



## **River Hongbao 2021: A “Niu” Year, A New Way**

*Organised annually since 1987, the 2021 edition of River Hongbao is a hybrid physical/virtual event which offers visitors a different experience anchored on safe management measures and virtual elements.*

**1 Feb 2021** – The life-sized lanterns, giant God of Fortune installation and exhibition which have made River Hongbao (RHB) one of Singapore's most beloved and exciting Chinese New Year celebration events will return this year at a new venue at Gardens by the Bay. It will run for seven days from 10 February to 16 February 2021.

RHB, which has been held annually since 1987, is organised by the Singapore Federation of Chinese Clan Associations, Singapore Chinese Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Singapore Press Holdings' Chinese Media Group, Singapore Tourism Board and People's Association.

Mr Tan Aik Hock, Chairman of the River Hongbao 2021 Organising Committee, said: “This year’s RHB will be a different experience from previous years. In deciding whether to proceed with RHB, the first question we asked ourselves was whether we can ensure the safety and wellbeing of all our visitors. It was also important that we did our level best to try and adjust to the new normal, while continuing the RHB tradition.

After extensive deliberation, planning and consultation, and together with our venue partner Gardens by the Bay, we have adapted the event and we are confident that we have put in place robust safety protocols that will allow our visitors to imbibe in some festive flavour, as we launch into new beginnings in the Chinese year of the Ox.”

### **Ensuring Safety and Wellbeing**

This year, safe management and crowd control measures will take priority at the physical RHB event. Baseline safety protocols include SafeEntry check-ins, fever thermal screening, and the provision of hand sanitisers. High-touch points will be cleaned several times a day.

In addition, to prevent crowding, visitors are required to pre-register by booking slots online at [www.riverhongbao.sg](http://www.riverhongbao.sg) to avoid disappointment. Daytime slots are 90 minutes in duration, while night-time slots are 120 minutes in duration. Visitorship is capped at 2,000 visitors per time slot to ensure that there is sufficient room for safe distancing between visitors and prevent bunching.



More than 100 volunteers, safe distancing ambassadors and uniformed auxiliary police officers will be deployed to prevent crowding, and also to ensure that all visitors follow proper safe management measures.

The RHB Organising Committee will continue to monitor the evolving COVID-19 situation, and will adjust the RHB 2021 programme further, if necessary.

### **New Venue: Gardens by the Bay**

Even though there will be restrictions placed due to COVID-19, visitors can still expect to see some perennial RHB favourites at the new Gardens by the Bay (GB) event site.

Mr Felix Loh, CEO of Gardens by the Bay, said: “We are honoured to be entrusted by the River Hongbao 2021 Organising Committee as their venue partner. At the same time, we are conscious of the need to work doubly hard to ensure that the popular event is carried out in a safe way and seek visitors' understanding of the need for enhanced safety measures. While this year's edition has been scaled back in line with the muted celebrations, we hope that the occasion will still bring some cheer and joy to our community as we welcome a new spring of hope together.”

### **A “Different” RHB Experience**

Due to concerns over COVID-19, there will be restrictions on crowd numbers and several of RHB's key features such as the fireworks, the amusement park and live stage performances have been cancelled.

What RHB visitors can still enjoy and take photographs of this year on-site are **24 giant lanterns** featuring icons like a peacock, a pair of butterflies, the 12 animal zodiacs, and the crowd-pleasing God of Fortune. These lanterns will be scattered throughout GB's outdoor gardens.

Cultural elements can also be found at RHB whereby visitors can boost their knowledge of Chinese culture at the **River Hongbao exhibition, which will highlight the Lion Dance tradition**. The exhibition includes a curated selection of lion dance artefacts from private collectors and organisations, with some dating back to as far as the 1950s. It also shows the significance of the lion dance in different cultures and countries, as well as the history of the lion dance and its development in Singapore.

In place of student-led guided tours which have been cancelled due to COVID-19, pre-recorded videos of the students introducing the exhibition contents will be available for viewing online at the RHB website. Onsite visitors can access these easily by scanning a QR code at the exhibition.



Main stage live performances have also been cancelled this year. Instead, nightly screenings of pre-recorded performances will be held at the Main Stage, featuring local talents on different themed nights including Getai Night and Xinyao Night. RHB, in collaboration with Mediacorp and the Singapore Chinese Cultural Centre, is producing a specially curated show which will be broadcast on Channel 8 on 26 February 2021. RHB will also be collaborating for the first time with Singapore Press Holdings' Chinese Media Group to pre-record one night of performance – “Joys of Springs” - which will be screened on 16 February 2021.

As visitor numbers are limited, many different elements of RHB will be **posted online at the RHB website** ([www.riverhongbao.sg](http://www.riverhongbao.sg)) for the public to enjoy from home. This includes the Lion Dance exhibition, lantern displays and videos of the pre-recorded performances.

There will be plenty of opportunities for visitors to **engage with River Hongbao virtually**, such as through games and other interactive elements. RHB will be launching a TikTok contest for the first time with attractive prizes to be won.

