

Chinese Lantern Festival

Festivals | Socials

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WHAT MAKES IT MEANINGFUL

The lantern festival is held on the 15th day of the first lunar month. It is observed and celebrated in Canada and China. The lantern festival marks the end of the Chinese New Year (Spring Festival) period. During the evening of the Chinese lantern festival, streets are traditionally decorated with colorful lanterns and riddles are written on them. Many people celebrate by watching lion and dragon dances as well as fireworks. The Chinese lantern festival origin dates approximately 2,000 years ago. ([Chinese Lantern Festival 2023: Feb. 5, Traditions, Food, Events \(chinahighlights.com\)2023](https://chinahighlights.com/2023)).

TIME

The lantern festival is held on the 15th day of the first lunar month. You can spend as much time as you would like to celebrate.

MATERIALS

- Optional: Parades, independently organized (free to \$30.00+ plus)
- Optional: admission to festival events, independently organized (free to \$50.00+ per ticket)
- Optional: Parking depending on location (free to \$40.00+ per day)
- Optional: Public transportation (\$3.25+ per fare, depending on city)
- Optional: Celebratory accessories such as purchasing a lantern to decorate your home (\$5.00+)
- Optional: Snacks to enjoy (\$5.00+)

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Plan and decide what activities or events you want to participate in or observe such as parades and fireworks.
2. Check to see what your city and local Chinese cultural center is doing for the lantern festival. You can also participate by virtually observing the festivities in China through news outlets, social media, tv/cable, and youtube. Or make your own Chinese lantern festival at home.
3. Invite your friends, family, and acquaintances.
4. Decide how you will get to the event: car, taxi/uber, public transit and plan your travel to and from the event.



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INSTRUCTIONS CONTINUED

5. Mark the date and time of the festivities in your calendar.
6. Send reminders to your group the day before to remind them of the festivities.
7. Dress and pack for the weather.
8. Prepare your home for festivities such as food/drinks, lanterns, and riddles etc.
9. Attend and enjoy the festivities on the day of.

RESOURCES

- [Lantern Festival | Definition, History, Traditions, & Facts | Britannica](#)
- [\(Chinese Lantern Festival 2023: Feb. 5, Traditions, Food, Events \(chinahighlights.com\)\)](#)
- [Festivals & Events –City of Toronto](#)
- [Calendar | Ottawa Festivals](#)
- [Chinese Cultural Centre of Greater Toronto –a vibrant multicultural hub in Canada \(cccgt.org\)](#)
- [COCCC –Central Ontario Chinese Cultural Centre](#)
- [Halton Region Chinese Canadian Association –Halton, Oakville, Burlington, Milton, Chinese Canadian, Multi-cultural \(hrcca.ca\)](#)

SUPPORTS NEEDED

This activity can be done individually or with a group.

OTHER THINGS TO NOTE:

Weather: Dress for the weather. The events will take place rain or shine. It is important to have raincoats and umbrellas packed with you if it could rain. If it is hot and sunny bring: a hat, water bottles, sunscreen, and umbrella for shade from the sun. Wear appropriate footwear for puddles, mud, long walks and standing. **Chairs:** Bring portable chairs for sitting. Seating may not be available or may be on a first come first serve basis. You may also want to bring a picnic blanket to sit on. **Celebrate at Home:** If there is limited or no organised festivals in your area you can take the time to prepare and set up your own Chinese lantern festival at home. Purchase or make from scratch traditional snacks such as tangyuan. Purchase or make your lanterns to decorate your house with and write riddles on them. You can solve the riddles with your family and friends as part of the celebration. View on TV or on YouTube Chinese lantern festivities such as fireworks, dragon, and lion dances. Fireworks are best and safely enjoyed when handled and organised by professionals according to laws, regulations, and by-laws.