

Celebrate Chinese New Year!

The Chinese New Year, aka, the Lunar New Year or Spring Festival is considered the most important festival in China. ¹ It celebrates the beginning of a new year on the Chinese lunisolar calendar and is a time to honor deities and ancestors while feasting and visiting family. “Celebrations last up to 16 days, but only the first seven (7) days are considered a public holiday (January 22 – January 29, 2023).” ¹.



Legend states that the Chinese New Year stemmed from an ancient battle against the Nian, a terrifying beast with the head of a lion and a sharp horn to attack. Living on the bottom of the sea, it only went ashore on New Year's Eve to eat people and their livestock. To scare the monster, people displayed red paper, burned bamboo, lit candles, and wore red clothes. These traditions continue today. ².



Each Chinese year is associated with one of twelve different animals according to the Chinese zodiac. 2023 is the year of the Rabbit. The sign of the Rabbit is a symbol of longevity, peace, and prosperity in Chinese culture and predicts a year of hope, beginning on Sunday, January 22, 2023. This date changes every year based on the Chinese Lunar calendar but occurs between January 21st to February 20th. ².



The Rabbit is the fourth of the twelve zodiac animals. Legend has it, the Rabbit was proud to the point of arrogance because of its speed. He always made fun of how slow the Ox was. One day, the Jade Emperor proclaimed the zodiac order will be decided by the order in which the animals arrived at his party. Rabbit set off at daybreak and thinking that he would obviously be first, he went off to the side and napped. However, upon waking, three other animals had already arrived, including the Ox. ³.



“Men born in a Rabbit year are polite and avoid conflicts. They have control over themselves and are sometimes conservative. They may seem to be a yes-man, but they have a bottom line that they won't cross. Women born in a Rabbit year love being social. They are thoughtful and treat everyone politely. They are very conscious of their public image and hate violence and arguments.” ³.



What's your Chinese Zodiac animal? Find out here.



UAW-FORD DIVERSITY DIGEST
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Source: 1. <https://chinesenewyear.net/>, 2. chinahights.com/travelguide/special-report/chinese-new-year/,

3. <https://chinesenewyear.net/zodiac/rabbit/>

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新年好

HAPPY CHINESE NEW YEAR
YEAR OF THE RABBIT

