

Fun Facts about Chinese New Year celebration



Do you know your Chinese zodiac sign?

Check your zodiac animal by your birth year -

https://www.travelchinaguide.com/intro/social_customs/zodiac/?srsltid=AfmBOorQiN_kPbPmMCV_mSs-PJtkHWIBLCZ6ReCBMsltLD2efJfZsIrWl

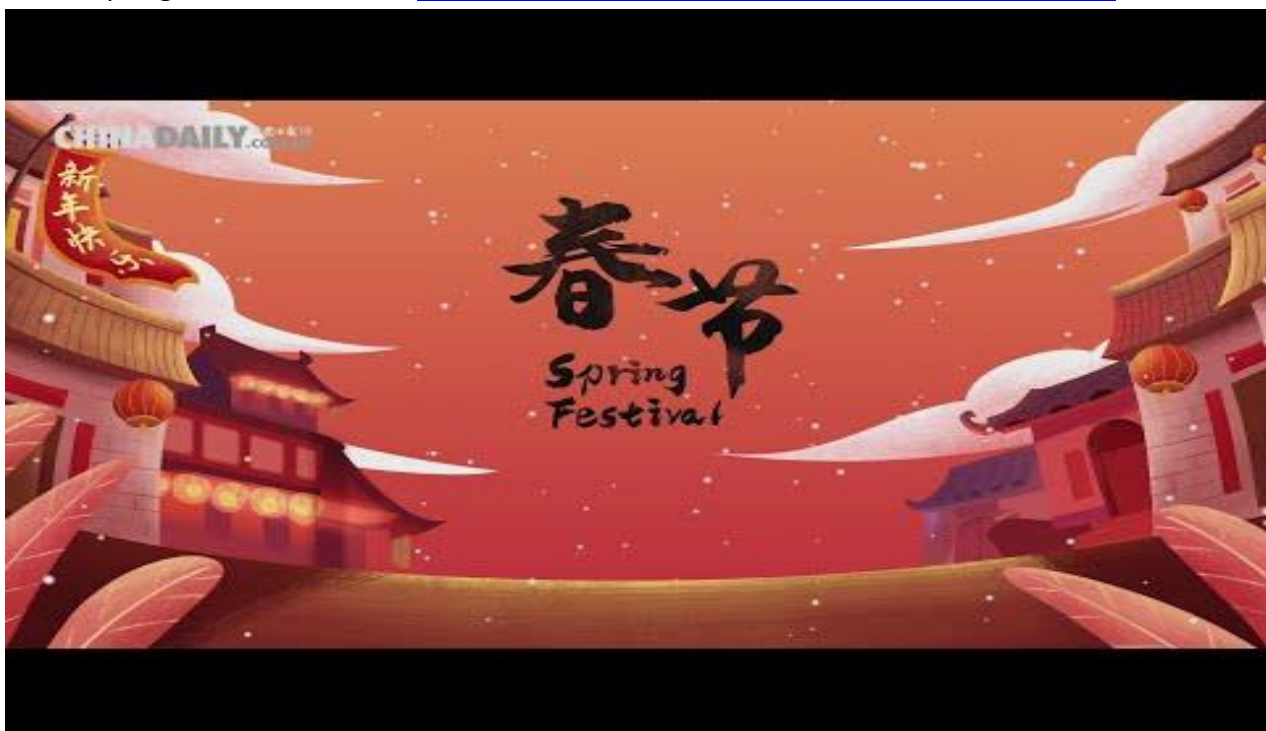
Watch this cute cartoon to learn more about the Chinese Zodiac

The Myth behind the Chinese Zodiac - https://youtu.be/may2s9j4RLk?si=LliR1g7ZUGCfid_a



Learn more about Chinese New Year celebration in China today

About Spring Festival in China - <https://youtu.be/r4Ql5MsSBT4?si=w8qldnZ3iTs4SZ91>



Chinese New Year in Hong Kong

Key days

January 26, 2025 Deep cleaning day

January 28, 2025 The day before Chinese New Year

January 29, 2025 First Day of Chinese New Year / Wednesday/ Public Holiday

January 30, 2025 Second Day of Chinese New Year / Thursday/ Public Holiday

January 31, 2025 Third Day of Chinese New Year / Friday/ Public Holiday

February 12, 2025 Lantern Festival/ 15th Day of Chinese New Year

Some useful tips for the festival from the locals

(1) Deep clean your home

- It is a tradition to deep clean your household at least three days before Chinese New Year.

