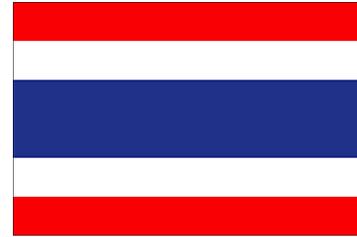


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Loy Krathong

is one of the most picturesque and beautiful of all Thai celebrations. The festival is on the full moon of the twelfth lunar month in the traditional Thai lunar calendar. In Thai language, "Loi" literally means "to float" and a "Krathong" is a raft, traditionally made from a section of banana tree and shaped into lotus flowers. A raft is decorated with elaborately-folded banana leaves, a flower, a candle and three incense sticks which are lighted before being placed on the water.

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During the night of the full moon, we will gather beside the local canal or river to float our *krathongs*. We love to watch our *krathongs* intently as the float drifts silently downstream, hoping that the candle will not go out.



We believe that floating *krathongs* on the river is to honor and pay respect to the goddess of water, Phra Mae Khongkha, for providing water so that food could grow. Also, Many Thais believe that Krathongs are the vessels that are able to carry away sins and bad luck so that they can start life afresh on a better luck.

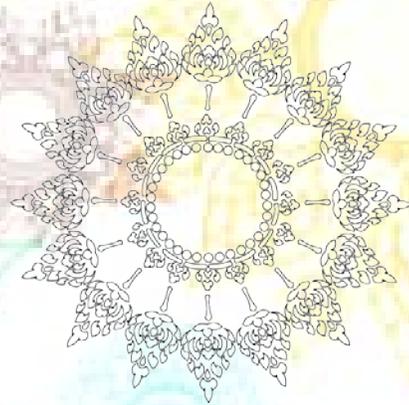


Every year, many organizations usually create their big decorated rafts. There are also local and officially organised raft contests, regarding its beauty and craftsmanship. There are also fireworks during the celebration of the festival. Additionally, Thai hot air balloons, called Khom Loys, are released and there are also fireworks displays. Loy Krathong is a colorful and fun filled festival. Thailand, the land of smile, we are very happy to welcome people around the world to Loy your own Krathong and have a lot more fun in our beautiful country.



Loykrathong's lyrics

**The full moon of the twelfth month,
As water fills the banks,
We, all men and women,
Have really good fun on Loy Krathong day,
Float, float the krathongs,
Float, float the krathongs,
And after we have floated our krathongs,
I invite you my dear,
To come out and dance,
Ramwong [traditional dance] on Loy Krathong Day,
Ramwong on Loy Krathong Day,
Good merit brings us happiness,
Good merit brings us happiness,**



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