

Festivals and Public Holidays for 2015 in Mainland China and Hong Kong

	Mainland China		Hong Kong
	Statutory Holidays	Usual Holiday Arrangements**	
New Year's Day	Jan 1	Jan 1-3	Jan 1
Lunar New Year (Chinese New Year)	Feb 19-21	Feb 19-25	Feb 19-21
Easter Holidays	-	-	Apr 3-5 and 7
Qing Ming Festival	Apr 5	Apr 4-6	Apr 6
Labor Day	May 1	May 1-3	May 1
The Birthday of the Buddha	-	-	May 25
Duan Wu Festival	Jun 20	Jun 20-22	Jun 20
Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Establishment Day	-	-	Jul 1
Mid-Autumn Festival	Sep 27	Sep 26-28	Sep 28
National Day	Oct 1-3	Oct 1-7 (Golden Week)	Oct 1
Chong Yang Festival	-	-	Oct 21
Christmas Holiday	-	-	Dec 25-26

** In Mainland China, there are leave arrangements for the weekend(s) before and/or after statutory holidays to facilitate people's planning for travelling, production and other related tasks. The central government makes announcement on such leave arrangements every year. Subject to further announcement, the 2015 holiday's information listed in the above table is correct at time of publishing.

Season's Greetings

Christmas and **New Year** are just around the corner. Modern Terminals wishes you a joyous festival holiday and a prosperous Year of 2015. Please enjoy viewing our animated Xmas eCard by clicking the hyperlink below:

http://www.modernterminals.com/group/en/xmas_ecard_video.php



Interesting Facts about

Chinese New Year

Chinese New Year is the most important festival of the year for Chinese people around the world. Also known as the Spring Festival and the Lunar New Year, the holiday period is marked by fascinating traditions and activities.

Divided into 12-year cycles, the Lunar New Years are named after the animals of the Chinese zodiac. Currently we are in the Year of the Horse, with the **Year of the Goat** beginning on February 19, 2015.

Within China, the lead-up to Chinese New Year sparks the largest **annual mass migration** of people on Earth, as workers travel the country to return to their families and home villages to celebrate⁽¹⁾. It is estimated that the number of passenger journeys during the Lunar New Year in 2014 was around 3.62 billion, more than two times China's population and ten times North America's. That accounted for about 20% of the world population⁽²⁾.



The celebrations during the Lunar New Year include...

New Year Markets

During the festival, temporary markets spring up all across China. Lavishly decorated with colourful lanterns, these markets sell all manner of New Years goods - decorations, food, flowers and firecrackers⁽³⁾.

Lucky Money

Distinctive red packets containing money - anything from one to several thousand yuan - are prepared by married couples and the elderly and presented to children in order to ensure their health and safety through the coming year.

Often, this money is either saved or spent on school supplies⁽⁴⁾.



New Red Clothes

It is believed that wearing new clothes will get the new year off to a proper start. If these clothes are red, so much the better, as red is a highly auspicious colour. To begin the new year, families dress in new red clothes to ensure their continued good fortune⁽⁵⁾.



Fireworks /Firecrackers

For 2,000 years, firecrackers have been an important Chinese New Year custom. Less practiced in the big cities today due to noise and safety concerns, rural communities still get the new year off to a joyful and noisy start, as the fireworks explode and drive away bad spirits⁽⁵⁾.



Auspicious Food

Food is a major part of the Spring Festival, with many dishes eaten to bring good luck and prosperity. 'Niangao', the name of a Glutinous New Year Cake, means 'getting higher year after year'. Eating this cake during the festival will ensure increasing health, prosperity or good fortune⁽⁶⁾. Round rice dumplings called 'tangyuan' symbolize the reunion of family⁽⁷⁾, while lotus seeds signify a family's prosperity through the generations and the fact that they will have many children⁽⁸⁾.



Endnotes:

- (1): Spring Festival Travel Rush in China, <http://www.travelchinaguide.com/china-trains/spring-festival-rush.htm>
- (2): Chunyun: the Largest Annual Human Migration in the World, <http://deepcor.com/news/1096/chunyun-the-largest-annual-human-migration-in-the-world>
- (3): Chinese New Year Traditions, <http://www.chinesenewyears.info/chinese-new-year-traditions.php>
- (4): Customs and Practices of Spring Festival, <http://www.travelchinaguide.com/essential/holidays/new-year/customs.htm>
- (5): Chinese New Year: Chinese New Year's Day, <http://chineseculture.about.com/od/chinesefestivals/a/Chinese-New-Year-Chinese-New-Years-Day.htm>
- (6): Chinese New Year Food, <http://www.chinahighlights.com/travelguide/chinese-food/chinese-new-year-food.htm>
- (7): Chinese New Year Food, <http://www.chinesenewyears.info/chinese-new-year-food.php>
- (8): Chinese New Year Food Symbols, <http://www.flavorandfortune.com/dataaccess/article.php?ID=384>