



# CULTURAL FESTIVALS & EVENTS IN ARIPO MEMBER STATES

ARIPO OFFICE | 2019



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# **CULTURAL FESTIVALS & EVENTS IN ARIPO MEMBER STATES**

**ARIPO  
Harare, Zimbabwe  
2019**

# FOREWORD

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It is with great delight that we present the first report on the Cultural festivals and events within ARIPO Member States. Since the inclusion of copyright and related rights in the mandate of the Organization in 2002, ARIPO has been working with its Member States with the aim of creating national environments that promote and provide effective protection, management and enforcement of copyright and related rights in the respective Member States. Under the strategies to consider in awareness raising programs, the government through the national copyright office needs to play a leading role in raising awareness on copyright and Intellectual Property rights. This would require devising strategies that leverage and take advantage of information and communication technology to disseminate information for outreach and advocacy.

With that in mind, creativity can be linked with culture in a bid to raise copyright awareness, Culture can be used as a vehicle for information dissemination about the need to protect and respect copyright. This could be done with cultural messages wrapped in poetry, song and dance as well as initiatives such as drama.

Member States of ARIPO, Observer States and the general public are encouraged to use this report on the Cultural festivals and events within ARIPO Member States to attract local and international tourism to see the cultural events for socio-economic development and promoting international relations.

F.A dos Santos  
Director General

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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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Creative Industries are becoming more and more relevant for the economies of both developed and developing countries. Africa has a comparative advantage on copyright where enormous potential of folklore and the creativity of African people needs to be fully exploited for socio-economic development and socio-cultural development of a Country. The festivals attract domestic and International tourism as they promote cultural identity and heritage of the people. During these particular events a lot of activities that create employment and contribute to the Country's GDP are experienced. The report is the first of its kind and it shows some of the cultural activities that are usually carried out in the Member States who participated in this study.

We hope that the report will be very useful to increase awareness on cultural festivals and events, attract local and international tourism in the ARIPO Member States.

# DISCLAIMER

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The views, opinions, findings, conclusions and/or recommendations expressed in this Report are strictly those of the author(s). The information contained in this publication is not meant as a substitute for professional legal or policy advice.

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# ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

ARIPO - African Regional Intellectual Property Organization

ARSOG - Audiovisual Rights Society of Ghana

COPYGHANA - Reprographic Rights Organization of Ghana

CPP - Convention People's Party

GA - Greater Accra

GCCI - Gambia Chamber of Commerce

GHAMRO - Ghana Music Rights Organization

GLC - Greater London Council

NAFAC - National Festival of Arts and Culture

NAMA - Namibian Annual Music Awards

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# BOTSWANA

## Cultural Events







## 1. Maitisong Festival

Maitisong festival takes place in March every year, and is a performing arts cornucopia of comedy, poetry, traditional music, dance and theatre. The performances are held in various places in Gaborone. The event lasts for nine full days and sees the entire population take to the streets in carnival mode. This festival has been running for the past twenty-one (21) years.

For images of the festival, please search for the name of the festival through Google and refer to the [bing.com/images](http://bing.com/images). More information can be found on [www.maitisong.org](http://www.maitisong.org) website link and the Festival Facebook page called 'Maitisong Theatre'. The organizers of the event can be contacted at [director@maitisong.org](mailto:director@maitisong.org) or +267 397 1809.



## 2. Maun Festival

This festival is held in Maun, which is in the North-West part of Botswana. Traditional poetry, music and dance are the hallmarks of the Maun Festival, held over a two-day period in April every year. Visual arts are also celebrated in this Festival, which is held for the benefit of local schools, as well as honoring Botswana's northwestern rich tribal culture.

## Tjilenje Cultural Festival

This festival takes place in May annually. It is held in Nlapkwane village which is in the North East of Botswana. Traditional activities include traditional games, music, dances and stalls crammed with local food and drink.



## 3. Kuru Dance Festival

This unique event takes place every August on the only Bushman-owned game farm in Botswana. The Dqae Game Farm lies in the Kalahari Desert close to D'Kar and comes alive with storytelling, traditional dance and music for three days. The Game Farm is located in about one thousand three hundred and seventy (1,370) kilometers from Gaborone. The main performers are Basarwa (Bushman) mainly from Botswana and some from Namibia. This festival is popular and attracts international spectators, photographers and other lovers of culture.



## 4. Letlhafula Cultural Festival

Letlhafula is a festival that encourages farmers to produce their own food and sustain themselves. At the event, it is mainly traditional food that is served. Traditional song and dance, poetry and others. This is a one day event that also offers traditional entertainment through poetry and traditional games. This event is held in Gaborone.

## 5. Dithubaruba Cultural Festival

This is a cultural event held in Molepolole to commemorate and preserve the Bakwena Culture. Molepolole is 60km west of Gaborone. It is a cultural extravaganza that seeks to showcase and promote the cultures existent within Kweneng region, traditional regalia and cuisine, traditional songs and dance. It is usually held around September every year. It is a festival organized by Kgari Sechele Museum in Molepolole. Bakwena

from South Africa and Namibia attend this event.

Shows are usually characterized by different genres of music, showcasing of artwork like jewelry, ceramic works and more.



## 6. Gaborone International Music Festival

Gaborone International Music Festival (GIMC) is a multi-discipline event that celebrates Gaborone city and its residents. It is held every end of August and it showcases cultural celebrations, comedy, poetry, music festival, fashion, jazz and golf to name a few. Performers are selected from across the region and internationally. It also features top local artists to perform in this event.



## 7. Son of the Soil Festival

The Festival started in Tlokweng in 2005 to provide a platform where people can learn and enjoy Botswana culture. The main event which is usually accompanied by a workshop, is used to showcase Botswana culture and to celebrate the evolution from historical to futuristic cultural dress in Botswana. The main activities include traditional song and dance, traditional games and food, traditional attire and other activities. The festival is celebrated annually in a selected area in Gaborone.



## 8. National Basket and Craft Exhibition

This is an exhibition that promotes diverse talents. It has various categories such as basket production, pottery, textile, tapestry, wood carving, ceramics and beadwork. It is held annually in Gaborone and is promoted by Botswana Tourism Organization. This is an exhibition that promotes diverse talents. It has various categories such as basket production, pottery, textile, tapestry, wood carving, ceramics and beadwork. It is held annually in Gaborone and is promoted by Botswana Tourism Organization.



## 9. Batlokwa Cultural Festival

This is an event aimed at preserving Setlokwa culture. It brings together Batlokwa from Botswana and South Africa to celebrate their heritage. It is usually celebrated annually in Tlokweg village. Tlokweg is an outskirt of Gaborone.

## 10. Basubiya Cultural Festival

This is a display of culture and heritage. It is marked by traditional dance, traditional wear like Mushishi colourful skirts. This festival celebrates the history of Basubiya. The Festival is held annually in Kavimba village in the Chobe region of Botswana, and is 1005km from the country's capital city.



## 11. Western Kgalagadi Cultural Association (WKCA) Festival

The Cultural Association has been formed by members from villages in the Western Kgalagadi region namely Inalegolo, Phuduhudu, New Xade, Zutshwa, Maake, Ngwatle, Monong, Kacgae, Kokotsha and Ncaang. It is a festival aimed at increasing tourist flows to the Western Kgalagadi Conservation Corridor and was established in 2010. It shares and promotes the San culture and other ethnic groups in the project area. It creates a platform for cultural exchange and is a two day festival. In the past, the festival has been held in Kang. Kang is 405km from Gaborone.



## 12. Mmakgodumo Heritage and Cultural Festival

It is an annual event designed to celebrate, revive and embrace the Ngwaketse culture. On the day, there is display of traditional food, poetry, songs, dance, dikgafela and mephato. The festival is usually held in Kanye, 100km south west of Gaborone.

For more information, please refer to the link below; <https://www.facebook.com/Mmakgodumo-Heritage-and-cultural-festival>



## 13. Baga Mmangwato Heritage Day

The event aims to instill a sense of identity and pride among the Bangwato dance, music, drama and poetry. It aims to promote understanding and appreciation of the Ngwato cultural heritage, creating leisure time for nationals. It is held annually in Serowe village, 310km northward of Gaborone.

For more information, please refer to the Facebook page of Baga mmangwato heritage through the link below.

<https://www.facebook.com/Baga-Mmangwato-Heritage-day-466531186885751>

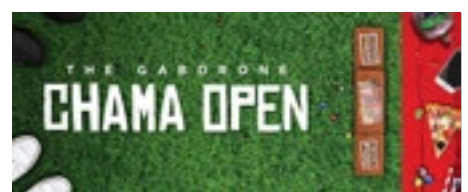


## 14. Chama Open

It is a tri-monthly tournament based on the traditional marbles game Chama aka Gololo. This event takes place in Gaborone.

For more on the games and images, please refer to the link below.

<https://www.facebook.com/setsogames/videos/1821841704727676>





## 15. The Hamptons Jazz Festival

It is an annual jazz festival featuring jazz artists from Botswana and around the world. It is usually held in Gaborone, the capital city of Botswana.

For images and more information, please refer to [bing.com/videos](http://bing.com/videos) and [www.hamptons-jazzfestival.com](http://www.hamptons-jazzfestival.com).



## 16. Domboshaba Festival of Culture and History

This annual event is held near Domboshaba ruins. It has cultural activities which allow the audience to get more exposure to the Ikalanga culture. It also features a 21.2km Nswazwi marathon. The festival is organized by Domboshaba Cultural Trust (DCT). Domboshaba Festival takes place in Domboshaba hills 525km to the north of Gaborone.

For images, please refer to [bing.com/images](http://bing.com/images).

## 17. Wayeyi Cultural Festival (Rueta)

The Wayeyi culture is celebrated yearly during Easter holidays. The Festival offers different activities such as the performance of Wayeyi cultural entertainment, selling of Wayeyi books and other products.

The Festival hosts competitions of different Wayeyi traditional groups to honor the Wayeyi culture. The festival takes place in Gumare village, 1005km north west of Gaborone. The Wayeyi from Namibia are usually invited to this event.

## 18. Annual Clash of the Choirs

It is a musical event involving singing competition between choirs. It is held in various locations in Botswana. In the year 2016, it was hosted in Lobatse and moved to Gaborone in 2017.

## 19. Khawa Dune Challenge and Cultural Festival

This is an annual event held in Khawa in Kgalagadi South, 758km from Gaborone. It aims to assist people of Khawa to sustain themselves using the tourism industry. It has a wide range of cultural activities involving music, food, camel riding and motor races. It is usually held at the beginning of May and is a great international tourist attraction. The festival also comprises of showcasing the lifestyle of Kgalagadi people and their famous Polka Dance.

## 20. Indigenous Cultural Carnival

The event was launched by Matsosangwao Arts Troupe on 3rd February 2018 in Molepolole village. The aim of the event is expected to be held on annual basis. The Troupe long had the idea of hosting the event but could not do so due to shortage of funds. The dreams of the Troupe only came true in 2017 when the Companies and Intellectual Property Authority (CIPA) funded the Troupe to document the Chobe cultural arts and crafts. The Indigenous Cultural Carnival is one of the notable outcomes of the project.

## 21. Presidents' Day Celebrations

Botswana's President's Day Celebrations are held during a four-day national holiday held in July across the country on annual basis. Batswana usually return to their home villages for celebrations of their culture. The holiday is marked by competitions involving performances such as dance, poetry, traditional music, and photography.

## 22. Gchwihaba Cultural Festival

The Festival serves as a gateway for tourists to appreciate the cultural heritage of communities living in the Gchwihaba area, 1, 520km from Gaborone. It enables people to learn about Basarwa and Baherero's way of life. It is usually held at the Gchwihaba caves at Xaxa settlement in the North West District. The festival is organized by Gcae Gcae Tlhabologo Community Trust.

## 23. Morobosi Cultural Festival

This is a Tswapong cultural festival celebrated under the name Morobosi Cultural Festival. It is made in the spirit of reviving cultural safari tourism as well as showcasing handcrafts. It is meant to show the country and the world at large that people can benefit from their natural resources as well as their talents. This festival is held in different places surrounding the Tswapong Hills which is about 275km from Gaborone.

## 24. Botswana Independence Day

Batswana are proud of the advances their country has made since independence, happily hitting the streets in celebration every year on September 30. Traditional music and dance, poetry, attire, street parties and parades are a critical part of the commemorations. Even though a national event is held in Gaborone, at community level Batswana gather at the kgotla (traditional court) to commemorate the day.

# Kingdom of Eswatini Cultural Events



# 1. Kingdom of Eswatini Annual Marula Festival

The Marula season begins each year in mid-February and continues until May, bringing with it a celebration of the harvest of the Marula fruit. Once the green fruits fall to the ground, women and children gather and store them until they ripen to a creamy yellow colour. The fruits are then placed into water, sugar is added and it is fermented, and distilled into a beer. This potent alcoholic mixture is called buganu, or Marula beer.

The Kingdom of Eswatini celebrates the start of the Marula season at the Ebuhleni Royal Residence from 23rd-25th February. The festival is increasing in popularity, and swiftly becoming one of the country's most exciting traditional ceremonies. Each year King Mswati III and Her Majesty the Indlovukazi, the Queen Mother, make their way to various regions of the Kingdom to celebrate the beginning of the Marula Season.

The largest of these festivals is held at the royal residence at Ebuhleni where the royal family join the nation in song and dance. Although the Marula Fruit is found widely throughout Africa, it is most popular in Kingdom of Eswatini. Seen by the Swati nation as much more than a food source, the Marula is rather regarded as a magical healing ingredient, with huge fertility properties. The King and Queen mother are presented with Marula gifts and some Marula beer from each



household. Only after the royal family has had some of the beer, is the rest of the nation permitted to join in and drink as well.

Because of its many uses, the Marula fruit is no longer just used to brew beer in Kingdom of Eswatini. It has been further developed into beauty products as part of Her Majesty, The Indlovukazi's job creation and poverty alleviation initiatives for rural women in The Kingdom of Eswatini. Several families in The Kingdom of Eswatini have benefited from this initiative.

The Marula products are produced under a company called Swati Secrets. The fruit has been developed into many different beauty products. These products also come in hotel packages and gift packages.



