



S H A M B H A L A

## Shambhala Office of Practice and Education

TO: All Shambhala Calendar Planners  
RE: Year of the Fire Monkey (2016-2017) Calendar  
DATE: November 10, 2015

The Shambhala Office of Practice and Education is pleased to offer the following information to assist centres is scheduling for the coming year—the Year of the Fire Monkey.

Much of our scheduling is based on the work of Edward Henning from the United Kingdom. On his website ([www.kalacakra.org](http://www.kalacakra.org)), one can find an archive of Tibetan calendars for the years 1450-2049. The standard Tibetan calendar that our community has followed is that of the Phukpa tradition; this particular archive can be found at [www.kalacakra.org/calendar/tiblist.htm](http://www.kalacakra.org/calendar/tiblist.htm). By obtaining the necessary dates directly from this website, you have the ability to begin planning for a number of years into the future.

Below are dates for both one-time and recurring activities for the coming year. One-time activities include special celebration and practice days. Recurring activities include dates for feasts, practices of *Sadhana of Mahamudra*, *Werma Sadhana*, and *Jambhala*, and—new this year—Full Moon *Shambhala Sadhana* Gatherings.

*Sadhana of Mahamudra* is practiced on the new moon days, *Werma Sadhana* is practiced on the protector days (9<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup>), and Full Moon *Shambhala Sadhana* Gatherings are held on the full moon days. In accordance with the Tibetan lunar calendar, we practice the feast for Padmakara and Chakrasamvara on the 10<sup>th</sup> day and for Vajrayogini on the 25<sup>th</sup> day, and *Jambhala Sadhana* is practiced on the 8<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> days. Milarepa Day is the 14<sup>th</sup> day of the 1<sup>st</sup> month; centres may schedule this celebration on the nearest weekend. Vaishakha Day is the 15<sup>th</sup> day of the 4<sup>th</sup> month, and the commemoration of Mipham the Great is the 29<sup>th</sup> day of the 4<sup>th</sup> month.

Due to a lunar day being of different length than a solar day, sometimes the Tibetan calendar omits a solar date or has two of the same-numbered solar days. This accounts for why an occasional protector day might occur on the same day as a *Jambhala* practice day, why a feast day might occur on a protector day, or why there may seem to be an extra day between any of these celebrations. Also, some years have an intercalary month. Different lunar calendrical systems may choose different years to insert this extra month, which is why the Chinese New Year can be a month off from the Tibetan New Year.

The Tibetan calendar that we use is not corrected for North American or European time zones, so dates are perhaps not as accurate for us as they are for India. The only times that can be checked easily are the new and full moon, and it is suggested that we follow Western sources for our practice of the *Sadhana of Mahamudra* and for the Full Moon *Shambhala Sadhana* Gatherings.

# YEAR OF THE FIRE MONKEY

## ONE-TIME ACTIVITIES

### 2016

Shambhala Day	February 9 - Year of the Fire Monkey [Mamo chants January 29 - February 7]
Milarepa Day	February 21
Vidyadhara Chögyam Trungpa Rinpoche Parinirvana	April 4
Vaishakha Day Enlightenment and Parinirvana of Buddha Shakyamuni	June 20
Midsummer's Day	June 20
Mipham the Great Commemoration	July 3
Great Mandala Offering	July 16
Vajra Regent Commemoration	August 25
Harvest of Peace	September 24
Sakyong Mipham Rinpoche Birthday Celebration	November 15
Children's Day	December 21

### Nyida Days

Vernal Equinox	March 20
Summer Solstice	June 20
Autumnal Equinox	September 22
Winter Solstice	December 21

### 2017

Shambhala Day	February 27 - Year of the Fire Bird [Mamo chants February 16-25]
Milarepa Day	March 11

## RECURRING ACTIVITIES

	<u>Sadhana of Mahamudra</u>	<u>Full Moon Shambhala Sadhana Gathering</u>	<u>Heruka Feast</u>	<u>Dakini Feast</u>	<u>Werma</u>	<u>Jambhala</u>
<u>2016</u>						
February	8	22	17	3	7, 16, 26	6, 15
March	8	23	18	4	8, 17, 27	7, 16
April	7	22	16	2	6, 15, 26	5, 14
May	6	21	16	2, 31	5, 15, 25	5, 14
June	5	20	14	29	4, 13, 24	3, 12
July	4	19	14	29	3, 13, 23	2, 12, 31
August	2	18	13	27	1, 12, 22, 31	11, 30
September	1, 30	16	11	25	10, 20, 29	9, 28
October	30	16	11	25	10, 19, 29	9, 28
November	29	14	9	23	8, 18, 28	7, 27
December	29	13	9	23	8, 17, 27	7, 26
<u>2017</u>						
January	27	12	7	22	6, 16, 26	5, 25
February	26	10	6	21	5, 14, 25	4, 24