

MEDIA RELEASE

EXCITING FESTIVALS IN 2013 SET THE MOOD FOR COLOURFUL “VISIT MALAYSIA YEAR 2014”

PUTRAJAYA, 4 JANUARY 2013: Malaysia’s tourism calendar for 2013 is packed with another fascinating year of exciting events and colourful celebrations as a run up to the Visit Malaysia Year (VMY) planned in 2014. Regardless of the month of visit, Malaysia promises visitors something special and unique to make their time here truly memorable and enjoyable!

Kick off the year in **January** by joining in the grand celebration of the Visit Malaysia Year 2014 promotion campaign from 18 to 20 January at Bukit Jalil Stadium, Kuala Lumpur – it will be the biggest tourism carnival ever!

It is also a great month to witness the Thaipusam Festival when a dazzling chariot procession pulls into the Batu Caves temple on 27 January after making a 15 kilometre, 12-hour journey from the heart of Kuala Lumpur. Elsewhere, Langkawi waters will host the Royal Langkawi International Regatta from 7 to 12 January, an exciting sailing and racing event you won’t want to miss.

The Chinese New Year celebration on 10 **February** is a great time to catch a glimpse of the 15-day long festival celebrated with joyous reunion, fabulous food, colourful lion dances and ethnic tradition.

Another tourism highlight is the Pasir Gudang World Kite Festival from 20 to 24 February in Johor which promises to fill up the sky with colourful and innovative kite designs from international participants. Also, catch some of the world’s leading women tennis players at the BMW Malaysian Open from 25 February to 3 March at the Royal Selangor Golf Club, Kuala Lumpur.

In **March**, fans of Formula One must make a date with Malaysia when the race zooms into the Sepang International Circuit from 22 to 24 March and take advantage of the retail discounts during the Malaysia GP Sale from 8 March to 14 April. Or visit Langkawi for one of the largest International Maritime and Aerospace Exhibition in Langkawi from 26 to 30 March.

April is the month for a splashing time at the Water Festival, which will be celebrated in Langkawi, Labuan and Port Dickson – all major seaside towns in

Malaysia. The Malaysia International Shoe Festival, meanwhile, is held from 5 to 7 April.

Those coming in **May** can witness the Colours of 1Malaysia celebrations on 25 May besides taking part in other cultural events such as Sabah Fest (4 to 5 May), Tadau Kaamatan (30 to 31 May) and the World Harvest Festival in Sarawak (3 to 5 May).

In **June**, enliven your nights at the Malaysia International Tourism Night Floral Parade in Putrajaya from 22 to 30 June and witness the dazzling spectacle of lighted-up boats cruising along the lake. While those who love music must not miss the well-recognised Rainforest World Music Festival in Sarawak from 28 to 30 June.

Grab your shopping bags in **July** as it's the month of the Malaysia Mega Sale Carnival (14 June to 1 Sep)! Also starting in July all the way to September is the Malaysia Contemporary Art Tourism Festival – a chance to meet some of Malaysia's talented artists and purchase their artworks. July is also the Ramadan month observed by Muslims by way of fasting from dawn to dusk – visit the Bazar Ramadan stalls and be amazed by the array of food prepared for the breaking of the fast each evening.

In **August**, take part in the cultural festivities of the Hari Raya celebrations, where open houses and feasting on local delights are the norm. Then, celebrate patriotism in **August and September** with the Malaysia National Day on 31 August and a festive Malaysia Day celebration on 16 September. Admire the procession of beautiful lanterns during the 1Malaysia Lantern Tourism Festival on 19 September.

Meanwhile, **October** kicks off the three-month Fabulous Food 1Malaysia dining feast – enjoy fine dining in October, ASEAN food in November and delicious street food in December.

November also sees international yacht racing teams battle the monsoon weather and South China Sea for a chance to lift the Monsoon Cup. November is also the start of the Malaysia Year End Sale, from 8 November to 5 January 2014. Don't forget to be part of the Deepavali celebration this month and experience a true festival of lights!

Culminate the year in **December** with the Cuti-Cuti 1Malaysia Dance Tourism Carnival and learn the various Malaysian cultural dances. Or continue with your Malaysia Year End Sale shopping spree well into 5 January, while enjoying local street food delights served up during the last month of the Fabulous Food 1Malaysia. You can also enjoy the experience of a tropical Christmas during the whole of December as shopping malls and hotels light up.

Note: For more event updates, please visit www.tourismmalaysia.gov.my. The date, time and location of the events listed here are correct at the time of printing, and subject to change.

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