

灯祭り (タザウンダイン・フェスティバル)

灯祭り(タザウンダイン・フェスティバル)はビルマ暦8月の雨期終了後、タザウンダイン満月に開催します。タザウンダイン満月に政府が祝日と決めて国全体で灯祭りを開催します。このお祭りはミャンマーで有名なお祭りの一つです。宗教を基本にしたお祭りですが、民族や宗教を問わず特別な文化を楽しめます。

灯祭りの期間に袈裟(けさ)を織ることは伝統的な行事の一つです。満月の前に特別に織った黄色の袈裟(マトー・ティンガン)の機織り競争が全国で行われます。マトー・ティンガンを満月の夜に織って勝利した団体の袈裟を仏像に奉納します。

タザウンダイン満月にパゴダ(寺院)やお寺に御飯、灯明、お線香、花、果物などを寄進します。満月の日はパゴダには人が溢れています。満月の日に町の道それぞれで僧侶達に食べ物を寄進し、誰にでもご馳走することなどを功德として行います。

その時期に袈裟を寄進するお祭り(カテインプエ)をお寺で行い、演奏や踊りを踊りながら、いろいろな寄付を飾り付けた木(バデーダピン)をお寺に送って寄進します。

灯祭りはミャンマーのいくつかの地域では熱気球祭りを開催します。シャン州のタウンジーで開催する熱気球祭りは有名です。タウンジーの熱気球の競争のお祭りは地域の人たちだけではなく海外の人たちまで知っている有名なお祭りです。

Tazaungdaing Festival

Tazaungdaing Festival, (also known as the **Festival of Lights**), held on the full moon day of Tazaungmon, the eighth month of Myanmar calendar, is celebrated nationwide as a National Holiday in Myanmar. The festival is one of the famous traditional festivals all over Myanmar. Although it is basically a religious festival, everyone irrespective of race or religion enjoys this multi-cultural special occasion.

Robe weaving is one of the traditional activities during this time. Before full moon day, special yellow robe (*matho thingan*) weaving competitions are held throughout the country. The robe must be finished before midnight and the winning robes are offered to the Buddha Image.

As part of celebrations, people offer alms, lighting of candles and joss sticks, flowers and fruits as homage to the pagodas. Pagodas and temples are filled with Buddhists coming to worship Buddha. Throughout the day, streets are also packed with alms-offering to monks and Satuditha meal serving for people as part of merit-makings.

There is also "Kathina Festival", called "Kahtein-Khin", which is being celebrated by bringing tree-shaped moveable stands, where varieties of offerings and gifts are hung, to the monasteries, accompanied with Myanmar traditional orchestra bands playing music with dance along the journey during the festival.

In some parts of Myanmar, hot air balloons lit with candles, are released to celebrate the full moon day. Taunggyi, a city in Shan State celebrates the most prominent hot-air balloon festival. Taunggyi's hot-air balloon competition is very famous not only among locals but also with foreigners.