# 2. Umhlanga, The Reed Dance

This is Kingdom of Eswatini best known cultural event, and has a more open feel than the Incwala. In this eight-day ceremony, young girls cut reeds, present them to the Queen Mother (Indlovukazi) – ostensibly to repair the windbreak around her royal residence – and then dance in celebration. Up to 40,000 girls take part, dressed up in brightly coloured attires - making it one of the biggest and most spectacular cultural event in Africa.

The proper festivities kick off on day six, when dancing gets under way in the afternoon. Each group drops their reeds outside the Queen Mother's quarters then moves to the main arena, where they dance and sing their songs. The dancing continues on day seven, when the king is present. Each regiment dances before him in turn. Little can prepare you for the sheer scale of the pageantry, with column upon column of girls advancing like vast ululating centipedes across the parade

grounds of Ludzidzini, each dissolving in turn into the pulsating mass of bodies around the royal kraal. The Girls sing and the warrior escorts, adorned with cow tails and clutching knob-stick and shield, are sternly intent on their duties and seem contemptuous of tourists, but the girls are all smiles. It's Kingdom of Eswatini's biggest holiday and, after days of tramping the hillsides, cutting reeds and camping out, they're determined to party. The event takes place around the last week of August / first week of September. The dates for the event are released relatively close to the time as they derive from ancestral astrology.

Day One The girls gather at the Queen Mother's royal village. Today this is at Ludzidzini, in Sobhuza's time it was at Lobamba. They come in groups from the 200 or so chiefdoms and are registered for security. Men, usually four, supervise them, appointed chiefs. They sleep in the huts of relatives in the village or in classrooms of nearby schools. This is a very exciting time for the maidens.

Day Two The girls are separated into two groups, the older (about 14 to 22 years) and the younger (about 8 to 13 years). In the afternoon, they march to the reed-beds with their supervisors. The older girls often march about 30 kilometers, while the younger girls march about ten kilometers. If the older girls are sent further, government will provide trucks for their transport.

Day Three The girls cut their reeds, usually about ten to twenty, using long knives. Each girl ties her reeds into a bundle. Nowadays they use strips of plastic for the tying, but those mindful of tradition will still cut grass and plait it into rope.

Day Four In the afternoon, the girls set off to return to the Queen Mother's village, carrying their bundles of reeds. Again they return at night. This is done "to show they traveled a long way."

### 3. Butimba, the Royal Hunt

Fulfilling the need to sustain ancient traditional customs that unite and bond the Swati Nation, the Butimba or Royal Hunt and its relationship with nature conservation is a loving example of the potential benefits of sustainable utilization and the value it promises for future generations.

The Butimba is an event almost as integral to the Swati Culture as the main ceremonies of iNcwala and Umhlanga. Held in late August, the King leads his regiments to an area at Hlane where over a period of three days, warriors hunt, spend evenings under the stars and feast on the fresh meat that is obtained. The Butimba follows strict curfews and occurs in a buffer section of Hlane, where only come game species exist. Incredible as it may seem today, during the 1960s, the game populations were so decimated that the annual hunt revealed little but cane rats and hares. This traditional ceremony appeared to be doomed to obscurity in the absence of wildlife, until King Sobhuza II, father of the current King, commanded the protection of Hlane.



Now through the philosophy of protecting the cow that yields an annual surplus of milk, the protected core of Hlane Royal Park provides the surpluses of game that have again made the Butimba meaningful. With the king's understanding and support, the Butimba has adapted to present times and is bound within conservation parameters.



photographs except by special permit. The best day to attend is Day four of the Big iNcwala, when the feasting and dancing reach a climax, and you will see thousands of people – including warriors in full battle regalia – thronging the royal parade grounds. The songs, dances and ritual that take place inside the royal kraal remain a matter of utmost secrecy and may not be recorded or written down. The event takes place around the last week of December / first week of January. The dates for the event are released relatively close to the time as they derive from ancestral astrology.

#### Day 1

Dispersing of regiments (Tingaja). Unmarried male youths set off from Engabezweni Royal residence and march 50km to cut branches of the sacred shrub (Lusekwane) under the light of the full moon, accompanied by Emabutfo.

#### Day 2

Dropping the Lusekwane: the boys place their lusekwane branches in the national cattle byre. The elders weave these branches in between poles of the "inhlambelo", the King's private sanctuary.

#### Day 3

Morning: Young boys cut branches of the black "Imbondvo. (red bush willow/combretum apiculatum) and these are added to the "Inhlambelo." Afternoon: A bull charges out, the Lusekwane boys catch and overpower the beast and return it to the sanctuary.

#### Day 4

Main Day: All the key players perform in a spectacular pageant inside the cattle byre; the King and the regiments appear in full war-dress and dance to a number of songs. Then he emerges to throw the sacred gourd (Luselwa), which is caught on a black shield by one of the Lusekwane boys.

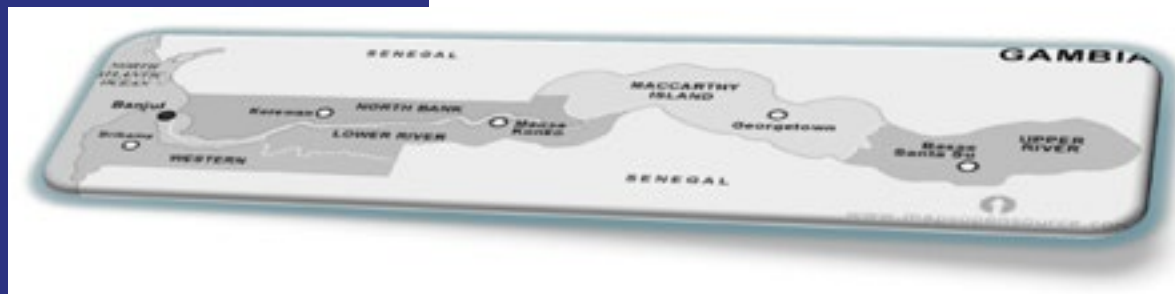
### 4. iNcwala Festival

This is Kingdom of Eswatini's most important cultural event. A ceremony that has lasted for hundreds of years, it is one of the last remaining examples of what was previously common practice in many African countries. It has a spiritual power that is largely lost on outsiders, and indeed many of its inner workings remain shrouded in secrecy. Although often translated as 'first fruits festival', the tasting of the first of the season's bounty is only one part of this long rite. Essentially this is about cleansing and renewal, and – above all – celebrating kingship. Although not a tourism event per se, visitors with an interest in Kingdom of Eswatini culture are always welcomed. Respect for total privacy is required on certain special days when the nation gathers for its own focus, without outside interference.

Every Swati may take part in the public parts of the iNcwala. Spectators are permitted but not actively encouraged – and you may not take

# THE GAMBIA

## Cultural Events





## 1. Banjul Cultural Festival

Takes place in Banjul City from the 25th of December to the 1st of January. It's a long-standing display of the local Banjul culture and masquerade parade each Christmas day to New Year's in January. Banjul, the capital city is a melting pot of ethnicities. All the major ethnic groups in the country are found here, as well as migrants from the neighboring countries, vying to showcase their masquerades and performance traditions at this time.

Positive step in promoting cultural diversity and mutual appreciation of each other's cultures and religious tolerance among the people of Banjul. Showcase the traditional masks and masquerades of the ethnics in Banjul both Christians and Muslims living in harmony.

## 2. Sanyang International Cultural Festival

JANUARY Sanyang as the origin of the Kombo settlement is occupied by several ethnicities whose activities mainly centered on the sea trade. This festival showcases the Kombo cultures and traditions in their diversity from the 4 human life cycle ceremonies of birth, circumcision, marriage and burial with their performance traditions. Its highlight is a daylong cultural and musical jamboree at the beachside till day break.

A celebration of diverse cultures living in peace and harmony and showcasing their cultural and traditional rituals to the visitors. The pilgrimage to "Berewuleng" rock at the sea side is a reflection of their ancestral lineage to their first settlement with their atheist religion of "Jalang" worshipping. This festival includes a cultural display of various

## 3. Kartong Festival

31st January to 4th February, 2020. This festival includes a cultural display of various choreographic dances and traditional music of the two border communities of Kartong in the Gambia and Casamance in Senegal for a long weekend. It involves drumming and dance training sessions for visitors wanting to learn the rhythms of the Djembe and the two cultures separated by an imaginary boundary's music and dance.

Raise revenues for the local community as well as putting Kartong and Casamance on the same platform to showcase their similarity. Conducted by Kartong Community Development Association.

## 4. Independence Day Celebration

18th February (annually)  
A public holiday for a national celebration, the day commemorates the date of independence from British colonial rule in 1965. Celebrated with a lot of fanfare including parades of school children, voluntary organizations, security forces, and cultural groups with series of other side events to mark the day.

It marks the date the Gambia became a sovereign nation and 18th February 2015 marks the 50th anniversary and the Golden Jubilee of the country. Conducted by the state.

## 5. Food & Beverage Festival



April 2020.  
This festival showcases the Gambia's hospitality and culinary art in its diversity. It is an exhibit of our local food immersed with entertainment of our local performances. The festival provides a "taste of the Gambia" and compliments the international foods that are also found in the Gambia.

The festival displays our local cuisine to tourists and locals take the opportunity to dine and also enjoy other nation's food and beverages. Conducted by the Gambia Tourism Board

## 6. Amsterdam/Plymouth Banjul Rally

March (1st week; annually); Plymouth Banjul Rally is a charity rally that starts from Plymouth, UK, through other countries with Banjul as its ultimate destination. All cars that make it to the Gambia are auctioned in aid of local charities for Jammeh Foundation for Peace.

Geared towards poverty alleviation. The proceeds from the car auctions are given to local charities which address the basic needs of the under-privileged or less fortunate Gambians, especially in the rural areas supported by JFP. Conducted by Jammeh Foundation of Peace.

## 7. Trade Fair

December (Annual); A trade fair organized to expand business opportunities for enterprises and create private sector jobs in addition to exhibiting product of local and international business.

The trade fair allows exhibitors to showcase what their Institutions/businesses have to offer to the general public and their clientele. Conducted by Gambia Chamber of commerce (GCCCI)

## 8. Bureng Koosee Cultural Festival

End of March. A Mandinka festival with the quest to preserve traditional cultural practices. This is a festival that takes place after harvests when food is abundant and people have plenty of time to relax before the rainy season sets in again and the fields demand a return to work. The festival showcases rare Manding masquerades such as the Koosee, konoo which were threatened with extinction.

The reborn of this festival has awakened the new generation of Mandinka on the need to take pride in their cultural traditions. Knowledge of the past is essential if they want to take up the mantle of leadership in their societies and their manhood passage. Conducted by Bureng Cultural society



## 9. Maribantang/Dankunku Cultural Festival

March (last weekend)

Biennial and routine with Essau. Held in Dankunku village, this two-day event is aimed at showcasing the cultural heritage of this manding settlement in Maribantang. It is a home for the most famous griots and musician Jaliba Kuyateh. The festival showcases the manding traditions of the Kankurang masquerades with cultural dancing.

To maintain and preserve its rich cultural heritage for the younger generation. The young learn the rituals, norm and values from the older generations. Conducted by the Maribang Society.

## 10. Esau Wo Worosso Cultural Festival

March/April. The Worosso Festival is a celebration of the first manding settlers of the Gambia River banks from the Great Mali Empire. The settlement was positioned into 7 pillars (sinkirr) of the local communities of the river banks. The festival features the night masquerades 'Suto Kankurang' from the 7 local communities.

A celebration of their ancestral lineage from the 7 pillars of Nuimi and re-unification to showcase their common heritage. Conducted by Esau Cultural Society

## 11. May Day Sports

May 1st (Annual) This is a national holiday where workers across the length and breadth of greater Banjul area converge at the Independence Stadium to take part in various sporting activities.

Workers of various institutions come together, socialize and show solidarity in physical exercises. Conducted by the State

## 12. International Roots Festival

May (2nd week Biennial)

The Gambia's most popular international festival. Organized once in every two years, the festival programme is characterized by visits to heritage sites relating to slavery; the



futampaf, a Jola traditional initiation/ rites of passage ceremony from youth to adulthood in which visitor's can partake; and diverse cultural performances.

This is designed to encourage and provide opportunity for Africans in the Diaspora to re-discover their roots and re-connect, reaffirm and re-embrace their ancestral identity. Conducted by the Ministry of Tourism and Culture.

## 13. Sheikh Umar Futi Taal Ziyareh

June (Ending) Annual

The mosque, associated grounds, buildings and rocks are all regarded as sacred because the site provided sojourn for the Kalifat'ul Tijanniyya Sheikh Umar Taal, 1793- 1864, leader of the Tijanniyya Sect in West Africa, during his Islamization mission in West Africa. Followers take pilgrimage to the site to pay homage and receive blessings.

People visit the Sand Dune Mosque to pray for life changing situations ranging from marital status to reversing the plight of barren women for child bearing.

## 14. Tobaskh /Koriteh Day

Islamic Calendar (Annual) Depending on the sight of the moon Muslims observe the month of Ramadan fasting and end after a month with a religious celebration and solidarity with the family. Tobaski is further punctuated with ram sacrifices in tandem with the pilgrimage in Mecca.

A religious observation and celebration that is enshrine in the Muslim's Holy Book and observed by Muslims all over the world.

## 15. Wrestling

Occasionally Organized / during major national events Wrestling is more than a sport in the Gambia. The wrestling arena is a place to show courage, labour, strength, fair play and to honor the traditional sports in society. Fights are organized between clans or weight opponents for a competition to win the coveted prizes.

Teach young Gambians about the most popular traditional sport as well as honor the Spirits of society in becoming a man.

## 16. Tourism Week

December (Annual) Stakeholders and members of the tourism fraternity come together during the tourism week to celebrate Gambian culture and award prizes for exemplary performance in the interest of tourism in the country.

The platform recognizes the outstanding performance of members of the tourism fraternity during the tourist season. Conducted By Gambia Tourism Board

## 17. Open Mic Festival



December (last weekend) Annual This is the most celebrated Gambian youth musical festival held under the backdrop of rising Gambian musical talents and showcasing the best of music of the year. It has clock in for the 7th year as a private purely Gambian entertainment musical jamboree.

