

Festivals and public Holidays for 2014 in Mainland China and Hong Kong

	Mainland China		Hong Kong
	Statutory Holidays	Usual Holiday Arrangements	
New Year's Day	Jan 1	Jan1	Jan 1
Lunar New Year	Jan 31, Feb1-2	Jan 31, Feb 1-6	Jan 31, Feb 1-3
Qing Ming Festival	Apr 5	Apr 5 - 7	Apr 5
Easter Holidays	-	-	Apr 18-21
Labor Day	May 1	May 1 - 3	May 1
The Birthday of the Buddha	-	-	May 6
Duan Wu Festival	Jun 2	May 31, Jun 1-2	Jun 2
Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Establishment Day	-	-	Jul 1
Mid-Autumn Festival	Sep 8	Sep 6 - 8	Sep 9
National Day	Oct 1 - 3	Oct 1 - 7 (Golden Week)	Oct 1
Chong Yang Festival	-	-	Oct 2
Christmas Holidays	-	-	Dec 25 - 26

Season's greeting

Christmas and **New Year** are around the corner. Modern Terminals wishes you a joyous festival holiday and a prosperous Year of 2014.



In addition, please see below paragraphs for more information and interesting stories about Chinese zodiac.

What is Chinese zodiac?

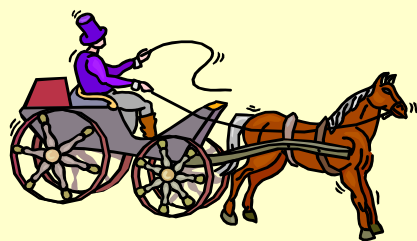


The Chinese zodiac, known as **Sheng Xiao** in Chinese, is a system based on twelve year cycle which relates each year to an animal sign. The zodiac traditionally begins with the sign of **rat**, followed by **ox**, **tiger**, **rabbit**, **dragon**, **snake**, **horse**, **sheep**, **monkey**, **rooster**, **dog** and **pig**. It was created for counting years in Ancient China, well before the existing Christian calendar became popular.

What is the zodiac of 2014?



It is the year of **horse in 2014** starting from January 31, the first day on the lunar calendar in China. According to popular legends, these Sheng Xiao animals were selected by the almighty **Jade Emperor** for representing different years. It was a swimming race for the animals to get chosen and ranking ⁽¹⁾. Horse's place was taken by a sneaky snake at the destination and finally got the **seventh place**.



Though horse was not the champion of the race, it has occupied a special seat in China

history, for instance, leading soldiers into battles, pulling the ploughs and transporting people between places. It is a **symbol of energy** in Buddhist religion ⁽²⁾. Images of horses symbolized **power in royal tombs** in the fourth century B.C. ⁽³⁾. Greetings associated with horse and dragon meaning **"wishing you boundless energy"** is common during Chinese New Year as well.



Endnotes:

(1) Source: Chinese Zodiac Story, <http://www.topmarks.co.uk/chinesenewyear/zodiacstory.aspx>

(2) Source: Symbolism of Animals in Buddhism, <http://ccbs.ntu.edu.tw/FULLTEXT/JR-BH/bh117490.htm>, summer 1988

(3) Source: Art review; the Chinese horse, a symbol of power, <http://www.nytimes.com/1997/10/24/art-review-the-chinese-horse-a-symbol-of-power.html>, October 24, 1997