



# Sydney Lunar Festival

Sydney celebrates the Year of the Pig in style.

By Christine Knight.

THE BIGGEST CELEBRATION of Lunar New Year outside of Asia draws from Sydney's cultural communities with singing, dancing, street performances and even a group of roving pigs.

From 1-10 February, Sydney lights up with Year of the Pig celebrations, showcasing the food, art and cultural traditions from the local Chinese, Korean, Japanese, Thai, Vietnamese, Indonesian and Malaysian communities to celebrate the city's diversity.

A centrepiece of this year's Sydney Lunar Festival is an outdoor stage at the Overseas Passenger Terminal which will showcase dance groups, stories, martial arts and music from 1-3 February. Watch out for the 15 pigs roaming through the crowds spreading good luck and wishes for prosperity.

Visitors and locals alike can enjoy the Nusantara Sydney Dance troupe from the Indonesian community,

who will be performing the Betawi Mask dance, a theatrical performance of Betawi people in Jakarta blending music, dance and singing.

The Chinese community will be represented by the Hills Chinese Women's Association, who will tell a story through a fan dance, with performers wearing traditional 'qipao' dresses.

Children from the Fairfield Vietnamese community will be performing the 'Loving Vietnamese Lantern dance' - "Yêu cây đèn cù", which celebrates the joyful start of a new year and ends with the release of the lanterns into the air.

Sydney's Japanese community is represented by the Soran Dance Troupe, performing the Soran Bushi folk dance from northern Japan, while drummers from the Korean community will perform the Arang Go-Go Jang-gu, a traditional Korean rhythm played on the jang-gu –

THAI DANCE GROUP SIAM. PHOTO: © JOSEPH MAYERS PHOTOGRAPHY.

TOP RIGHT AND BOTTOM RIGHT: CHINESE NEW YEAR 2018, SYDNEY. PHOTOS: ANNA KUCERA/DESTINATION NSW. BOTTOM LEFT: JAPANESE SORAN DANCE TROUPE. PHOTO: DAMIAN SHAW/CITY OF SYDNEY.

an hourglass-shaped drum with two ends covered in animal skin. Representatives of the Thai community will perform the Serng Pong Laang folk dance of northern Thailand.

Contemporary culture is also celebrated during the festival with modern performances by Korean pop – Kpop – group I.Krush and hip-hop dance crew Kookies N Kream.

The popular Lunar Lanterns return with a new Pig lantern on the western boardwalk of the Sydney Opera House. Stroll around the foreshore to discover all 13 lanterns that light up Circular Quay, including the new tower of monkeys, ox and flock of sheep.

Eat your way through the Lunar Festival at one of many foodie events across the city. The Rocks Lunar Markets (1-3 February and 8-10 February) will feature Asian street food as well as arts, crafts and lion dance performances, while The Calyx in the Royal Botanic Gardens will host a dumpling tasting menu. Pan-Asian fusion restaurant

Bodhi will be offering a Lunar Festival vegan set menu which showcases contemporary Asian-inspired and pan-Asian cuisine, with a special celebration and lion dance performance.

The Art Gallery of NSW is holding a special Lunar New Year After Hours event which will feature a traditional lion dance, live music, workshops, plus a look at their new exhibition "Heaven and Earth in Chinese art: treasures from the National Palace Museum, Taipei". The gallery will also hosting an experiential tea ceremony and a drop-in workshop for kids to make a paper pig.

Families will find plenty to entertain the kids during the festival with a bilingual storytime, singing and lion dancing for pre-schoolers in English and Mandarin and a Dandy Lions under 5s event featuring lantern painting, making a mini oriental garden and a visit to the Oriental Garden at the Royal Botanic Garden Sydney.



