

SHANGHAI NOW

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Above: The Jardin d'Acclimatation in Paris comes alive with over 2,000 traditional Yuyuan Garden lanterns. — Ti Gong

Left: People visit the Festival Dragons et Lanternes at Jardin d'Acclimatation in Paris, France, last Saturday. — IC

New year lanterns festival lights up city and Paris

Yang Jian

THE annual Yuyuan Garden Lantern Festival began simultaneously in Paris and Shanghai last Friday, marking the start of the Sino-France 2024 Chinese New Year celebrations.

The Jardin d'Acclimatation in Paris came alive with over 60 large Chinese lantern sets and 2,000 traditional lanterns. The event will run through February 25.

Designs featured dragons, mythical creatures from the "Classic of Mountains and Seas," and colorful light displays. The event aims to immerse visitors in Eastern aesthetics and

interactive performances, according to Yuyuan Inc, the festival organizer.

At the same time, a lantern installation, the "A Night of Fish and Dragon Dance," lit up Shanghai's Yuyuan Garden Malls on Friday as a preview for its annual lantern fair. The Shanghai Yuyuan Garden Lantern Festival will be held from late January to late February 2024 to celebrate the Year of the Dragon.

Other Chinese cities such as Shenyang in northeast Liaoning Province, and Rudong in neighboring Jiangsu, joined in, lighting up lantern displays in celebration of Chinese New Year.

The Festival Dragons et Lanternes



Shanghai's Nanxiang xiaolongbao (small steamed buns) are cooked and sold at the lantern festival in Paris. — Ti Gong

in Paris is part of 60th-anniversary celebrations and Sino-French Culture and Tourism Year. It has attracted wide

French media attention.

Chinese and French dignitaries witnessed the inaugural lighting in Paris. Yuyuan Inc's President Ni Qiang emphasized the event's role in showcasing Chinese culture and fostering global exchanges.

"Since its inception in 1995, the Yuyuan Garden Lantern Festival aims to showcase China's rich culture and heritage and fostering East-West cultural exchange," Ni said.

The Paris festival blends traditional Chinese techniques with modern artistry, featuring three main zones: Eastern Charm, Spirit of Mountains and Seas and Fireworks Market.

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