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Chinese Mid Autumn Festival

**Halloween
Celebrations
in London**

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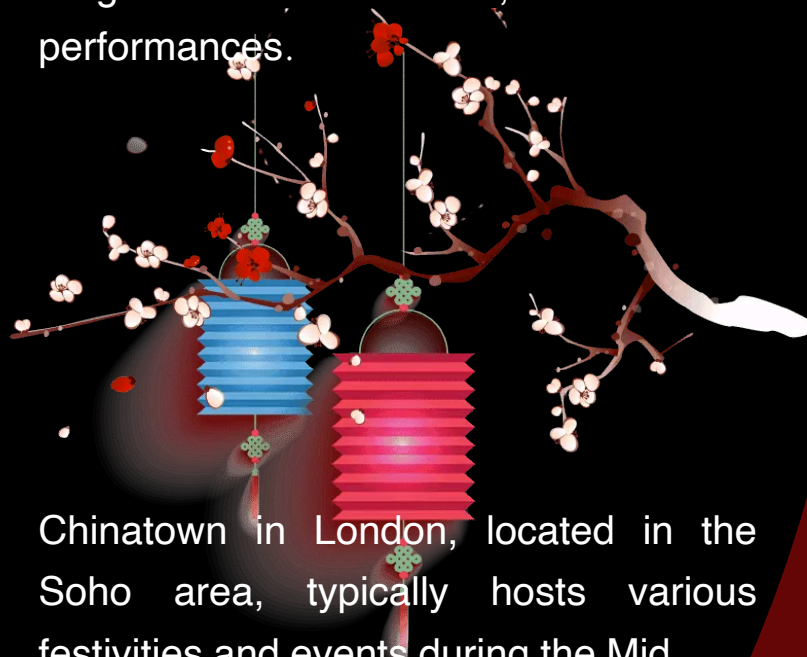
CHINESE MID AUTUMN FESTIVAL

Mid-Autumn Festival, also known as Moon Festival, celebrates the annual harvest that falls on the 8th month of the Chinese Lunar Calendar. Chinese traditionally, families and loved ones will gather together to celebrate with a seasonal feast in the heart of London – Chinatown at Newport Place.

During the Mid-Autumn Festival, people gather with their families and friends to appreciate the full moon and share a special meal together. Mooncakes, a traditional Chinese pastry filled with lotus seed paste or red bean paste, are a quintessential part of the festival and are exchanged as gifts. Other traditional activities may include lantern displays, dragon and lion dances, and cultural performances.



In London, the Mid-Autumn Festival took place on the 29th September 2023. It is celebrated by the Chinese community and people interested in Chinese culture. London has a diverse and vibrant Chinese population, particularly in areas like Chinatown and other parts of the city where cultural celebrations are often held.



Chinatown in London, located in the Soho area, typically hosts various festivities and events during the Mid-Autumn Festival. These may include lantern parades, live performances, food stalls, and cultural displays. It's a time for the Chinese community and others to come together, celebrate their heritage, and enjoy the festivities.

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The Mid-Autumn Festival, also known as the Moon Festival or Mooncake Festival, is a traditional Chinese celebration that dates back over 3,000 years. It is celebrated on the 15th day of the eighth month of the lunar calendar, which usually falls in September or early October. This festival is widely observed in China, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Singapore, Malaysia, Vietnam, and other countries with a significant Chinese population.



Mooncakes are the most iconic symbol of the Mid-Autumn Festival. These round pastries are often filled with lotus seed paste, red bean paste, salted egg yolks, and sometimes nuts or meats. The round shape and the golden yolks within the mooncake symbolise the full moon, which is a significant aspect of the festival.

The Mid-Autumn Festival is a time for family reunion, similar to Thanksgiving in the United States. Families gather to appreciate the full moon and enjoy a feast together. It's a time for family bonding and expressing gratitude. The full moon is a central element of the festival. People often gather in open spaces, gardens, or rooftops to admire the moon's beauty. Lanterns and candles are lit to enhance the moonlit ambiance.



