

INTERESTING FACTS ON LUNAR NEW YEAR



- Also known as *Chun Jie* (Chinese), *Tet* (Vietnamese), *Seollal* (Korean), Spring Festival, and Chinese New Year
- Traditionally, the Chinese New Year begins on the first day of the first lunar month in the Chinese calendar and ends on the 15th, which is called the Lantern Festival or *Yuan Xiao*. Chinese New Year's Eve is known as *Chuxi*, it literally means "Year-pass Eve".
- Koreans and Vietnamese also celebrate the Lunar New Year.
- Each year, there is a presiding animal zodiac, which comprises of 12 animals, in the order of rat, ox, tiger, rabbit, dragon, snake, horse, goat, monkey, rooster, dog, and pig. January 26, 2009 to February 13, 2010 is the Year of the Ox.
- Other OX Years: 1937, 1949, 1961, 1973, 1985, 1997, 2009, 2021, 2033, etc.
- People born in the year of Ox are considered to be dependable, great organizers, loyal, patient as well as strong and responsible with leadership qualities. They are also some of the best people one can have as colleagues in the work place as they are believed to possess strong work ethics and display their creative side as well.
- Celebrities born in the Year of the OX: Armand Assante, Charlie Drake, Clark Gable, Eddie Murphy, Elizabeth Peña, George Clooney, Gregory Nava, George Lopez, Jack Lemmon, Jack Nicholson, Jane Fonda, Jeff Bridges, Jessica Lange, Jim Carrey, John Corbett, Jorge Garcia, Kate Beckinsale, Keira Knightley, Meg Ryan, Meryl Streep, Moctesuma Esparza, Napoleon, Nomar Garciaparra, Paul Newman, President Richard Nixon, Richard Gere, Robert Redford, Rock Hudson, Roselyn Sanchez, Shirley Bassey, Sigourney Weaver, Van Gogh, and Walt Disney
- Lucky Colors: yellow and blue
- Special New Year traditions: Family and friends would visit each other's homes and exchange gifts and 'red envelopes' symbolizing fortune.
- Special New Year Food: rice cake, dumplings
- Next Lunar New Year: Year of the Tiger, February 14, 2010 to February 2, 2011