Identifying the best of Gambian talents also assist in marketing Gambian music beyond Gambian borders. Conducted by By Black Lynz

## 18. Kayong Kalon Cultural Festival

October (held in the dry season) It is a festival of the Karoninka clan. One of the first settlers of the Kombos and they spread from Gunjur to Mandinary. They come together annually to showcase their performance traditions as part of a desire to sustain their language and culture which is on the verge of extinction.

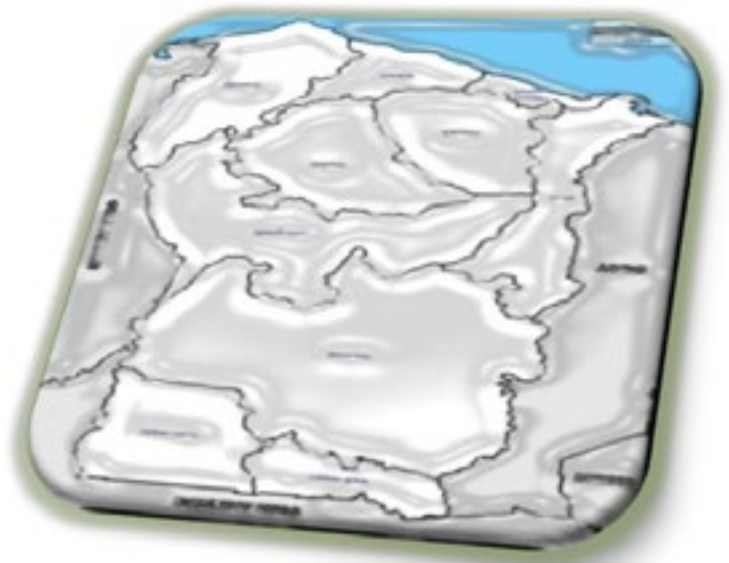
To celebrate and maintain the Karoninka ancestral linkages and revival of their culture for the young generations. An opportunity for the 7 clans of Karon tribe to meet to express fraternity and solidarity (2 clans from Guinea Bissau 3 from the Casamance, Senegal and 2 in the Gambia) for cross border festival.

Conducted by Kayorn Kalorn Association.



# GHANA

## Cultural Events



## 1. The Aboakyer Commemoration

A bushbuck hunting festival celebrated by the people of Winneba in the Central Region of Ghana during the month of May. It is believed that, the clan moved from an Eastern African town to their current land in the Central Region. As a result of this, a bushbuck is sacrificed and this announces the initiation of the event. The ceremony is believed to enhance the people; productivity, spiritual protection and counsel from their gods for the following years

## 2. The Adea Celebration

ADAE in the local dialect means “resting place” and is a celebration among the Ashantis. This festival has two events, one on Sunday (Akwasidae) and the other on Wednesday (Awukudae) between July and October and in January. The event is organized to express gratitude to the gods and ancestors for the new harvest. During the event, the community is kept clean and the paramount chief takes a meal prepared from yam and plantain, presents it before the ceremonial stool for the spirit of the ancestors to feed on. It is accompanied by the ringing of a bell, as an indication that, the spirit is eating the food. It is celebrated in Kumasi to mark specific milestone in the history of the Ashanti Kingdom. It is celebrated every 40th day according to the Ashanti Royal calendar. Its first celebration was during the attainment of statehood by the Ashanti Kingdom after they fought and defeated the Denkyiras in the battle of Feyiase also known as the Ashanti Independence war.

## 3. The Akwambo Festival

AKWAMBO is observed annually, mainly in the Agona and Gomoa Districts in the Central Region of Ghana. The festival commemorates the journey and arrival of the founding settlers of the four towns of Gyinankoma, Ekrawfo, Atakwaa, and Otabenadze. Celebrations are held at various times of the year, usually lasting for several days, and can include different activities according to local custom. However, most Akwambo festivals share certain common customs such as the ritual path clearing, a public gathering known as a durbar, and family or community reunions. There may also be music and dance performances,

soccergames, and parades. In some areas, young people hold an all-night party.

## 4. The Asogili Festival

The ASOGLI YAM festival is a yearly celebration by the Asogli people in the Volta Region of Ghana. The celebration is observed to remember the harvest of yam that was found by a hunter long ago. According to ancient times, the harvest of yam among the people started when the yam which the hunter hid, germinated and began to grow larger. This shows the origin of yam among the Asoglis. The festival fosters unity through reconciliation, mobilization of the entire resources of the state towards wealth creation and to re-affirm honor by all chiefs and their people in the area to the “Agbogbome stool”. It is held in September or October.

## 5. The Attu Festival

The ATTU FESTIVAL (or welcome festival) is held bi-annually in a different Ghana region each time. These are Arts festivals of Copyright owners of Ghana and managed by the three Collective Management Organizations in the country namely – Audiovisual Rights Society of Ghana (ARSOG), Ghana Music Rights Organization (GHAMRO) and the Reprographic Rights Organization of Ghana (COPYGHANA). Ghanaian artistes would welcome to our country their counterparts from across the globe and in cohesion tell their various stories in music, film, books, paintings, sculpture, drama and other art forms imaginable.

## 6. The Bakatue Event

The BAKSTUE event is celebrated by the people of Winneba in the Central Region of Ghana on the 1st Tuesday of July. Tuesday was selected and adopted for, as a day to honor the river god. Fishing, drumming, and funerals are therefore banned during the period of the celebration of the festival. At the same time, the paramount chief of the area together with his subordinates and the entire people of Winneba offer the solemn festival food of eggs and mashed yams mixed with palm oil, to the river god and pray for unity. After a series of events, the chief casts his net three times into the lagoon / river to bring an end to the ban on fishing, drumming, funerals and other activities in the area.

## 7. The Bugum Chugu Festival & The Epor

BUGUMU CHUGU is also known as the fire festival, which is celebrated among the Dagomba people in the Northern part of Ghana in October. The event starts after the evening meal where the chief, linguist, the chief and the people gather. Afterwards, the chief lights the touch (fire) and the multitude of the people chant in a warlike manner, with the intention of deafening the sound of the “tom-tom” drums. The members of the entire community do not only hold touches but also cutlasses, bows, single stick, arrows, knife making the community severely charged and disturbed.

The EPOR festival is celebrated by the chiefs and peoples of Lolobi-Kumasi in the Volta region of Ghana.

## 8. The Damba & Dogoglelime Festival

Originally linked with the birth of Mohammed, the prophet of Allah, The Damba festival has assumed a traditional character. A two – day festival full of pageantry, showmanship and horse riding held in September or October by the Tamale/ Yendi ethnic group.

Dodoglelime, means coming out of the wall in the Ewe language. The festival is used to mark the migration of the people Notsie in Togo in the 17th Century to their present location in the south east of Ghana. The migration occurred because the people were fed up with the rule of Togbe Agorkoli. The people therefore use the festival to commemorate the heroics of their ancestors who devised a secret escape through a hole they dug in the wall that surrounded the Notsie town. Another reason for the celebration of the festival is for the people to honor certain ancestors who played leading roles in their secret escape.

## 9. The Dipo & the Fao Festival

Dipo is a Ghanaian traditional festival celebrated by the people of Odumase in the Eastern region of Ghana. The festival is celebrated in the month of April every year. The festival is used to usher into puberty, girls who are virgins and it signifies that a lady,

who partakes in it, is of age to be married. Parents upon hearing announcement of the rites send their qualified girls to the chief priest. However these girls would have to go through rituals and tests to prove their chastity before they qualify to partake in the festival.

Fao is an event celebrated by the people of Navrongo in the Upper East Region, who are predominantly Kassenas and Nankanis in the northern part of Ghana. The celebration is done each year in January, initiating a thanksgiving festival in recognition to end the harvest period, demonstrate honor to their gods for rains throughout the farming period and to show gratitude for good health and protection

## 10. Fiok Festival

FIOK is a war festival to re-enact ancient historic exploits of the Busa people. There is a durbar, as well as drumming, dancing and thanksgiving to the gods of the land. It is held in December in Sandama. Feok Festival of simple translation, “Feok” in the local Buli dialect, means abundance of food. In this context, then, the festival becomes one of thanks-giving by which the people of the area express thanks to God, their ancestors and the earth shrines for seeing them through another year and a successful farming season. The climax of the festival is a public gathering bringing together chiefs, war dancers, and singing groups from the villages in the Builsa area. The festival commences with the pouring of libation to invoke the ancestors and shrines of the land for an uneventful and peaceful celebration. This is followed by speeches by the Paramount Chief and key dignitaries present, interspersed by a variety of musical performances. War dancers representing various villages are given the floor to perform at this stage. Armed with shields, spears, short axes, bows and arrows, they relive battle scenes from yester-year. Scenes of resistance and the ultimate defeat of the marauding warriors of Babatu. Babatu stands out for his prolonged career in slave raids and his prominent role in the history of slavery in the Northern Territories.

- Historical sources relate that he originally hailed from Indunga in present day Niger. Recruiting Hausa, Fulani, Mossi and Grunshie fighters, he embarked on a conquering spree. The area stretching from Ouagadougou in the north to the present day Upper East and even parts of the Northern

Region of Ghana fell under his sword. The tide, however, turned against him when he entered Builsaland. He and his warriors suffered a decisive defeat in the hands of the Builsa in the Battle of Fiisa, bringing to an end his two-decade career. (Fiisa is the name of a section of Sandema where the battle was fought). Babatu fled the Builsa area following this defeat, and later took refuge at Yendi in the Northern Region, where he eventually died. This is how the life of the notorious Zabarima slave raider ended whose name became synonymous with the human trade in the Northern Territories.

## 11. Fetu Afahye Festival

FETU AFAHYE is an event solemnized by the Oguaa people of Cape Coast. Fetu in the local accent means “Efin tu” (dirt cleansing). It can be noted that, the event symbolizes the maintaining of cleanliness and the avoidance of the repetition of an epidemic that came down to their forefathers. It is held in September.

- The FOFIE YAM festival is celebrated by the chiefs and peoples of Nchiraa near Wenchi in the Brong Ahafo Region of Ghana. The festival is celebrated in the month of October every year.
- The Fofie Yam Festival is a joyful event that gives thanks for the harvest and God's ongoing protection; locals also use the event to invoke further blessings and guidance for the year ahead.
- The Festival is celebrated throughout the Techiman traditional area by the chiefs and people of the region. Fofie is an Akan word for Friday; the celebration is traditionally held on this day and often through Saturday and for a number of days either side. Because Fridays and Saturdays are believed to be auspicious for state ceremonies, these days are when the festivities reach their peak. During the festival, music and dancing are key features; drumming is carried out by many of the locals, to which dancing is performed, often in public spaces where crowds look on and cheer. The atmosphere is one of joy and energy as everyone heads out into the streets to celebrate.

- FEOK has become the most significant event in the Builsa area in recent times, giving the people a true sense of identity and solidarity. This is in direct contrast to what pertained in the early years of the Builsa which were characterised by mistrust, petty

rivalry and intra-clan conflicts (a situation that rendered them weak, vulnerable and easy prey for slave raiders).

## 12. Gmayem Festival

The GMAYEM festival is a celebration of the abundant harvest of ngma (millet). It is when the Krobo people, with gratitude and thanksgiving to their maker acknowledge his providence and care over the previous years and supplicate for his continuous bounty and protection in the coming years. The Krobo people (Klo li), in their migration history and particularly after Lolovor, became defined in every aspect of their lives as a people set apart by an invisible pathfinder and sanctifier (Nana Klowki) under the Almighty and Creator (Mau) of all things.

## 13. Gologo Festival

The GOLOGO Festival is among the major festivals in Ghana and is celebrated by the chiefs and people of Talensi, Tong-Zuf, in the Upper East Region of the country, serving “to reinforce the community belief in the Nnoo shrine or Golib god”, which deity regulates Talensi agricultural life. It is a pre-harvest festival celebrated in the months of March and April, with sacrifices offered to seek protection and ensure plentiful rain and a good harvest in the coming season from the earthly gods. The festival has a three-day programme at three different villages. The first part takes place at Gorogo, the second at Yinduri, and the final and biggest at Teng-Zug (Tong-Zuf). Libation is poured at the Teng-Zug shrine to thank the gods for a successful occasion. The one in March is called Gol-diema, which means tutorial. The main Gologo festival is celebrated in the second week in April. Traditional songs are composed by the elders of each community for the occasion and people dance to the composed songs. During this period, noise-making is prohibited and no one mourns their dead. There is a special dress code whereby men wear a short knicker and a towel on the chest. Women are also expected to tie a long towel from their chest feet.

## 14. Homowo & Hogbetsotso Festival

The HOMOWO ceremony is celebrated by the GA people of Ghana in May. Homowo means to hoot (shame) at hunger. It started

with a prolonged hunger, due to failure of the seasonal rain in the Greater Accra Region, where the “Gas” live. The event begins with the planting of maize, which is used in preparing local food for the festival known as kpokpoi. The celebration is finalized by drumming, painting, singing and the performing of traditional dance among the Ga people.

- The HOGBETSOTSO festival is lauded by the people of Anloga in the Volta region of Ghana. The name of the festival expresses the movement of the people from “Notsie” to their present location. Here, the paramount chief dresses in colorful regalia and accepts homage from his own people at the durbar grounds. Several forms of dancing, merry-making and singing defines the festival in a whole which takes place in November.

## 15. Kloyosikplem

KLOYOSIKPLEM meaning ‘descending from mountain’ is a festival celebrated by the people of the Yilo Krobo traditional area. Before descending from the mountain to their present home, they believe their ancestors and forefathers lived as one people and did almost everything together as one people with a common destiny 121 years ago, and therefore they must also remain united.”

- Activities usually lined up during the celebration include clean-up exercises, meet-your-chiefs, quiz competition for schools in Yilo Krobo, health screening exercise and talk, women’s day, cooking contest, and cultural night, visit to Yilo Krobo Mountain (ancestral home), dramatisation of the forceful ejection of Krobos from the mountain, Agrofie, grand durbar, crowning of Miss Yilo, state dance, Interdenominational thanksgiving service, and football gala competition among others. The Krobos are mostly farmers spread across the length and breadth of the country contributing their quota to the agricultural sector and stressed the need for them to come home every year to celebrate what she called traditional history.

