

Seollal

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The Korean New Year (Seollal) is considered the most important holiday in Korea. Seollal is celebrated in different ways, but most consist of family gatherings. More traditional families wear a Hanbok to the occasion, but others tend to dress less formally. A common practice in these gatherings are bowing down to older generations to show respect and gratitude towards the elderly. The three day holiday

Although there can be a variety of foods eaten at Seollal, Tteokguk (sliced rice cakes with soup) is one food that is almost always seen. Seaweed and eggs are commonly served with Tteokguk. Other than Tteokguk, Koreans tend to go with food that is popular not just during Seollal, but year around. Bibimbab is rice topped with mixed vegetables and chili pepper paste. The Bibimbab meal is unique due to the different ingredients used



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HWATU

Hwatu, a set of Korean cards that originated from Japan, is very popular during the lunar New Year. They are also known as "flower cards" as each card is designed as a flower that represents the four seasons and different months of the year. The most popular game of Hwatu, "Go-Stop" is commonly seen at family gatherings and is even considered a tradition to play it during New Years. Yut-nori, a board game, and Kite-flying (Yeonalligi) are also popular games to play

Each new year in Korea represents a different animal of the 12 zodiac signs. 2012 is the year of the dragon, which symbolizes courage. It is said that people born in the year of the dragon are not only brave, but carry with them an adventurous spirit that lifts everyone's spirits.