

Chinese public holidays for 2019



IN this issue of the 'Turner & Coates Global Examiner', we are taking the opportunity to advise our clients and engineers on the public holidays in the People's Republic of China.

The first thing to note about public holidays over in China, is that many of them are based on the lunar calendar. This means that the exact date on which each holiday falls will vary each year.

Below are the current dates for 2019. Please note that it is always worth double-checking all dates beforehand, however, particularly if any of them could potentially affect your travel plans or a project's production schedule.

This is because some Chinese public holidays are subject to change by the Government, led by its Premier, Li Keqiang (*pictured inset left*). If any updates or public holiday amendments are required, these typically occur in either November or December of each year.



The first major public holiday period in China, the **Spring Festival** (also more commonly referred to as Chinese



New Year), falls between Monday 4th and Sunday 10th February in 2019. This is an ancient festival dating back some 4,000 years.

According to legend, the colour red drives away the Nian monster - this is why the money envelopes given during this festival to children are red. The last day of the festival sees the launching of lanterns. You can wish your Chinese suppliers/ customers a 'Happy New Year' during this festival. Talk about illness, death and the number four, however, is considered unlucky, so try to avoid these if you possibly can!



The other major public holiday period in China is **National Day**, which actually lasts a whole week, from the 1st to the 7th October. Dating back to the 3rd century, this originally celebrated an Emperor's birthday or accession to the

throne. Nowadays, it marks the creation of the People's Republic of China by Mao Zedong on 1st October 1949. During this holiday, many Chinese travel within China itself, and factories are likely to be closed for part or all of the duration of the holiday period. Other, shorter public holidays in China include:



5th April Friday - **Ching Ming Festival** - this is often also known as

tomb sweeping day, as it honours ancestors. If you are in China on this day, you may see many kites flying, to bring good fortune and welcome spring.



30th April to 1st May - Tuesday and Wednesday - **International Workers Day**. Expect crowded transport in China on and around these dates.



Friday 7th June - **Dragon Boat Festival** - workers are often given

three days off for this festival, which celebrates an ancient legendary Minister and author, Qu Yuan, who drowned himself rather than see China be taken over by a rival dynasty. Lots of river races are held throughout China.



Friday 13th September - **Mid-Autumn or Moon Festival** -

this dates back some 3,000 years. Moon cakes, made from rice flour, filled with a red paste (red bean, lotus or watermelon), are served during this festival.

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