

Ancient Roots

The Mid-Autumn Moon Festival is celebrated on the 15th day of the 8th lunar month which occurs some time between mid September and early October. This is when the moon is at its fullest after the autumnal equinox.

Like many harvest festival celebrations, it has roots in ancient times. Ancient Chinese Emperors made offerings to the moon in thanks for a successful harvest. As moon worship became popular with the lower classes, an annual date was established for a 'Mid-Autumn Festival' during the Northern Song Dynasty (960–1279 CE).

The Festival became very popular during the Ming Dynasty (1368 - 1644). Scholars would view the Autumn moon from their Ting pavilion, such as the one in our Garden at the top of the mountain of Tai Hu rocks. There they might recite poetry, enjoy tea and eat mooncakes whilst admiring the full moon.

As you wander through our Garden at this time of year, imagine the Scholar and his family enjoying their Mid-Autumn Moon celebrations together.

