

Editor's Choice



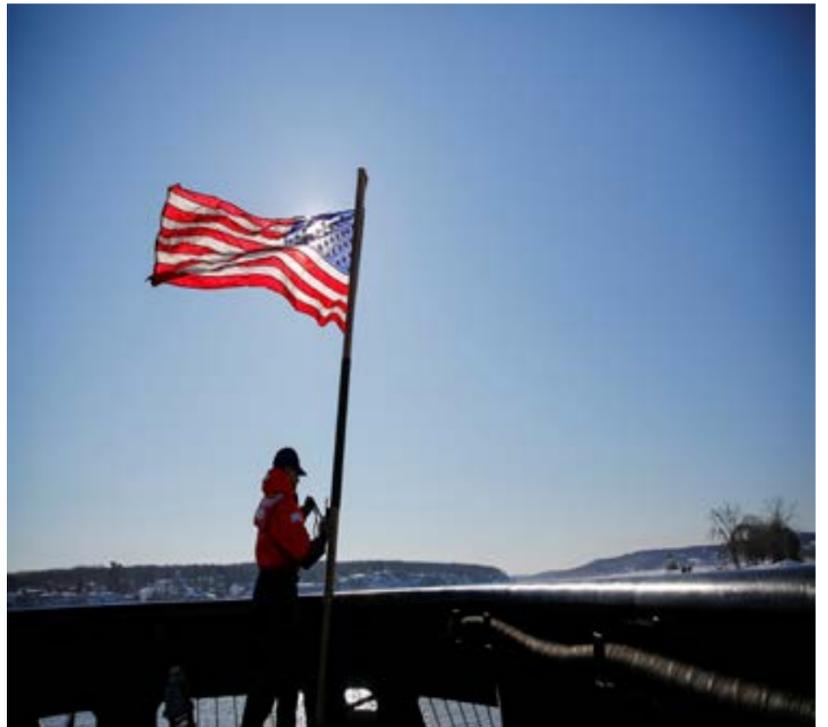
Actress Bryce Dallas Howard is honored as Hasty Pudding Theatricals Woman of the Year with a parade through Cambridge



U.S. Coast Guard members on a boat used as an ice breaker along the Hudson river during a polar vortex in New York,



U.S. Coast Guard member works on a boat used as an ice breaker along the Hudson river during a polar vortex in New York



U.S. Coast Guard member ties up the U.S. flag as he works on a boat used as an ice breaker along the Hudson river during a polar vortex in New York



U.S. Coast Guard members work on a boat used as an ice breaker along the Hudson river between the towns of Kingston and Poughkeepsie in New York



Dr. Ben Carson, Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, makes an announcement regarding the New York City Housing Authority



Jan 25, 2019; San Diego, CA, USA; Jon Rahm plays his shot from the third tee during the second round of the Farmers Insurance Open golf tournament at Torrey Pines Municipal Golf Course - South Course. Mandatory Credit: Orlando Ramirez-USA TODAY Sports



Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) speaks to the media after U.S. President Donald Trump announced a deal to end the partial government shutdown on Capitol Hill in Washington

Chinese New Year Around The World

Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor



Chinese New Year, also known as “Spring Festival”, is celebrated every year by nearly a quarter of the world’s population. It is arguably the most important social and economic holiday on the Chinese calendar. While modern Asian cities celebrate Western New Year on 1 January, they pull out all the stops for the Lunar New Year where festivities can last as long as two

weeks. Chinese New Year 2019 marks the Year of the Pig – a symbol of wealth and prosperity. We uncover the customs around this festival and reveal the best countries to visit to experience the spectacular displays of Chinese New Year.

When is it celebrated?

Chinese New Year is celebrated with the waxing of the full moon, according to the Chinese lunar calendar, so there

is no fixed date. The lunar calendar is around 20 days behind the Gregorian calendar, so New Year celebrations usually fall anywhere between 21 January and 20 February until the full moon arrives.

Chinese New Year 2019 falls on 5 February, with an official 7-day holiday from 4 – 10 February.

How is it celebrated?



Chinese New Year is a time for families to get together and celebrate new beginnings. Traditionally, families get together within the first three days of New Year and pay respects to their ancestors. People travel from near and far to come together, with many people leaving the cities and flocking to the countryside. Nowadays, by the third or fourth day, young people prefer to spend the last few days of the holiday relaxing, catching up with friends and going on vacation.

Customs around this festival have evolved over the years, but the older generations are very superstitious and take the customs and traditions seriously.

Spring cleaning and decorating (two weeks before)



Before festivities can begin, Chinese people undertake a major spring-cleaning of their homes, as a way to ‘sweep out’ the old and welcome in the new. Shops and marketplaces are a buzzing frenzy of locals stocking up on food, decorations and clothes. No expense is spared during this time.

Tip – dodge the crowds and find a quiet spot to relax with a drink as you watch the frenzy going on below you!

Once the house has been spruced up, it’s time to decorate! Red lanterns, couplets, paintings and cut-outs adorn the walls, doors and windows of every home. Even farmers in the countryside decorate their animal barns, in an effort to ward off evil spirits. Strings of red lanterns lace the streets whichever way you look, and the cities become a dazzling display of red and gold.

Gifts and lucky money

On the eve of New Year, parents give their children red envelopes filled with ‘lucky money’, wishing them a healthy and prosperous year ahead. You’ll even see business colleagues exchange envelopes with each other. People bring gifts to each other’s homes, so if you happen to be invited to a family event, bring a few extra red envelopes and sweet treats.

Food and rituals



Nearly every Chinese household (and many homes throughout Asia) has a small shrine dedicated to their ancestors and deities. Family members offer sacrifices of food, wine, incense sticks

and fruit as a way of showing respect to their ancestors and asking for protection and good fortune for the year ahead.

New Year’s Eve dinner is a family affair. Expect tables laden with speciality foods. Chinese people believe certain foods bring good luck, so no table will ever be complete without noodles, dumplings, fish, tangerines, mooncakes, sticky rice balls (*tangyan*) or rice cakes (*niangao*). If you crack an invite to a local home, you’ll be in for a treat. If not, book a dinner cruise or grab a rooftop table for dinner, and watch the city light up all around you.

Colorful celebrations



Flamboyant celebrations around the world take place within the first seven days on Chinese New Year. Celebrations involve parades of dragon dances, colourful floats, carnival shows, martial arts performances and fireworks exhibitions. Chinese people believe that the louder the firecrackers, the more luck they’ll receive in the coming year.

On the fifteenth day, the Lantern Festival (*Yuan Xiao*) marks the end of the New Year celebrations when the full moon arrives. It is a colourful explosion of lanterns floating up into the sky and is the Chinese equivalent of Valentine’s Day. (Courtesy <http://www.travelstart.co.za/>)

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