



What is the Mid-Autumn Moon Festival?

The Mid-Autumn Moon Festival is celebrated on the 15th day of the 8th Lunar month, often around mid-September. It is a time to give thanks for the summer harvest and admire the moon at its fullest and roundest. Many families gather together on this night to watch the moon, eat mooncakes, and share stories. Brightly lit lanterns are carried around to celebrate the moon's brightness. Traditionally, Mid-Autumn Moon Festival ceremonies were held to greet winter and worship the Moon Goddess, Chang'Er and her friendly companion on the moon, the Jade Rabbit. Flip this page over to learn more about Chang'Er!

mid-autumn moon family festival



Many, many moons ago ...

There lived a brave archer named Hou Yi, whose bow was enchanted. He was married to Chang'Er, the caring, lovely daughter of the River God. Both Hou Yi and Chang'Er were deeply in love with each other. They lived at a time when there was not one, but ten suns circling the Earth. Each sun took a turn circling the Earth, one after the other. One day, however, all ten suns appeared bringing drought and disaster to the people. Hou Yi was ordered by the Jade Emperor, ruler of the land, to shoot down nine suns and save the Earth. Hou Yi did just this. As a reward, he was given a potion of immortality, which would allow him to live forever, and was told to wait a year before drinking it. Hou Yi ran home as fast as he could to tell Chang'Er, but when he arrived she was sleeping peacefully. The next morning Hou Yi went out hunting early in the morning before Chang'Er awoke. He decided to tell her about the potion upon his return and hid the potion in the cupboard for safekeeping. Not knowing what it was, Chang'Er awoke, made breakfast, and added the potion to her meal. Suddenly, she started floating up in the sky towards the moon. She was never able to return to Earth. She became the Goddess of the Moon and lived there for the rest of her days. Unable to reach her, Hou Yi built himself a palace on the sun and became the God of the Sun. Once a month, on the 15th day of the Lunar calendar, Hou Yi is allowed to visit Chang'Er and on this evening every month, some say the moon shines brightest because of their love.