

臺灣重要節慶

Main festivals in Taiwan

春節

春節是農曆正月初一，又稱過年，是全家人團聚的日子。春節的前一個晚上是除夕，又叫團圓夜。

臺灣人過年的習俗包括吃年夜飯、守歲、吃年糕、給紅包、走親拜年、說吉祥話等。

Chinese New Year (Spring Festival)

Chinese New Year is on the first day of the first month in the lunar calendar, also called “guònián” (to celebrate the New Year). The night before the Chinese New Year is Chinese New Year Eve, also called “tuányuányè” (the night when the whole family get together).

During the Chinese New Year, Taiwanese people eat New Year's Eve Dinner, stay up to welcome Chinese New Year, eat rice cake, give red envelope, say nice words, and so on.



元宵節

元宵節是農曆正月十五日，是一年中第一個月圓之夜。臺灣人過元宵節的習俗包括賞燈和吃元宵（或湯圓）。

Lantern Festival

Lantern Festival is on the 15th day of the first Month in the lunar calendar. It's the first full-moon in the year. According to the customs, Taiwanese people usually go to see the lanterns on the the streets and eat rice balls.



清明節

清明節農曆三月，國曆四月五日或六日，因為它是定在二十四節氣中，春分後的第十五天。清明節時，大家會掃墓祭祖。



Qingming Festival (Tomb Sweeping Day)

Qingming Festival is in the third month in the lunar calendar, probably on 4th, 5th, or 6th, April. It's on the fifteen days after the Spring Equinox (one of the 24 solar terms). On Qingming Festival, people go tomb-sweeping.

端午節

端午節是農曆五月初五。傳說中國古代有一位名叫屈原的大臣。他很愛國，也很有才華，但是國王不聽他的勸告，把他流放到國外。屈原因為擔心國家要滅亡了，國王又不相信他的話，就抱著大石頭投江自殺了。人民聽到這個消息，趕緊划船去救屈原，又怕屈原的屍體被魚蝦吃掉，所以用竹筒裝好米食投入江中，後來就演變成用竹葉包好米飯，投入江裡餵魚蝦。

臺灣人過端午節的習俗包括吃粽子、戴香包、掛菖蒲或艾草、划龍舟比賽和立蛋。

Duanwu Festival (Dragon Boat Festival)

Duanwu Festival is on the fifth day of the fifth lunar month. It is said that once there was a minister named Qu Yuan. He's patriotic and talented, but the king didn't take his advice and expelled him. Qu Yuan was worried that the country would be destroyed; the king, however, didn't believe him. So, he held onto a big stone and jumped into a river to commit suicide. Heard of the news, people rushed to the river to rescue him. They rowed the boat to find him. They were afraid that Qu Yuan's body would be eaten by the fish, so they threw the bamboo-tube with rice inside in to the river to distract the fish. After then, it becomes a custom to throw rice wrapped with bamboo leaves to feed the fish in the river on the day.

Traditional Taiwanese Duanwu Festival customs and activities include eating rice dumplings (Zongzi), wearing incense bags, hanging calamus and wormwood on doors or windows, dragon boat racing, and standing an egg on end.



中元節

中元節是農曆七月十五。農曆七月是「鬼月」，從七月一日到七月三十日，陰間裡所有無人祭祀的孤魂野鬼，全被放出來覓食，鬼門關閉才重返陰間。

臺灣人過中元節的習俗包括普渡和放水燈。

Ghost Festival

Ghost Festival is on the fifteenth day of the seventh lunar month. The seventh lunar month is called Ghost Month as well. From the first day to the thirtieth day of the Ghost Month, the door of the underworld will remain open and the wandering souls will be released out to have the feast. On the thirtieth day, the door of the underworld will be closed, then the ghosts go back to the underworld until the door open next year.

Taiwanese Ghost Festival customs and traditional activities include: Pudu (means offering food to the ghosts) and setting water lanterns.



中秋節

中秋節是農曆八月十五。傳說天空中有十個太陽，太熱了。後來出現一個神射手，叫后羿。他射下了九個太陽，剩下一個太陽在天空中。人民很感謝后羿，就立他為王。但后羿對人民非常不好，而且還找到了長生不老的藥。后羿的太太嫦娥不希望后羿吃下長生不老藥，就自己偷偷把藥吃了。吃下藥後，嫦娥身體飄了起來，飛向月亮，這就是中國傳說中「嫦娥奔月的故事」。

臺灣人過中秋節的習俗包括賞月、吃月餅、和烤肉。

Mid-Autumn Festival (Moon Festival)

Mid-Autumn Festival is on the fifteenth day of the eighth lunar month. It is said that there once was 10 suns in the sky. It's extremely hot. Then a tyrannical archer, Houyi, appeared. He shot down 9 suns and left one in the sky. People were grateful for his heroic feat, so they made him their king. However, king Houyi was a tyranny. Unfortunately, he found the elixir of immortality. King Houyi's wife, Chang-e, didn't want her husband to take the elixir. She took the elixir herself and found herself floating, and then she flew to the moon. This is the Chinese legend of 「Chang-e flies to the moon.」

Taiwanese Ghost Festival customs and traditional activities include: appreciating the moon, eating mooncake, and barbecuing.



