase with a distinctive Asian flavour, known for its bold and innovative collaborations at the cutting-edge of contemporary arts. The Singapore Arts Festival continues to push the artistic envelope with some of the most innovative and experimental performances in an array of artistic mediums.

SOUTH AFRICA

Held in Cape Town, Infecting the City is a public arts festival that is committed to making art freely available to everyone. The Festival hosts a range of different types of site-specific art, artistic interventions and performance art in the central part of the City. Each year the Festival takes on a social issue or theme which the participating artists respond to. In 2011, the Festival worked with Cape Town's artistic and cultural community to present public art under the theme of Treasure. This theme was intended to celebrate the artistic traditions and contemporary practices of the diverse communities within South Africa. In 2011 the City Treasurers section was made up of well known visual and performance artists who used artistic interventions, performance

pieces or public art to draw attention to historic or contemporary treasures in the city. Slices of Life was the title for the Festival's focus on eco waste. Eight environmental artists from Cape Town and Johannesburg transformed recyclable garbage into artwork, with the purpose of drawing attention to valuable materials that most of us consider to be 'rubbish' and subsequently dispose of. The Music Gems featured nine musical groups on a stage on the forecourt of Cape Town Station. Each group came from a different community and represented a different culture that lives in Cape Town.

Established in 1990, Splashy Fen is South Africa's longest-running music festival, which every Easter attracts thousands of people to a farm near Underberg, KwaZulu-Natal for a unique outdoor music experience. Also present are arts and crafts stalls, food and drink outlets, crèche and children's entertainment programme, as well as various camping and accommodation options.

The Durban International Film Festival is an annual film festival that takes place in Durban, KwaZulu-Natal province, South Africa. It runs across 12 days at the end of July. It is one of the oldest and largest film festival in Southern African and presents over 290 screenings celebrating the best in South African, African and international cinema. Most of the screenings are either African or South African premieres. The festival also offers filmmaker workshops, industry seminars, discussion forums, and outreach activities that include screenings in township areas where cinemas are non-existent. This includes the participation of 50 filmmakers from Africa in Talent Campus Durban, a cooperation with the Berlin Film Festival, and the Durban FilmMart, a film financing initiative in partnership with Durban Film Office. The festival is organised by the Centre for Creative Arts. The festival offers many competition sections and some of the prizes have cash attached. Since 2006, Amnesty International via the Durban Amnesty group, has also sponsored a cash prize called the Amnesty International Durban Human Rights Award.

Oppikoppi is the name of a music festival held in the Limpopo Province of South Africa, near the mining town of Northam. The festival started off focusing mostly on rock music, but gradually added more genres and now plays host to a complete mixed bag of genres. Anything from jazz, world music, house music, acoustic, comedy and

all else in between can be heard on one of the multiple stages. Each year in August thousands of people flock to the farm to camp out in the bush and enjoy the music. The festival features mostly South African bands, although international acts are included in the lineup. The festival hosts a wide array of acts, with artists being booked from genres such as: rock, hip hop, hardcore, punk, ska, folk, blues, drum 'n bass, big beats, funk, kwaito, jazz, traditional, world music and other genres.

Poetry Africa is an international poetry festival held annually in Durban, South Africa. More than twenty poets, predominantly from South Africa and elsewhere on the African continent, participate in the 7–10 day Poetry Africa, an international poetry festival that is based mostly in Durban, South Africa, during the final quarter of the year. The festival's extensive programme includes theatre performances, readings, music and book-launches with a festival finale at BAT Centre. Day activities include seminars, workshops, open mic opportunities, and school visits. Poetry Africa is organized by the Centre for Creative Arts which is a multi-disciplinary arts organisation within the Faculty of Human Sciences at the University of KwaZulu-Natal in Durban. Over 300 poets and writers have attended the festival in its 15 editions.

SOUTH KOREA

The dynamic city of Busan, a leading city in Northeast Asia, is proud to present the 8th Busan Fireworks Festival, one of the most renowned festivals hosted by this city of maritime culture and tourism every year. Tens of thousands of fireworks and state-of-the-art lasers light up the sky in harmony with the theme song of the festival against a backdrop of the sea and 2 level suspension bridge, Gwangan Bridge.

Tongyeong International Music Festival is an annual music festival held in Tongyeong City of Gyeongnam Province. TIMF may be classified into one of Korea's leading arts and music festivals which is specialized in western music, i.e. with a variety of style and genre, such as contemporary, early (baroque), classical, romantic, traditional, symphonic, chamber or ensemble, operatic or music theater. In spite of its various appetite for genre, TIMF is usually known as being strong in contemporary program of western style music. As well as composers, TIMF has also presented

outstanding musicians and performers including globally recognized orchestras, chamber ensembles, soloists or operatic productions.

Hi! Seoul Festival is a seasonal cultural festival held four times a year every spring, summer, autumn, and winter in Seoul, South Korea since 2003. It is based on the "Seoul Citizens' Day" held on every October since 1994 to commemorate the 600 years history of Seoul as the capital of the country. The festival is arranged under the Seoul Metropolitan Government. The Hi Seoul Festival 2010 will be held over nine days (from Saturday, October 2 to Sunday, October 10) at various Hangang (River) Park locations including Yeouido, Banpo and Seonyudo and plazas around downtown Seoul.

