

Five Days of Diwali

The way that Diwali is celebrated can be slightly different between countries, cultures and religions. In some areas, the celebration lasts for three days and in others for five days.

A traditional five-day celebration can be divided as follows:

Day 1: Dhanteras (Day of Fortune)

Images of the goddess Lakshmi are worshipped. The word 'fortune'

refers not just to money and wealth but general well-being too.

However, this can be a popular shopping day, specifically for gold, silver, ornaments, new clothes and utensils. It is also a

time for sharing wealth with others, replacing feelings of greed

with generosity. As it is the first of the five-day celebration, Hindus clean their homes and workplaces. Rangoli designs may be made of coloured rice, sand or flowers on the floor.



Day 2: Naraka Chaturdashi (Day of Knowledge)

The second day is related to the traditional story of Lord Krishna defeating the demon Narakasura, freeing the world from fear. Hindus may get up before sunrise on this day to take a cleansing bath and then put on new clothes, followed by enjoying a relaxing meal with family and friends. It may involve preparing and exchanging gifts and special sweets.

Day 3: Diwali (Day of Light)

The third day is the main, and most important, day of Diwali. It is dedicated to worshipping the goddess Lakshmi, the Hindu goddess of wealth, fortune, prosperity and the embodiment of beauty. Families gather and celebrate by lighting lanterns and candles in their homes to show the triumph of good over evil. Sometimes fireworks, sparklers and fairy lights are used to light up the sky outside. In the evening, it is common for families to visit temples or gurudwaras to light candles.

Day 4: Padwa/Govardhan Puja (New Year)

There are several variations in the way that the fourth day is

celebrated in different regions or cultures. Many businesses remain

closed. In some cases, it is celebrated as Govardhan Puja, honouring

a legend of the Hindu god Krishna. Food is presented in temples as a symbolic offering. In

others, the tradition is to celebrate the bond between husbands and wives. In some states, it is celebrated as the day of new year and in others, the worship is focused on instruments and machinery.



Day 5: Bhai Dooj (Day of Love between Siblings)

The fifth day traditionally focuses on the bond between brothers and sisters. Siblings share their love for each other with a meal and gifts. Brothers show their sisters respect and offer them protection. The sisters prepare sweets specially in honour of their brothers, wishing them

a long, happy, healthy life and great success.

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Complete the information in the boxes to describe some of the traditions from each of the five days.



