

What's on in August?

August is full of cultural celebrations and festivals. Starting off with the Viva! Latin Festival to the Dragon Boat Festival early in the month, and the VNCS's Japanese Cultural Fair and i-Land Fest taking place later this month; there are a number of cultural celebrations to look forward to. You can also learn more about the UN's International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples by visiting their [website](#).

Cultural Celebrations

- Viva! Latin Festival - Aug 2-3
- Victoria Dragon Boat Festival - Aug 8-9
- VNCS Japanese Cultural Fair - Aug 23
- i-Land Fest Caribbean Festival - Aug 29-31

International Days / Month:

- August 9th - International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples
- August 16th - Krishna Janmashtami

2025 VNCS Japanese Cultural Fair August 23rd

This year, Saturday, August 23rd marks the Victoria Nikkei Cultural Society's (VNCS) 26th annual Japanese Cultural Fair. The Fair is held at the Esquimalt Gorge Park Pavillion and seeks to showcase and promote local Japanese-Canadian cultural groups in Victoria and the surrounding areas.

The Fair features Japanese cultural activities such as Bonsai tending with the Vancouver Island Bonsai Club and a tea ceremony led by the Urasenke Tankokai Victoria Association, as well as performances by local Japanese martial arts groups (Kongo Dojo, Kenzen Sports Karate, Sanshukan Aikido, Shoshinkai laido (初心会 居合道) Victoria, Victoria Judo Club, and the Victoria Kendo Club). The fair also features an Ikebana (a cultural form of flower presentation) Gallery with demonstrations by the local Ikebana group.

Donations are a key part of what keeps the VNCS alive and the Fair is the primary fundraising event for the Society. These funds support a number of cultural groups such as the Uminari Taiko and Furusato Dancers, as well as many of their cultural programs such as the Japanese language class and Heritage Committee which conducts interpretive walks in various locations in Victoria with Japanese-Canadian history.

The Society also hosts numerous events throughout the year such as the O-Bon (お盆) Grave Washing at Ross Bay Cemetery, Mochi-Tsuki Kai (餅つき会) (Rice Pounding Party), and Nori Tori (海苔採り) (Sea Weed Harvesting).

Learn more about the Victoria Nikkei Cultural Society

[About VNCS](#)

Pounding Rice to make Mochi



Harvesting seaweed



Krishna Janmashtami

August 16-17th

Krishna Janmashtami also known simply as Krishnashtami, Janmashtami, or Gokulashtami, is an annual Hindu festival that celebrates the birth or manifestation of Lord Krishna, the eighth avatar of Vishnu.

Krishna Janmashtami is celebrated over the course of two days through keeping fast, singing songs dedication to Lord Krishna, preparing and sharing of special foods, night vigils, and visiting temples. After Krishna's midnight hour birth, statues of baby Krishna are washed and clothed, then placed in a cradle. After offering the sweets and food to baby Krishna, devotees then break their fast, by sharing sweets and food amongst them.

The following day marks the celebration of Dahi Handi. The day of celebration serves as an enactment of how Krishna, during his childhood, would steal butter. Often times, the community will hang an earthen pot filled with dahi (yogurt), butter, or other milk delicacy at a great height and young men and boys will form teams to make a human pyramid, attempting to reach or break the pot and dahi spills.

Some celebratory foods for Krishna Janmashtami include Makhan Mishri (fresh butter with sugar crystals), Peda (a sweet made from Khoya (dried milk) flavoured with cardamom), Kheer (a creamy rice pudding made with milk, sugar, and rice, often flavoured with cardamom and garnished with nuts). Other foods such as Panjiri (a traditional Janmashtami bhog recipe made with whole wheat flour, ghee, sugar, and nuts), and Aloo Puri (spiced potato curry served with deep-fried bread (puri)) are also important celebration staples.

Resources:

[Krishna Janmashtami Recipes](#)



Panjiri



Aloo Puri



Kheer