Incheon Pentaport Rock Festival is a rock festival, which is held annually in Incheon, South Korea for three days at the end of July. It is considered as one of the biggest live music events in South Korea and its reputation grows each year. The festival has been recognized for its popularity by the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism and is listed as one of Korea's best festivals. The festival takes place at Incheon Dreampark area, southern part of Incheon Metropolitan City. The festival covers various genres of music, but mainly rock music and electronic music. The name came from five main themes of the festival; music, passion, environment friendly, DIY, and friendship. Past editions have included renowned artists such as the Stereophonics, Ian Brown, Kasabian, Feeder, The Chemical Brothers and Muse and many more.

Busan International Film Festival is held annually in Haeundae-gu, Busan. It is one of the most significant film festivals in Asia. The first festival, held from September 13 to September 21, 1996, was also the first international film festival in Korea. The focus of the BIFF is to introducing new films and first-time directors, especially those from Asian countries. The 16th BIFF in 2011 saw the festival move to a new permanent home, the Busan Cinema Center. The Cinema Center includes a 4,000-seat outdoor theatre; four indoor screens under an LED-covered roof; media centre; archive space; and conference rooms; allowing the festival to include industry forums and educational activities. The Gala Presentation screens new master cineastes, the year's most-talked-about films, and world/international premieres whilst the World

Cinema section of the festival presents new works by world-renowned filmmakers along with the year's best films that help understanding the recent trends in world cinema. A number of awards are handed out every year.

SPAIN

The festival of San Fermín in the city of Pamplona (Navarre, Spain), is a deeply rooted celebration held annually from 12:00, 6 July, when the opening of the fiesta is marked to midnight 14 July, with the singing of the *Pobre de Mí*. While its most famous event is the encierro, or the running of the bulls, which happens at 8:00 am from July 7th to July 14th, the week long celebration involves many other traditional and folkloric events. It is known locally as Sanfermines and is held in honor of Saint Fermin, the co-patron of Navarre. Its events were central to the plot of *The Sun Also Rises*, by Ernest Hemingway, which brought it to the general attention of English-speaking people. It has become probably the most internationally renowned fiesta in Spain. Over 1,000,000 people come to watch this festival. The most key day of the festival is July 7, when thousands of people accompany the 15th-century statue of Saint Fermin through the old part of Pamplona. The statue is accompanied by dancers and street entertainers, and different political and religious authorities including the city mayor.

La Tomatina is a festival that is held in the Valencian town of Buñol, a town located 30 km inland from the Mediterranean Sea in which participants throw tomatoes and get involved in this tomato fight purely for fun. It is held on the last Wednesday of August, during the week of festivities of Buñol. At around 10 AM, festivities begin with the first event of the Tomatina. It is the "palo jabón", similar to the greasy pole. The goal is to climb a greased pole with a ham on top. As this happens, the crowd work into a frenzy of singing and dancing while being showered in water from hoses. Once someone is able to drop the ham off the pole, the start signal for the tomato fight is given by firing the water shot in the air and trucks make their entry. For the participants the use of goggles and gloves are recommended. The tomatoes must be crushed before being thrown so as to reduce the risk of injury. The estimated number of tomatoes used are around 150,000 i.e. over 40 metric tons. The whole town square is coloured red and rivers of tomato juice flow freely. After the cleaning, the village cobblestone streets are pristine due to the acidity of the tomato disinfecting and thoroughly cleaning the streets.

The Running of the Bulls is a practice that involves running in front of a small group (typically a dozen) of bulls that have been let loose, on a course of a sectioned-off subset of a town's streets. The most famous running of the bulls is that of the seven-day festival of Sanfermines in honour of San Fermín in Pamplona, although they are held in towns and villages across Spain, Portugal, and in some cities in Mexico. The purpose of this event was in origin to transport the bulls from the off-site corrals where they had spent the night, to the bullring where they would be killed in the evening. Youngsters would jump among them to show off their bravado. Spanish tradition says the true origin began in North-eastern Spain during the early 14th century. While transporting cattle in order to sell at the market, men would attempt to speed the process by hurrying their cattle using tactics of fear and excitement. Before the running of the bulls, a set of wooden or iron barricades is erected to direct the bulls along the route and to block off side streets. There may be a double row of barricades along the route to allow runners to quickly exit in case of danger. The gaps in the barricades are wide enough for a person to slip through, but narrow enough to block a bull.

The Falles is a traditional celebration held in commemoration of Saint Joseph in Valencia, Spain. The term Falles refers to both the celebration and the monuments created during the celebration. Each neighbourhood of the city has an organized group of people, the Casal faller, that works all year long holding fundraising parties and dinners, usually featuring the famous specialty paella. The five days and nights of Falles are a continuous party. There are a multitude of processions: historical processions, religious processions, and comedic processions. Crowds in the restaurants spill out into the streets. Explosions can be heard all day long and sporadically through the night. Brass bands will appear from the casals and begin to march down every street playing lively music. Close behind them are the fallers, throwing large firecrackers in the street as they go. During Falles, many people wear their casal faller dress in regional and historical costumes from different eras of Valencia's history; the dolçaina and tabalet (a kind of Valencian drum) are frequently heard, as most of the different casals fallers have their own traditional bands.

The Seville Fair is held in the Andalusian capital of Seville, Spain. The fair generally begins two weeks after the Semana Santa, or Easter Holy Week. The fair officially begins at midnight on Monday, and runs six days, ending on the following Sunday. During past fairs, however, many activities have begun on the Saturday prior to the official opening. Each day the fiesta begins with the parade of carriages and riders, at midday, carrying Seville's leading citizens which make their way to the bullring, La Real Maestranza, where the bullfighters and breeders meet. For the duration of the fair, the fairgrounds and a vast area on the far bank of the Guadalquivir River are totally covered in rows of casetas (individual decorated marquee tents which are temporarily built on the fairground). La Feria of Abril is accompanied by men and women dressed up in their finery, ideally the traditional "traje corto" (short jacket, tight trousers and boots) for men and the "faraloes" or "trajes de flamenca" (flamenco style dress, see flamenco) for women. The men traditionally wear hats called "cordobés".

