Mahayana New Year

Mahayana New Year is celebrated on January 25, 2024 by Buddhists around the world.

Mahayana Buddhists observe the New Year at different times according to country and tradition, and Each region has its own customs and traditions for practicing Mahayana Buddhism.

Many celebrate it on the full moon day of January, usually mid-month. Others mark the New Year on the Lunar New Year or the secular date, January 1.

Translated to "Great Vehicle" in English, Mahayana is more than just a holiday – it represents a distinctive set of Buddhist practices and philosophies within one branch of Buddhism.

Mahayana is one of the two main branches of Buddhism and is mostly practiced in Northeast Asia — China, Japan, Tibet, Taiwan, Mongolia, and Korea.

Mahayana Buddhists believe that anyone, not just monks, can achieve enlightenment or everlasting Nirvana during their lifetime. The core idea is for everyone to seize the opportunity to attain enlightenment.

Mahayana aims for nirvana, similar to Theravada Buddhism, emphasizing that recognizing the illusion of the ego, causing pain and suffering, leads to enlightenment.

Believers mark the event with meditation and prayer, bathing statues of Buddha, visiting temples and lighting candles for good luck. They clean house, give gifts, feast with family and friends, and enjoy fireworks at midnight.



NEW YEAR





VIETNAMESE NEW YEAR (TET)

Vietnamese New Year, also known as Tet Festival, is the most significant festival of the year in Vietnam.

Tet, is an abbreviation for Tet Nguyen Dan, which is Vietnamese for the feast of the first morning of the first day of their calendar.

The Vietnamese celebration of lunar new year falls on February 10, 2024.

According to the Vietnamese zodiac, 2024 is the year of the dragon.

The dragon is known as "the holy one" and, according to <u>Vietnam Online</u>, people born in the year of the cat are considered to be "born talented however arrogant and tactless."

People in Vietnam and Vietnamese people around the world celebrate the new year with a festival that focuses on family, food and welcoming in good luck for the year to come.

Tet is also celebrated with parades, dances, and fireworks, as well as a lantern festival.

Tet is the most family-centered holiday, and Vietnamese people often travel and spend the holiday with their extended families.

Vietnamese people clean their homes before the festival to remove bad luck from the previous year.

Tet is also considered a lucky time of year for opening a shop or starting a new business.

The Vietnamese believe that the first visitors to a family determines their fortune for the whole year, and they like to invite someone of good morality to be the first ones visiting the house.



