

FESTIVALS AROUND THE WORLD

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Chinese Lantern Festival



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History of the Chinese Lantern Festival

The history of the Chinese Lantern Festival goes back a long time. More than 2000 years have passed through many dynasties and national history. There are many legends passed down by people about the lantern festival.

Legend has it that: "During the reign of Emperor Wu, there was a young girl named Yuanxiao who lived in the palace. Banned from visiting his parents on January 15, he attempted to commit suicide by diving into the well. Touched by the girl's filial piety. A courtier named Dongfang Shuo devised a plan to help her. He told Emperor Wu that, on January 16, Thien Dinh would send the God of Fire down to burn down the Citadel.

To avoid that disaster, people had to hang lanterns in front of their houses and in the street on the 15th. Under the orders of Emperor Han Wu, every house hung lanterns on that day. While everyone was busy looking at those pretty lights, the young girl escaped home to visit her parents without anyone knowing."



Lanterns hang around the streets during the Chinese Lantern Festival Source: dantri.com.vn

According to historical records, the Chinese Lantern Festival originated between 206 BC and 25 AD. At that time, Buddhism in China was very developed. On the full moon day of the first lunar month in the new year, monks often light lanterns to pray to Buddha. A devout Buddhist king also ordered the lighting of lanterns in palaces and temples to pay respects to the Buddha. Later, the above tradition developed into a great festival among the people.

Lantern Festival time

The 15th day of the first lunar month, also known as the full moon of January, is a very important day for the people of Asian countries. If Vietnam makes hearty dishes of rice to worship the full moon to close the New Year, in this country of billions of people, the **Chinese lantern festival** is held. The Lantern Festival is an event to end the happy New Year holidays and wish for a happy and complete new year.



The most spectacular lantern displays are held at the Confucius Temple in Nanjing (Xiamen City), Shanghai Peach Garden and Yuexiu Park in Guangzhou. Visiting China on this occasion, visitors will enjoy the unique and unique Chinese cultural beauties that are unique to this place.

The Lantern Festival has a very important meaning to the Chinese people. Not only continuing the tradition and history of the nation, the Chinese lantern festival is also a place where people wish for a smooth new year. The Chinese believe that the light from the red lanterns will dispel the cold of winter and welcome the warm spring. Lanterns are hung on the streets, from the streets to the alleys. Lanterns light up as if dispelling darkness and light up a bright and good future ahead.



Special fireworks display during the Chinese lantern festival (Source: quinn.vn

The activity takes place during the Chinese Lantern Festival.



Unique lion dance performance at the festival (Source: [pinterest.com](https://www.pinterest.com))

In the evening, when the lanterns are lit, family members will flock to the street to admire the splendid beauty of thousands of shimmering lanterns. Not only that, there are many entertainment activities for everyone to participate in. Throughout the lantern festival in China are fireworks performances, lion dance performances.



Lanterns bring hopes and dreams (Source: vtv.vn)

The atmosphere of the festival is very bustling and vibrant, cheerful and happy smiles always appear on everyone's lips. Not only that, activities such as hanging wishes, solving puzzles imbued with traditional culture also take place to attract people and tourists to experience.

And the main highlight of this festival is the release of lanterns, which is an activity that everyone is looking forward to. The person who releases the lantern will write his or her New Year's wishes on the lantern and release them into the sky. People believe that paper lanterns will bring their wishes to God. The lights are released into the sky as well as the wishes and dreams of the people here fly high and always shine.



Unique lanterns shimmering (Source: m.abay.vn)

What to eat during the lantern festival?

According to Chinese travel experience, a very popular custom during the Chinese Lantern Festival is to eat floating cakes. This type of cake is made from glutinous rice flour, with the inner layer of black sesame, sugar, peanuts or red, black, green beans... Dumplings can be boiled, steamed and fried depending on the region. But the most popular is still the type of cake that is boiled and served with rice wine.



Traditional Chinese Lantern Festival food Source: Pinterest.com

People think that the round shape of the floating cake is a symbol of wholeness. The image of floating cakes inside a small cup is said to resemble the scene of family members gathering together. Not only in China, but also in Vietnam, the floating cake is a symbol of unity.

A festival with a lot of national cultural beauty brings joy and hope to everyone. It's a pity if you haven't been able to enjoy and experience the Chinese lantern festival, right? Visit the country of billions of people and immerse yourself in the bustling lantern festival. Hand-dropping the lantern brings your dreams to the sky and prays for a new year, a new future that is always beautiful. What are you waiting for, if you haven't set foot in China once to enjoy. Stay tuned to China travel news to learn and discover more about this beautiful country.

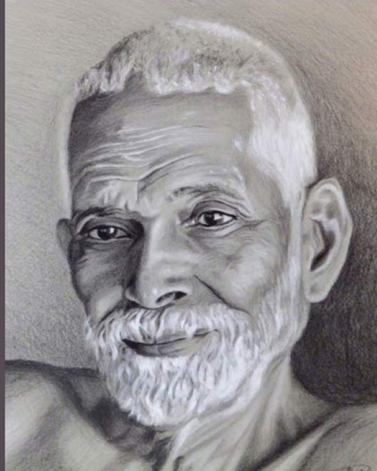
Some festival pictures



Source: Some where in the internet.



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