



Year of the Monkey begins at Sydney Opera House

– Giant Monkey Lantern, Lunar Feasts & special tour experiences promise visitors prosperous experience at Sydney’s premiere tourist destination this Lunar New Year –

Sydney – Thursday 4 February 2016. An 8x15 metre lantern, lit day and night. Traditional red envelopes of festive goodies. Lobster buns, pork belly and themed Lunar Feasts by top Australian chefs.

The Sydney Opera House will be transformed into the ultimate Chinese New Year destination this month, when the giant inflatable lantern by Chinese-Australian artist Laurens Tan, featuring three wise monkeys, ushers in the year of the Monkey on Bennelong Point as part of the City of Sydney’s [Lunar Lanterns](#) exhibition.

The Opera House sails will be bathed in red from 6 to 8 February to mark the start of the Lunar New Year, while special celebratory food and drink experiences, tours and commemorative gifts will be on offer at the Opera House from 6 to 21 February, when Sydney will host one of the biggest Lunar New Year celebrations outside of mainland China.

The City of Sydney expects more than 600,000 visitors from Sydney, interstate and overseas with over 16,000 already booked on a Mandarin-speaking tour of the Opera House.

Guests taking the Opera House’s Mandarin-speaking tour will receive special festive goodies including a traditional red envelope and free souvenir photo. There will also be roving Lunar New Year performers, opulent floral decorations by [The Flower Room](#) and special menus across the Opera House precinct — a decadent Lobster Bun and Monkey See, Monkey Do cocktail at Peter Gilmore’s celebrated Bennelong restaurant, or a succulent braised pork belly with Hainan dressing and cucumber at Lauren Murdoch’s Eat Drink, Western Foyers. And wherever you choose to dine at the Opera House, your meal will finish with a fortune cookie.

Jade McKellar, Sydney Opera House’s Director of Visitor Experiences, said: “For the first time, in 2016 we’re transforming the entire precinct with the spectacular Monkey Lantern, delicious themed menu options, roving entertainers and beautiful decorations. As Australia’s premier tourist destination, we want to welcome locals and international visitors alike to celebrate this vibrant festival in style.

“Last year Australia welcomed a milestone one million Chinese visitors to Australia, and we’re continuing to see an increasing number of Chinese visitors here at the Opera House. In the 2015 Lunar New Year period we had 22,000 visitors take our Mandarin-speaking tour, and we’re expecting even more this year.”

LUNAR NEW YEAR – WHAT’S ON AT SYDNEY OPERA HOUSE

Lunar Feasts

Opening Hours: Various opening hours, seven days a week, 6 to 21 February 2016.

Location: Bennelong, Opera Bar, Eat Drink, Western Foyers, Theatre Bars, Opera Kitchen.

Enjoy special menu options across the precinct, plus a fortune cookie with the bill at every restaurant:

- **Eat Drink, Western Foyers** – ‘Hatted’ Chef Lauren Murdoch will be serving succulent braised pork belly with Hainan dressing and cucumber, with rice and a glass of house bubbles or wine, for \$30.
- **Bennelong** – Indulge in a decadent Lobster Bun, Monkey See, Monkey Do cocktail at Bennelong’s Cured and Cultured bar, for \$50.

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- **Opera Bar** – Enjoy a selection of fresh locally sourced seafood under a canopy of red lights and lanterns, with a platter for two from the Raw Bar and two glasses of Mumm champagne, for \$100.
- **Theatre Bars** – Grab a cocktail of your choice and prawn dumplings pre or post-show, for \$20.
- **Opera Kitchen** – Satisfy your sweet tooth with Strawberry Mochi and a Daiquiri, for \$30.

Tours

Sydney Opera House Tour – Mandarin

Opening Hours: Tours run every 30 minutes from 9am-5pm, seven days a week, 6-21 February 2016.

Book online to save 10% [here](#).

Taking a tour of the Sydney Opera House is always a unique experience, but there is something a little extra special for guests taking the Mandarin-speaking tour during February: a free digital souvenir photo, plus a prosperity red packet, and a coupon for \$25 off their first Airbnb stay thanks to Opera House Partner [Airbnb](#).

Tours in English and other languages will continue to run during the Lunar New Year period.

Retail

Opening Hours & Location: Open daily 9am-5pm, Lower Concourse; and 9am to 6:15pm Box Office, Level 1.

Visitors can take some good fortune home with special Chinese New Year products available from the Sydney Opera House shop in February including:

- **2016 1oz Silver Monkey Coin** – RRP \$88 (1oz) or \$50 (11.66g)
- **Opera House LED Lamp** – equipped with colour-changing LEDs and a remote control the Sydney Opera House light brings the splendour of the iconic landmark into your home. RRP \$69.99.

Share your Lunar New Year experiences using #SOHLunar and #CNYSYD. For more information on the Sydney Opera House's Lunar New Year activity visit: www.sydneyoperahouse.com/lunarnewyear.

Images are available to download <here>.

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Sydney Opera House

The Opera House is a masterpiece that belongs to all Australians. It is the country's number one tourist destination and its busiest performing arts centre, welcoming more than 8.2 million visitors a year on site and hosting 1,900 performances attended by 1.4 million people. On its 40th Anniversary in 2013, the Opera House embarked upon a Decade of Renewal to prepare it for future generations of artists, audiences and visitors.