SWEDEN

The Hultsfred Festival is an annual music festival held in Hultsfred, Sweden. It takes place at the lake Hulingen during three days in the June or July, from Thursday to Saturday. Since the first festival in 1986, its attendance has increased from 7,500 visitors to approximately 32,000 people in 2005. With its five different stages, the Hultsfred Festival hosts a large number of bands per year from all over Scandinavia and the world alike.

Lund International Fantastic Film Festival is Scandinavia's largest festival for fantastic film. The idyllic city of Lund in Southern Sweden becomes a meeting place for filmmakers, audiences, and business from all over the world. The aim of the festival is to help stretch the limits of the imagination, and to reinforce the intrinsic value of imagination in films. Since the inception in 1995, close to 600 films from more than 30 countries have been screened at Lund International Fantastic Film Festival, both shorts and feature films. The majority of the films screened thereby also receive their Swedish premiere. At Lund International Fantastic Film Festival, modern classics received their Swedish theatrical premiere. Sometimes the festival focuses on different directors (Shinya Tsukamoto, Peter Jackson, Terry Gilliam), interesting countries

(Australia, Japan, Spain and many more) or specific themes (for example Midnight Madness, Fantastic documentaries). Special focus is always though on the European continent, which contributes with at least 75% of the films of the festival.

Stockholm Jazz Festival, established in 1980, is an annual jazz festival in Stockholm, Sweden. It is a major summer event of Stockholm and it is spread over several venues across the city. The festival is one of the year's major recurring highlights, and the concerts attract thousands of jazz fans. Over the years, arguably all known names in jazz have appeared on stage - including Swedish stars such as Arne Domnérus, Monica Zetterlund, Nils Landgren, Peps Persson, and Lisa Ekdahl, and international giants such as Count Basie, BB King, Stan Getz, Dizzy Gillespie, and Miriam Makeba.

Göteborg International Film Festival is the leading film festival in Scandinavia and, with an audience of 200 000 visitors a year. The festival is one of the largest festivals in the world. The 30th festival was celebrated in 2007. At this festival a new international competition was introduced - The Ingmar Bergman International Debut Award. Winner of the first award was the British filmmaker Andrea Arnold who was awarded for her film Red Road. The pride of the festival, the beautiful Draken at Järntorget, works as the main theatre. Here you will also find the Information desk. During the festival period the Information desk is opens every day at until the last film starts.

Arvika Festival is an annual music festival held in Arvika, Sweden. Thousands of happy music fans arrive at the event venue to get on with the serious business of non-stop partying and the very best in entertainment. It lasts three days in the middle of July, from Thursday to Saturday, with camping available from the beginning of the week. Since the nineties, the festival had built up a tradition of booking many big synth-pop bands. Along with the synth bands, internationally and nationally famous rock and pop acts visit the festival every year, attracting people not only interested in synth pop. Some of the most famous bands that have visited the festival include Depeche Mode, Bloc Party, Franz Ferdinand, New Order, Björk, Muse and The Prodigy.

The International Science Festival in Gothenburg is an annual festival in Gothenburg with science activities. The purpose is to communicate science to the public and schools in an easy accessible and in a thought provoking manner. Another objective is to create a positive attitude to research and science which is intended to encourage higher education. About 100 000 visitors come each year. This makes it the largest popular science event in Sweden and one of the largest popular science events in Europe. During the festival you will find everything from workshops, lectures, private shows, music, theatre, debates, exhibitions and seminars to meetings of researchers. The content spans all disciplines, from social science and the humanities to natural science and technology. The Science Festival is divided into three branches, the public programme, the school programme and the specialist programme.

Göteborg International Book Fair is the biggest book fair in Scandinavia and a meeting place for authors, publishers, agents, teachers and librarians. It is also a major event for media people. Here you will find many of the Nordic and Swedish authors and publishers — it's the right place to meet established authors and get to know the new names. The many stages and exhibitors' stands host thrilling meetings between writers, Nobel Prize winners, publishers and booklovers who want to explore the power of the written word together.

TANZANIA

The Zanzibar International Film Festival is an annual film festival held in Zanzibar, Tanzania. It has been described by some as the largest cultural event in East Africa. Each year, some of the most captivating and cutting-edge cinema from Africa is screened in venues across the island. With 8 days of local and international discussion panels, workshops, 10 days of screenings of the best local and international cinema and evenings of musical concerts including a Gala each evening. ZIFF now gives 12 International Awards presented by 5 International Juries. It is estimated that 7000 western tourists came to Zanzibar to attend the festival with a total festival audience in excess of 100,000 with wide appeal across race, class and religions. ZIFF also puts on the island's best parties. Live music, dance, DJs and performance across several venues!

Eid Al-Fitr is a Muslim holiday that marks the end of Ramadan, the Islamic holy month of fasting. The religious Eid is a single day and Muslims are not permitted to fast that day. Eid is an Arabic word meaning "festivity", while Fitr means "breaking the fast". The holiday celebrates the conclusion of the 29 or 30 days of dawn-to-sunset fasting during the entire month of Ramadan. This is a day where Muslims around the world try to show a common goal of unity. On Eid Al-Fitr in Pakistan, Muslims read Eid Salaat then go to places to enjoy Eid. There are games, rides and different kinds of food in towns and villages. In the city, there is a lot of rush and traffic. In the morning, after Eid Salaat, Pakistanis' make dishes like Halva served with Puri bread or Naan.

