A Guide to the Best Festivals in Singapore by Lek Boonlert

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Singapore is a vibrant city and many flock here to soak up the local cultures and there is no better way to do this than by visiting during festival time. Singapore hotels during the most popular festivals can get heavily booked up and it would be advisable to pre-book if you wish to stay here while the celebrations are going on.

Many of the festivals held in Singapore are based around religion and as such it is important to respectful when attending them. There are a range of small and large festivals that happen throughout the year and some of the best are listed below:

1. M1 Singapore Fringe Festival

2. Singapore Triathlon

3. Chinese New Year

4. Chingay Parade

5. Dragon Boat Festival

6. Vesak Day

7. National Day

8. Singapore F1 Grand Prix

9. Hari Raya Haji

10.Deepavali

There are also many festivals and special days that are celebrated elsewhere in the world that are also celebrated here such as Valentineâ€™s Day, Christmas Day, New Yearsâ€™ Ever and Easter. Your hotel Singapore can advise you on how to get around during the busy festival periods and many people choose to walk around as well as hop on and off of taxis as the public transport systems are often busy.

The M1 Singapore Fringe Festival takes place over the course of 11 days and it is all about having fun, dancing, drinking, eating and communicating with friends and family. The arts scene is prominent in the festivities and many use the time to meet new people as the whole festival promotes a fun atmosphere.

National Day is an important day for many in the city and one can expect to see many fireworks displays during the evening as well as a whole host of street parades, food and drink stalls and a certain feeling of patriotism. The Dragon Boat Festival is always a popular one and many people who visit during this time of the year will watch the events as they happen. Brightly coloured boats are raced up and down the waterways and a mixture of serious sportsmen and women compete along with children and disabled competitors.

Vesak Day is celebrated by Buddhists all over the globe and it marks the birthday of Lord Gautama

Buddha. Priests in saffron-coloured robes chant blessings on the streets as well as in the temples and doves are often released from cages while prayers are said throughout the day and night. The livelier Singapore F1 Grand Prix race is really a time to celebrate in the city and many come to spend the weekend watching the qualifying and race as well as party in the many bars and clubs in Singapore. The celebrations often overflow to the streets and there are many parties, parades and floats that can be enjoyed throughout the three-day event.

The two-day Chingay Parade is the biggest parade to hit the streets of Singapore as hundreds of thousands of people descend on the city to join in the fun. Brightly coloured floats, huge dragons, dancing processions, acrobats, gymnasts, beauty queens and children all provide the entertainment and the parades run from City Hall through the Suntec City.

Whatever time of the year you visit it is likely that you will be in Singapore for one festival or another so be sure to check out what is one before you leave so you can join in the fun!

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