## 16. African Choral Festival & The Schools Reunion

THE AFRICAN CHORAL FESTIVAL brings together choirs from all over Africa and the rest of the world in order to provide an opportunity to perform in the spirit

of friendship, to compare, collaborate, learn from each other, and form lasting friendships.

- THE SCHOOL REUNION, formerly “old schools reunion” is a gathering of all past students of all Second cycle and tertiary students. It is single largest gathering of its sort in the country. It is an annual event organised by Joy fm, a member of the Multimedia Group. Various sporting activities like 5-aside, gari soakings, arm wrestling and other exciting competitions are normally held. There is usually an exclusive live band for matured patrons with exciting performances by some of Ghana’s finest artistes.

- The participating choirs will be able to present themselves in several concerts during the festival. This helps the foreign choirs to acquaint themselves with various venues in Ghana before and after the Festival.

- The main aim of the African Choral Festival is to be an international platform for the development and propagation of Africa’s rich choral music.

- The festival is preceded by a national competitive selection process for Ghanaian Choirs applying to participate in the festival. A total of three of the best Ghanaian Choirs are selected through this process for participation in the international festival.

- Visiting choirs get the opportunity to perform at the Grand National Theatre as well as the historical and Cape Coast Castle visited by President Barack Obama and his family in 2009.

## 17. Ghana Paragliding Festival

The past 7 years has seen the GHANA PARAGLIDING FESTIVAL become an integral part of the annual Kwahu Easter Festivities. The event rekindled the hither-to dying Kwahu Easter festival and transformed Easter celebration in Ghana into an international event.

- The history of the festival goes back to March 2003 when, as the new Minister of Tourism and Modernization of the capital city Accra, Mr. Jake Tanka Obetsebi-Lampsey visited the Kwahu ridge as part of his familiarization tour of the country, and by chance crossed paths with the festival’s

organizer, Walter Nesor.

- The first Ghana Paragliding Festival, in 2005, was launched by H.E. late Alhaji Aliu Mahama, Vice President of the Republic of Ghana.

- The festival was rechristened the Kwahu Easter Festival in 2010 through the leadership of the Chief Executive of the Ghana Tourism Authority (Julius Debrah) in partnership with Adom fm (a local fm station and member of the Multimedia Group) and has thence incorporated numerous activities including hiking the Odweanoma mountain, walk race (Walkerton), telescope viewing from the Mt. Odweanoma Observatory, Jams, Durbar of Chiefs and People of Kwahu, Music Album lunches etc.

- Kwahu Paragliding festival attracts both Ghanaians and foreigners alike for 4 days of spectacular aerial fun, ceremony and music. For the last 5 years, tandem paraglide pilots have gathered from around the world to fly local Ghanaian spectators and foreign visitors.

- The festival is open to solo pilots as well; and boasts consistent flying conditions that begin around mid-morning and remain soarable until late in the day. The Festival exposes hundreds of Ghanaians, as well as a large number of tourists, to the magic of free flight.

- The Festival brings together the international flying community, by providing a well-organized opportunity to visit Africa. It can be a challenge to travel in Africa; especially flying sites, which are usually off of the beaten tourist paths. But the superb organization of the festival makes it fun and easy for tandem and solo pilots to show-up and enjoy a fully catered trip; complete with arranged hotel accommodation, transportation, meals and cultural immersion via local day trips.

- The festival strengthens the local economy by creating opportunities for local business proprietors (such as taxi drivers, hotel owners, food vendors and souvenir sellers) to earn much needed income.

## 18. Emancipation Day & Chocolate Day

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## 19. Black History Month

BLACK HISTORY MONTH as known now was originally called the Negro History Week created by Carter .G. Woodson, a noted African American historian, educator, scholar and publisher. It became a month long celebration in 1976.

- The month of February was chosen to coincide with the birthdays of Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln, significant players in the abolishment of slavery in the United States.

- Black History Month has evolved over the years with other countries joining the celebrations. In the United Kingdom, the Month was first celebrated in 1987 through

the leadership of Akyaba AAddai-Sebo a Ghanaian who served as coordinator of special projects for the Greater London Council (GLC).

- In Canada, it was celebrated in 1995 after a motion by politician Jean Augustine, representing the riding of Etobicoke-Lakeshore in Ontario, Canada's House of Commons officially recognized February as Black History Month and honored Black Canadians.

- The celebrations have been marked extensively in Ghana and some parts of Africa. The US Embassy in Accra, Ghana has over the years collaborated with educational institutions, non- profits and cultural advancement agencies to mark the celebrations.

## 20. Chale Wote Street Art Festival

The CHALE WOTE STREET ART FESTIVAL also known as Chale Wote is an alternative platform that brings art, music, dance and performance out into the streets. The festival targets exchanges between scores of local and international artists and patrons by creating and appreciating art together.

- Since 2011, Chale Wote has included street painting, graffiti murals, photography, theater, spoken word, interactive art installations, live street performances, extreme sports, film shows, a fashion parade, a music block party, recyclable design workshops and much more. It is the

first to be organized in Accra, Ghana and has inspired similar events across the country.

- There have been four editions so far; the first two ran for one day each, while the 2013 and 2014 edition ran concurrently for two days, the former in September and the latter in August, a week after the Homowo festival of the Ga people at the historical Jamestown, Ghana on the High Street in Accra.

- The event is produced by Accra [dot] Alt Radio, with support from other local cultural networks like Attukwei Art Foundation, Foundation for Contemporary Art Ghana, Dr. Monk, Redd Kat Pictures and the Institut français in Ghana.

## 21. Ghana Music Week

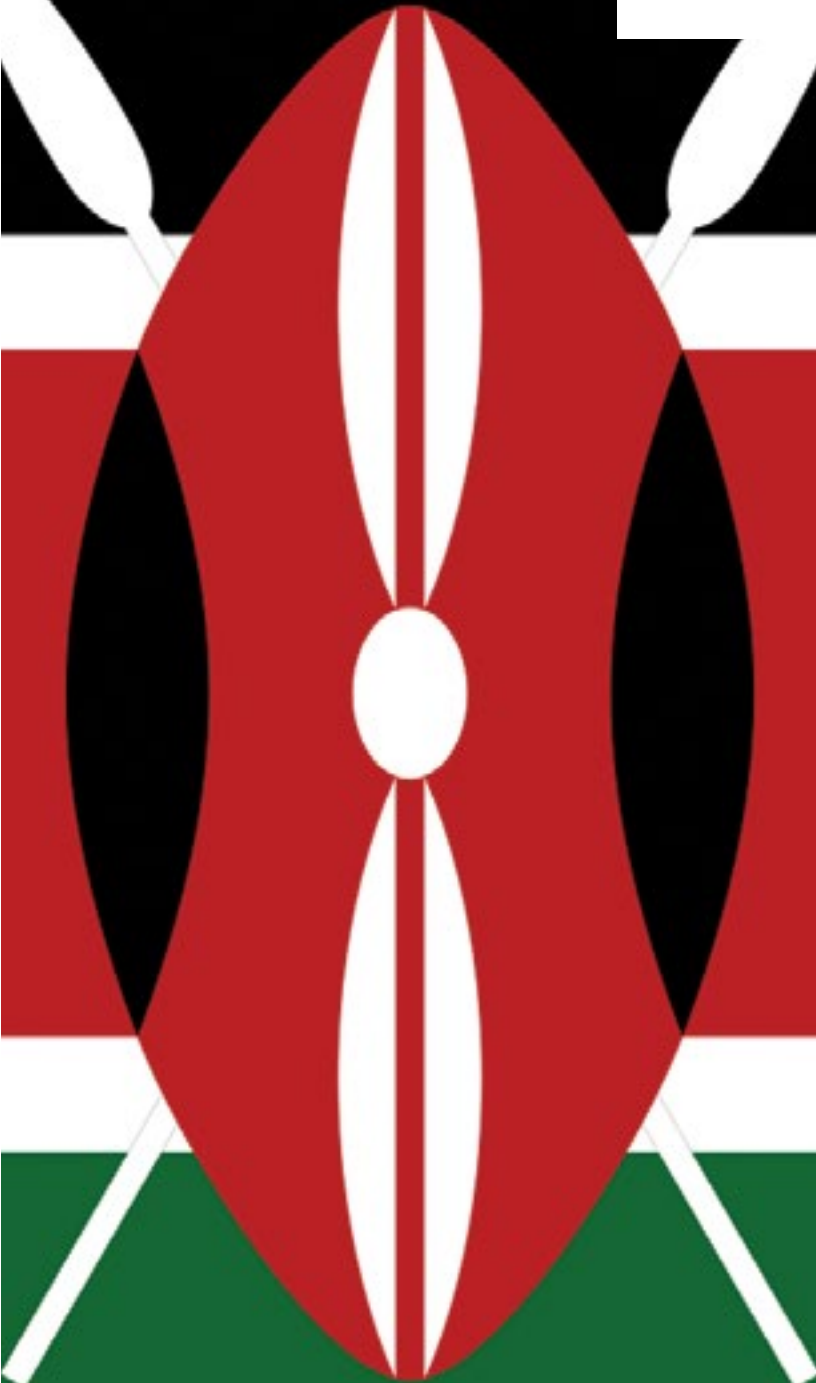
GHANA MUSIC WEEK is a music festival held in Ghana, West Africa to celebrate Ghanaian music, one of Africa's thriving music industries. The annually held festival aims to create heightened awareness and exposure for Ghanaian music and its artists.

- The 7-day music festival is packed with cut edging activities ranging from music workshops, concerts, award ceremony, sales and exhibitions and many more.

- Ghana Music Week is organized by the Musicians Union of Ghana (MUSIGA), Fantasy Entertainment, Showbiz Africa and National Theater Ghana and is in partnership with Coyah Productions, The R'ajwa Company and RDPR.

# KENYA

## Cultural Events







## 1. Lamu Festival

It's time they celebrate another fruitful season. Located within the Lamu Archipelago off the Indian Ocean along the northern coast of Kenya, Lamu is one of the largest and most visited islands renowned for its Swahili cultural heritage, donkey sanctuaries, white sandy beaches, pristine blue waters and many cultural and religious festivals. The sense of community is quite evident during the festivals such as the Lamu Cultural Festival which has been organized by the Lamu Cultural Promotion group since 2001 when Lamu was declared a world heritage site by UNESCO. Here's a peek at some of the delights you will be treated to during the three day festival;

1. Traditional dances and live musical performances.
2. Dhow and Donkey races.
3. Poetry competition.
4. Swimming races in the ocean and Football tournaments.
5. Traditional displays of Swahili food and artefacts.



## 2. Marsabit Lake Turkana Festival

The tapping of bare feet as they hit the ground. It is a symbiotic clash of culture derived from national pride, history, and heritage all cultivated onto one platform to give a captivating and enthralling experience. Can you imagine tribes and ethnic groups such as the Rendille, Samburu,

Turkana, Dassanach Gabra, Borana, El Molo, Konso, Sakure, Garee, and Waata gathering in a kaleidoscope of colour, dressed in their most elaborate tradition clothing, beading, head ornaments, and paint made from the red ochre? Picture each group building their traditional huts in front of you. It is fascinating to see the uniqueness of each individual hut when sitting side by side. The Marsabit Lake Turkana Festival is a conglomerate of 14 communities that forms the bulk of the larger Marsabit County's populace. The festival was proposed by the local communities who reside on the Eastern shores of Lake Turkana in Marsabit County. It was initiated in the year 2008 and has since been an annual event.



## 3. The Rusinga Cultural Festival

encompasses all the aspects of adventure and experience into just two days! Two days of dancing, laughing, listening and hanging out by the lake. Two days of the aroma of ethnic meat and fish dishes rising into the air tempting even the hardest of stomachs. Their local uji, rightly entitled as a delicacy and in the common language known as Owusera is a must have. Then there is the thrill of the sport. In traditional Suba set up, sports were used to unite people. And here centuries down the line, in an effort to protect the people's heritage they are used again to unite visitors and locals alike as they celebrate a people. Having the benefit of a lake makes for one of the most interesting sports, namely boat racing. It is one of those activities which will leave you mouth agape in anticipation. The boats racing across the causeway are not engine run but the traditional African boats (canoes) navigated with a paddle. That is not all, board games also apparently being a part of the culture, are showcased and traditional wrestling. To add onto the Asuba experience the time for cultural exhibition comes, where there are songs, dances, instrumentation, and a section called Eminayo which includes the likes of storytelling, chants, poetry, proverbs, riddles, plays and etc. There is a talent search and a pageant where Mr. and Ms. Suba are

selected as ambassadors. Not to mention the array of colors and fabrics presented in the fashion show. /As a result of assimilation and intermarriage with the Luo, the Suba culture has come under pressure and the language is now listed in UNESCO's Red Book of Endangered Languages (2003). Anne Eboso, the founder of the festival saw a need and decided to do something about it. The Festival is more than just about experience and fun. It is about reclaiming the identity of a people, showing of their quiet resilience, and reminding the world that they shall not be forgotten.



## 4. Tobongu Lore Festival

Kalokol Standing Stones – this is the Turkana version of Luanda Magere. According to the stories of the Turkana people, these basalt pillars who were once people. The legend goes that there was a village dance and a stranger came in and told the people not to laugh when he danced. The people agreed but when he started dancing people laughed at him. He cursed them and they all turned into stone, and they are in the position they were in when he cursed them. It is a spiritual power place and some Turkana people still come here to pray. Lake Turkana is beautiful, with a white sandy beach. It is the world's largest permanent desert lake and also the world's largest alkaline lake. It has a couple of islands on it which are UNESCO tourism sites. The cultural festival is an initiative of the county of Turkana to promote Turkana's rich culture. It is an initiative of the Department of Culture in collaboration with the Department of Tourism. The festival features traditional music, dance, poetry and performances from different wards in Turkana and also some secular music from various Turkana musicians. Also there is a Miss Cultural Heritage pageant, Turkana Cultural night and excursions to various famous historical sites. We also got to hear the history of the Turkana people. It is also a vehicle for creating community bonds and also acts as a peace tool. You get to watch the different attire worn by the people. It was a festival of colour, as people displayed their traditional clothing including lesos and skins, head ornaments, beading and paint.



