

Did you know that in Southeast Asia, just to name several countries such as among India, Sri Lanka, Malaysia, as well as Singapore...Khmer celebrates the **Lanterns Floating Festival and Kathina ceremony** every year?

Lanterns Floating Festival, by promote peace, good health and prosperity -- it is a family-friendly events hosted across Southeast Asia and the U.S. including here in Southern California where attendees write messages on custom paper and/or plastic lanterns with candles and launch them onto a lake or pond at sunset to honor the Buddha and the passed ancestors.

Kathina ceremony, it is an annual **Theravada Buddhist festival** where laypeople offer new set of robes (Khmer called Chee-vor, Sbang and Cheepor) and other necessities to the monks who have completed the three-month rainy season retreat (Vassa). The ceremony observed over a one-month window from October to November, it celebrates community generosity, monastic unity, and the generation of spiritual merit.

Key Requirement and Practices:

- **Timing:** It takes place during a strict 30-day period immediately following the end of Vassa (typically falling between the 11th waning moon of the 11th lunar month and the 12th waxing moon).
- **Sangha Rule:** A monastery can host only one Kathina ceremony per year, and it requires a minimum quorum of monastics (at least five monks) who have spent the entire three-month retreat together.
- **Offerings:** Beyond the primary offering of the Kathina robe, participants frequently donate the "Eight Requisites," food, medical supplies, and monetary contributions (often arranged creatively as "money trees") for temple upkeep.
- **Activities:** The day usually features a formal procession into the hall or temple, chanting, a Dhamma talk, the ceremonial presentation of the robe to a chosen monastic, and a shared communal meal.

