



## What is the difference between Lunar New Year and Chinese New Year?

Lunar New Year is so named in instances when a new year begins in the lunar calendar, the calendar system historically used by many agricultural societies in East Asia. Chinese New Year celebrations are well-known in China and throughout the world in part because of the significant presence of a Chinese diaspora around the globe.

In some Asian societies, Lunar New Year celebrations were introduced by Chinese migrants and merchants well over 1500 years ago. Nonetheless, there are significant variations in these celebrations due to the distinctive nature of local cultures. Korean New Year traditions, for example, developed quite independently of Chinese New Year traditions, whereas the Vietnamese New Year, Tet, is a blend of Vietnamese and Chinese traditions because of the historical prominence of a Chinese diaspora in Vietnam.

In other ethnically and religiously diverse countries of Southeast Asia (Malaysia, Indonesia, Singapore, for example), Lunar and/or Chinese New Year is one among several different New Year holidays celebrated. In Thailand, Chinese New Year is technically a holiday only in some provinces - again, to acknowledge the prominence of the Chinese community, about 15% of the country's population. New Year in Thailand, Laos, and Cambodia is called Songkran; it is celebrated in April and has origins as a Buddhist holiday.

Common themes for all Lunar/Chinese New Year celebrations include family, togetherness, prosperity, and a sense of renewal. The color red is prominent in some Chinese and Vietnamese Lunar New Year traditions, but not in some other Asian cultures.

How Asians Celebrate Lunar New Year: a short video that gives the basics about regional differences in Lunar New Year traditions

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FFCljSbWzw&fbclid=IwAR34VDDOeCbIndwWRZGNEPhCZCeK\\_UXo9oInAH8jrOht9bCe-QjST1VEExc](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FFCljSbWzw&fbclid=IwAR34VDDOeCbIndwWRZGNEPhCZCeK_UXo9oInAH8jrOht9bCe-QjST1VEExc)

What is Lunar New Year? An article about the history of Lunar New Year in different Asian cultures

<https://www.nationalgeographic.com/history/reference/holidays/lunar-new-year/#close>

Tet – Vietnamese New Year

[http://www.louisianafolklife.org/LT/Articles\\_Essays/VietnameseNewYear.html](http://www.louisianafolklife.org/LT/Articles_Essays/VietnameseNewYear.html)

<https://vietcetera.com/en/tet-holiday-the-age-old-tradition-explained/>

Seollal – Korean New Year

<http://beyondhallyu.com/culture/seollal-lunar-new-year/>

<https://asiasociety.org/korea/seollal-korean-lunar-new-year>

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/581ff5eef5e231b25f9c12db/t/58698bb7d1758e37152d325c/1483312076611/seollal.pdf>

Tsagaan Sar – Mongolian New Year

<https://www.discovermongolia.mn/blogs/tsagaan-sar-a-national-holiday-of-mongolia>