## 1. Arts Innovation & Culture Week

It is an annual episode funded and spearheaded by the Ministry of Tourism, Environment and Culture. The 2017 event was held from the 2nd to the 7th October 2017. The event was characterized by youth forum, women's symposium, men's forum, music conference and concert, blend of cultures, fashion show and beauty pageants competition as well as the carnival.

The purpose of the event was to showcase creativity and innovation in arts. Participants were allowed to choose their activities and how they celebrate the arts week. For example Motion Pictures Association of Lesotho (MPALE) focused on screening and discussion on opportunities and challenges facing the film industry and issues of copyright and related rights. Lesotho Music Rights Association (LEMRA) held a conference aimed at sensitization of its members on copyright and collective management of rights.



## 2. Moshoeshoe Walk

This is an annual event that commemorates the legendary King Moshoeshoe I travel from Menkhoaneng to Thaba Bosiu. During Lifaqane War, in 1824, Moshoeshoe I and his people walked for 9 nine days from Menkhoaneng to a mountain called Thaba Bosiu in an effort to save his people from attacks by the enemies. The latest event took place on the 8th to 10th March 2017.



## 3. Moshoeshoe Day

Is an annual event celebrated by the whole country to commemorate birth of the founder of the Basotho nation King Moshoeshoe I who was born in 1786 and died on the 11th March 1870. The junior schools

celebrate the day with competitions and performances of cultural dances of their choice. In 2017 the event was held on the 11 March.



## 4. Morena Moorosi Lamentation Walk

This is an annual event held in the southern region of Lesotho in the district of Quthing by Baphuthi nation who are found in both Lesotho and South Africa. The purpose of this walk is to remind Baphuthi and Basotho of where they come from, the contribution of Baphuthi during the hard times of wars. This two day walk starts from the Eastern Cape Province of South Africa to Mount Moorosi in Quthing Lesotho. At the summit of the celebration, Baphuthi showcase their culture through poems, traditional dances of boys and girls as well as speaking Sephuthi language as a career of culture from generation to generation. The 2017 event was held on the 16th November.



## 5. Thai Lesotho Cultural Night

Was a cultural exchange program hosted by the Ministry of Tourism, Environment and Culture and was facilitated by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The purpose of the event was strengthening diplomatic ties between the Lesotho and Thailand. The event was held on the 23rd August 2017.



# LIBERIA

## Cultural Events



**1.** In December 2005, there was a **PEACE AND RECONCILIATION FESTIVAL**, which was geared towards bringing the people of Liberia together from the 15 counties in putting political and tribal indifferences aside. In this light, movie exhibitions are highlighted as well as traditional music cultural artifacts for the benefit of the public.



**2.** In August 2015, the Kakutonor Peace Festival highlighted on a theme called **“WE ARE ONE PEOPLE, LET’S MAINTAIN THE PEACE,”** during the national Flag Day Festival. The FLAG DAY is held every August 24 of the year.

**3.** On July 25, 2017, President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf dedicated more development projects including the Pipeline Community Hall and the Bentol Peace Park located in Benseville, Montserrado County. A Traditional Honoring Ceremony was also held for the President at the Bentol City Hall in Bentol, Mot serrado County. The **INDEPENDENCE DAY** is held annually every 26th of July.



**4.** On July 29, 2017, activities for the 170th Independence Anniversary were climaxed with a **NATIONAL KUKATONOR PEACE FESTIVAL** at the Antoinette Tubman Stadium Football field by the Crusader for Peace and the national Cultural Troop respectively.

# MALAWI

## Cultural Events



# JANUARY



## 1. Chilimika (Chachimwaka)

Period: Location:  
1st Five Days of the Year Nkhata Bay  
Chilimika means “year”. This is a dance festival which celebrates the arrival of the new year. It is mostly celebrated by Tonga Women and Youths.



## 2. Chilembwe Day

Date: 15th January  
Venue: PIM-Chiradzulu  
A day set aside to celebrate the life of Reverend John Chilembwe, a National hero who led an uprising against the ills of colonial government in 1915.

# FEBRUARY



## 3. N'cwala

Period: Last Saturday of the month  
Location: Zambia  
N'cwala is a harvest celebration festival of the Ngoni descendants of the Zulu Kingdom. The ceremony allows the Ngoni to thank and praise their God for the fresh fruits and crops in the fields, hence the ceremony is also known as “First Fruits Ceremony”.

# MARCH



## 4. Martyrs' Day

Date: Location:  
3rd March Nkhata Bay  
Commemorating the lives of those individuals who took a role in the struggle for Malawi's independence from the oppressive colonial regime on 3rd March, 1959.

# APRIL



## 5. Likoma Festival

Period: Location:  
Easter Weekend Likoma and Chisumulu Islands  
A festival which seeks to promote Likoma and Chizumulu Islands and bring the world closer to the peoples of the two islands through cultural interactions and fun.

# MAY



## 6. World Day for Cultural Diversity Dialogue and Development

Date: 21st May  
Location: Various  
The day provides the world with an opportunity to deepen our understanding of the values of cultural diversity and to learn to live together better. Locally the Day is commemorated through numerous arts and cultural activities in various locations.



## 7. Kamuzu Day

Date: 14th May  
Location: Various  
A celebration of the life of Malawi's first State President, Dr. Hastings Kamuzu Banda; also considered as father and founder of the Malawi nation and his significant contributions to Modern Day Malawi.

# JUNE



## 8. Luwawa International Mountain Bike Challenge

Period: 2nd weekend of the month  
 Venue: Luwawa Forest Lodge  
 Though it varies, the route usually starts at the Luwawa Forest Lodge and runs along the ridges of the Viphya Mountains. There are great views along the whole route and of course, plenty opportunities to spot wildlife



## 9. Lake Malawi Sailing Marathon

Period: Last weekend of the month to the first weekend of July  
 Venue: Lake Malawi  
 An epic test of speed, endurance and sheer determination that first took place in 1984. The event provides an opportunity to explore the stunning lake in an adventurous way. It is a challenge, adventure and an opportunity to experience the country of Malawi from a perspective witnessed by few and a chance to enjoy the camaraderie shared on this sailing safari.

## JULY



## 10. Mount Mulanje Porter's Race

Period: 1st Week of the month  
 Venue: Likhubula, Mulanje  
 An annual event; the Porter's Race is one of Malawi's most extreme competitions. It is a 25km race through the rocks of Mount Mulanje, which attracts the attention of runners from all over the world.



## 11. National Independence Day

Date: 6th July  
 Venue: Rotates Regionally  
 Commemorating Malawian independence from British rule in 1964.

## AUGUST



## 12. Kungoni Open Day

Period: 1st Saturday of the month  
 Venue: KuNgoniArts Centre  
 A festival held in memory of Father Jean-Baptiste Champmartin to whom the museum at Mua is dedicated. The festival brings together: drummers, singers and dancers from the surrounding villages.



## 13. Kulamba

Period: Last Saturday of the month  
 Venue: Mkaika Headquarters, Katete, Zambia  
 Celebration of the Chewa people to pay tribute to Kalonga Gawa Undi through traditional dances and the presentation of gifts.



## 14. Umthetho

Period: 2nd Saturday of the month  
 Location: Hora Mountain, Mzimba  
 Umthetho, which means "Custom" or "Governance" is a celebration of the M'belwa Jere Ngoni. It promotes good traditional governance, heritage and traditions

## SEPTEMBER



## 15. World Tourism Day

Date: 27th Sept.  
 Venue: Rotates according to where the main event is held.  
 A celebration aimed at fostering awareness among the international community of the importance of tourism and its social, cultural, political and economic value. Locally, a number of events linked to the commemoration of Tourism Day are held throughout the month.



## 16. Umhlangano Wa Maseko

Period: 1st Weekend of the month  
 Venue: Nkolimbo Village, Ntcheu  
 is the "Great Gathering" of the Maseko Ngoni



which showcases traditional songs, dances and crafts. The festival also seeks to enhance peace and unity symbolised by the releasing of 2 white pigeons..



## 17. Lake of Stars

Period: Last weekend of the month  
Venue: Sunbird Nkopola Lodge, Mangochi  
The Festival aims at promoting Malawi's creative industries, celebrating Malawian culture, promoting and increasing tourism, and building the capacity of arts practitioners.



## 18. Gonapamuhanya

Period: Last weekend of the month  
Location: Bolero, Rumphi  
A traditional ceremony held by the Tumbukas to celebrate their heritage and the Chikulamayembe Dynasty. Some of the notable activities include oral tradition recounting the Chikulamayembe lineage and dance performances.

## OCTOBER



## 19. Blantyre Arts Festival

Period: 1st weekend of the month  
Venue: Blantyre Cultural Centre  
BAF seeks to boost Malawi's Cultural Tourism by promoting and celebrating Malawi's creative and cultural industries through exhibitions and workshops with arts practitioners and cultural exchange programs.



## 20. Sunbird Sand Music Festival

Period: Last weekend of the month  
Venue: Sunbird Livingstonia Beach Hotel  
A festival that fosters appreciation of the musical arts by introducing quality local, regional and international talents.



## 21. Mulhakho Wa Alhomwe

Period: Location:  
Sunday closest to 25th Chonde, Thyolo  
A festival celebrating the heritage of the Lhomwe people. Features an array of events from traditional dance performances, recitation of oral traditions and culinary displays.

## NOVEMBER



## 22. Poppy Day

Period: Sunday nearest to the 11th  
Venue: Mzuzu, Lilongwe and Zomba  
A memorial day observed in Commonwealth countries since the end of World War I to remember the members of their armed forces who died in the line of duty. The venue of the main ceremony rotates based on where His Excellency the President will preside over.

## DECEMBER

There are no major Cultural Festivals held in this month. However, various artistic and cultural shows are held to celebrate Christmas and the New Year.

# MOZAMBIQUE

## Cultural Events



# 1. National Festival

National Culture Festival – This is a biennial events and held in one of the province of the country, characterized by Cultural diversity, and held in August

# 2. International Festival

• **ZUCK** – This event is held in Maputo City and Maputo Province, characterized by National and Foreign Music Zouk, in Last week of April, each year

• **AZGO** – This event is held in Maputo city, characterized by National and Foreign Music, in 20th of May each year.

• **DJAZ** - This event is held in Maputo city, characterized by National and Foreign Music in 24th of November each year

• **KINANE** – This event is held in Maputo, characterized by Contemporary dance, in 1rs to 6h of November each year.

**3.** This events held in Niassa province in the Niassa National Reserve, characterized by Traditional Dances, lectures on the valorization of the reserve, football, in last week of October.

• **XINGOMANA FESTIVAL** – This event is held in Gaza province in Wadjahane Administrative Post characterized by a Traditional Dance in the last week of June.

• **MARRABENTA FESTIVAL** – This event is held in Maputo city characterized by National music in first week of February.

• **XIGUBO FESTIVAL** – This event is held in Maputo province in Matuitine, characterized by traditional Dance is held in 20 of May.

**MACANETA FESTIVAL** - This event is held in Maputo province in Macaneta Beach, characterized by National Music, Traditional Dances, Gastronomy, Exhibition of handicrafts, sculptures.

**4. NYAO** - this event is held in the province and anually changes the District of Maravia, characterized traditional dances from the 24th to the 25th of June.

**CABEÇA DE VELHO** - This event is held in Manica Province, in Chimoio city, characterized by National Music, Traditional Dances, Gastronomy, Exhibition of handicrafts, sculptures, Canoe in the last week of November.

**WIMBE FESTIVAL** – This event is held in Cabo Delgado province on Wimbe Beach, it is characterized by: National Music, Traditional Dances, Gastronomy, and Exhibition of handicrafts, Sculptures, Canoe competition, Volleyball and athletics, in last week of November.



**MAPIKO FESTIVAL** – This event is held in Cabo Delgado province. It rotates in each district, characterized by: traditional dances held in the first week of September.



**TUFEXO FESTIVAL** – This event is held in Nampula province on Nampula city, characterized by traditional dances in the last week of May.



**HIPITY FESTIVAL** – This event is held in Nampula Province on Mozambique Island, characterized by National Music, Traditional Dances, Gastronomy, and Exhibition handicrafts, sculptures, Canoe competition, Volleyball and athletics, from the 15th to the 17th of September.



**5. TOFO FESTIVAL** – This event is held in Inhambane province in Barra Beach, characterized by National music and Disc Joker in the last week of November.

**ZALALA** - this event is held in Zambezia province in Zalala Beach, Characterized by National Music, traditional Dance.

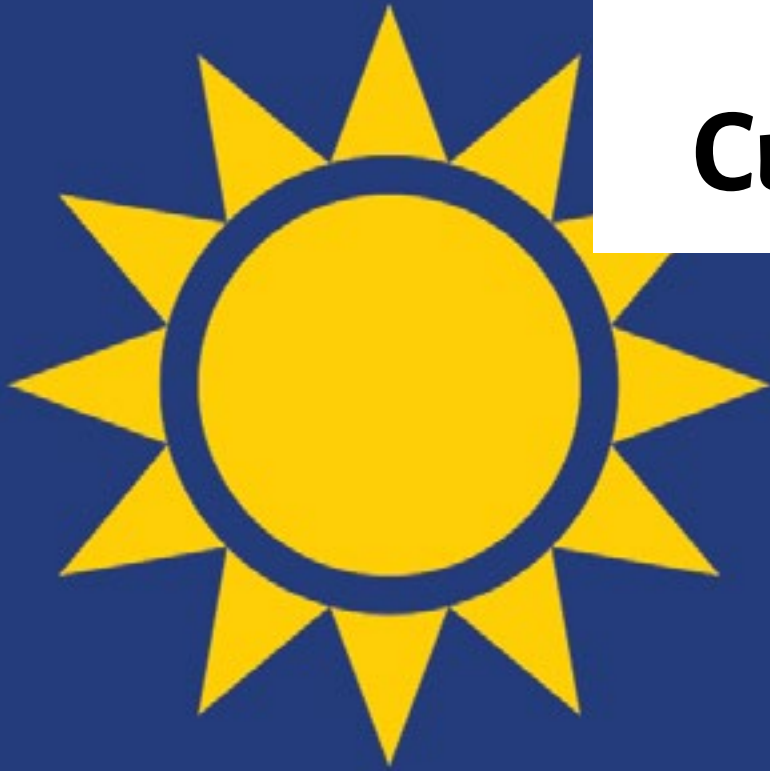
**GASTRONOMY**, exhibition of handicrafts, sculptures, canoe competition, volleyball and athletics from the 27th to the 28th of October.