Later in the day, some people give away free food to their neighbors. Sometimes, when the mosque doesn't have enough space, people read outside.

The annual Zanzibar Cultural Festival showcases the diverse traditions and celebrations of the region. This event is held annually in July, just after ZIFF. Performers come from many countries around Africa and the festival is marked with strong traditional customs and a rich heritage of culture. Zanzibari taraab music and traditional dances are performed by a rich ensemble of cultural troupes from Tanzania and abroad. Arts and crafts that celebrate local culture are exhibited and enjoyed. Around the archipelago, locals celebrate the cultural festival with workshops, cultural events and performances. Street carnivals in Stone Town, small fairs, and canoe races also take place. On the northern island of Pemba, the festival marks the annual bull fight, a remnant of Portuguese presence on the islands, where trained bulls prance after unarmed men in a humorous and festive version of the Iberian spectacle.

A four-day-long celebration, although the festival is celebrated around the island, the village of Makunduchi, on southern Unguja, is the key focus of the ritual events and each year a large crowd gathers to attend the celebration. The origins of this holiday are Zoroastrian (a Persian religion older than Islam). It is a celebration of the New Year and some of the events include huge bonfires and mock fights. Together with the usual singing, dancing, feasting, and drumming that goes with all East African festivals, Mwaka Kogwa includes specific rituals destined to bring good luck in the new year. The women of the village dress up in their best clothes and proceed through the village and the fields, singing traditional songs about family, love, and joy. Then, the mganga, or traditional healer, lights a ritual hut on fire and reads which way the smoke is burning to determine the village's prosperity in the coming year. Finally there is a large feast in which all guests are welcomed and considered a sign of happiness and prosperity.

Bullfighting is a popular, traditional and annual sport in Pemba Island. Pemba bullfights are relic of Portuguese occupation of the island, which occurred during the 16th and 17th centuries. Drum beats, men and women sing local songs to make the event lively and spur on both bull and matador. It's a purely sporting event and the bulls are not killed as Spanish do. There is no specific dates when the bullfights are

organized but usually during the hottest time of the year. This is between August and February. But some times it is done after clove harvesting or during the state ceremony such as Revolutionary Day of Zanzibar.

TUNISIA

The International Festival of the Sahara in Douz is an annual festival in Tunisia. The very first festival, called the Camel festival, began in 1910 when Tunisia was under French rule. Since then, every year at the end of December for four days, thousands of people, mostly from all over Tunisia and other Maghrebien countries flock to Douz. After the official opening ceremony, the main events take place in the H'naiech stadium in front of the desert surrounded by Bedouin tents. Camel marathons, fantasia-galloping Arab horses ridden by daring riders, a Bedouin marriage, sloughi desert hunting dogs - catching rabbits are the principal features. In the evening, groups from visiting countries perform popular songs and dances. The central event is the annual poetry contest run by the famous desert poet, Abdellatif Belgacem in order to keep poetry alive, which represents the desert's principal communication medium.

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At the festival of Ksour, you can enjoy some fine local music and dance performances. The ghortas (grain stones) created by weathering resemble huge mushrooms, and the inhabitants carve their dwellings out of the sandy rock. Witness some fine music and dance, and follow the natives' lead by sleeping in underground rooms away from the heat. On visiting the place, you might see some similarity between the galaxy scenes from the George Lucas famous film Star Wars and the lunar-like landscape of Tunisian desert.

The Carthage Film Festival is a biannual October film festival hosted by the government of Tunisia. It alternates with the Damascus International Film Festival. It is a meeting place for international film industry professionals. An average of 200,000 tickets are sold over a period of ten days. A crop of films are selected from around the world for every year to satisfy the most demanding movie buff. The festival is also an opportunity for meetings and debates of current topics. Rooted in its Arab and African specificities, this meeting of filmmakers, producers, critics, moviegoers from the North and South has combined an abundance of films, the spirit of closeness between professionals and film buffs and a real sense of partying. The grand prize is the Tanit d'or, or "Golden Tanit," named for the lunar goddess of ancient Carthage; the award is in the shape of her symbol, a trapezium surrounded by a horizontal line and a circle.

TURKEY

The first International İstanbul Festival, organised in 1973 on the 50th Anniversary of the foundation of the Turkish Republic, covered a period of one and a half months and focused mainly on classical music. Soon after, it included other artistic fields in its programme such as film screenings, theatre productions, jazz and ballet performances, and art exhibitions held in historic venues. The Istanbul International Music Festival is a cultural event held every June and July. It offers a selection of European classical music, ballet, opera and traditional music performances with the participations of famous artists from all over the world. From its beginning the festival has hosted world renowned artists and groups. The 31st Festival saw the prominent conductor Lorin Maazel with the Bavarian Radio Symphony Orchestra and a legend of the music world, Cecilia Bartoli, who received an enthusiastic standing ovation from the audience for minutes.

İzmir International Fair is the oldest tradeshow in Turkey. The fair and the festival are held in the compound of İzmir's vast inner city park named Kültürpark in the first days of September. The fair itself is not limited to a theme, the participants are generally simply required to expose products with export or import potential, although each year a specific field of activity, a country and a Turkish province is put in limelight. Fields of activity or expertise relating to such sectors as the automotive industry, electric tools and devices, electronics, working machinery and equipment, foodstuff and packaging have always been well represented in İzmir Fair. The 2006 fair was expected to be visited by up to a million and a half people.

