

Press Release

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Travelers Treated to Good Eats at Malaysia's Ramadan Bazaars

LOS ANGELES – From July-August, Muslims all around the world celebrate the month-long Islamic holiday known as Ramadan. While Muslims in the country take the opportunity to strengthen their faith, Ramadan extends its uniqueness to everyone in multicultural Malaysia, locals and visitors alike, particularly through the food, shopping, and entertainment at the nightly Ramadan bazaars.

For Muslims, fasting during the month of Ramadan is compulsory, requiring them to abstain from eating or drinking daily between sunrise and sunset. The majority of Muslims in Malaysia, about 60% of the population, eagerly anticipate the Ramadan bazaars that help them break their fast at the end of the day. These bazaars are closed throughout the day, but come to life in the late afternoon as shops prepare food for Muslims breaking their fast at sundown.

Visiting a Ramadan bazaar is like taking a culinary walk through Malaysia, with all kinds of scents and sights greeting people as they slowly make their way from one stall to another: the smoky aroma of chicken satay cooking over charcoal flames, fish delicately wrapped in banana leaf and grilled on a smoking plate, ayam golek or chicken marinated in herbs and spices spinning slowly on the rotisserie. The vibrant colors of the food and the lively characters of the hawkers and customers make these bazaars a fascinating place for entertainment and culture.

Non-Muslim Malaysians also enjoy coming to these bazaars to get a taste of specialty dishes and sweets that are only available during this period. The bazaars, mainly located in big cities such as Kuala Lumpur, continue to operate through the evening for Malaysians and tourists of all ethnicities and backgrounds to eat, shop, and explore at their leisure.

Tourists visiting in the month of Ramadan will not have any difficulties finding food or getting around the country during the day as restaurants, shopping establishments, and government offices are open for business as usual. That said, visitors during Ramadan are guaranteed a unique way to experience the scenes of Malaysia special to this month.

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