



NEW YEAR'S DAY

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DEFINITION

- Year : means the time measurement which is equivalent to 12 months or 365-366 days. Traditionally Thai people observe a circle of 12 years, each year has its own name and is symbolised by animals. They are listed in order from number one to number twelve as follows

Traditional New Year

- **THAI RECORD**
- Ancient Thais recorded New Year into 3 periods.
- 1. The New Year started according to a 12 year - cycle which was counted from the first waxing moon day of the fifth month and there was a ceremony at the end of each year.
- 2. The New Year started according to the Thai era that fell in around 13th of April (Songkran festival which was celebrated for 3 days):
 - The First day is Songkran day.
 - The second day is Resting day.
 - The third day is the New Year day.
- 3 The New Year of the solar calendar started on the first of April which was announced, in B.E. 2432, during King Rama V's period and was traditionally celebrated for quite some time.



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- **The acceptance of the first of January as New Year's Day would also be related to Thai ancient tradition which was related to Buddhist belief and would be shown as an equivalent standard to other nations.**
- **Hence, the Royal announcement set up the calendar year act of B.E. 2483 by the suggestion approval of the parliament on 17th of September B.E. 2483 and promulgated on 17th of October B.E. 2483, and finally the government accepted the first day of January as New Year's Day.**
- **Therefore, there was the Royal announcement to the members of the Royal Family, Religious sectors and Thai people to accept the first of January as the first day of the year. Since its beginning in 2484, New Year's Day is believed to have made the country and people of Thailand "prosperous and joyful"**
- **At present, the government and Thai people traditionally celebrate their New Year as a great event to bring to them "Happy New Year" on the first of January.**

Traditional celebration



NEW YEAR'S EVE

In Thailand, they have only 3 day long holiday from the 31th on December to the second of January. After that, normal everyday arrives.

On 31th, December, families including their relatives gather and enjoy chatting and having dinner, and a special year-end countdown is held. And on the first day of the year, people visit temples to do " Tamboon " (offering something to monks or temples such as food: people in Thailand who believe in reincarnation do Tamboon (do good things) and accumulate virtues for happiness of their next lives) in the very early morning.

The New Year's Eve and the 1st January are public holidays in Thailand. It is the occasion for religious and festive events



On New Year's Eve, Thai people go to Thai Buddhist temples to make merit (free birds, fishes...) and donations (offer buckets, money, rent Buddha statues...). They also come to listen to Dharma speeches told by monks.

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Dragon boat



- Famous Thai temples often organize feasts to attract visitors and donators. Temples near rivers might organise boat contests.
- The flowers on the boat's prow are supposed to give luck to the team



- For New Year holiday, many Thai people go back to their home in Thai provinces.
- During the Buddhist sermon, some laymen and laywomen prepare the trays dedicated to the monks.
- On the 1st January morning, Thai people go to Buddhist temples to listen to the Dharma and make donations to the monks.
- After the Buddhist ceremony, everybody leave the temple. A new day is starting but it is the first day of a new year.
- For the new year first Buddhist sermon, Thai people are smarter and wear their most elegant clothes.

Activities


- Head to Bangkok's Central World Plaza, where you can dance the night away watching spectacular fireworks, Thai musicians throwing down the beat and raucous street parties.



**The streets are
decorated with a
lot of lights**



**Kongming
Lantern**

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- **“SAWATDEE PI MAI”**
 - (สวัสดีปีใหม่)
 - **Happy New Year**