Rock'n Coke is a Turkish rock festival sponsored by Coca-Cola. Rock'n Coke is Turkey's largest open air multiple-stage music and camping festival and has hosted some of the biggest names in alternative rock, pop, electronica and cross-over genres since 2003. It is traditionally held at the Hezarfen Airfield in Istanbul, Turkey. At the

end of every summer, the Hezarfen Airfield is used as a venue for a two day chain of concerts, with both national and international performers featured. Although mainly rock-oriented, Rock'n Coke also hosts other music genres. While the main stage is generally reserved for rock and its subgenres, the DJ Arena (now called Burn Stage, following the sponsorship) is reserved for styles such as house music.

The Istanbul International Film Festival is the first and oldest international film festival in Turkey. It is held every year in April in movie theaters in Istanbul. The festival aims to encourage the development of cinema in Turkey and to promote films of quality in the Turkish cinema market. The Festival features a thematically specialized international competition, provides a showcase for recent Turkish film productions, and thus represents a rewarding medium where Turkish and foreign filmmakers get together. The Festival draws a special interest to world classics, presenting retrospective sections within its programs particularly attended by young audiences. For the first time in 2005, special thematic curated sections were included in the programme which comprises approximately 200 titles, making the Festival the comprehensive film festival in Turkey. With an audience of 170,000 in 2007, it is also considered the biggest film festival. Numerous filmmakers, actors and actresses visited the festival.

Istanbul International Jazz Festival is a cultural event held every July in Istanbul. It offers a selection of jazz music performances with the participations of famous artists from all over the world. Each year, the festival attracts around 50,000 people to more than 30 concerts held at various historical venues of Istanbul, such as the Cemil Topuzlu Open-Air Theatre, Hagia Eirene Museum, Istanbul Archaeological Museum and Esma Sultan Mansion. The Istanbul Jazz Festival features classical and modern jazz, Latin and Nordic jazz, works combining electronic music and jazz, and other music categories, such as rock, pop, reggae, funk and world music. Thanks to this diversity, the Istanbul Jazz Festival provides audiences new opportunities for discovery. At the same time, with its daring approach to venue selection, the festival reaches beyond traditional concert halls to Istanbul's historical sites, streets and

avenues, trams and ferries, so as to reach a wider audience. From its beginning, the festival hosted world renowned artists and groups.

The Aspendos International Opera and Ballet Festival has been organized by the Turkish State Opera and Ballet directorate since 1994 with international participation by opera and ballet companies from several different countries. The festival is held annually each June and July in the two thousand year old ancient Roman Aspendos Theatre of Aspendos, near Antalya, Turkey. The fact of being held at an antique theater like Aspendos, whose history goes back to 166 A.D, gives a distinct meaning to the International Aspendos Opera and Ballet Festival.s The theatre is noted as one of the best preserved antique theatres in the world, with many original features of the building remaining intact.

THE UNITED KINGDOM

The Glastonbury Festival is a performing arts festival that takes place near Pilton, Somerset, England, best known for its contemporary music, but also for dance, comedy, theatre, circus, cabaret and other arts. Leading pop and rock artists have appeared as headline acts with thousands of others appearing on smaller stages and performance areas. The festival has also spawned films and albums and is reported on extensively on television and in newspapers. The size and nature of the festival, held over three or four days in the open air, with performers, crew and paying festival goers staying in tents, caravans and motorhomes, has meant that the weather is significant. It is now attended by around 150,000 people requiring extensive infrastructure in terms of security, transport, water and electricity supply. Only a select few acts have been awarded headlining status at Glastonbury Festival on more than one occasion. The current record is three times, held jointly by Van Morrison, Elvis Costello, The Cure and Coldplay.

The Reading and Leeds Festivals are a pair of annual music festivals that take place in Reading and Leeds in England. The events take place simultaneously on the Friday, Saturday and Sunday of the August bank holiday weekend. The Reading Festival is held at Little John's Farm on Richfield Avenue in central Reading, near the Caversham Bridge. The Leeds event is held in Bramham Park, near Wetherby, the grounds of an historic house. Campsites are available at both sites and weekend tickets include camping. Day tickets are also sold. The Reading Festival, the original and senior leg of the two, is the world's oldest popular music festival still in existence. The festival typically has the following stages: main stage – major rock, indie, metal and alternative acts, NME/Radio 1 stage – less well-known acts, building up to an alternative headline act, Festival Republic stage (formerly known as the Carling stage) – acts with less popular appeal and breakthrough acts, Lock Up Stage – underground punk and hardcore acts, Dance tent – dance music acts, on the day that the Lock Up

Stage does not run, Alternative tent – comedy and cabaret acts plus DJs, BBC Introducing Stage – Typically unsigned acts.

The BFI London Film Festival is the UK's largest public film event, screening more than 300 features, documentaries and shorts from almost 50 countries. The Festival showcases the best of world cinema to champion creativity, originality, vision and imagination, and presents the finest contemporary international cinema from both established and emerging film-makers. Set in the Autumn, the festival hosts high profile awards contenders, screens recently restored archive films, champions new discoveries and combines curatorial strength with red carpet glamour. It also provides an extensive programme of industry events, public forums, education events, lectures, masterclasses and Q&As with film-makers and film talent. The Sutherland Trophy is given to the most original and innovative first feature in the London Film Festival. Named after the BFI's patron, this award boasts recipients as noteworthy as Bertolucci, Fassbinder, Godard and Antonioni.

