

Shanghai Disney celebrates Chinese New Year



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Shanghai Disney Resort celebrated the first day of the Year of the Rooster with two traditional Chinese lions bringing fortune and prosperity to guests in front of the Storyteller Statue.

Philippe Gas, general manager of the resort, dotted the eyes of the lions, as a traditional celebration to awaken them to spread good cheer and luck to resort guests and cast members. He was joined by Mickey and Minnie, and Goofy dressed as the traditional God of Fortune.

“Shanghai Disney Resort has created a special line-up of festive activities for our first Chinese New Year celebration, ensuring guests from across China and around the world enjoy a unique experience at the resort. We wish everyone a prosperous and healthy Year of the Rooster,” Philippe said.

The special Chinese New Year celebration runs until February 12, amidst a series of entertainment programs, festive decorations, seasonal food and beverage offerings, lucky bags and holiday-themed shopping experiences.

The resort management also reminds guests that during the Chinese New Year high-visitation period, guests are recommended to check the resort’s official website or mobile app before traveling to the resort for the most up-to-date information on theme park ticket availability.

To preserve the guest experience, ticket sales may be limited or suspended on high attendance days. Other experiences inside the Shanghai International Tourism and Resorts Zone, including Disneytown, will be open for guests to enjoy throughout the holiday period.

Shanghai Disney Resort opened in June 2016 and includes a Magic Kingdom style

theme park, two themed hotels, a Broadway style theater, an international shopping, dining and entertainment district and Wishing Star Park.

In its first seven months of operations, the resort's "Authentically Disney and Distinctly Chinese" design, entertainment and attractions concepts have proved to be popular with Chinese consumers.

Shanghai Mayor Ying Yong has said Shanghai Disneyland has attracted over 5 million visitors, while the Shanghai International Tourism and Resorts Zone has received over 11 million people.

Spring Festival enchants foreigners

Since arriving in Beijing to study in 2014, every Chinese New Year Sabaa Ali El-Tayeb has bought a stuffed toy animal.

This year, the Year of the Rooster, she bought a rooster on Wangfujing, a busy commercial street in downtown Beijing. Last year, the year of the Monkey, she bought a lovely monkey toy.

"I will take these toys back home, and when I finish my degree they will remind me of my time in China," said the Sudanese woman, who is studying literature at Beijing Language and Culture University.

The Chinese zodiac assigns one of 12 animals, either real or mythological, to each year. This lunar year began on Saturday.

"Celebrating Spring Festival in China makes me love China even more," said Tayeb.

On Thursday, Tayeb's university organized an event where foreign students could try their hands at making dumplings, a traditional food eaten during the festival.

Tayeb said she liked this aspect of the festival the most. "Back home we have similar important meals where we eat specific food and extend our best wishes to each other."

Besides dumplings, Chinese New Year is a time for temple fairs, red lanterns, paper-cuts, blessings of good fortune and ancestor worship.

Basma Bayomy, an Egyptian student at the same university, said she planned to visit a temple fair in Chaoyang Park on Sunday.

The girl, who has been in Beijing since 2012, spent one Spring Festival at her Chinese classmate's home in Shijiazhuang, a city 300 km south of Beijing.

Bayomy was deeply impressed with the Spring Festival in 2014. She remembers

how her classmate's father left out plates of food for their families' ancestors.

Similarly, Egyptians leave offerings of fruit and bread on the graves of their ancestors. Both traditions, Bayomy said, are rooted in respect for the family.

Like Chinese, many foreigners put couplets, Chinese characters wishing for good fortune, on their front doors.

Marie, a British translator in Beijing, was sent a couplet by her Chinese friend on Thursday. She stuck them on the door of her apartment, took a photo of herself standing in front of it, and shared it with her parents in Britain.

"These couplets are an expression of hope for the future and contain the Chinese spirit of 'harmony'," she said.

China to recycle 350 mln tonnes of waste resources by 2020

China is expected to recycle 350 million tonnes of waste resources including steel, nonferrous metals, plastic and paper annually by 2020, according to an official guideline.

The guideline was jointly released by ministries of industry and information technology, commerce, and science and technology.

China will develop a sophisticated system for renewable resources, said the guideline.

By 2020, China will use 150 million tonnes of waste steel, and 18 million tonnes of waste nonferrous metals annually, according to a plan included in the guideline.

The country also aims to recycle 23 million tonnes of waste plastic and half of all its waste paper by 2020 annually said the guideline.

178,000 policemen on duty to ensure

smooth traffic on Spring Festival



Police officers Gao Yang (C-L) and Nie Yingjie (C-R) patrol at the Changchun Railway Station during Spring Festival travel rush in northeast China's Jilin Province, Jan. 26, 2017. (Xinhua/Zhang Nan)

About 178,000 policemen were on duty nationwide Saturday, the lunar New Year's day, to ensure smooth traffic, according to the Ministry of Public Security (MPS).

No major traffic accidents or jams had been reported as of 5:00 p.m. Saturday, said the MPS's traffic management bureau, adding that efforts have been made to alleviate traffic pressure on the roads to temples and scenic spots.

The traffic flow is expected to rise on Sunday, the second day of the Spring Festival holiday, as people usually go out to visit relatives on the day.

The traffic management bureau warns drivers against drunk driving and speeding.

Theresa May should have stood up for

Britain and our values and condemned President Trump

Jeremy

Corbyn, leader of the Labour Party , responding to Theresa May's press conference in Turkey, said:

"President

Trump's executive order against refugees and Muslims should shock and appal us all.

"Theresa

May should have stood up for Britain and our values by condemning his actions.

It should sadden our country that she chose not to.

"After

Trump's hideous actions and May's weak failure to condemn them, it's more important than ever for us to say to refugees seeking a place of safety, that they will always be welcome in Britain."