**BAIA FESTIVAL** - this event is held in sofala province in Beira City, Charcterized by gastronomy, exhibition of handicrafts sculptures and national music in the 1st week of November.

# NAMIBIA

## Cultural Events



## 1. The Olufuko & Omazimo

“Olufuko” Festival (Traditional young women initiation into adulthood and womanhood.

- “Omazimo gaawambo” (Totem/Clan Expo festivals).



## 2. Annual Nama Cultural Festival

The annual Nama Cultural festival takes place every year in May.

The purpose of the festival is to instil pride in the Nama community and to provide the community a platform where they celebrate their culture and teach the younger generations the importance of the Nana culture.



## 3. Kavango East Cultural Group Performing

Vakwangali Annual Cultural festival was celebrated last year at the Mayara, east

of Nkurenkuru, at the palace hosted by the royal family. The aim was to restore the cultural heritage and dignity of the Vakwangali people. And, to help the young people to keep their culture and not to adapt to the western and European cultures. During the festival cultural dancers perform and showcase their cultural dress and different types of cultural food and tools that their forefather used in effort to teach and educate the youth and preserve their heritage.



## 4. Kavango East Cultural Group Performing



## 5. Okombahe Festival

The Damara clans meet at Okombahe every year to celebrate their culture with food, dance and song. The festival, which is held annually, is also in remembrance of the community's leaders and heroes. During the festival, the elders teach the young generation about historical events, there's dances and rituals to further educate the young ones about their culture. The festival is held in November every year. (Source: New Era Newspaper)



## 6. Kūska Festival

The Swakopmunder Karneval (Kūska) is a week-long German traditional festival. It consists of multiple events including the 'Narrenwecker'- awakening of the clowns, 'prizenball', Kūsika (children's festival) and a float procession. Photographer (Namibian Newspaper)



## 7. Erongo Cultural Group Performing at one of the National Event



## 8. Germany Carnival & Beer Festival

“Germany Karnival” ( It's based on the German culture but all ethnics are participating during the march and other activities).

- “BeerFestival” 1st week of October every year.
- The two events are organized by the community and business enterprises with the support from the City of Windhoek.

## 9. Goab Festival & Namibian Annual Music Awards

• These two events are organized every year and comprise of various activities, like cultural performances, dancing, singing and sport.

• “Goab” Festival, is the Damara Kings festival, it takes place every year and it's also organized by the community.

• Namibian Annual Music Awards, “NAMA's; this is an awards event that is organized to reward the musician and those who contributed to the music industry/or business.

# RWANDA

## Cultural Events





## 1. Kigali Up Music Festival

A music festival in Kigali featuring world music, reggae, funk, blues, hip hop and roots artists from around the globe.

KigaliUp's musical palette embraced Rwanda's three ancient musical expressions: Batwa Intwatawa songs, rhythmic Bahutu soundscapes and Batutsi pastoral melodies, plus other sounds birthed from Africa's deep, diverse musical traditions - world music, folk, blues, hip hop, funk, gospel and reggae. KigaliUp! gave Rwandan music a new, central platform, and its musicians fresh exposure to international performers and new sounds and performance approaches.

KigaliUp helps celebrate Rwanda as an economic and social success story that brings people to see the mountain gorillas, beautiful landscape, artisan markets, villages and lakes.



## 2. Isaano Arts Festival

Isaano Arts Festival, is an annual pan-African festival that seeks to celebrate and amplify African music from across the continent.

The four-day festival is meant to bring together a variety of cultures across the continent through arts.

The festival has grown to become one of the largest and most attended music festivals in the country and in the region.

It features artistes from the country while regional and international artistes are also grace it and showcase their talents, mostly in dance, fashion, music, poetry, drama and visual arts, among others.

Positive Production is the organization which organises the festival.

Different countries in the region are represented including Kenya, Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, and others beyond the region like Ivory Coast, Burkina Faso, France and United States, among others.

The festival also feature workshops for participants in different art disciplines aimed at helping upcoming artistes get an opportunity to improve their arts skills.

The festival provides a platform for people in the creative industry and it is a platform for rising artistes to showcase their talent alongside international and regional artistes, thereby marketing their skills as well.



## 3. East Africa Night of Tolerance

The East African Nights of Tolerance (EANT), Rwanda's only festival devoted to contemporary dance makes way through numerous mind-blowing showcases.

Performances usually include the *Ibeiji*, a performance by countries Rwanda, Benina and Ivory Coast, then *Je Prenos Ma Liberte* by France and Cameroon & *Bainishi* by Kenya. Day two on 25th ushered in *Utu* by Tanzania and Samedi *Détence* by France and Rwanda.

The sessions, which quite are intriguing

as they require close attention are in turn educative and another milestone to the growth of contemporary dance in East Africa.

*Ma Tetê est mon Village*, a Belgium act and *Unité Dans La Diversité* by Congo and Rwanda also takes place at the festival.

Hosted by Amizero Dance Kompagnie, it is a Rwandan Contemporary Dance Company, with supported from the Swiss cooperation (DDC), Institut Francais du Rwanda (IFR), Institut Français de Paris (IF), Positive Productions, the Belgian Embassy, the French Embassy and the Goethe Institut this year unveils 10 performances from countries Rwanda, France, Cote d'Ivoire, Kenya, Cameroon, Uganda, Belgium, DRC and Tanzania.



## 4. Ubumuntu Arts Festival

Ubumuntu Arts Festival is the brainchild of Hope Azeda; a major figure in contemporary Rwandan theatre, and, the founder and Artistic Director of Mashirika Performing Arts and Media Company - a leading theatre company in Rwanda. The Ubumuntu journey started when Hope submitted its idea to the Africa Leadership Project as her leadership project proposal. Needless to say her proposal received great feedback and as they say, the rest is history!

The festival was first held in 2015 and happens annually following the last week of the 100 days commemoration of the 1994 genocide against the Tutsi. It is held at the outdoor amphitheater of the Kigali Genocide Memorial Centre and brings different artists from around the world to convene in Kigali Rwanda. Festival activities include but are not limited to performances, workshops, panels and genocide memorial site visits. The festival is free and open to everybody and therefore relies on donations and sponsors for financial support.



**MASHARIKI  
AFRICAN  
FILM FESTIVAL**  
Africans, we cherish our stories

## 5. The Mashariki African Film Festival

The Mashariki African Film festival is an annual cultural event that aims at bringing african Films to an african audience.

It consists of films screening and rewarding Rwandan and African Filmmakers and empowering them through trainings offered by local and International specialized professionals. The festival promotes, advocates for and collaborates with other cultural events in different member States of the East African community.

The festival mission is to create partnerships with grass-root SMEs to maximize their exposure and give values to Rwanda film industry.

They also work with large corporations that are interested in capacity building; To boost the production of our local films to attract the International market.

The Mashariki African film festival's vision is to improve industry in Rwanda, East Africa and African continent.

## 6. The Rwanda Film Festival

The Rwanda Film Festival, also known as Hillywood, has not only established itself as the country's most important cultural event, but also as one of Africa's most prestigious festivals. For seven days, film lovers, filmmakers, industry professionals and media will watch the best in new cinema from established masters and new local and international talents. The Hillywood tradition continues this year with the festival's tenth edition.

Its principal objective is to promote and encourage awareness, appreciation and understanding of the art of cinema in Rwanda. Our mandate is to present the most outstanding films produced in every part of the world.

With the ongoing development of filmmaking in Rwanda, they believe the time is right for such a festival that serves as a key platform for the promotion of Rwandan-produced cinema and also enables our local professionals to interact with internationally established filmmakers.





# SÃO TOMÉ & PRÍNCIPE

## Cultural Events



# 1. National Independence Day

Sao Tome and Principe islands are located in Gulf of Guinea about 300 km from West African coast. On July 12th, 1975 the ancient portuguese colony, became free from the oppressive regime.

Finally after about 540 years of colonial regime, where auctotone people had no own cultural expression, abused by foreign people, obliged to speak a language which was imposed, coming from a civilization of another continent, with different uses and customs, São Tome and Principe becomes a country with its own flag, National anthem and international representation among UN countries.

Celebrating this day at midnight on the eve, the Homeland Flame arrives to the independence Square coming from Batepá, place of symbolic 1953 massacre day, and His Excellency the President of the Republic lights up the fire in the presence of population, members of government, invited dyplomatic body and civil society.

In this day at the independence Square, a tribune is built and before his Excellency the President of Republic, President of the Parliament, President of Supreme Court, Ministers and invited people, cultural manifestation and the military parade takes place.



# 2. King Amador's Day

Every January 4th we celebrate King Amador's Day, representing the determination of Saotomean people lead by Amador Vieira, the emblematic captain of slaves on 1595.

His history is covered by myths and mysteries, like many leaders from his era. Amador has been self-proclaimed "General Captain of war". The "King" attacked the city of São Tome with 5000 men, about half of slave population in the Island. Despite being in greater number, the rebellious were inferiorly armed and was defeated.

It's a public holiday, where individualities of the cultural sector, lead by Ministry responsible for Culture sector gives lectures, presentatios, and documentaries about his personality.



# 3. São Tomé Gravana Festival

Annually on August occur the so called "Gravana Festival", where people use to gatter around the national park of the capital city, to participate in several activities, like cultural parades, music festivals, gastronomy sections with tasting of typical dishes, fashion parades, and several parties and games. Accordingly to the Directorate of Culture, this is a great opportunity to promote cultural diversity, as turistic offer. This annual festival is the biggest São Tomé and Príncipe cultural, musical e recreative event.

On this period because of relatively good wheather with sea temperature ranging from 20o C to 23o C, flying fish is captured in big quantities during months of June, July and August, period called "GRAVANA" and there are tasting events and parties in catering houses, like bars, restaurants, kiosks along of the São Tomé Island.



# 4. Principe Cultural Month

During August, at Principe Island, world biosphere reserve, the main cultural scene of the São Toméan archipelago occurs. The August program of culture, institutionalized by the regional authorities few years ago, aims to take advantage of the month that marks the São Lourenço celebration party, to promote and disseminate the rich artistic and cultural heritage of the island of Principe. This is a special moment when the island receives many visits of tourists and emigrants. The exuberance of the island's nature is another product to be sold to the world, as well as the customs of the local people. During this month, several cultural activities can be seen, like next indicated on 5 and 6:



# 5. "DEXA"

It is a cultural manifestation of the Autonomous Region of the Principe Island. This activity is held in the commemorations of the party of Our Lady of Grace in this same region. But the participants first participate in the Mass and at the end, they join in an Indian queue and march around the city dancing and singing to the house of one of the parties chosen by the party committee. Traditional clothing is indispensable. The Lords wear white shirt with black pants and the ladies wear white blouse and skirts of black color to the feet.



## 6. “Auto of Florípes”

Part of the celebration held each year in the Autonomous Region of Príncipe Island called “São Lourenço”, is of great importance for the natives, since it celebrates the commemoration of the discovery of the island in January 17th 1471. Being a legend, the Auto de Florípes tells the story of Moors and Christians.



## 7. Cultural and Religious Celebrations

Sao Tome and Principe is a country where the majority of population is traditionally Catholic, highly influenced by myths, and rituals that is part of our tradition, beliefs and culture of the people. During the year, there are many religious celebrations that give color and human warmth to the cities, villages and towns, from north to south. These celebrations offer excellent moments for photos and meetings with the population.

The celebrations usually consist of: novenas, solemn masses, pro- cession in honor of the patron saint, food and drink refreshments and culminate with dancing and various cultural events.



Amongst them we highlight:

- 10 January Saint Isidoro of Ribeira Afonso;
- 24 March Our Lady of Graça, in the Sé Cathedral in Sao Tome;
- 1 and 2 May God Father, Trindade;
- 30 July Saint Ana, Santana;
- 9 and 10 August Our Lady of Neves, Neves;
- 1 September Nossa Senhora de Nazaré, Trindade;

- 8 September Mother of God, Madre de Deus;
- 9 and 10 September Bom Despacho, City of Sao Tome;
- 3 October Our Lady of Guadalupe, Guadalupe;
- 2nd week of October Saint Teresinha, Madalena;
- 21 December Saint Tomé, City of Sao Tome.

After a mass celebration next of procession and on the day before too, we can enjoy several types of cultural manifestations, like seen next on ; 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14 and 15.

## 8. TCHILOLI The Tragedy of Emperor Carloto Magno and the Marquis of Mantua

Based on the sixteenth-century text of the Madeiran poet Baltasar Dias, it is believed that the “Auto of Tchiloli” and the habit of representing have been brought to São Tomé by the masters of sugar mills displaced here. However, over time, the local population appropriated this representation, building their own show and today it constitutes their culture.



## 9. DANÇO CONGO

As the name says, the “Danço-Congo” or the Dance of the Captain, has its origin in Congo, having been introduced in the island of São Tomé by slaves in the colonial era.



It is a cultural manifestation exhibited at religious and popular festivals, based on a

group of about two dozen of participants, all skillful dancers, including a person who commands and directs, named Captain of the Congo.



## 10. Puita

Puita is a strongly special dance introduced in São Tome and Principe by angolan people coming to work in farmers.

Men and women form Indian queues, and in the mix with a few semi-swivels, they clash their bodies. When a relative dies it is usual to exhibited it in honor of the spirits of the dead.

Traditionally it is said that failure to comply with this ritual can lead to misadventures in the family. But puita is played on many other occasions, being one of the most popular forms of music in S. Tomé.



## 11. D'jambi

Similar to the puita, but ordered with other objectives, the d'jambi is a ritual with curative powers. The healers, when dancing, go into trance, then submitting the patient to ritual practices where supernatural figures are invoked and established contacts with spirits of deceased individuals. There are also frequent phenomena of insensitivity to tiredness and pain (danced through the night, walking on embers, injuring one's own body, etc.). Colonial and religious authorities have always tried to ban the d'jambi because of their obvious connotations with witchcraft and animist rituals on the African continent.



