# **TOAISM**

# LANTERN FESTIVAL

Lantern Festival, holiday celebrated in China and other Asian countries that honour deceased ancestors on the 15th day of the first month (Yuan) of the lunar calendar. The Lantern Festival aims to promote reconciliation, peace, and forgiveness. On this day, people light lanterns to symbolize driving out darkness and bringing hope to the coming year. The lanterns symbolize driving out darkness and bringing hope to a new year. It's said that the tradition gained popularity during China's Han Dynasty some 2,000 years ago. During the Lantern Festival, children go out at night carrying [paper lanterns](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paper_lantern" \o "Paper lantern) and solve riddles on the lanterns ([traditional Chinese](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Traditional_Chinese_characters" \o "Traditional Chinese characters): 猜燈謎; [simplified Chinese](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Simplified_Chinese_characters" \o "Simplified Chinese characters): 猜灯谜; [pinyin](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pinyin" \o "Pinyin): *cāidēngmí*).[[3]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lantern_Festival" \l "cite_note-McDowell-3)[[4]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lantern_Festival" \l "cite_note-Wei-4) In ancient times, the lanterns were fairly simple, and only the [emperor](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Emperor_of_China" \o "Emperor of China) and noblemen had large ornate lanterns.[[5]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lantern_Festival" \l "cite_note-Birmingham_Lantern_Festival-5) In modern times, lanterns have been embellished with many complex designs.[[4]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lantern_Festival" \l "cite_note-Wei-4) For example, lanterns are now often made in the shape of animals. The lanterns can symbolize the people letting go of their past selves and getting new ones,[[6]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lantern_Festival" \l "cite_note-6) which they will let go of the next year. The lanterns are almost always red to symbolize good fortune.[[7]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lantern_Festival" \l "cite_note-7)

The festival acts as an [Uposatha](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Uposatha" \o "Uposatha) day on the Chinese calendar.[[8]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lantern_Festival" \l "cite_note-8)[[9]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lantern_Festival" \l "cite_note-9) It should not be confused with the [Mid-Autumn Festival](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mid-Autumn_Festival" \o "Mid-Autumn Festival); which is sometimes also known as the "Lantern Festival" in locations such as [Indonesia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indonesia" \o "Indonesia), [Malaysia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Malaysia" \o "Malaysia), and [Singapore](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Singapore" \o "Singapore).[[2]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lantern_Festival" \l "cite_note-china.org.cn-2)[[10]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lantern_Festival" \l "cite_note-travelchinaguide.com-10) Lantern Festivals have also become popular in Western countries, such as the Water Lantern Festival held in multiple locations in the [United States](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States" \o "United States)

The **Lantern Festival** ([traditional Chinese](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Traditional_Chinese_characters" \o "Traditional Chinese characters): [元宵節](https://en.wiktionary.org/wiki/%E5%85%83%E5%AE%B5%E7%AF%80" \o "wikt:元宵節); [simplified Chinese](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Simplified_Chinese_characters" \o "Simplified Chinese characters): [元宵节](https://en.wiktionary.org/wiki/%E5%85%83%E5%AE%B5%E8%8A%82" \o "wikt:元宵节); [pinyin](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pinyin" \o "Pinyin): *Yuánxiāo jié*), also called **Shangyuan Festival** ([traditional Chinese](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Traditional_Chinese_characters" \o "Traditional Chinese characters): 上元節; [simplified Chinese](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Simplified_Chinese_characters" \o "Simplified Chinese characters): 上元节; [pinyin](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pinyin" \o "Pinyin): *Shànjiégyuán* ) and **Cap Go Meh** ([Chinese](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Traditional_Chinese_characters" \o "Traditional Chinese characters): 十五暝; [Pe̍h-ōe-jī](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pe%CC%8Dh-%C5%8De-j%C4%AB" \o "Pe̍h-ōe-jī): *Cha̍p-gō͘-mê*), is a Chinese traditional festival celebrated on the fifteenth day of the first month in the [lunisolar](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lunisolar_calendar" \o "Lunisolar calendar) [Chinese calendar](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chinese_calendar" \o "Chinese calendar), during the [full moon](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Full_moon" \o "Full moon). Usually falling in February or early March on the [Gregorian calendar](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gregorian_calendar" \o "Gregorian calendar), it marks the final day of the traditional [Chinese New Year](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chinese_New_Year" \o "Chinese New Year) celebrations.[[1]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lantern_Festival" \l "cite_note-Melton-1) As early as the [Western Han dynasty](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Western_Han_dynasty" \o "Western Han dynasty) (206 BC–AD 25), it had become a festival with great significance

# Laba festival

The Laba Festival, which falls on the eighth day of the twelfth lunar month, marks the official start of Spring Festival. This holiday may be traced back to the ancient Chinese custom of sacrificing game to the ancestors during the last month of the lunar year. The Laba Festival, celebrated on the eighth day of the 12th lunar month, falls on January 24th this year. It is traditionally regarded as the prelude to Spring Festival, reminding people to start their preparations for the coming festivities and for wanderers to return home and reunite with family. What does the Laba Festival celebrate?

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In the Buddhist tradition, eating and sharing porridge commemorates the legend of Sakyamuni, saved by a girl who gave him a bowl of milk on the day he attained understanding of the truth of life and became a sage. Many temples today have the tradition of giving out Laba Porridge to the public.

# Dragon boat festival

The Dragon Boat Festival, also known as the Double Fifth Festival, is a traditional Chinese holiday with more than two thousand years of history. It begins on the fifth day of the fifth lunar month. Because the fifth month is considered an unlucky time of year, many traditions exist to rid people of misfortune.

This annual celebration is meant to protect the people from evil & disease for the rest of the year. The ceremony called 'Awakening the Dragon' or 'Dotting of the Eye' traditionally involves a Taoist priest dotting the protruding eyes of the dragon head carved on the boats, thus ending its slumber.

Dragon boat races are believed to have started between 770 and 476 BCE. In the state of Yue, King Gou Jian regularly trained his navy using boat races. It was during the Han Dynasty that dragon boat racing became a sport. The boats were long and narrow, with prows painted like a dragon's head. Its origins can be traced to southern China, and festivities include boat races and eating rice dumplings. The festival had evolved from the practice of revering the river dragon, to the commemoration of Qu Yuan, a third-century poet and political figure of the state of Chu in ancient China

# Mid Autumn festival

The Mid-Autumn Festival, also known as the Moon Festival or Mooncake Festival, is a harvest festival celebrated in Chinese culture. It is held on the 15th day of the 8th month of the Chinese lunisolar calendar with a full moon at night, corresponding to mid-September to early October of the Gregorian calendar. The Mid-autumn Festival is associated with the moon and “moon appreciation” (shangyue) parties, particularly because the moon is at its brightest during this time. The festival also coincides with the end of the autumn harvest, marking the end of the Hungry Ghost Festival, which occurs during the seventh lunar month. As the legend goes, Hou Yi was rewarded with an elixir of immortality after shooting down nine out of the ten suns that ravaged the land with drought and disaster. However, when Hou Yi's apprentice, Feng Meng, attempted to steal the elixir, Chang'e stopped him by drinking the elixir herself. Not only a joyful occasion for children, Mid Autumn Festival in Vietnam is also the time for local people to worship the God of Earth, as well as make offerings to their ancestors. The offerings often include mooncakes, fruits, food, and joss paper.