The Big Chill is an annual festival of alternative, dance and chill-out music and comedy, held in the grounds of Eastnor Castle during early August. The 2011 line up included The Chemical Brothers, Kanye West, Rodrigo Y Gabriela, Jessie J, Robert Plant, Calvin Harris, Aloe Blacc, Chipmunk, Katy B & Example. The festival is situated in the grounds of Eastnor Castle near Ledbury in Herefordshire. The grounds are normally used as a reserve for deer. The organisers encourage a "leave no trace" policy to dissuade people from littering the site. Camping is divided into Red, Blue, Green and Purple areas, as well as Family Camping, Quiet Camping and Accessible Camping.

The V Festival is an annual music festival held in England during the penultimate weekend in August. The event is held at two parks simultaneously which share the same bill; artists perform at one location on Saturday and then swap on Sunday. The sites are located at Hylands Park in Chelmsford and Weston Park in South Staffordshire. Although predominantly a rock music festival, a wide range of musical genres are accepted; in recent years pop acts have become more common. In 2012 V

Festival was headlined by The Stone Roses, David Guetta, Ed Sheeran, The Killers, Nicki Minaj, Nero and Australian Pink Floyd.

Bestival is a four-day music festival held at the Robin Hill country park on the Isle of Wight, England. It has been held annually in late summer since 2004. The event is organized by DJ and record producer Rob da Bank and is an off-shoot of his Sunday Best record label and club nights. The initial Bestival attracted 10,000 people, growing to 55,000 in 2010. In 2006 it was voted the Best (Medium-sized) Festival at the 2006 UK Festival Awards, and it was voted the best major UK festival in the UK festival awards 2010. The Bestival is often described as a "boutique festival" due to its non-corporate feel. It is also known for piloting odd and innovative ideas, including an inflatable church where people can get married. Other features include the "Breastival", a quiet Yurt designated for mothers and their breast-feeding children. The local Women's Institute has also been involved by providing refreshments for a minimal price. The festival is also heavily involved in supporting social, political and environmental causes.

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Sasquatch Music Festival is a music festival held annually at the Gorge Amphitheatre in George, Washington. It is presented by the House of Blues. The Sasquatch! Music Festival was founded in 2002 by Pacific Northwest-based concert promoter Adam Zacks. Prior to the inception of the festival, Zacks booked and managed shows at the Roseland Theater in Portland, Oregon. There is an emphasis on indie rock bands and singer-songwriters, although there are also alternative rock, hip hop and comedy acts. In the past few years electronic dance music (EDM) has been integrated into Sasquatch! making it a well rounded and eclectic experience for people of all musical tastes. The festival features five separate stages (Sasquatch! Main Stage, Bigfoot Stage, Banana Shack, Yeti Stage & the Maine Stage).

The Bonnaroo Music and Arts Festival is an annual four-day music festival created and produced by Superfly Presents and AC Entertainment, held at Great Stage Park on a 2.8 km² farm in Manchester, Tennessee, USA. The main attractions of the festival are the multiple stages of live music, featuring a diverse array of musical styles including indie rock, world music, hip hop, jazz, americana, bluegrass, country music, folk, gospel, reggae, electronica, and other alternative music. The festival began with a primary focus on jam bands and folk rock; it has diversified greatly in recent years but continues to pay tribute to its roots. The festival features craftsmen and artisans selling unique products, food and drink vendors, a comedy tent, silent disco, cinema tent, and ferris wheel.

Lollapalooza is an annual music festival featuring popular alternative rock, heavy metal, punk rock and hip hop bands, dance and comedy performances, and craft booths. It has also provided a platform for non-profit and political groups. Conceived and created in 1991 by Jane's Addiction singer Perry Farrell as a farewell tour for his band, Lollapalooza ran annually until 1997, and was revived in 2003. The music festival hosts more than 160,000 people over a three day period. Lollapalooza has featured a diverse range of bands and has helped expose and popularize artists such as Beastie

Boys, Coldplay, Stone Temple Pilots, Depeche Mode, Deadmau5, Foo Fighters, Red Hot Chili Peppers, Pearl Jam, The Cure, Primus, The Killers, Rage Against the Machine, Arcade Fire, Nine Inch Nails, Jane's Addiction, X Japan, Audioslave, Siouxsie and the Banshees, The Smashing Pumpkins, Muse, Alice in Chains, Björk, MGMT, Foster the People, Tool, Hole, Body Count, Ice-T, Queens of the Stone Age, The Drums, The Strokes, Arctic Monkeys, Calvin Harris, Thelastgoodnight, Fishbone, Butthole Surfers and Lady Gaga.

South by Southwest is a set of film, interactive and music festivals and conferences that take place every spring (usually in March) in Austin, Texas, United States. SXSW began in 1987, and has continued to grow in size every year. In 2011, the conference lasted for 10 days, with SXSW Interactive lasting for five, Music for six, and Film running concurrently for nine days. SXSW Music is one of the largest music festivals in the United States, with more than 2,000 performers playing in more than 90 venues. SXSW Film festival, focusing on new directing talent. SXSW 2012 ran from March 9 to 18. SXSW Film saw the premiere of two major Hollywood films: *The Cabin in the Woods* and *21 Jump Street*. 2012 was also the first year the music portion was expanded to Tuesday.