Lanterns, both traditional and modern, are an integral part of the celebrations. People hang them in homes, parks, and public spaces, creating a beautiful display. Lanterns come in various shapes and designs, adding to the festive atmosphere.

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Traditional dragon and lion dances are performed during the Mid-Autumn Festival to bring good luck and prosperity. These colourful and lively performances are a highlight of the celebration. There are many other activities that take place during the festival including arts and culture. People often recite and compose poems, participate in riddle games, and engage in traditional cultural activities.



One well-known tale linked to the Mid-Autumn Festival centres around Chang'e and Hou Yi. Chang'e, known as the Moon Goddess, was wed to Hou Yi, a skilled archer. They were gifted the elixir of immortality, but Chang'e ingested it to ensure it wouldn't be misused. Consequently, she rose to the moon, and individuals began to revere her.

A popular legend associated with the Mid-Autumn Festival is the story of Chang'e and Hou Yi. Chang'e, the Moon Goddess, was married to Hou Yi, an archer. They were granted the elixir of immortality, but Chang'e consumed it to prevent its misuse. As a result, she ascended to the moon, and people started to worship her.



After bravely rescuing the Earth, a multitude of individuals sought out Hou Yi to acquire his extraordinary archery abilities. The Queen of Heaven, Wangmu, presented him with an elixir of immortality, yet Hou Yi's desire was not eternal life; he simply wished to be with his wife, Chang E. The elixir stayed within their abode. However, one of his students, Pang Meng, coveted this exceptional elixir and attempted to pilfer it from Yi's residence.

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The legendary myth continues as Chang E faced him and decided to consume the elixir herself, causing her to ascend to the moon, where she would dwell forever.



Hou Yi was deeply saddened and called out his wife's name to the skies. He was astonished to perceive her visage on the moon's surface. In order to honour her and preserve her in people's hearts, Hou Yi and his followers commenced worshipping the moon and offering tributes to the newly deified Chang E. This is the origin of the Mid-Autumn Festival.

In London and other cities with a significant Chinese population, the Mid-Autumn Festival is celebrated with cultural events, performances, exhibitions, and communal gatherings. It's an opportunity for both the Chinese community and others to embrace Chinese culture, enjoy traditional festivities, and strengthen social bonds.



the Mid-Autumn Festival is a beautiful celebration that transcends borders and unites families and communities. It reminds us of the importance of coming together, cherishing our loved ones, and appreciating the beauty of the moon and the changing seasons. As we gather under the full moon, sharing mooncakes, stories, and laughter, let us also reflect on the values of unity, gratitude, and hope that this ancient tradition instills in us. May the radiance of the moon illuminate our lives and bring us joy and harmony throughout the year.

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HALLOWEEN EVENTS IN LONDON

Halloween in London can be celebrated in many ways, keep reading to find out.

Join in for a unique Halloween night filled with eerie historical tales and thrilling paranormal exploration.

1. The Ghosts of Charlton House: Seeking the Grey Lady



Charlton House, an expansive mansion, offers an array of rooms for those daring enough to embark on a ghostly adventure, including typically restricted cellars and attics. Led by the HD Paranormal team, you'll be taken to the spookiest corners of the building, where you can participate in a variety of paranormal investigations, including solitary vigils for the exceptionally courageous.

2. London Oktoberfest City Center

London Oktoberfest events provide an opportunity for people to experience a taste of German culture and enjoy the convivial atmosphere of the traditional Oktoberfest celebration without traveling to Germany.



3. Royal Maritime Greenwich Ghost Tour

Explore the more mysterious aspects of the Greenwich World Heritage Site. Listen to stories of inebriated sailors forcefully recruited, the ominous Cutty Sark Curse, lingering spirits of jilted lovers unable to find peace, and Royal Family members whose involvement with the supernatural has caused their ghosts to endure.

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