

Anthropology of Europe Week 4

Happy New Year

[Lunar New Year Around the World](#) -- [Wikipedia](#)



www.chinahighlights.com/

This year is the year of the Tiger, a strong year



[Lunar New Year 2022: The Year of the Tiger explained](#) – [cnet](#) (1 February 2022)

[Lunar New Year 2022: Welcoming the Year of the Tiger](#) – [CNN Travel](#) (31 January 2022)

[How Lunar New Year Is Celebrated Around Asia](#) – [Travel + Leisure](#) (28 January 2022)

[Must-eat Lunar New Year dishes for a prosperous 2022](#) – [Toronto Life](#) (26 January 2022)

[8 Lunar New Year Recipes for Good Times Ahead](#) -- [The New York Times](#) (28 January 2022)

[Lunar New Year: Covid thwarts travel plans for millions](#) – [BBCNews](#) (1 February 2022)

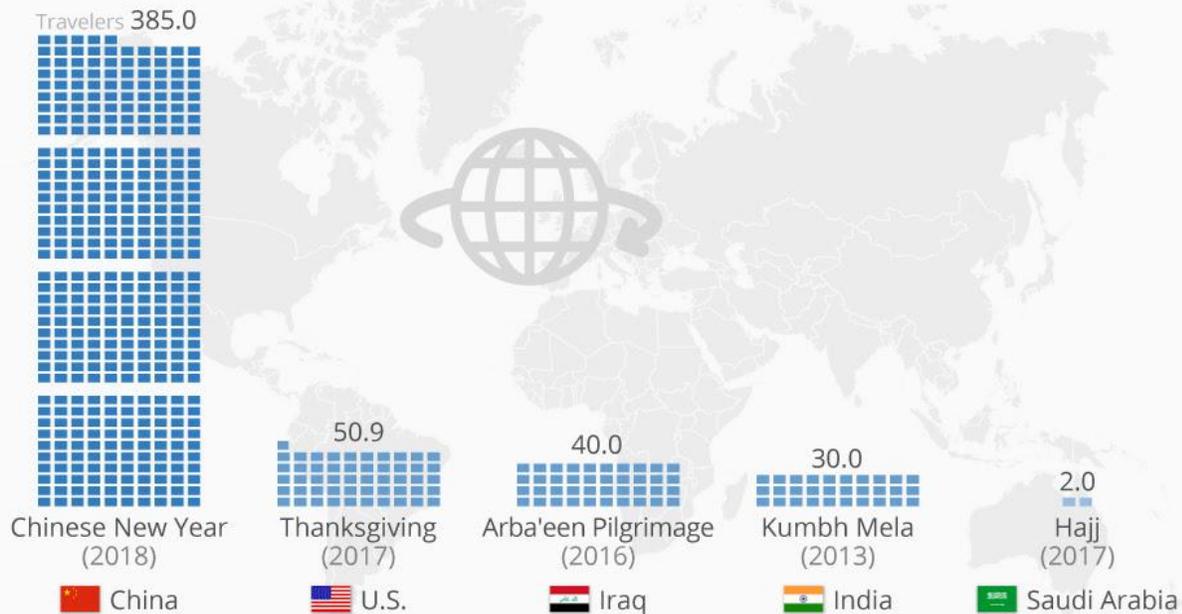
[How Omicron Just Ruined China's Spring Festival](#) – [Jing Daily](#) (04 January 2022)

Normally, without COVID and the Olympics, the Spring Festival (or Lunar New Year) is the occasion of the World's Largest Migration.

Hundreds of millions of people usually leave their cities in order to visit their families in more rural parts of the country. **In fact, practically all of China takes holiday at once, making the new year the biggest human event on earth.**

The World's Largest Migration Is About To Begin

Estimated number of people traveling to the following events (millions)*



* Chinese New Year figure is the forecast for 2018. The Kumbh Mela is based on the Hindu calendar and occurs every 12 years.
Source: News reports

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Comparing China's largest annual migration with North America's is a good way to gauge its sheer size.

Pre-COVID Thanksgiving 2017 saw 50.9 million travelers negotiate long tailbacks on the interstate and overcrowded airports. **Even though Thanksgiving is a major travel event, China's new year is still seven times bigger**, with its massive population making a big difference of course.

Known as *chunyun*, the annual new year migration in China also **easily surpasses the world's biggest pilgrimages in scale**, with Arba'een and the Hajj much smaller by comparison.

Lunar New Year celebrations normally last 3-16 days, depending on where you are, ending with the “Lantern Festival”.

Enjoy the New Year!

Wherever you are.

During the celebration avoid eating foods that are white, for good luck in the new year.

But do eat some “longevity noodles” (*changshou mian*), some “spring rolls”, and some oranges (or kumquats, or tangerines, or pomelos), some steamed *whole* fish, and sticky rice “year cake” (*nian gao*), “prosperity cake” (*fa gao*), sweet rice balls (*tang yuan*), and some dumplings. (According to ancient legend, the number of dumplings you eat during the Chinese New Year predicts the amount of money you’ll make in the upcoming year, so the more, the better.)

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