The Waterfront Blues Festival is an annual event in Portland, Oregon, United States featuring three to five days of performances by blues musicians. The festival started in 1988 and takes place in Tom McCall Waterfront Park, along the west bank of the Willamette River in downtown Portland. It is the largest blues festival on the West Coast and the second-largest blues festival in the nation, with recent events attracting 120,000 blues fans from throughout the world with more than 150 performances on four stages. The festival began in 1987 as the Rose City Blues Festival, sponsored by the Cascade Blues Association, to benefit the Burnside Community Council's projects for the homeless. The FM community radio station KBOO has broadcast performances from the event, throughout the festival's history. The festival celebrated its twentieth anniversary in 2007, earning the Rose City Award from the Portland Oregon Visitors Association and an official U.S. Post Office postmark commemorating the festival. Sponsors of the festival have included Miller

Genuine Draft, Albertsons, and Safeway. Throughout its history, the festival has raised millions of dollars and hundreds of thousands pounds of food.

Burning Man is a week-long annual event held in the Black Rock Desert in northern Nevada, in the United States. The event begins on the last Monday in August, and ends on the first Monday in September, which coincides with the American Labor Day holiday. One of the roots of the annual event now known as Burning Man began as a bonfire ritual on the summer solstice in 1986 when Larry Harvey, Jerry James, and a few friends met on Baker Beach in San Francisco and burned a 9-foot (2.7-meter) wooden man as well as a smaller wooden dog. Harvey has described his inspiration for burning these effigies as a spontaneous act of "radical self-expression". The 2012 Burning Man Festival took place between August 27 and September 3. It takes its name from the ritual burning of a large wooden effigy on Saturday evening. The event is described by many participants as an experiment in community, art, radical self-expression, and radical self-reliance.

VENEZUELA

Carnival in Venezuela (2 days of festivals, 40 days before Easter) is a time when youth in many rural towns have water fights. Anybody and everybody that is out in the streets during the week of Carnival is subject to being soaked. Venezuela celebrates carnival with dance, music, balloons, family festivities, lavish costumes and parades. Coastal town and provinces celebrate Carnival much more fervently these days than any place in the country. Merging much of the Caribbean flair for music, dance and ethnic backgrounds, the city of El Callao enjoys dressing in costumes of royal courts: kings, queens, couriers, jesters as well as modern movie and cartoon characters. Venezuela regard Carnival in the same way they regard Christmas and Semana Santa (Holy Week; the week before Easter Sunday) when they take the opportunity to visit their families and enjoy this festive time with them.

In Venezuela, many of the traditions are very similar to the ones in Spain, with an over-emphasis in traditions that supposedly bring good luck in the upcoming year. Those who want to find love in the New Year are supposed to wear red underwear on New Year's Eve; those who want money must have a bill of high value when toasting, those who want to travel must go outside while carrying luggage, and so on. Yellow underwear is worn to bring happiness in the New Year. Radio specials give a countdown and announce the New Year and in Caracas, the bells of the Cathedral of Caracas ring twelve times. During these special programs it is a tradition to broadcast songs about the sadness of the end of the year. Popular songs include "Viejo año" ("Old year"), by Gaita group Maracaibo 15, and "Cinco pa' las 12" ("Five minutes before twelve"), which was versioned by several popular singers including Nestor Zavarce, Nancy Ramos and José Luis Rodríguez El Puma. The unofficial hymn for the first minutes of the New Year is "Año Nuevo, Vida Nueva" ("New Year, New Life"), by the band Billo's Caracas Boys.

Feria Del Sol (English: Fair of The Sun) is an international cultural festival held in the city of Mérida every February of the year. The Feria festival is held alongside

the carnival feast. The festival includes bull competitions, cultural expositions, commercial and zootechnic expositions, concerts, parades, sports, and a voting competition for La Reina Del Sol (English: The Queen of The Sun). The city of Mérida or City of the Knight had celebrated its historic past in Venezuela, but it did not have fairs similar to the cities of San Cristóbal, Barquisimeto, Maracaibo, or Táriba. Therefore, a group of amateurs got the idea to build a Plaza de Toros (Plaza of Bulls), so that Mérida had a taurine calendar and a fair counted among the most important of the country. The fair was set for 9 and 10 December, as the feast of Immaculate Conception coincided with the beginning of the month. For the bullfighting, César Faraco, Manuel Benítez "El Cordobés", Francisco Rivera "Paquirri", Julio Aparicio, Curro Girón, Paco Camino and the mounted bullfighter, Juan Cañedo, who is of Mexican origin, fought the bulls of Félix Rodríguez, "Achury Vejo" and "Ambaló", who all originated in the country of Colombia. Since then, the fair has developed into one of the most important fairs of Venezuela, as well as the taurine world.

The Bonfires of Saint John is a popular festival celebrated around Saint John's day's eve (23 June) throughout many cities and towns in Venezuela. For this festival, people gather together and create large bonfires. From June 23 you can enjoy a night of drums on which commemorates the death of the saint, the night belongs to the wake of San Juan. This quaint night runs to the sound of drums, dancing and alcohol, activities preceding the next day's festivities in honor of the saint (The Birth of St. John the Baptist).

The Dancing Devils of Yare is the name of a pagan-Christian celebration in San Francisco de Yare, Miranda state, Venezuela, at the Corpus Christi day. Its origins are traced back to the 18th century. Every Corpus Christi (nine Thursdays after Holy Thursday), a ritual dance is performed by the so called "Dancing Devils", who wear colorful garments (commonly all red), layers of stripped fabric, masks of grotesque appearance and also accessories like crosses, scapulars, rosaries and other sorts of amulets. In this folkloric festivity devotion is given to the patron saint Saint Francis of Paola, to the Blessed Sacrament and to Jesus Christ. The celebration starts Wednesday with a wake where *fulías* (a native music style) are played, *décimas* (native form of

poetry) are recited and rosaries and other prayers are prayed until dawn. The next day the devoted disguised as devils perform dances around the principal square of the town. They also parade through the streets, dressed in their red costumes and their masks.