## 12. Ússua

In this cultural manifestation pairs are led by a master of ceremonies, to the slow rhythm of the drum, whistle and horn. All dancers wear traditional costumes: women in skirts and kimono, shawl or blanket; Men wear hats and wear an embroidered towel on their arms.



## 13. Bligá (Stick Game)

It is a mixture of dance and playful play, in which the dexterity and physical force of the game of the Transmontan stick combine with a sophisticated corporality and gesture that sometimes remind some oriental martial arts. The bligá (which means fighting) was certainly one of the dances that gave birth to capoeira. This style was used by slaves, who used it as an art of self-defense without the authorities noticing it, gestures are often spoiled (thus transforming action into representation) rather than being explicitly executed.



## 14. Stleva

Stleva is a cultural manifestation that exists only in São Tomé and Príncipe.

The same happens once a year, on Holy Wednesday, the last week of Lent. The name Stleva comes from the word "darkness" which means darkness, describing the days when Jesus walked in darkness, about to be crucified.

This justifies the fact that the groups of Stléva, composed of 3 to 6 elements, take to the streets at night with songs of scorn and ill-saying, singing in verses most of the problems of society, the mistakes of the human being and forgiveness, highlighting the marital relationships sung in Creole liner.

The instruments used are traditional, such as: two bamboo sticks to set the time, and rattles. The members of the group use white cloths tied to the head, arms and waist, symbolizing Jesus.



## 15. Bulawê

Emerges based on the traditional dance displayed with bamboo whistles, drums, dikanza, rattle and irons. The group consists of people of both sexes, who play, sing and dance to brighten traditional and other small parties. The origin of "Bulawê" is still unknown. There are historians who claim to be "born" of festive environments in which local leaflets were appreciated. Among the groupings, descendant of angolans stand out.



## 16. Carnival Week

On February, there is a period known as "ashes", when Sao Tome and Principe eat traditional dishes from their rich gastronomic culture, inside families home. Preceding this day, during three days cultural groups wearing large coloured hats, masks/glasses during the day and at night sing songs, which contents trend to criticize negative behaviour of citizens condemned by the society.

They make their journey from house to house singing these kind of songs and showing paints in accordance, receiving money from present people or owner of backyards where they scene.

In last 10 years young people from schools began to promote cultural marches, exhibiting no traditional wearings like painted faces with weird clothes along the capital city and villages streets.



## 17. Tourism National Day

Since 2013 the tourism in Sao Tome and Principe is usually celebrated during one week that has as highest point the August 24, "as a national tourism day". In this celebration we can find various cultural activities in public place, national musics by national singers and artists in the restaurants, gastronomic fairs, workshop, etc.

This is occasion for tourists, school boys and girls on holidays, civil society and population in general, taste innovative dishes based on local products, drinks from natural herbs, teas from aromatic plants. They are called to assist sportive activities, fashion show, and music show, too.

# SIERRA LEONE

## Cultural Events





## 1. Bubu Cultural Festival

The bubu cultural festival in Sierra Leone comes with a lot of cultural arts, dance and partying across the city of Freetown, this traditional dance happens during the dry season, which is between November to April. The dance is called Bubu dance because of traditional instruments which produces different harmonious sounds. This is the bubu masquerade dressed in different cultural attires. The purpose of this event is to encourage cultural arts and creativity from the different tribes in Sierra Leone.

## 2. Lantern Parade Festivals

Lantern parade festivals can be traced way back in the 1930's when a trader by the name of Daddy Maggy introduced the custom of parading with lanterns in Freetown. This is one of Sierra Leone's most popular events and has great religious and historic significance. It is normally organized during Independence anniversary celebrations in April every year. The lantern festivals are competitive based, between neighbourhoods in Freetown. The assessment is based on creativity, performances depicting the traditional and cultural activities of Sierra Leone, supporters of various lanterns do gather at the High court of Sierra Leone (Siaka Stevens Street) to witness the final display for assessment by selected judges.

Thousands of Sierra Leoneans from all corners of the country do come out to celebrate the lantern festivals. This is also called Independence Lantern Parade. There were 33 lantern floats in total and of those, 20 were designed to showcase free health care. Freetown's lantern parade goes back many years. The curfew days of the military juntas brought lantern activity to a standstill and almost killed this exciting and creative manifestation of Freetown's spirit.



## 3. Devil Dancing

Everyone enjoys Sierra Leone devil dancing. The drumming has an infectious beat. The devils are completely covered to show no sign of the human under a raffia costume disguise that's flying around with their wild dancing. It's exotic. It's colorful. It's festive. This tradition of devil dancing can be traced far back, before colonialism. The secret societies that are engaged in this devil dancing are mostly hired or invited for special occasions like, weeding ceremonies or as means of social cohesion. The devil dance can be at any given time there are no specificity as to period, as it mostly used for entertaining people on various occasions and functions,

# SUDAN

## Cultural Events



Many events in Sudan are related to the country's main religion, Islam. These include Mawlid an Nabi and Eid al-Fitr. It should be born in mind that the exact date of these religious events varies from year to year, and so if you are planning a holiday and would like to time your visit accordingly, be sure to do your research and check the year's current date.

Several cultural festivals also appear on Sudan's calendar, ranging from a huge book fair to a theatre extravaganza. Being the capital city, Khartoum tends to play a central part in the events scene of Sudan, offering plenty of seasonal things to do and partake of throughout the course of the year.

The Khartoum International Trade Fair kicks off proceedings each year in January, being followed by the Annual Flower Festival in February, the Nile Print Expo and the Al Bugaa International Theatre Festival in March, and the Tourism and Marketing Fair every April. Later on in the year, Khartoum's International Music Fest and International Book Fair each October are additional highlights and not to be missed if your visit coincides with these happenings.

## 1. Independence Day

Independence Day in Sudan falls on 1 January, the same as New Year's Day on the Gregorian (Western) Calendar. It is a public holiday celebrating the declaration of independence from Anglo-Egyptian joint rule in 1956.

Egypt and the UK had jointly ruled Sudan for nearly 60 years, but when Sudan declared its freedom in 1958, there was no real opposition. The new Sudanese government simply held a ceremony whereby they lowered the flags of Egypt and Britain and raised their own flag. Not one shot was fired.

## 2. Islamic New Year

Islamic New Year (Awal Muharram) is a public holiday in Sudan. The first day of the first month of the Islamic Calendar corresponds to the day in C.E. 622 when Muhammad took flight from Mecca to Medina.

Around 97 percent of Sudan's people are Muslims, and most of these are Sunni and follow Sufi traditions. Upon the sighting of the crescent moon, the new month and new year is officially declared each year by the moon-sighting committee.

## 3. Prophet Muhammad's Birthday

Prophet Muhammad's Birthday is a public holiday in Sudan and is observed by most of the population, which is overwhelmingly Muslim. Since Sudan is mostly Sunni, Muhammad's Birthday is celebrated on 12 Rabi al-Awwal instead of on 17 Rabi al-Awwal as the Shia calculation would have it.

What's different in Sudan when it comes to Muhammad's Birthday is that the celebration starts 12 days early. There are nearly two weeks of celebration culminating on the prophet's birthday itself.

Al-Mawlid al-Nabawi, "the birthday of the prophet", has been celebrated by Muslims since the early days of Islam, being instituted by many of the immediate successors of Muhammad's first "inner circle" of followers. Nonetheless, since it's not taught in the Koran, those of the Salafi sect in Sudan consider it an unworthy "innovation".

The Sufi strand of Islam embraces Prophet Muhammad's Birthday with the most enthusiasm. They gather in public squares to recite Koranic verses, pray, hear lectures on Muhammad's life and teachings, and carry on other traditions.

The majority in Sudan, however, don't care much about the dispute about celebrating the prophet's birthday. They may stop by the public square on Prophet Muhammad's Birthday and buy some occasion-specific candy for their kids. But they neither get heavily involved nor oppose the holiday's events.

### Eid al-Fitr (End of Ramadan)

Sudan is an Islamic nation, which is why Eid al-Fitr, a holiday celebrating the end of the holy month Ramadan and the end of the fasting period, is a big deal. Celebrations are held all over the country in August, with mass ceremonies taking place in mosques everywhere. The main events on the day are largely family-based, with families gathering for a veritable feast, the exchange of gifts, and a look back at the month and what it meant in their lives.

### Eid al-Adha (Feast of the Sacrifice)

Another important Islamic day, this time in October, is the Feast of the Sacrifice. The story in the Koran which tells the tale of Ibrahim and his willingness to sacrifice his first-born son to Allah resonates strongly with people of the Islamic faith. So strongly that believers around Sudan slaughter sheep and hold great feasts

with family and friends. The festival usually lasts for two to three days, during which time there are several trips to the mosque.

## 4. Sudan Calendar of Festivals and Events

### JANUARY

**Independence Day** - January 1st, celebrates independence from Egypt and from British rule.

**Khartoum International Trade Fair** - a large export event that brings together the business community from both within and outside Sudan.

### FEBRUARY

**Mawlid an-Nabi** - street-based celebration of the birth of Prophet Mohammed. Traditional dancing and food stalls throughout the country.

**Annual Flower Festival** - a Khartoum-based event where prizes are awarded for various horticultural categories, which include commercial and foreign growers.

### MARCH

**Nile Print Expo** - held at Khartoum International Fair Ground. The exhibition offers an invaluable platform for Sudan's developing sector.

**Al Bugaa International Theatre Festival** - staged in collaboration with the International Theatre Institute in Paris. Held in Khartoum over the course of several days during March.

**Khartoum Cycle Race** - a new event that finishes outside the secretariat of the state government of Khartoum.

### APRIL

**Tourism and Marketing Fair** - held in Khartoum and aimed at encouraging internal and foreign tourism.

**Sham Al Nassim** - spring holiday each April that is celebrated with dancing, music and other similar festivities.

### MAY

**Mafrosh Book Fair** - a second-hand book fair and exchange market, which has become popular with Sudan's intellectuals. The fair is held at Eteni Square in Khartoum.

### JUNE

**Revolution Day** - June 30th, events are organized on the last day of June to mark the overthrow of Jaffar Numeiry in 1985.

**Cultural Festival, Sudan Gala Nights** - held at a different venue each year to celebrate the arts and human sciences.



## **JULY**

There are no significant festivals in Sudan during the month of July.

## **AUGUST**

**Eid al-Fitr** - a three-day event that celebrates the end of the holy month of Ramadan. The festival is held in mosques and within family homes, where relatives gather together to exchange gifts.

## **SEPTEMBER**

There are no significant festivals in Sudan during the month of September.

## **OCTOBER**

**Khartoum International Music Festival** - includes the participation of musicians from all over the world. Held over the course of a week.

**Khartoum International Book Fair** - booksellers and publishers participate in this hugely popular book fair.

**Sufi Holiya Festival** - a traditional festival of dance and music in Sudan. Hymns are sung and a parade is held.

## **NOVEMBER**

**European Film Festival** - held in Khartoum each November. Some Sudanese films are also screened.

**Islamic New Year** - also known as the Hijri New Year. This marks the first day of Muharram on the Islamic calendar.

## **DECEMBER**

**Agro Food Khartoum** - held at the International Exhibition Center in Sudan's capital. Showcases all things related to the country's food industry.

# TANZANIA

## Cultural Events





## 1. Sauti Za Busara Music Festival

The Sauti Busara Festival East Africa's best loved annual music festival, takes place in February every year in the heart of Stone Town, Zanzibar. This is an event that different artists perform.

Sauti Za Busara is an annual music festival commenced in 2004. This festival brings people together in celebration of the richness and variety of African music from a diverse selection of artist from across the continent and diaspora. The festival also develops skills and promotes the livelihoods of the people of Zanzibar. It features almost 50 performances on three stages as well as a number of other exciting activities in the heart of Stone Town in Zanzibar for four days.

## 2. The Nyamachoma Festival

The Nyama Choma Festival, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. The Largest Barbecue showcase festival in East Africa.



## 3. Sinema Zetu International Film Festival

(SZIFF) is a competitive unique event where Documentaries, Short Films and Feature films produced in Kiswahili language will be screened in mini screen. The platform provides every film enthusiast, a platform to screen their movies through 'Sinema Zetu', the flagship movie channel of Azam PayTV Limited. The event is organised by Uhai Productions limited.

The festival is usually scheduled from 1st of January - 28th February. During the hours of screening, the channel will be available free-to-view to all customers in Sub-Saharan. Last date for submission of films—30th November of the previous year; For instance festival start date –

1st January, 2018 to 28th February, 2018; Final screening of short listed films – 15th February, 2018 till 28th February, 2018 and Award Nite – 1st April, 2018.



## 4. Dr Tulia Traditional Dances Festival

The Tulia Trust was founded in 2015 by Hon. Dr. Tulia Ackson. Dr Tulia (dancing in blue jeans above) is the Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly of Tanzania.

The Tulia Trust, under its Tulia Traditional Dances Festival program, holds annual traditional dances festivals in different places in Tanzania. Under the auspices of the Tulia Traditional Dances Festival brand, we successfully held the first traditional dances festival on 7th and 8th October 2016 in Tukuyu Town, Rungwe District, in Mbeya Region.

The Festival attracted ten categories of traditional dances, thus, Ing'oma, Maghosi, Ipenenga, Kimwenge, Samba, Nkyesyo, Kibhota, Kapote, Ndingala and Kitumbwike. The ten dances are commonly practiced in three councils, namely, Rungwe District Council, Kyela District Council and Busokelo Council all of which participated in the Festival. Out of 62 participating groups, 27 groups emerged winners. Apart from the 1,100 participants, the Tulia Traditional Dances Festival attracted about 1,000 visitors from outside Mbeya Region including Members of Parliament, Ambassadors, Ministers/Deputy Ministers and other government officials. The Festival was graced by Hon. Nape Moses Nnauye, the then Minister for Information, Sports, Arts and Culture. The Festival attracted about 23,000 viewers in total. This being the first time for such an event to be organized, we consider it to have been a great success thereby nurturing our culture and traditions.

