



Introduction of Zigong Lantern Festival

A watercolor illustration of a pink lotus flower in full bloom, with a smaller bud above it. The petals are layered and show a gradient from light pink to a deeper magenta. The flower is supported by a green stem. In the bottom left corner, there are large, dark green lotus leaves with visible veins. The background is a solid, muted grey. The text "History of Lantern Festival" is overlaid in the center in a white, sans-serif font.

History of Lantern Festival



For centuries, the Lantern Festival has been a Chinese festival celebrated on the fifteenth day of the first month in the lunar calendar to pray for a good harvest, and gain favor of Taiyi, god of heaven.




In ancient times, the lanterns were fairly simple, and only the emperor and noblemen had large ornate ones. Leaders throughout China's history have also played a key role in influencing and maintaining the lantern traditions.



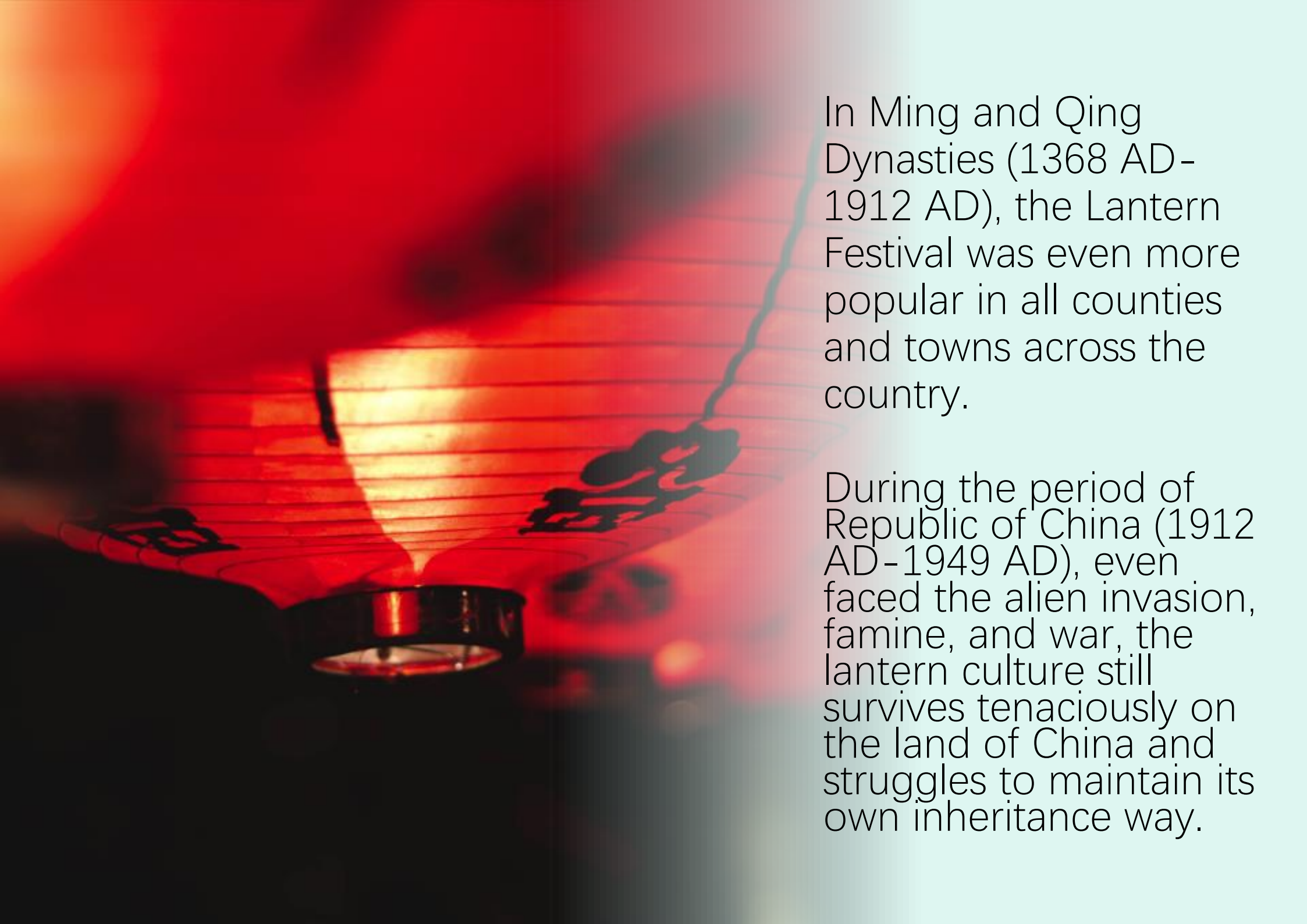
The lantern cultural tradition dates back nearly 2,000 years to the Eastern Han Dynasty (25 AD-220 AD), at a time when Buddhism was growing in China.

