

How do you celebrate the New Year?



Happy New Year!



New Year's celebrations in Australia feel quite different from those in Japan. Because Australia is located in the Southern Hemisphere, January is in midsummer, so people celebrate the New Year in very hot weather. On New Year's Eve, countdown events and large fireworks displays are held in cities such as in Sydney, and many people celebrate with their family and friends. New Year's Day is a public holiday, but there are no traditions like eating osechi dishes or visiting shrines for the first time of the year as in Japan. Instead, many people relax by going to the beach or enjoying a barbecue. Another characteristic of the Australian New Year is the custom of setting New Year's resolutions, such as "I want to exercise more this year" or "I want to learn a new language this year".

Kane (Australia)



Feliz Ano Novo!



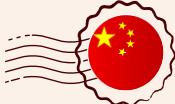
New Year's celebrations in Brazil are very lively. Some people celebrate at home with family and friends, while others spend their time at the beach. At home, people prepare special meals, play music, and enjoy the festive atmosphere. At the beach, live performances and fireworks are held, turning the area into a huge party. During the countdown, everyone counts down from ten to one, then shouts "Happy New Year!" at the top of their lungs, hugging one another and wishing for peace and happiness in the coming year. The celebrations continue until late at night, with people dancing, singing, and having fun. In fact, New Year's parties in Rio de Janeiro have been recognized as some of the largest New Year's Eve events in the world. It is also traditional to wear white on New Year's Eve, as white is considered the color of peace and symbolizes a wish for a peaceful year ahead.

Marina (Brazil)



Xīnnián hǎo

新年好！



Chinese Spring Festival (Lunar New Year) is the most important holiday in China. It marks the first day of the new year in the lunar calendar, and the date changes each year, falling between late January and mid-February. During this period, many people return to their hometowns to welcome the New Year with their families. Before the Spring Festival, families do a thorough house cleaning and decorate their homes with red decorations and the character *fu* (meaning "good fortune") to wish for a prosperous year. On Lunar New Year's Eve, all family members gather to enjoy a special meal together. Regional food traditions are also an important part of the celebration, with dumplings commonly eaten in the north and tangyuan (sweet rice balls filled with black sesame) popular in the south. During the holiday, people go out into the streets to enjoy traditional performances such as lion dances and the sound of firecrackers. Fireworks light up the night sky, and children receive New Year's gift money in red envelopes. The Spring Festival is a holiday that marks the beginning of a new year through family bonds and lively celebrations throughout the city.

Seki (China)



Chúc mừng năm mới!



In Vietnam, the New Year is celebrated according to the lunar calendar and is known as the Lunar New Year. It is the most important event of the year, and no matter where people live, they tend to return home to be with their families so that they can welcome the New Year together. As the holiday approaches, people become busy with house cleaning and shopping, and the streets grow even more lively. Homes are decorated with colorful flowers and plants; peach blossoms are commonly displayed in the north, while yellow apricot blossoms are popular in the south. Each household prepares sweets and traditional dishes, among which Chung cake, made of glutinous rice, mung beans, and pork wrapped in leaves, is an essential food. During the New Year, people wear new clothes, gather around the table with their families, greet relatives, and visit temples to pray for health and happiness in the coming year. Laughter, spring music, and the joyful sight of children receiving New Year's gift money make the New Year a warm and memorable celebration.

Mai (Vietnam)



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