



2021 | CHINESE  
NEW YEAR

— YEAR OF THE OX —



# Chinese New Year

Chinese New Year is also called “Spring Festival” and “Lunar New Year” because it comes in the springtime and is dated based on the Chinese lunar calendar. The date fluctuates, from a Western perspective, but comes in either January or February.



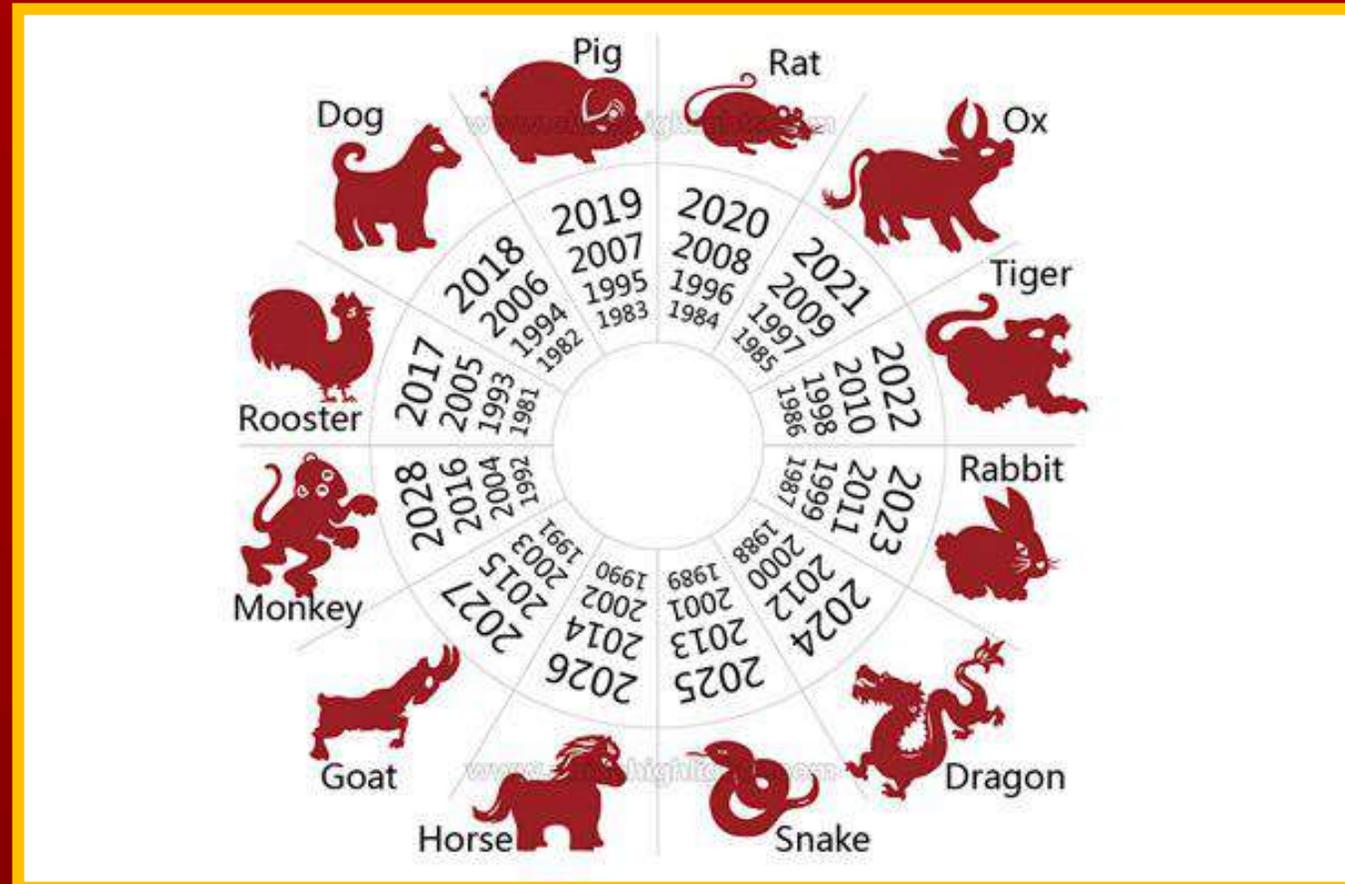
# Chap Goh Mei 2021

**Chinese New Year is actually celebrated for 15 consecutive days, but the first three days are most important. The 15th and final day, Chap Goh Mei is also a big event, where houses are decorated with an abundance of brightly coloured lights. It is a way of ending with a grand finale rather than the festivities just fading away gradually.**



# Zodiac Sign for Chinese New Year

Each Chinese New Year is designated as “the year of” one of the 12 animals of the Chinese Zodiac, which animal is supposed to characterize that year and all those born in it.



# Chinese New Year Food

The Chinese Reunion dinner is one of the most important elements during Chinese New Year.

The reunion dinner which is held on the eve of New Year is a time where families gather.

Food plays an integral role for the Chinese as well as most Malaysians. Sorts of dishes on the table including the famous Yee Sang, stir-fry leeks, stick cakes and others.



# Chinese New Year Decorations

Decorations play a huge role as part of welcoming and celebrating Chinese New Year. A few weeks prior to the celebration each year, streets will be beautifully decorated with lanterns of all sizes, Chinese homes spruced up with vases of pretty cherry blossoms, pussy willows and happy hand-written couplets. This is a time filled with much joy and excitement as the Chinese prepare to welcome the New Year. These decorations are put up each year and most families keep them in the house even after the celebration to usher in good luck and prosperity throughout the year.



# Lanterns

The lantern is one of the most prominent symbols of Chinese New Year. The idea of lanterns is to create a lively and cheerful environment as the full moon appears in the bright sky. That is why on the 15th day of Chinese New Year, also known as the Lantern Festival, the Chinese gather to hold up colourful lanterns at night.



# Oranges & Tangerines

It is almost customary to have oranges and tangerines during Chinese New Year; else it will not feel complete. Oranges, which sounds like 'gold' in Cantonese, symbolize wealth while tangerines symbolize good tidings as it sounds like 'good luck' in Chinese. Thus, they are symbols of abundant wealth and happiness. Etiquette says that one must bring a bag of oranges or tangerines when visiting family or friends during Chinese New Year. Often times, these tangerines are given with their leaves intact to signify a secure relationship between the giver and the receiver.





# Dragon Dance

The dragon dance is often performed during Chinese New Year. Chinese dragons are a symbol of China's culture, and they are believed to bring good luck to people, therefore the longer the dragon is in the dance, the more luck it will bring to the community.



# Angpow Packets

Red envelopes always contain money, and are given, most commonly, to kids from their parents, grandparents, and others as Chinese New Year gifts.

They are called *hongbao* in Mandarin and *lai see* in Cantonese. The term “red packets” has also come into common use, though *hongbao* look and function more like envelopes than packets.



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# References

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