Emperor Ming noticed Buddhist monks would light lanterns in temples on the fifteenth day of the first lunar month, he then ordered all households, temples, and the imperial palace to light lanterns on that evening. This practice eventually developed into a folk custom.

A close-up photograph of a traditional Chinese lantern. The lantern is a vibrant red color and has a cylindrical shape. It is covered in vertical strips of paper or fabric, each featuring the Chinese character '福' (Fú), which means 'blessing' or 'good fortune'. The character is written in a dark, calligraphic style. The lantern is illuminated from within, creating a warm, glowing effect. The background is dark, making the red lantern stand out prominently.

In Sui Dynasty (581 AD-618 AD) of the sixth century, Emperor Yang invited envoys from other countries to China to see the colorful lighted lanterns and to enjoy the gala performances.

In Song Dynasty (960 AD-1279 AD), the festival was celebrated for five days. These activities began to spread to many big cities in China.



In Ming and Qing Dynasties (1368 AD-1912 AD), the Lantern Festival was even more popular in all counties and towns across the country.

During the period of Republic of China (1912 AD-1949 AD), even faced the alien invasion, famine, and war, the lantern culture still survives tenaciously on the land of China and struggles to maintain its own inheritance way.



Soon after the founding of New China (1949 AD-), mass entertainment activities of Lantern Festival were resumed in various places, and new content was injected.

In 1964, Zigong, a city in China's Sichuan Province, hosted the first modern lantern festival after the founding of People's Republic of China, it is considered as the origin of the modern lantern.

Since then, the annual lantern festival has been held in Zigong, forming the unique style of Zigong Lantern Festival.



The Lantern Festival in Zigong



In 2002, Zigong Lantern Festival is designated as one of the two largest folk activities by State Tourism Bureau in China, and the top one of the 40 folk activities.

In 2008, the Zigong Lantern Festival was listed as the "National Intangible Cultural Heritage" by the State Council, which marked that the Zigong Lantern Festival was protected by law nationwide.



Over time, the Zigong Lantern Festival has become the most popular lantern festival and light event in China, it is also called “**The First Lantern Show in the World**”.

From 1980s, Zigong Lantern Festival has become a world-renowned event.

As of 2023, Zigong Lantern Festival was held in more than 40 countries up to over 500 cities, more than 400 million persons/times visited Zigong lantern show around the world.



A watercolor illustration of a pink lotus flower in full bloom, with a smaller bud above it. The petals are layered and have a soft pink hue. The background is a solid, muted grey. The text "What Makes a Lantern" is overlaid in white, sans-serif font across the middle of the image.

What Makes a Lantern



In ancient times, a Chinese lantern is made of thin, brightly colored paper, which is also called paper lantern.

Paper lanterns come in various shapes and sizes, they can be simply a paper bag with a candle placed inside, the more complicated ones consist of collapsible bamboo or wood rattan frame of hoops covered with tough paper.

Colorful glass and jade were also used to make lanterns, with figures from folk tales painted on the surface.



As technology improved, electricity are now used to illuminate the lanterns with the same traditional lantern-making skills.

Technologically advanced lanterns use LED lighting to generate vivid visuals, features magnificent steel-framed and silk-wrapped giant lighted sculptures, created by hand using traditional Chinese methods.

Some of the new displays incorporate the guests' movements to make the attraction interactive.

Lanterns can come in many shapes and sizes, such as animals, plants, sea creatures, Chinese culture, international architecture, space, history, ancient stories, and more.



While the scale of the lantern festival became larger and the craft more refined, lanterns began to be exhibited by groups instead by individuals and the layout was no longer planar and stereotypical.

To make a lantern, there are several different roles of the artisans, some of them go to college to learn design, some of them just learn from their families, from generation to generation.

It is reported that there are more than 45,000 lantern-making artisans in Zigong as of 2023.

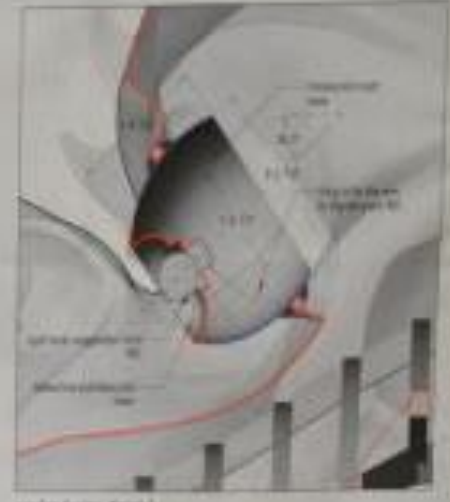
A watercolor illustration of a pink lotus flower in full bloom, with several green leaves and a bud. The painting is set against a dark grey background. The text 'Lantern Making Process' is overlaid in white, with a white brushstroke underline. The illustration uses soft, blended colors and fine lines to depict the delicate structure of the lotus.

