



See Singapore with THE STAR

GREETINGS FROM THE STAR!

Hari Raya Haji, or Festival of Sacrifice, opens November historically. Muslims in Singapore celebrate this festival together with other Muslims around the world. In a traveler's point of view, this celebration is a perfect moment to learn about Muslim in Singapore, including Malay culture since Malay Singaporeans are mostly Muslim. Thus, Kampong Glam as a historic Malay cultural area is one of the best places to be explored. Furthermore, Malay cuisine, which is popular for its richness in spices and herbs, offers gastronomic value that cannot be resisted in terms of experiencing Halal Muslim Food. Offering some of Malay culture richness in this edition, you are invited to be a part of its uniqueness. Thus, do not wait any longer to start to See Singapore with the STAR.

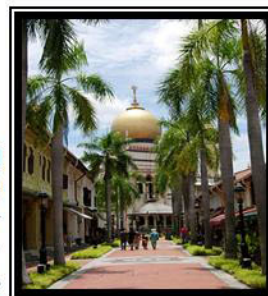
Kampong Glam - Malay Royalty of Old

Discover a rich Malay cultural conservation area, Kampong Glam, where it became the golden ethnic enclave once Malay royalty started its history in Singapore. Begin your walking trail of Kampong Glam at the Malay Heritage Centre (also known as Taman Warisan Melayu) at 85 Sultan Gate. The heritage centre also includes the Malay Heritage Museum, which aims to preserve and showcase the culture and heritage of the Singaporean Malays through artifacts and diorama displays.



Shops selling woven basket at Arab Street

Do not miss the magnificent golden dome of the Sultan Mosque, which sits on a ringed structure made entirely of the bottoms of glass bottles. Located at Muscat Street, the Sultan Mosque is the most prominent landmark in Kampong Glam, and was gazetted a national monument in 1975. Meanwhile, Bussorah Street pedestrian mall with its strong Arabic influences can be explored after visiting the mosque. Most of the trades here used to cater to the religious needs of the Muslim community, and in the old days, the street was known for sandal-making, copper craft and brassware. In this era, the street is a mix of old and new shops selling scarves, keychains and paper fans, along with miniature replicas of Malay artefacts. From Muscat Street (in front of the mosque), turn into Arab Street and explore perfume shops, unique eateries and traditional textile shops. Finally, finish the trail at Haji Lane, a lane of shophouses given a new lease of life by local designers and young entrepreneurs who have set up their quaint boutiques here proffering fashionable wear.



Exploring the Malay culture in Kampong Glam



Satay, one of Malay signature dishes

Malay cuisine is well-known for its aromatic blend of spices and herbs including the kaffir lime leaf, lemongrass, shallots, garlic, ginger, galangal, curry leaves, turmeric, pungent belachan (shrimp paste), and chillies. Most of the dishes also use coconut milk to take the edge off the spicy curries and to garnish cakes and other types of desserts. Furthermore, the dishes do not include any pork for religious reasons and they are generally referred to as "halal".

One of the signature dishes is Nasi Padang – a wide variety of spicy meat, fish, poultry, and vegetable dishes, served

Malay Cuisine - A World of Spices

with rice. Visit any Malay restaurants to savour Soto Ayam, a spiced chicken stock served with chicken and bean sprouts, together with your choice of a potato croquette or compressed rice cakes. Enjoy Skewers of beef, lamb or chicken Satay served with onions, cucumbers and the ubiquitous peanut sauce. Pick Nasi Lemak, packed in a banana leaf and Beef Rendang, a hearty dish made of large chunks of beef cooked with spices and herbs at a Malay stall at any food centre. Meanwhile, Cendol, one famous type of Malay desserts, is very rich in coconut milk, while Ice Kachang, another signature dessert, is made of flavoured ice with red bean and jelly.



Aromatic blend of spices in Nasi Lemak

Hari Raya Haji Celebrations 2011



Male volunteers offer their Hari Raya Haji prayers

Hari Raya Haji, or the "Festival of Sacrifice", is celebrated by Muslims all over the world in three days period. According to Hijrah, the Islamic calendar, this festival starts on the 10th day of the month of Dhul Hijja, which is 70 days after the holy month of Ramadan. This celebration is to mark the end of Hajj, the annual holy pilgrimage to Mecca. Thousands of pilgrims simultaneously converge on the Holy land to perform a series of rituals. The Hajj is also considered as the fifth pillar of Islam, a religious obligation for able-bodied Muslims with the financial means.



Masjid Sultan as one of the mosques where celebration is held

During this public holiday, male volunteers congregate in the mosques to offer their prayers and reflect upon the sermons that are read out. After performing the prayers, they sacrifice sheep, goats and cows; it symbolizes Prophet Ibrahim's readiness to sacrifice his son in the name of God. The meat is then packed and distributed among the Muslim community, especially to families who are less fortunate. After those practices, the Muslims will pay a visit to their parents, families and friends for lunch. This year, Hari Raya Haji is celebration on 06 November 2011.

See Singapore in November 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Asian Master 2011 (01-30Nov'11)	2	3	4	5
6 Hari Raya Haji	7 IndoChine Green Festival 2011 (07-13Nov'11)	8 'The Veil'	9	10 The Comedy Club Asia - November Show 2011 (10-13Nov'11)	11 'Silent Connexion'	12 2011 Barclays Singapore Open (10-13Nov'11)
13 APB Foundation Signature Art Prize (10Nov'11-04Mar'12)	14 Elephant Parade Singapore (11Nov'11-11Jan'12)	15 'Leap of Faith'	16 'Global Souls'	17 Crafts Bazaar 2011 by Kala Tarang (17-19Nov'11)	18 - Good Charlotte - Affordable Art Fair (18-	19 2PM hands up Asia Tour in Singapore 2011
20 F1 Nations Cup Singapore Grand Prix 2011	21 Christmas in the Tropics (19Nov'11-02Jan'12)	22 A Fairy Tale Christmas @ RWS (19Nov-31Dec'11)	23 The Bridge Project - Richard III (17-26Nov'11)	24 Grandeur Of Wine 2011 (21-30Nov'11)	25 Aladdin (24Nov-18Dec'11)	26 Zoo Hoo 2011 (26Nov-18Dec'11)
27	28	29	30 Can't Stand Up for Falling Down (30Nov-03Dec'11)			

(For more information, please click on <http://www.yoursingapore.com/content/traveller/en/browse/whats-on.html>)

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