ZAMBIA

In Zambia, the Shimunenga Ceremony of the Ba-Ila people of Maala in Namwala District is celebrated on the weekend of the full moon in September or October. Early in the morning of the first day, people gather at the shrine of Shimunenga, where traditional songs are chanted. There is also a cultural march past of women and girls in traditional attire, after which people are treated to performances by traditional dancers. On the following morning, the drum is sounded and animals are taken to the river, where cattle is displayed in the traditional manner. The first cattle to cross the river will be those of the custodian of the shrine. This is followed by a demonstration of a mock lion hunt and pelican fishing. The occasion is marked with traditional songs in honour and praise of the Shimunenga ancestral spirits. Celebrations continue in the village with pit-stops for traditional beer at different places.

During N'cwala festival, held on 24th February, the Paramount Chief of the Ngoni people of Eastern province commemorates the Ngoni's entrance into Zambia in 1835. Marked by feasts, music and some of the best dancing in the country, the ceremonies are held in Mutenguleni, 15 kms south-west of Chipata. The festival is based on the Ngoni tradition of offering the Paramount Ngoni chief of the first produce of the year. Twelve local chiefs from the Eastern Province travel with their finest dancers to the village of Mutenguleni, where the ceremony takes place. Each group dances before the Paramount chief, and he elects one group as the best warrior dancers. The Paramount chief watches and takes part in the dancing. He drinks the blood of a cow killed at the N'cwala as a symbol of the first harvest food, and as a blessing for his people to start harvesting and eating.

Lwiindi is an annual festival of the Tonga people of southern Zambia. It is a thanksgiving ceremony which attracts people from around the country. It takes place at a Place called Gonde, near Chief Monze's place in Monze District. The dates for this ceremony is normally, the first weekend of July during the country's Heroes and Unity holidays. The Tonga lwiindi ceremony would not be complete without mentioning another aspect of Tonga culture – the shrines. These are allocated at Gonde, which means thick bush. The Tonga visit these shrine to ask for rains from their ancestors or

assistance with eliminating disease. At the shrines there are two huts built on top of the graves of the sacred Tonga chiefs, Mayaba and Nchete Ilya Mabwe. In praying for the rains the Tonga brew beer, slaughter a black goat or chicken or even a cow. The ceremony attracts so many people, including, politicians, representatives of opposition parties, and hundreds of people beyond the province.

Kufukwila Ceremony, Zambia is one of the most striking festivals of Zambia that is enjoyed grandly by all the travelers in and around the cities. The Republic of Zambia is a non-coastal country that is enclosed by the countries like Democratic Republic of the Congo, Tanzania, Malawi, Botswana, Mozambique, Zimbabwe and Namibia and Angola. The capital city Lusaka is located in the southeastern part of the country. The country is full of several attractive places and tourist destinations. Other than visiting the sightseeing attractions, you can also indulge yourself in several festivals. Of all the cultural festivals, the Kufukwila Ceremony, Zambia is superbly enjoyed by all the travelers. This country has hordes of prime cultural festivals that are seldom seen by the visitors. The festivals are the genuine occasions that are performed for the advantage of the native people and the participants. Kufukwila Ceremony, Zambia is one of the most striking festivals of the Zambia country. This festival is celebrated in the month of May in every year. In the month of May, Kufukwila Ceremony, Zambia is grandly celebrated by the Kaonde tribe. The people of Kaonde Tribe of northwestern Zambia rejoice the royal ritual of Kufukwila. The native Zambians pay their admirations to their ruler with ritual of feasting and dance.

Kuomboka Festival, Zambia is one of the alluring festivals of the country that sees a huge influx of tourists every year. While you go for Zambia Tours, you can spend your time in sightseeing the attractive places, shopping and other activities. You can also indulge yourself at the great festivals of the country. Among all the ceremonies and festivals, Kuomboka Festival, Zambia is the most attractive one for all. Zambia has over 20 yearly conventional ceremonies displaying the social customs, communal life, rituals, verbal history, material and religious culture. These festivals and ceremonies provide a precious insight to the conventional traditions that has been derived from generation to generation. Kuomboka Festival, Zambia is one of the most

attractive festivals among them. Most ceremonies have a profound significance in several cases decorated to call upon the memories of the conversion from childhood to adulthood. The Kuomboka Festival, Zambia is the most popular of the ceremonies that takes place in the Western Province of Zambia. This festival is celebrated during the month of February or March. Sometimes, this festival is celebrated on a Thursday just before full moon. The exact date would only be known just a week or so in advance since the Lozi king determined upon it. Today, the ceremony of Kuomboka Festival, Zambia draws several visitors every year. This is usually held at Easter; if the water levels are not high enough, then the ceremony will not take place at all.

Livingstone Festival is one of the famous festivals in Zambia. In fact, it is the biggest festival of Zambia. A historic colonial city, Livingstone is presently the capital of the Southern Province of Zambia. The Livingstone Festival is celebrated in this historic city. This annual festival in the country aims at displaying Zambian talent in every area of arts. It also aspires to bring in famous acts from overseas. Thus, tourists make it a point to witness the Livingstone Festival, Zambia on their tour to Zambia. On the occasion of the Livingstone Festival, Zambia the streets of Livingstone are specked by performance artists, theatrical troupes, music groups, jugglers and clowns. The site of the festival is situated just a few kilometers from the Victoria Falls. Presence of this well-known tourist spot makes this festival even more popular. The festival generally takes place in the month of August. Famous performance artists from Britain, Anne Bean and Zhenya Iljon, who have created a wonderful blend of music, sculpture and performance.

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