Other Traditional Festivals
There are four big festivals in China. Except the most important festival—-The Spring Festival, the other three are:

• The Tomb Sweeping Day
• The Dragon Boat Festival
• The Mid-autumn Festival
1 Tomb Sweeping Day

QĪNG MÍNG JIÉ 清明节
• Qingming (literally “Clear and Bright) , also known as Tomb Sweeping Day. Usually occurring around April 5 of the Solar calendar.
• It is an important day of remembering and paying respect to those that passed away. People worship their ancestors and sweep their grave sites.
Origin

- It is said that this festival was set up to memorialize Jie Zhitui(?-636BC), a man of noted loyalty during the Spring and Autumn Period(770BC-476BC). He helped his lord when his lord was in exile. When his lord’s power was restored, Jie Zhitui refused to accept a position his lord offered to him because he was once ignored and forgotten.
• He escaped with his mother to a mountain. His lord set a fire to force him out, and then force him to accept the position. Jie Zhitui died in the fire.
• To commemorate him, his lord set aside the day he died as the original Tomb sweeping Day.
Video
Customs

• Go to their ancestor’s grave site to remember and honor them.
• Bring food and wine, fruits and candies as well as paper money to the grave site and place them in front of the tomb.
• Burn the paper money

• Add new soil to the grave
• Plant a few willow twigs around the tomb and then “kowtow” to pay their respect
• Some people carry willow branches with them on Qingming, or put willow branches on their gates. They think that willow branches help ward off the evil ghosts that wander on Qingming.
Treading on the greenery

- Qingming is also a day to celebrate the coming of spring. People go on family outings, start the spring ploughing, sing, dance etc.
• Othe popular things to do
• Flying kites.
• Playing on the swings
Food traditions: Qīng tuán
2 Dragon Boat Festival

DUĀN Wǔ JIÉ 端午节
• Dragon Boat Festival is on the 5th day of the fifth lunar month every year.

• In ancient times people believed that the day was deleterious and harmful. Therefore there are many customs and traditions handed down from the past to pray for peace and safety, and to repel diseases and evils.
Video: The legend of Dragon boat Festival
Customs

• Racing Dragon Boats
《今日中國・多彩貴州》
節目名稱：中國國家級非物質文化遺産
鎮遠 賽龍舟
節目時長：12分鐘
• Hanging Mugwort and calamus: repel any harm from five poisons. (scorpion, centipede, snake, spider, and toad)
佩香囊&拴五色线

• Wearing Sachets and silk threads of five colors
Food Traditions : Zòng zi
3 Mid-Autumn Festival

ZHONG QIU JIE 中秋节
• Every year on the 15th day of the eighth lunar month is the traditional Mid Autumn Festival, one of the main festivals in China.

• On the night of Mid-autumn day, the moon is fuller and brighter than the full moon in other months. Because the Chinese consider full moon a symbol of reunion, they also call this festival the Festival of Reunion.
Video: Brief introduction
Customs

• Moon Watching

Came from moon rituals, which were a very old tradition around the Mid-autumn Festival.
• Family reunion
• Tidal bore Watching
Food Traditions: Yuè bǐng