

# 张灯结彩闹元宵

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正月里来正月正，  
正月十五挂花灯，  
耍狮子舞大龙，  
圆圆的汤圆碗里盛，  
你一口我一口，  
甜美的生活好心情……

正月十五闹元宵、看花灯是过年正月最热闹的传统佳节。这个节日也是烟台闹大年的高潮。放灯，是古往今来元宵节的最大特征。每每这一天，年味十足的烟台城乡不论是繁华的城镇还是偏僻的农家渔村，到处都张灯结彩、喜气洋洋。城镇机关、工厂、商家、大小店铺都要精心制作各种灯笼挂在大门口。家家户户也都要扎制灯笼，有的挂在门上，有的给孩子们提着。许多人家还常常用

豆面做成灯的形状，蒸熟后放上灯芯，注入豆油，点燃起来，将整个院落的黑暗之处统统照亮。

旧时烟台，这些灯笼的制作也比较讲究。在用料上，有纸糊的，有绸的，有玻璃装镶的；造型上有各种花卉，各种动物，古今人物等等；在装饰上，有彩绘的，有粘贴的，有带飘带的，还有带流苏的；光源方面，有点蜡烛的，有点油的，还有用电灯的。总之，每一盏灯都是一件精美的工艺品，每一盏灯都出自不同人之手，因此很少雷同。一到掌灯时分，数不尽的、看不完的花灯全部亮了起来，到处五彩缤纷，一片光明，简直成了灯的世界。在一些热闹繁华的地方，还要搞灯会、灯展。

过去烟台的元宵灯会，最有名的是烟台市区海边大庙天后宫的灯会。每年的元宵佳节之前，庙里的道士们都要扎搭灯棚。元宵之夜，商家渔家甚至一些较殷实的富户们都要来送灯。宫灯上或有“吉庆如意”，或有“慈航普渡”等画面，古色古香，别具风格，颇富神秘色彩。

入夜，太平湾后海和东海岸一带的渔行以及港内停泊的商船、渔船，为了祈求海神娘娘保佑海上平安，还要用木板托着蜡烛向海上“放灯”。点点灯火如天上繁星布满了海面，并随着潮流越飘越远。市里临街的各大绸缎庄、百货店、药店、杂货铺等门面橱窗也都打扮一新，点上福祿寿喜的挂灯、走马灯。家家户



爆竹声声辞旧岁。摄影/刘志忠  
Setting off firecrackers to send off the past year



元宵花灯。摄影/许树才  
the Gulou Streetscape.



户的门前台阶两旁也都点着小小的蜡烛，那真是万家灯火，一片光明！

昔日热闹的烟台大庙灯会，如今已成为历史。但年复一年的烟台山、毓璜顶以及南山公园、南大街文化广场等处的规模宏大、各种各样、栩栩如生的彩灯会，则更加灿烂辉煌、万姿纷呈。既具有古老的传统韵味，又有时代的特色。每当入夜，吃完了象征着团圆美满元宵的人们，家家户户倾家出动，就连行动不便的老人和爱看热闹的孩子，往往也都由家人用车推着或抱着拉着出来看灯。看灯的地方人山人海，车水马龙，人声鼎沸，热闹非凡。这真是“谁家见月能闲坐，何处闻灯不看来”！

元宵节过后，闹新春的活动亦渐渐地平静下来。过大年回乡探亲的人们，也都纷纷返回了工作岗位。学校也陆续开学了，农民和渔民们也都开始忙着春耕春种和出海捕鱼了……

## Festive Lanterns Lighting up the Lantern Festival

The Lantern Festival, also known as the Yuanxiao Festival, is the merriest and liveliest occasion of the Chinese New Year season, celebrated on the fifteenth day of the first lunar month. It is also the climax of celebrations for the Chinese New Year in Yantai. As suggested by the name of the festival, festive lanterns have traditionally been the most distinctive celebratory sight on that night. Setting off rich festive atmosphere in Yantai, beaming red lanterns and colorful banners are hung up everywhere in bustling downtown and remote fishing villages: on the gates of institutions and factories, along streets and alleys, and inside stores and shops. Many people make exquisite DIY lanterns, some for embellishing rooms and lighting up the doorway, and some for children to play with. Many households also make bean lanterns by kneading bean flour dough into lantern shapes, which they steam, put in lamp wicks and fill with bean oil. People would carry the lit lamp around their yards to illuminate the dark places.

The most famous lantern show in Yantai used to be the one held around the Palace of Heavenly Queen (also known as the Grand Temple) at the seaside in the urban area. Days

before the festival each year, the Taoist priests in the temple would put up lantern sheds for the show. Local businessmen, fishermen and some wealthy families would send celebratory lanterns over. On those lanterns were patterns with such themes as “happy and propitious” and “the barge of mercy ferries all,” which were designed with antique flavor in a mysterious style of their own.

When night fell, people of the fish shops on the brim of the Taiping Bay and the east coast, and those on the merchant ships and fishing boats at anchor there would “float lanterns.” They put lit candles on wooden boards and set them afloat to the sea, which was their way of praying to the Sea Goddess for their safety on the sea. The flickering candles, like the array of stars in the night sky, dotted the sea and drifted away along with the waves. In the city proper, the facades and show windows of all shops and stores along streets were decked up with various lanterns symbolic of such concepts of blessing, happiness, prosperity, and longevity. Lit candles were also put at both sides of the doorway footsteps of every household. That was a true bright sight of “lanterns and candles of myriad families!”

The bustling Grand Temple lantern show

has become memory of the past. Now various large-scale lantern shows are staged every year on Yantai Hill, in Yuhuangding Park, Nanshan Park, and the Culture Square on Nandajie Street, which are more resplendent and magnificent blending traditional flavors and modern features. On the night of the Lantern Festival after eating the sweet dumplings, which symbolize happy family reunion, the local people, old and young, all go out to watch lanterns. Huge crowds with all sounds of excitement in a sea of lanterns present a scene of revelry, a real picture described by an ancient poet's lines: *Is there any family who stays at home idle when the full moon is up? Is there any place where there are lanterns not watched by people cheered up?*

After the Lantern Festival, the exciting Spring Festival celebration activities will dwindle. Soon, people who have traveled home in the Spring Festival holiday for family reunion will return to work, students will start their new semesters, farmers will be busy with their spring plowing and sowing, and fishermen will engage themselves in preparations for fishing on the sea.