In line with the vision and mission of Tulia Trust, the Tulia Traditional Dances Festival aims at promoting the rich traditions and culture of more than 120 ethnic communities in Tanzania through dances. This is primarily done to exhort the preservation of traditions and culture for posterity. While the dance groups would be directly participating in preservation of the Tanzanian traditions and cultures, their

participation in the Tulia Traditional Dances Festival would in turn increase their visibility and assist them to access more opportunities to perform including at district, regional and national levels. These opportunities would serve as seasonal employment thereby helping them to fight poverty not only for the group members but their entire families and the communities they belong to. As such, Tulia Traditional Dances Festival fights poverty in the communities through creation of employment to the traditional dances groups. Tulia Trust also assists traditional dances groups to access the opportunities like performing in different festivals and events'

Source: <https://www.tuliatrust.org/tulia-traditional-dances-festival/>



## 5. Zanzibar International Film Festival

Zanzibar International Film Festival is an annual Film Festival commenced in 1998. It is the largest annual cultural event which also known as festival of the Dhow Countries. It aims at promoting film and other cultural industries as catalyst for the regional social and economic growth. The event estimates to host 7000 western tourists who come to Zanzibar to attend the festival and the total festival audience are in excess of 100,000 with wide appeal across race, class and religions.

The festival is an all-arts affair, 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. The festival awards.

In this festival, the Emerson's Zanzibar Foundation awards the unique and significant emerging local film talent produced by Zanzibari film makers through Emerson's Film Award.

The mission of the Award is to inspire talented film makers in the archipelago, and encouraging them to celebrate their culture, history and stories about Zanzibar and also to promote talented Zanzibari film makers and support them in their career in the future. Emerson's Film Award offers \$1,000 presented at the ZIFF Awards Ceremony.



## 6. Urithi Festival

"Urithi Festival is an annual monthly event to celebrate Tanzania's rich and diversified cultural heritage. The festival aims at promoting and developing cultural heritage assets as tourist products to make Tanzania one of the world's tourists destinations. The 2018 Urithi Festival was launched on 15 th September 2018, at Jamhuri Stadium in Dodoma. The launch was colored by a special carnival, exhibitions of traditional art and craft, culinary art exhibitions, traditional dances, entrepreneurs and music from ethnic groups

from Dodoma and other regions, Bongo Flewa which will take place at Nyerere Square. The Urithi Night took place at St. Gosper Hotel. There was also a tour to the World Heritage Site of Kondoa Rock paintings". Source website <https://www.urithiheritagefestival.co.tz/> watch the video at [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IHDNikl\\_bpo&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IHDNikl_bpo&feature=youtu.be)

## 7. Bagamoyo Festival of Arts and Culture

"Bagamoyo Festival of Arts and Culture has gained an exceptional popularity as it gathers local and international artists and audiences from all over the world. Over the last 30 years the festival has become the most important art event in Tanzania, bringing together artists and audiences from different countries. Some of the objectives of this festival are to widen a learning platform of our students and promote

their skills and proficiency, to promote social awareness about institutional major activities, to expose and support activities of the local artists, to encourage network among local and international artists, to promote mutual cultural exchange, to recognize contribution of local artist in development of arts and culture in Tanzania as the tool of poverty reduction. This is a 7- day festival happening at the last week of September every year taking over at TaSUBa. This festival gives an opportunity to individual artists and groups to apply for participation so that to demonstrate their talents and skills. The festival involve variety of activities, some of these include; performances, symposium and workshops from local, national and international artists in both visual arts (Exhibitions) and performing arts (Dance, Drama, Acrobatics, Music, Magic, Comedy etc)".

Source <http://tasuba.act.tz/about-festival>



# ZAMBIA

## Cultural Events



## 1. Muchinga Province

- **CHINAMANOGO** ceremony held in the Mpika district in September presided by Snr Chief Kopa of the Bisa tribe.
- **KWENJE** Ceremony held in the Chama District in October presided by Chief Kambombo of the Tumbuka tribe.
- **CHIKUNGU** ceremony held in the Mafinga district in September presided over by Chief Mwenewisi of the Lambya/ Wandya tribe.
- **CHIZUMBA NSANJE** ceremony held in the Isoka district in July presided over by Chief Katyetye of the Tambo tribe.
- **MULAMBALALA** ceremony held in the Chinasi district in August presided over by Chief Chewe kamponge of the tribe Bemba.
- **VIKANKA NIMBA** ceremony held in the Isoka district in September presided over by Chief Muyambe of the Tumbuka tribe.
- **INSONGE** ceremony held in the Shiwang'andu district in September presided over by Chief Chibeskunda of the Bisa tribe.
- **CHAMBO CHALUTANGA** ceremony held in the Isoka district in September presided over by Chief Mwenechifunge of the Mfungwe tribe.
- **MULASA** ceremony held in the Nakande district in September presided over by Chieftainess Nawaitwika of the Namwanga tribe.
- **BISA MULAILA** ceremony held in the Mpika district in September presided over by Chief Nabwalya of the Bisa tribe.
- **NG'ONDO** ceremony held in the Isoka district in November presided over by Chief kafwimbi of the Namwanga tribe.
- **NAMULINDA** ceremony held in the Isoka district in October presided over by Chief Mulekatatambo of the Nyika tribe.

## 2. Northern Province

- **UKUSEFYA PA NG'WENA** ceremony held in the Mungwi district in August presided over by par Chief Chitimukulu of the Bemba tribe.



- **MUKULU PEMBA** ceremony held in the Luwingu district in August presided over by Snr Chieftainess Chungu of the Bemba tribe. Walamo ceremony held in the Mpulungu district in September presided over by Chief Tafuna of the Lungu tribe.
- **CHISAKA CHALUBOMBO** ceremony held in the Chilubi Island district in September presided over by Chief Chwanangala of the Bisa tribe.
- **MUTOMOLO** ceremony held in the Mbala district in June presided over by Chief Mambwe Lungu of the Mabwe/Lungu tribe

## 3. North-Western Province

- **KUFUKWILA** ceremony held in the Solwezi district in August presided over by Snr Chief Mukumbi of the Kaonde tribe.
- **JUBA JA NSOMO** ceremony held in the Kasempa district in June presided over by Snr Chief Kasempa of the kaonde tribe.
- **NKISU YA NSAMBI** ceremony held in the Solwezi district in June presided over by Snr Chief Musele of the Lunda tribe.
- **UKUPUPA** ceremony held in the Solwezi district in July presided over by Snr Chief Kalilele of the Lamba tribe.
- **LIKUMBI LYA MIZE** Likumbi Lya Mize Festival is a Traditional Ceremony for the Vaka Chinyama Chamukwamai people. The ceremony reveals the grand entrance of the the royal highness in the main arena, the rising of the Makishi masquerades, the royal greetings, the Chilende and drumming skills, the Kachacha dance, the Tundaji also known as the male initiates, the Myali also known as girl initiates, the unique are and craft, the

traditional food, fish, honey, the generosity of the Vaka Chinyama. The Makishi and Mukanda are central to the ceremony and this is the reason why UNESCO recognizes the Makishi as World Cultural Heritage. This ceremony is jointly celebrated by people from Angola, Democratic Republic of Congo and Zambia.



- **LUNDA LUBANZA** ceremony held in the Zambezi district in August presided over by Snr Chief Ishindi of the Lunda tribe.
- **CHISEMBWA CHA LUNDA** ceremony held in the Mwinilunga district in September presided over by Snr Chief Kanongesha of the Lunda tribe.
- **LUKWAKWA** ceremony held in the Kabompo district in October presided over by Snr Chief Sikufele of the Mbunda tribe.
- **NYAUNDA** ceremony held in the Mwinilunga district in July presided over by Snr Chief Saliunga of the Lunda tribe.
- **NKAMBI** ceremony held in the Mwinilunga district in September presided over by Snr Chief Majimanzovu of the Kaonde tribe.
- **NKANSHANGO MUNSHITOLWA** ceremony held in the Solwezi district in July presided over by Chief Musaka of the Lamba tribe.

## 4. North-Western Province

- **CHIBUYE MUKALAKALA** ceremony held in the Solwezi district in August presided over by Chief Mulonga of the Lamaba tribe.

- **BWEETE** ceremony held in the Mwinilunga district in August presided over by Chief Ntambu of the kaonde tribe.

- **NSAKWA YAB KAONDE** ceremony held in the Solwezi district in October presided over by Kaonde Chieves of the Kaonde tribe.

- **NTONGO** ceremony held in the Mufumbwe district in June presided over by Chief Chizera of the Kaonde tribe.

- **CHIVWEKA** ceremony held in the kabompo district in July presided over by Chief Kalunga of the Luchazi tribe.

- **KUNYATA NTANDA** ceremony held in the Solwezi district in July presided over by Chief Kapijimpanga of the Kaonde tribe.

- **LUBINDA NTONGO** ceremony held in the Mufumbwe district in August presided over by Chief Mumena of the Kaonde tribe.

- **MAKUNDU** ceremony held in the Mufumbwe district in September presided over by Chief Mushima of the Kaonde tribe.

- **MBUNDA LIYOYELO** ceremony held in the Kabompo district in September presided over by Chief Chyengele of the Mbunda tribe.

- **KUVULA KISHAKULU** ceremony held in the Solwezi district in September presided over by Chief Matebo of the Kaonde tribe.

- **CHIDIKA CHA MVULA** ceremony held in the Mwinilunga district in October presided over by Chief Kanyama of the Lunda tribe.



## 5. Southern Province

- **LWINDI GONDE** ceremony held in the Monze district in July presided over by Snr Chief Monze of the Tonga tribe.



- **MALIKO MALINDI LWINDI** ceremony held in the Sinazongwe district in August presided over by Chief Sinazongwe of the Tonga tribe.

- **MUSUMU MUYUMU** ceremony held in the Kalomo district in August presided over by Chief Sipatunyana of the Tonga tribe.

- **SIKAUMBA** ceremony held in the Namwala district in August presided over by Chief Mukobela of the Illa tribe.

- **LUKUNI LUZWA BUKA** ceremony held in the Kazungula district in August presided over by Chief Musokotwane of the Tokaleya tribe.

- **KAZANGA MAKONDA** ceremony held in the Kazungula district in September presided over by Chief Moomba of the Nkoya tribe.

- **GUTA BWEENZA BWE** ceremony held in the Kazungula district in September presided over by Chief Nyawa of the Tonga tribe.

- **SHIMUNENGA** ceremony held in the Namwala district in October presided over by Chief Mungaila of the ila tribe.

- **CHUNGU** ceremony held in the Kalomo district in October presided over by Chief Chikanta of the Tonga tribe.

- **MAANZI AABILA LWINDI** ceremony held in the Kalomo district in October presided over by Chief Siachitema of the Tonga tribe.

- **LWINDI SEKUTE** ceremony held in the Kazungula district in October presided over by Chief Sekute of the Tonga tribe.

- **BAGANDE** ceremony held in the Siavonga district in November presided over by Chief Simamba of the Takaleya tribe.

- **KOABAZE KAMKONDE** ceremony held in the Kalomo district in November presided over by Chief Simwatachele of the Tonga tribe.



- **BENE MUKUNI** ceremony held in the Kazungula district in July presided over by Chief Mukuli of the Taka leya tribe.

## 6. Western Province

- **KOUMBOKA** ceremony held in the Mongu district in March presided over by the Lifunga of the lozi tribe.

- **KOUMBOKA NALOLO** ceremony held in the Senanga district in May presided over by Lifunga La Mboela of the lozi tribe.

- **KOUMBOKA LIBONDA** ceremony held in the Kalabo district in May presided over by Chieftainess Mboanjikana of the Lozi tribe.

- **KAZANGA** ceremony held in the Kaoma



- district in July presided over by Chief Mutondo and Kahare of the Nkoya tribe.

- **CHEKE** ceremony held in the Mongu district in September presided over by Mbunda Chieves of the Mbunda tribe.

# ZIMBABWE

## Cultural Events







## 1. The Mbende Jerusarema

The Mbende Jerusarema Dance is practised by the Zezuru Shona people of Murehwa



## 2. Mbira Dance

Mbira Dance, a religious Shona dance in ancestral ceremonies such as Bira.



## 3. Mukwerera

Mukwerera, a rain-making ceremony, called Umtolo in Ndebele



## 4. Kurova Guva

Kurova guva ceremony, a ceremony to

welcome the spirit of the dead, to spiritually guide the family.

## 5. Bira

Bira, is a Shona possession ceremony where the Shona people when they want to seek for spiritual guidance from the ancestors.

## 6. Harare International Festival of Arts (HIFA)

It is an annual event to showcase premier arts and culture and various cultural performances will be taking place. These include music, theatre, dance, song, visual arts, crafts and designs.

## 7. Zimbabwe Culture Week

This is a seven day event whereby people will be celebrating cultural diversity in Zimbabwe through various means such as folklore, traditional cultural expressions such as traditional canonations ( kurova hakata). Different cultural and artistic expressions will be taking place. The motive behind would be aimed at preserving, appreciating and promoting all arts and cultural activities in the country.

## 8. Zimbabwe International Carnival/ Harare International Carnival

People from different countries converge in Zimbabwe in the annual ten-day event, celebrating cultural diversity as people express their cultures in different forms.

## 9. Zimbabwe International Film Festival (ZIFF)

Feature films, documentaries and short films are showcased during the 10 days of the festival. Furthermore, cultural and educational events in regard to film as well as discussions and workshops on the same, will be taking place.

## 10. Chimanimani Arts Festival

This a three day annual event in Chimanimani, a town in the Eastern Highlands of Zimbabwe. During the event. A show of art, crafts, theatre, film, music and poetry will be the order of the day.

## 11. Midlands Arts and Cultural Festival (MACfest)

This week-long festival takes place in the city of Gweru and comprises music, theatre, workshops for writers as well as cultural tours to different cultural places like Danan'ombe Ruins, Natalie Ruins and the National Museum

## 12. Zimbabwe International Bookfair (ZIBF)

This is a literature event that showcases journals, books, CDs and DVDs from the African continent. Various activities including readings and workshops will also be taking place during the festival

## 13. Annual Chibuku Neshamwari Festival

This is a competition of traditional dance groups from around the country. Most popular dances include Mbende, Nyau, Mbakumba, among others.

## 14. Intwasa Arts Festival

A five day event showcasing music, dance, drama, visual arts and workshops in Bulawayo. The main motive is promotion of local culture and tourism in the country.



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