## 欢度春节 新年快乐

从二月一日至十日，悉尼将张灯结彩，喜迎猪年。下面这些欢庆活动将彰显悉尼多元文化的精彩。

市区的悉尼港的海外客运码头 (Overseas Passenger Terminal) 将搭建户外舞台，成为今年悉尼农历新年活动的一个亮点。届时悉尼当地的华、韩、日、泰、越南、印尼和马来西亚社区将在这里表演传统和现代的舞蹈、故事、武术、音乐，同时还将迎来风味美食。十五头瑞猪将穿梭人群，传递吉祥兴旺的新年祝愿。在节日期间，韩国流行乐队 I.Krush 和街舞组合 Kookies N Kream 将给节日带来一股现代风潮。(2月1-3日)

同样不容错过的还有唐人街 (即中国城) 的节庆活动，每周五到周日下午6:00到6:45将有狮舞，德信街 (Dixon Street) 将灯笼高挂，而附近达令港的中华谊园将举办演出、文化演示和舞狮。

历年深受喜爱的十二生肖大型彩灯将璀璨回归。而今年新添的瑞猪将以格外壮观的姿态现身悉尼歌剧院的西侧。漫步悉尼港，你将发现有十三座彩灯照亮环形码头，其中新增的猴牛羊塔灯十分抢眼。

赏灯之后，全市有很多美食活动等等着你前去品尝各种地方风味。

岩石区春节集市(2月1日至3日和2月8日至10日)将用亚洲街头小吃、工艺美术和舞狮表演营造一片喜庆气氛，而皇家植物园的花萼中心 (The Calyx) 将特别推出饺子品尝菜单。泛亚融合式餐厅 Bodhi 将提供斋食套餐，2月5日举行特别的庆祝活动和舞狮表演。

其他庆祝农历新年的活动包括：悉尼交响乐团将在悉尼歌剧院上演一场中西合璧的音乐会，节目包括中国舞蹈以及鲍罗丁和柴可夫斯基的歌剧选段(2月1-2日)；书法表演(2月2日和5日)；在达令港举行的南半球最大的龙舟赛(2月9-10日)；LED狮龙舞(2月8-9日)；悉尼野生动物园 (Wild Life Sydney Zoo) 点心香粥特别早餐活动让游客与考拉熊共进早餐；新南威尔士州冲浪救生组织 (Surf Lifesaving NSW) 在岩石区将铺建临时沙滩，有各种游戏和充气彩球池，游客们还可以找把沙滩椅坐下美美地欣赏海港的景色。

如需更多信息请访问 [sydneylunarfestival.com](http://sydneylunarfestival.com)

Wild Life Sydney Zoo is offering a unique way to celebrate with their cute koalas. The Zoo will be serving dim sum and congee during their breakfast with the koalas experience, and giving Lunar New Year red pockets to those who book a Koala Encounter or Koala Breakfast Experience.

Chinatown will be celebrating the festival with lion dances from 6pm-6.45pm every Friday to Sunday and lanterns suspended over Dixon Street, while the nearby Chinese Garden of Friendship in Darling Harbour will be presenting performances, demonstrations and lion dances.



Other ways to celebrate the Lunar New Year include a special east-meets-west musical performance by the Sydney Symphony Orchestra at the Sydney Opera House featuring Chinese dancers and pieces of opera by Borodin and Tchaikovsky (1-2 February), calligraphy demonstrations (2 and 5 February), the biggest Dragon Boat Races in the southern hemisphere (9-10 February), LED lion and dragon dancing (8-9 February) and a pop-up beach by Surf Lifesaving NSW in The Rocks where visitors can enjoy games and a blow up ball pit, or relax in a beach chair and admire the view.

Visit [sydneylunarfestival.com](http://sydneylunarfestival.com) for further information.

TOP LEFT: MATIAL ARTS DELEGATION, PHOTO: © JOSEPH MAYERS PHOTOGRAPHY. MIDDLE RIGHT: CHINESE WISTERIA DANCE GROUP, PHOTO: DAMIAN SHAW/CITY OF SYDNEY.