

# What to know about Lunar New Year: The Year of the Dragon

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February 10, 2024 at 8:26 a.m. EST



A performer breathes fire during Lunar New Year celebrations at Binondo district, considered the world's oldest Chinatown, on Saturday in Manila. (Ezra Acayan/Getty Images)

Over 1 billion people around the globe are celebrating the Lunar New Year, often referred to as Chinese New Year, this weekend. Out with the quick-witted rabbit and in with the auspicious, fiery [dragon](#) for 2024.

The festival is a time for family, friends and feasting — often prompting [the world's largest annual migration of people](#). You can wish friends and

colleagues a happy new year by saying “gong hei fat choy” in Cantonese or “xin nian kuai le” (pronounced “shin nyen kwai le”) in Mandarin.

Here’s what to know about the festival and its zodiac animal.

[\*How to celebrate lunar new year in the D.C. area this weekend\*](#)