

CELEBRATE THE MID-AUTUMN FESTIVAL!

The moon invokes wonder and beauty all around the world! Every year different cultures celebrate the autumnal full moon through ancient traditions and customs.

The Mid-Autumn Festival originated 3,000 years ago in the Shang Dynasty (1600 – 1046 BC). It was originally a celebration to give thanks for the bountiful harvest. Over the years, the festival became more and more celebratory and people began to dress up, burn incense, tell stories, and pray to the moon while gazing at its beauty.

Stories told of the moon became famous. Today, during the Mid-Autumn Festival, you may hear the tragic love story of Chang'e and Hou Yi, or of the Jade Hare that keeps Chang'e company, or of the life of the legendary woodcutter, Wu Gang.

Eventually, people began to exchange gifts to one another during the celebration. One of these gifts are known as Moon Cakes. These are small, hand held baked cakes that are typically filled with some kind of sweet filling. The fillings range from red bean paste, to lotus seed paste, with many varieties existing today. Today, the creation of Moon Cakes is a fine art that is very respected and appreciated.

Mid-Autumn Festival is a time to celebrate culture, beauty, and tradition. It has since become very popular to celebrate in many East Asian countries.

Thailand celebrates in very similar ways as the original Chinese festivals. It is known as the Moon Festival, and it is celebrated with shows, performances, food, beauty pageants, and contests! One of the most popular experiences is the tasting of Thung Yao Sweet Tea.

In Japan, the Mid-Autumn Festival is known as Tsukimi, which has similar themes as the Chinese variant of Mid-Autumn Festival. In Japan today, you will find locals decorating their tsukimidai, or the area where they will view the moon, with rice dumplings, mochi, teas, and produce. In Japan, there will be many locations made available to the public for optimal viewing of the full moon.

The Mid-Autumn Festival is a beautiful celebration of culture, history, and beauty and we hope you will celebrate with us!

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