Pongal Celebration : Wonderful Experience for Tourists by Ajay Kumar

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Although these festivals are not much known to the rest of the world but now slowly and gradually rest of the world is also coming to know about these festivals and celebrations due to the advent of information technology and internet access. And many tourists have also started visiting these parts of India around the same time when these festivals are celebrated.

One of the such states is Tamil Nadu where lots of festivals are celebrated at different times of the year. Kerala is located at the southern part of the country next to the Bay of Bengal and just to the north of the Sri Lanka. Pongal is such a popular festival of Kerala and is celebrated in the month of the January (around 15th). Pongal is celebrated in almost every villages and cities of the Tamil Nadu; Government also shows interest in this festival and facilitates its people in organizing this event. Three Pongal festival is celebrated on the same dates every year i.e. on the 14th - 17th of January.

The Pongal festivals is celebrated to mark the successful harvesting of crops by the farmers. At this time the people get ready to thank God, their Land and their Cattles for the good harvest, thus celebrate the occasion with utmost spirit and many rituals.

The festival celebration includes arthi(a ritual that is offering prayers to the god and goddess), martial arts, various mind blowing and wonderful cultural dances & other cultural and ritual performances. This marvelous event begins with the Bhogi Pongal on the first day followed by Surya Pongal on the next day. On the third day, Mattu Pongal is offered to the cattle and cows are given a bathe and adorned with colorful beads, flowers, colours and other beautiful traditional stuffs. The world famous bull fight that is â€œJallikattuâ€• is held on the last day, and this event is also known as Kannum Pongal.

Excellent folk arts and dances are performed by the many expert local artists; some the artists also performs some daring tricks which even scare some of the persons. The â€˜pongal' dish is also served during this event to the people who come to attend this festival event. In fact I would like to say that this colorful sight of the Pongal festival is definitely a must watch for every visitor be it Indian or from any other country.

The event is a good way to showcase the local culture of this wonderful state. The martial arts and the other performances are really wonderful and can make you numb for the time being. That is why many of the foreign tourists who come to attend this festival here, do like to return for this Pongal celebrations again in their life time.

This year too over 200 foreign tourists from countries such as Italy, France, Germany, England, Australia, Canada, Holland, Israel, Belgium, New Zealand and Austria came for the event.

The writer is a travel loving person and has very deep knowledge of different places of Asia like India, Thailand, Singapore, Malaysia, etc. and its cultural and historical information and is working as a vacation packages designer for the tourists and organize tour package for India as per the customer needs and suitability with the Hungry Bags a leading Tour Organizing Company of Asia which provides tour packages to various destinations in Asia, like family Kerala holiday package, tour package for Singapore, and many other exclusive tour package Singapore, as well as to many other locations in the Asia and rest of the world at very affordable price.

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