POSB #HuntYourZodiac, an interactive virtual game first introduced by key partner POSB at RHB last year, will be back bigger and better this year. From 10 to 14 February, visitors can enjoy a fun, immersive experience where they hunt the twelve Chinese zodiac animals via their mobile devices. Previously confined to RHB grounds, this year's edition of POSB #HuntYourZodiac is scaling up into an exciting island-wide hunt.

Players who successfully catch the animals stand to win cash prizes (over SGD 150,000 worth of prizes to be won), and also obtain specialised Chinese horoscope predictions based on their zodiac animal and element (metal, wood, fire, water, earth).

With safety protocols and a new venue, RHB 2021 will certainly be different from previous years. As one of the most familiar and well-loved events in the Singapore calendar, through its adaptation, RHB hopes that everyone can still usher in the Chinese New Year in a joyful manner and enjoy festivities in a responsible way.



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**About River Hongbao**

As a part of Singapore's Chinese New Year festivities since 1987, River Hongbao is organised by the Singapore Federation of Chinese Clan Associations, Singapore Chinese Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Singapore Press Holdings' Chinese Media Group, Singapore Tourism Board and People's Association.

For more information, please visit: [www.riverhongbao.sg](http://www.riverhongbao.sg) and <https://www.facebook.com/riverhongbaosg/>

## Visitor Must-Knows: Online Pre-registration

### ONLINE PRE-REGISTRATION

In order to manage crowd numbers, an Online Booking system at [www.riverhongbao.sg](http://www.riverhongbao.sg) will be implemented for online reservations. Visitors are required to book their slots online to avoid disappointment.

The system will open for registration from 3 February at 11am. Visitors will be able to re-login after 6 Feb to change their registered timeslots, subject to availability.

Event dates	Booking Release Date and Time
10 and 11 Feb	3 Feb, 11am
12 and 13 Feb	4 Feb, 11am
14, 15 and 16 Feb	5 Feb, 11am

Upon successful registration, a confirmation email with QR Code(s) will be sent. Visitors are to present the email for entry into RHB on event day. One person can book for a maximum of 4 persons, including him or herself. Each timeslot has a maximum capacity of 2,000 people. Visitors will be assigned a specific entrance point, to prevent crowding.

Date 日期	Check-in time 入场开放时间	Visiting hours 参观时段	Entry Gate closure 最后入场时间
10 February (Wednesday) 2月10日 (星期三)	5.30pm 傍晚5时30分	6.00pm - 10.30pm 晚上6时至10时30分	6.30pm 晚上6时30分
11 February (Thursday) 2月11日 (星期四)	4.30pm 下午4时30分	5.00pm - 7.00pm 傍晚5时至晚上7时	5.30pm 傍晚5时30分
	7.00pm 晚上7时	7.30pm - 9.30pm 晚上7时30分至9时30分	8.00pm 晚上8时
	9.30pm 晚上9时30分	10.00pm - 12.15am 晚上10时至午夜12时15分	10.30pm 晚上10时30分
12 February (Friday) - 16 February (Tuesday) 2月12日 (星期五) 至 16日 (星期二)	1.30pm 下午1时30分	2.00pm - 3.30pm 下午2时至3时30分	2.30pm 下午2时30分
	3.30pm 下午3时30分	4.00pm - 5.30pm 下午4时至傍晚5时30分	4.30pm 下午4时30分
	5.30pm 傍晚5时30分	6.00pm - 8.00pm 晚上6时至8时	6.30pm 晚上6时30分
	8.00pm 晚上8时	8.30pm - 10.30pm 晚上8时30分至10时30分	9.00pm 晚上9时

Table: Timeslot durations and timings. Entry checkpoints (Check-in time) will open 30 minutes before the start of the time slot, for visitors to file in, and close 30 minutes after the start of the time slot (Entry Gate Closure).



## EVENT DAY

Upon check-in and showing the QR code in the email, visitors will be issued with colour-coded wristbands. Visitors for each time slot are allocated wristbands of different colours.

For more details, please refer to [www.riverhongbao.sg](http://www.riverhongbao.sg).



## Annex 2

### Thematic Nights: Summary of Programmes

**Table 1: Stage Screenings**

Date	Pre-recorded Performances by	Theme Night	Time Slots
小除夕, 10 February 2021, Wednesday	Local artistes	Opening Ceremony	8.30pm – 10.00pm
除夕, 11 February 2021, Thursday		Chinese New Year Eve	Time Slot 1: 8.15pm – 9.15pm Time Slot 2: 11pm – 12am
初一, 12 February 2021, Friday		Dance Galore Night	Time Slot 1: 7pm – 8pm Time Slot 2: 9.15pm – 10.15pm
初二, 13 February 2021, Saturday		Xinyao Night	
初三, 14 February 2021, Sunday	Getai artistes	Getai Night	
初四, 15 February 2021, Monday		Getai Night	
初五, 16 February 2021, Tuesday	First collaboration with SPH CMG	<p><b>Joys of Spring</b></p> <p>“Joys of Spring” features “A Tale of CNY 2021- Spring Rain” 《新年来讲古》之《春雨》. It is a comedy on the clash of generations over CNY.</p>	Time Slot 1: 7.15pm – 8pm Time Slot 2: 9pm – 10.30pm