

Bisket festival - At Thimi

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Thimi-an ancien» Newari town lies at about ten kilomètres east from Kathmandu and some 3km from Tribhuvan International Airport.

while driving towards Bhaktapur. It is one of the township where one could experience originality of typical, Newari culture,

festival and life style. People from different parts of nearby areas participate and enjoy number of festivals that occur annually here.

'Bisket Jatra' observed in Thimi as 'Sindoor Jatra', is one of the most spectacular festivals of Thimi and is absolutely different than the 'Bisket' observed in proper Bhaktapur.

'Sindoor Jatra' celebrated according to Vikram Era -on Nepal! New Year holds special importance for the local

community. Thousands of people gather with full enthusiasm to welcome new year in a festive mood. The whole environment

of the town actually turns too festive during the Jatra that is celebrated for four days.

Most people enjoy participating the event rather than just being out lookers.

A day before a new year, firing of forest wood takes place which is known as "Gunsin Chhoyekegu". A traditional wooden pole with flags used to be erected in front of Baikumari

Temple of Thimi but this is no more in practice now. On this day chariot festival takes place in Vishnuvir. During that same night, chariots of deities are carried with Dhimay baja & flaming torches to Kwachhen (Dakshin Barahi) from Layaku and the

Chariots are revolved there.

On the new year day (1st Baisak) devotees from around the town gather at Baikumari-one of Bhairab's consorts

and worship all through out the day. In the evening hundreds of ceremonial oil lamps are lit. Some devotees light oil lamps even on their legs, chests, foreheads, arms et lie in motionless positions for hours.

second day of the Bisket is an important day when surrounding villages bring Khats with images of different gods to Baikumari early in the morning. 32 chariots of deities are gathered and revolved round Baikumari temple by the festival participants. People carry flaming torches or play drums/Gymbals. Vermilion powder is spread around each others' way with joy. In no time the whole locality turns colourful orange. The environment becomes unbelievably too festive by the time; The festival reaches its climax when the Khat of Ganesh from Nagadesh arrives. While people try to return the khat, all other khats try to block its way. By hook or by crook they finally succeed to return. The festival gets prolonged until they succeed.. After wards the procession moves forward to Taleju temple. number of animal sacrifice are made here. The event and the surrounding is crowded by the devotees again.

On the same day, in a small village of Bode another Khat festival takes place-here seven Khats are revolved around.

Following this event-an exciting tongue piercing festival takes place of Bhangu tole of Bode. A volunteer from the Shrestha family gets his tongue pierced in a spiritual trance with an iron spike and walks around the town shouldering a round bamboo rack with flaming torches. It is believed that the successful completion of this painful rite bring good fortune to the villagers

& the volunteer himself. On the forth day of Bisket Jatra Chariots of Chapancho and Chhoday are also brought and taken.