SHOPPING

The preparation for Lunar New Year is as—if not more—exhausting as the day itself. Lots of money goes into the planning of the event. Some of the most distinct parts of Vietnamese New Year are the importance of decorations and ornaments, as well as the abundance of fruits and flowers.

Despite the lack of wealth in Vietnam, families will spend a great amount on New Years. Outside on the streets, vendors will line up the sidewalks with tons of decorations, fruits, and flower trees.

Some people will spend upwards to hundreds of dollars on a single flower tree for this very occasion.

MIDNIGHT

One of the most important rituals on this day is being the first person to enter a home, which is called xông nhà. Traditions say that the first visitor a family receives in the New Year determines their fortune for the rest of the year. On this day, people never enter other houses until being invited inside.

Usually someone of success and good morality will be the first one invited into a house.

Just to be safe, the owner of the house will leave just before midnight and come back in to prevent any unlucky guests from bringing them unwanted misfortune.

MORNING

In addition to praying at midnight, it is also customary to visit a local Buddhist temple to pray, donate money, and get one’s fortune told.

AFTERNOON

EVENING