

Lunar New Year sees record migration in China

27th January 2025



The Lunar New Year is a huge occasion in China. Hundreds of millions of people return to their hometowns to celebrate it. This year is no exception. Airports, railway stations and bus stations are packed with travellers making their annual trek. This year

corresponds to the Year of the Snake in the 12-year Chinese zodiac cycle. The festivities and celebrations begin on the 29th of January and last for up to 16 days. The first seven are national holidays. Reuters reported that overseas travel is particularly popular this year. It quoted a travel agency that said "bookings for outbound flights and holiday packages on its platform had doubled from last year". The most popular destinations are in Asia.

The AP news agency said China's New Year is "the world's biggest annual movement of humanity". With the advent of modern, high-speed transport in China, the number of people on the move has skyrocketed. The Xinhua news agency said journeys are expected to "hit record highs" this year. When the first New Year holiday began in China, some 3,500 years ago, far fewer people would have left their hometowns. However, following the rapid growth of China's economy, billions of people have relocated across the country for work, study, or to greener pastures. The subsequent annual exodus has been a boon for the economy. The tourism, hospitality and retail sectors see an uplift in profits.

Sources: reuters.com / yahoo.com / sydney.edu.au

Writing

The year 2025 will be a great one for you and the world. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

New Year / occasion / hometown / celebrate / railway stations / zodiac / snake / Asia / humanity / high-speed transport / journey / holiday / greener pastures / tourism

True / False

- 1) The article says one hundred thousand people relocate for the New Year. T / F
- 2) The article says many Chinese people go trekking during the New Year. T / F
- 3) The article says the snake is number seven in the Chinese zodiac. T / F
- 4) Asia is the most popular New Year travel destination for Chinese people. T / F
- 5) The Lunar New Year is the world's biggest yearly movement of people. T / F
- 6) China's growing economy means people are moving to greener pastures. T / F
- 7) China celebrated its first Lunar New Year around 3,500 years ago. T / F
- 8) The Lunar New Year negatively impacts China's hospitality industry. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|----------------------------|------------------|
| 1. occasion | a. reservations |
| 2. packed | b. cited |
| 3. annual | c. arrival |
| 4. quoted | d. thronged |
| 5. bookings | e. migration |
| 6. humanity | f. event |
| 7. advent | g. boost |
| 8. greener pastures | h. yearly |
| 9. exodus | i. better places |
| 10. uplift | j. mankind |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think about what you read?
- b) What is the character of someone born in the Year of the Snake?
- c) What do you know about the Chinese zodiac?
- d) How do you think this year will go?
- e) What's the transport system like in your country?
- f) Which greener pastures would you like to relocate to?
- g) What do you think of snakes?
- h) What questions would you like to ask a zodiac expert?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|---|------------------------------|
| 1. The Lunar New Year is a huge | a. has skyrocketed |
| 2. overseas | b. packages |
| 3. packed with travellers making their annual | c. for the economy |
| 4. holiday | d. are in Asia |
| 5. The most popular destinations | e. movement of humanity |
| 6. the world's biggest annual | f. growth of China's economy |
| 7. the number of people on the move | g. trek |
| 8. the rapid | h. pastures |
| 9. greener | i. occasion in China |
| 10. a boon | j. travel |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you know about the Lunar New Year?
- What do you think of the New Year?
- How has this year been for you so far?
- How do you celebrate the New Year?
- What do you think of domestic travel in your country?
- Are you pessimistic or optimistic about this year?
- Is overseas or domestic travel best?
- What do you hope happens this year?

Spelling

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- This year is no otxcpeien
- ronsscpoed to the Year of the Snake
- It teuqdo a travel agency
- holiday peakacsq
- The most popular odintstnaesi are in Asia
- the world' biggest annual movement of htyunmai
- the nvdaet of modern, high-speed transport
- billions of people have rectdeoa
- greener spetraus
- The subsequent annual usedx
- retail ecsstor

Answers – Synonym Match

1. f	2. d	3. h	4. b	5. a
6. j	7. c	8. i	9. e	10. g

Role Play

Role A – A Nearby Town

You think a nearby town is the best place to relocate to. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their places. Also, tell the others which is the least desirable of these (and why): a beach community, another country or space.

Role B – A Beach Community

You think a beach community is the best place to relocate to. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their places. Also, tell the others which is the least desirable of these (and why): a nearby town, another country or space.

Role C – Another Country

You think another country is the best place to relocate to. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their places. Also, tell the others which is the least desirable of these (and why): a beach community, a nearby town or space.

Role D – Space

You think space is the best place to relocate to. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their places. Also, tell the others which is the least desirable of these (and why): a beach community, another country or a nearby town.

Speaking – Greener pastures

Rank these with your partner. Put the best places to relocate to at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| • A nearby town | • Another country |
| • A faraway town | • The desert |
| • A mountaintop | • The jungle |
| • A beach community | • Space |

Answers – True False

1	F	2	F	3	F	4	T	5	T	6	T	7	T	8	F
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.