(2) Decorate your home

- People usually decorate their home with flowers, plants, Chinese calligraphy, lanterns, or any red and gold decorative items.
- You can visit any of the 15 Flower Markets around town between January 23-28, 2025. The market on Hong Kong Island will be held at the Victoria Park in Causeway Bay. Besides fresh cut and potted flowers, you can also find food and decorative items specific to the festival.
- These markets operate till late at night and many families love to bring kids to visit these markets as a family.
- Don't be shy to negotiate for better deals!

(3) Get new banknotes and red envelopes for Red Packets

- Banks can get very busy before the holiday as locals prefer to get new banknotes for red packets. Plan and get what you need from your bank ahead of time.
- You should be able to find an abundance of red envelope choices on the market. Just pick something that suits your taste.
- Many businesses like banks, shopping malls and brands will give away free envelopes too. Just ask the sales if they are offering free envelopes when shopping.

(4) About Red Packets

- It is a tradition for Chinese parents to place red envelopes under the kids' pillows on the night before the first day of Chinese New Year (on January 28) for good luck and good health blessings for the children.

- Except for the above, you will only start giving red packets from the first day of Chinese New Year.
- General Red Packet rule of thumbs in Hong Kong
 - \$50-100 for helpers
 - \$20-100 for building security / guard / cleaners
 - \$20-100 for office staffs / colleagues
 - \$10-20 for waiters
- Most building management will have collection boxes to recycle red envelopes after the holiday for donation purposes.

(5) Get haircut done before Chinese New Year

- It is considered bad luck to have a haircut during Chinese New Year.
- Most people will resume hair cut after the 10th or the 15th day of Chinese New Year.

(6) Get new clothes for the family

- It is a tradition to wear new clothes on the first day of Chinese New Year.
- It is considered bad luck to buy new shoes during Chinese New Year! So get your new shoes before January 29!

(7) Have some extra gifts at home

- It is a customary gesture to visit family and friends with a gift.
- In Hong Kong, most people do not visit friends on the third day of Chinese New Year.

(8) Get extra grocery for your home

- Most supermarkets and wet markets will close early on January 28 and during Chinese New Year.
- Some restaurants / shops will close for consecutive days.
- Do check the working hours of your favorite shops before the holiday.

(9) Fix your lunch & dinner restaurant reservations early


- If you plan to eat out with your family and friends, it is best to make your plans early.
- It is a tradition to have family dinner gatherings on January 28 and celebrate the New Year at 12am midnight together.

(10) Discuss and agree holiday plan with your helpers

- Domestic helpers in Hong Kong are entitled to have 3 consecutive days of public holidays. If you have specific requirements for your family, do discuss them with your helpers in advance to avoid misunderstanding.

Check out information about Chinese New Year celebrations in Hong Kong prepared by HKSAR
<https://www.discoverhongkong.com/eng/what-s-new/events/chinese-new-year.html>

Some highlighted recommendations:

 **Chinese New Year Gala on TV** (A night show of spectacular performances of singing, dancing, Chinese Kung Fu, Chinese acrobatics etc)

Date: January 28, 2025

Time: 8pm to 1am

Where: CCTV 1, Channel 33

 **Cathay International Chinese New Year Night Parade**

Date: 29 January 2025

Time: 8 – 9:45pm (A variety of street performances will entertain the crowds along the route from 6pm onwards)

Location: Tsim Sha Tsui, Kowloon

 **Chinese New Year Firework**

Date: 30 January 2025

Time: 8pm, TBC by news broadcast

Location: Victoria Harbour

Hope this is useful!

Happy Chinese New Year! 新年快樂 Xin Nian Kuai Le

<https://www.hkispfo.com/lunar-new-year>