Lantern Making Process



An example of the lantern making process - Dragon Head

This dragon head lantern was made by Zigong lantern artisans, the lantern was made for the film 007 series SKY FALL shooting, the design was made by the film team, the artisans changed the design on paper into 3D lantern



NOTE:
TYPE OF LIGHT AND MATERIALS
TO BE USED FOR EYE BALL TO BE
WITH SHY
FIXING METHOD AND RIGGING TO BE
WITH LANTERN FABRICATORS.

Item	Qty	Remarks

Step 1 - Design Drawing




Step 2-Drawing on
the ground based
on the design look



Step 3-Sculpture
molding and
welding



Step 4-Installing electrical cables, LEDs and first paperhanging/decorating



Step 5-Fine
paperhanging and
details perfecting
by the artisans



Step 6-Transporting,
installing and lighting





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Chinese Lantern Festival Brings A Thousand Year Tradition To Cary

By ADHITI BANDLAMUDI / PEOPLE/ADHITI-BANDLAMUDI | JAN 9, 2019

Share (http://facebook.com/sharer.php?u=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.timvurl.com%2Fvsevuusb&t=Chinese%20Lantern%20Festival%20Brings%20A%20Thousand%20Year%20Tradition%20To%20Cary)



(https://mediad.publicbroadcasting.net/cary/chinese-lantern-festival) The Chinese lantern festival is celebrating its 1000th anniversary.



Magical Lantern Art Festival
More spectacular than ever! November 9 - January 1

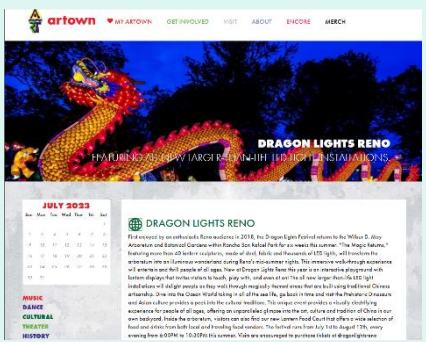
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Highlights from last year's festival



entertainment | Life
Watch holiday light displays at Woodland Park Zoo & Aquarium and a...
Nov 10, 2020 at 6:00 am | Updated Nov 12, 2020 at 11:48 am

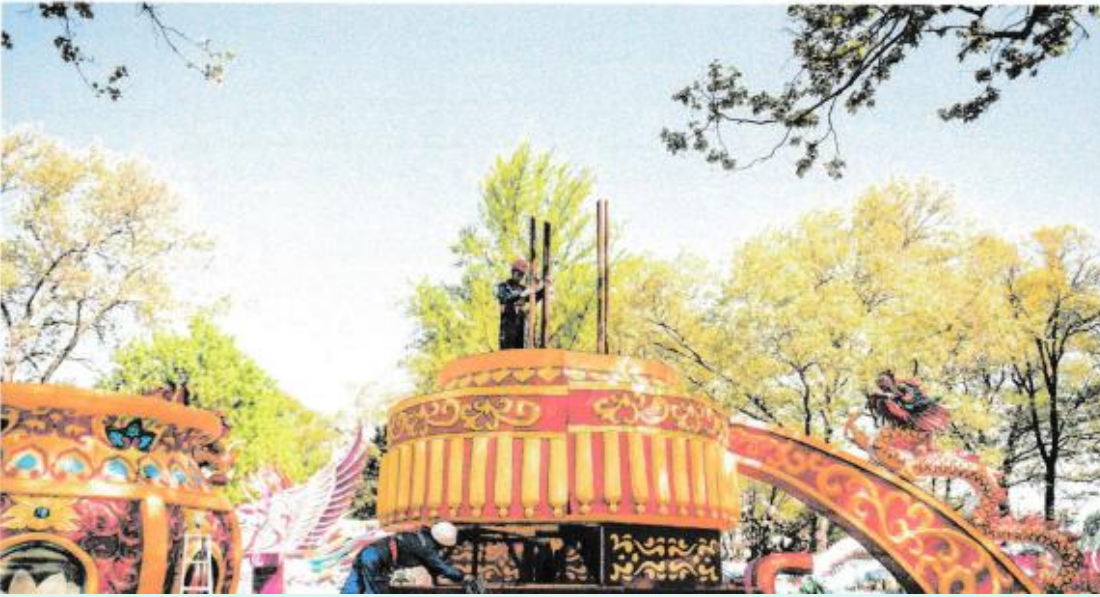


1 of 3 | Woodland Park Zoo has a new light display this year. Wild animals are used to create more than 60 scenes featuring wild animals.



Festival: How the massive production comes together, from China to Franklin Square

by Grace Dickinson, Updated: May 1, 2019



Let the Lantern Festival illuminate the world



Thank You !