

# What kind of festivals are there?



## China

China's Lantern Festival is a very lively and enjoyable celebration. On the night of the 15th day of the first month of the lunar calendar, the entire city sparkles with the glow of lanterns. Colorful, large lanterns in many different shapes are displayed, creating a beautiful scene. Children carry their own lanterns and go with their families to enjoy the lantern displays. There are lanterns of many shapes, including rabbits and fish. Just looking at them is exciting. Riddle contests called 'lantern riddles' are also held in public squares. If you solve the riddles written on the lanterns, you can win a prize. Everyone thinks hard about the riddles, and are filled with joy when they get the correct answer. When families return home, they eat yuanxiao together. These sweet rice dumplings are filled with ingredients such as sesame or peanuts and are very sweet and delicious. Fireworks light up the night sky, adding color and sound to the festive evening.

The Lantern Festival is a traditional Chinese celebration filled with smiles and light, creating a warm and heartwarming atmosphere.



## Vietnam

Vietnam's Mid-Autumn Festival is held on the 15th day of the 8th month of the lunar calendar, and is the festival that children look most forward to each year. It is also called the 'Festival of the Full Moon' because it is held when the moon is at its roundest and most beautiful. On the night of the Mid-Autumn Festival, towns are decorated with colorful lanterns, and children walk around cheerfully carrying star-shaped or animal-shaped lanterns. Also, if you're at the Mid-Autumn Festival, you should of course try mooncakes. They are filled with ingredients such as egg yolk, lotus seeds, and mung beans, and there is a tradition of giving them as gifts to family and friends. Since ancient times, the Mid-Autumn Festival has also been considered a day for families to come together and celebrate. People enjoy sweets, chat happily, and admire the moon together. Vietnam's Mid-Autumn Festival is a heartwarming celebration filled with children's laughter and the beauty of the full moon.



## Australia

In Australia, there are not many traditional 'festivals' like those in Japan, but there are a wide variety of fun events.

Sydney's New Year's Eve fireworks are globally famous and take place in Sydney Harbour. The fireworks are launched with the Harbour Bridge and the Opera House as their backdrop, and are incredibly beautiful to see. Every year, large crowds gather here in this lively atmosphere to celebrate the start of the new year. Meanwhile, the AFL Grand Final in Melbourne is another major event held that decides the championship team in Australian rules football. On game day, the whole city becomes lively, and the gathering of family and friends to cheer on their favorite teams creates a fun, festival-like atmosphere.



## Brazil

The Brazilian Carnival is a world-famous festival held every year in February. It is a celebration that takes place before the start of Lent in Christianity and represents the 'last big party' before a period of refraining from meat and entertainment.

In Brazil, this carnival has developed into one of the country's largest cultural events and has become a major festival known around the world. Official parades are held in Rio de Janeiro and São Paulo, featuring samba and dazzling costumes that are breathtaking in their beauty and energy.

Many samba teams take part in the parade, each creating floats and costumes based on their chosen theme and competing to showcase their creativity. In addition to these parades, street parties are held in cities and towns across the country, where people enjoy music and dancing while wearing costumes.



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