

## Weifang, CHINA

### Weifang International Kite Festival



Known throughout the world for its kites, Weifang is proud of its profound kite culture and long history. According to historical records, more than 2,400 years ago, Lu Ban (魯班), the father of Chinese carpentry, made the first wooden kite and successfully flew it in the Lu Hill of Weifang. This marked the beginning of the local popularization of kites.



As one of the earliest comprehensive international-level events, the Weifang International Kite Festival was founded in April 1984, jointly sponsored by the State General Administration of Sport, the International Kite Federation, and Weifang City People's Government. Successfully held for 40 years, the kite festival begins on the third Saturday of every April.



On April 1, 1988, during the Fifth Weifang International Kite Festival, Weifang City was designated as the “World Kite Capital” by the kite associations of various countries. The International Kite Federation was established and located in Weifang with the approval of the State Council of China on April 1, 1989. The Federation started with 16 original members and today has 67 member states.

As a comprehensive and international event well-known at home and abroad, the Weifang International Kite Festival is not only a major political, economic, and cultural event but also a vital window to showcase the city's development achievements and foster the regional economy, international exchange, and cooperation. In keeping pace with the trend of development and innovation in recent years, the Festival has evolved into a cultural brand with distinctive characteristics and extensive influence in China.



Taking the lead in creating the activity model of “kite heading, platform building, business running,” the Weifang International Kite Festival has held a flying show with 10,000 kites, including the World Kite Championship, the National Sports Kite and the Luminous Kite Invitational Competition, and so on. As the most distinctive, representative, and influential event in Weifang, it is also a grand festival for its residents. With the festival’s rising fame, visitors from all over the world come to Weifang. The number of participants for the opening ceremony peaked at 200,000, including kite practitioners and fans from 71 countries and regions who traveled thousands of miles to participate in the Weifang International Kite Festival.

**Pingping TAN**  
(Weifang City of Crafts and  
Folk Art Promotion Office)