



The Japan Club of LaGuardia Community College presents
New Year Celebrations in Asia 2024

- Date: Wednesday, January 17, 2024
- Time: 10:00am - 1:00pm
- Place: Poolside Cafe, LaGuardia Community College

Korea

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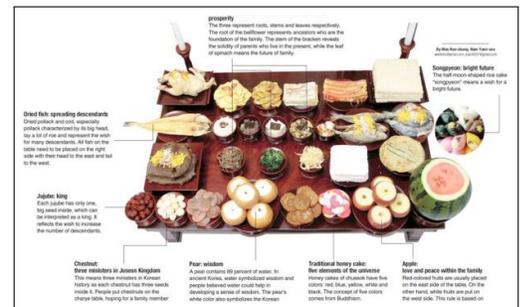


New Year's Day, known as 설날 (Seollal) in Korea, is an important holiday that is eagerly celebrated by Koreans. It falls on the first day of the lunar calendar (Saturday, February 10 in 2024) and marks the beginning of a new year. On this day, families gather together to pay respects to their ancestors, a practice known as 차례 (Charye). Traditional customs such as wearing 한복 (hanbok; Korean traditional clothing) and performing a ritual called 세배 (Sebae) where younger family members bow to their elders are also followed. Seollal is a time for reflection, gratitude, and spending quality time with loved ones. It is filled with festive activities, good food, and joyful laughter, symbolizing hopes for a prosperous and auspicious year ahead.

세배 (Seh-bae) is a traditional Korean ritual performed on Seollal, the Korean Lunar New Year's Day. It involves a deep bow to show respect and gratitude to ancestors and spirits. Families gather together in front of an ancestor memorial table called "Jesa-dang" and offer food, drinks, and other symbolic items. The three bows represent respect towards heaven, earth, and ancestors. This ritual not only honors deceased family members but also signifies the importance of maintaining ancestral traditions and gratefulness for their sacrifices. Seh-bae is an integral part of Korean culture and emphasizes the value of family and ancestors.



차례 (Charye) is a traditional Korean ancestral ritual that is performed in order to pay respect and honor deceased ancestors. It is an important part of Korean customs and is typically held during major holidays such as Chuseok (mid-autumn festival for harvest) and Seollal (Korean Lunar New Year day). During Charye, a table is prepared with various dishes and offerings for the ancestors, including special rice cakes, fruits, and alcohol. The ritual involves deep bowing and verbal expressions of gratitude and well-wishes towards the ancestors. Through this ceremony, Koreans believe they can maintain and strengthen their familial bonds and receive blessings from their ancestors.



한복 (hanbok) is the traditional attire of Korea, embodying age-old philosophies and a reflection of the cultural heritage of the Korean people. The basic design of hanbok consists of an upper and lower garment, with the Jeogori (blouse-like jacket) and Chima (full-blown skirt) being the main components. Hanbok has been preserved remarkably well over the past two thousand years, with the basic appearance staying intact throughout time. Although hanbok is commonly worn on special occasions such as weddings and birthdays, there is a renewed interest among modern Koreans in wearing hanbok as everyday wear. Hanbok has also captivated the global fashion world, with Korean designers showcasing hanbok-inspired collections in prestigious fashion shows. The beauty of hanbok lies in its flowing lines, striking color arrangements, and practicality in terms of movement and comfort.



떡국 (tteokguk) is a traditional Korean dish commonly eaten on New Year's Day. It consists of sliced rice cakes (tteok) served in a clear broth made from beef or anchovies, with various toppings like egg, sliced meat, and seaweed. The dish holds cultural significance as it is believed to bring good luck and symbolizes starting fresh for the new year. The round shape of tteok represents unity and renewal. It is also a popular comfort food enjoyed year-round. The soft and chewy texture of the rice cakes combined with the savory broth makes 떡국 a hearty and delicious dish.



나례 (Narye) is a traditional Korean ritual or ceremony performed as a way to honor ancestors and show respect for their spirits. It involves various symbolic actions and offerings, such as bowing, offering food and drinks, lighting incense, and playing traditional music. The purpose of 나례 is to seek blessings and protection from ancestors, as well as to maintain a strong connection between the living and the ancestors. This ritual is often performed during major holidays, family gatherings, or special occasions, and it is an important part of Korean cultural heritage and identity.



New Year Expressions in Korea

- **새해복 많이 받으세요!** (sae-hae bok ma-ni ba-deu-se-yo!): Wishing you a blessed New Year!
- **새해가 밝다:** 새해 = new year 밝다 = can mean various things depending on the context, but the core meaning is 'be/become light' or 'be/become bright'.
- **새해가 밝다:** means 'The new year dawns'
- **2024년을 맞이하다:** -년 means 'year -' (e.g. year 2024 would be 2024년) and 맞이하다 means to 'receive/greet'. So this phrase means greeting/receiving year -.
- **근하신년:** which is the Korean pronunciation of 謹賀新年
- **새해에는 건강과행운이 가득하길바래요.** (sae-hae-e-neun geon-gang-gwa haeng-un-i ga-deuk-ha-gil ba-rae-yo.): I hope the New Year is filled with health and good fortune.
- **새해에는 모든 소망과 꿈이 이루어지길바래요.** (sae-hae-e-neun mo-deun so-mang-gwa kkeu-mi i-ru-eo-ji-gil ba-rae-yo.): May all your hopes and dreams come true in the New Year.
- **새해에는 항상 행복하고 건강하시길바래요.** (sae-hae-e-neun hang-sang haeng-bok-ha-go geon-gang-ha-shi-gil ba-ra-yo.): I wish you happiness and good health throughout the New Year.
- **새해에는 좋은 일만 가득하게 되시길바랍니다.** (sae-hae-e-neun jo-eun il-man ga-deuk-ha-ge dwi-shi-gil ba-rap-ni-da.): I hope only good things come your way in the New Year.
- **새해에는 더 좋은 변화가 찾아오기를 기원합니다.** (sae-hae-e-neun deo jo-eun byeon-hwa-ga cha-ja-o-gi-reul gi-won-ham-ni-da.): I wish for positive changes to come in the New Year.
- **새해에는 새로운 시작과 성취가 가득하기를 기대해봅니다.** (sae-hae-e-neun sae-ro-un shi-jak-gwa seong-chwi-ga ga-deuk-ha-gi-reul gi-dae-hae-bop-ni-da.): May the New Year bring new beginnings and accomplishments.
- **새해 첫날에는 가족과 함께 행복한 시간을 보내길바래요.** (sae-hae cheot-nal-e-neun ga-jok-gwa ham-kke haeng-bok-han si-gan-eul bo-nae-gil ba-ra-yo.): I hope you spend a joyful time with your family on the first day of the New Year.
- **새해에는 모든 어려움을 극복하고 행운을 만나길바랍니다.** (sae-hae-e-neun mo-deun eo-rye-um-eul geuk-bok-ha-go haeng-un-eul man-na-gil ba-rap-ni-da.): May you overcome all hardships and encounter good fortune in the New Year.
- **새해에는 사랑과 희망이 넘치는 시간이 되길바래요.** (sae-hae-e-neun sa-rang-gwa hi-mang-i neom-chi-neun si-gan-i doe-gi-reul ba-rae-yo.): I hope the New Year is filled with love and hope.