

The Swing
Festival of
Thailand

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The Swing

The ethnic minorities people in Thailand celebrate the swing festival. They live in North of Thailand. These people have their own language, food, cloths cultural events and more. These people are called Akha. They celebrate the swing festival every year. They celebrate the festival two months before they harvest rice and corn. They celebrate their festival in the month of August to September. They celebrate the swing festival because they want to say thank you for the food and they respect their ancestors. It is same as our Thai Pongal because we also say thank you to the sun, the animal who plough the paddy fields, and thank you for the food. They build a swing because they thought they came down from a swing to the earth. The Akha people celebrate the swing festival for four days.

On day one they give food to their ancestors. They give one black chicken, one red chicken, tea leaves, ginger and other food items. After that they sing and dance and eat until midnight.

On day two, all the men go in the woods and look for trees. When they find the trees they bring four trees back to the village and then they start building the swing. First they take two sticks and joint it. They do the same thing on the other side. Then they put a stick on the middle. They take a grape vein and make it into a rope and they join it to the middle of the stick. Now the swing is ready for swing. The elder person then ties three things together. These three things are stone, grass, and thorn and then he ties it on the swing. Then they start swinging.

On day three they give food to their ancestors but this time they don't give red chicken and black chicken. They give tea leaves, ginger and other food items. When they are done giving food to their ancestors they continue singing, dancing and eating until midnight.

On day four they keep on swinging until afternoon. Then in the evening the elder person rides on the swing and when he is done he takes the rope, puts it up on the swing. Then nobody could go on the swing until next year. The Akha

people keep the swing for next year. Every year they build a new swing and destroy the old one.

The End