

Is the Chinese New Year a good or bad time for foreign friends to visit Macao?

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In my opinion, the Chinese New Year is a good time for foreign friends to visit Macau to know about the Chinese traditional culture. There are several reasons in support of my point of view.

Firstly, it being a school holiday, I am free to show my foreign friends around Macao. What's more, as it is not a holiday season in the West, the air tickets are usually cheaper than on normal days.

Secondly, the weather is pleasant for my western friends. Their travel plan will not be affected by either the heat and humidity in summer or the dry, chilly weather in winter.

Thirdly, they can taste the traditional Chinese food such as dumplings, Chinese noodles and turnip puddings. They play a special role in New Year celebrations.

Lastly, we can enjoy different shows in celebration of the New Year like the lion dance and fireworks displays. The visitors can also have fun in areas set aside for the letting off of firecrackers.

However, there are several disadvantages about the visit at this time of the year. The

streets are too crowded, often resulting in traffic congestion. Food is more expensive than on normal days because there is a service charge of 20% on the bill during the Lunar New Year.

Besides, as many of the employees go back to their hometown to enjoy reunions with their families, a lot of shops are closed. Luckily, all the department stores still remain open in Macao and our friends can buy some lovely traditional food there.

In short, it is good for foreign friends to visit Macau during the Chinese New Year especially if they are interested in the Chinese traditional culture. In fact, the Chinese New Year is the most important festival in Macao.