

TIPS

Onam in Dhaka

Kerala is often referred to as 'God's own country', and anybody who has ever visited the state will not disagree. Of course the scenic greenery is part of the whole appeal, but other factors that contribute to the divine beauty of the place, like incessant rain (which at times does cause clogged drainage), cannot be denied. The people are tourist friendly and the food is like heavenly manna. From seafood to 'sadyas', every part of the state has their own delicacy to treat the taste buds.

Ah! If you are not impressed yet — Kerala loves celebrations. Temple festivals are held on scales that are scarily huge, and the biggest of them is possibly, Onam — a harvest festival celebrated with joy and enthusiasm all over the state.

According to a popular legend, the festival is celebrated to welcome King Mahabali, whose spirit is said to visit Kerala at this time.

The carnival of Onam lasts from four to ten days. First day, Atham and tenth day, Thiruvonam are most important of all. Popularity and presentation of rich culture of the state during the carnival made Onam the National Festival of Kerala in 1961.

For the last few years, DMA (Dhaka Malayalee Association), along with the High Commission of India, has celebrated Onam in a grand fashion. This year the event was held at Baridhara DOHS Convention Centre, on 13 October, 2017. After a brief inaugural speech by the High Commissioner, the 'Mahabali' himself made an appearance on stage and the festivities really began.

The cultural programme that followed remarkably showcased the traditions of Kerala. The highlight of the event was the "Mentalist show" performed by India's top ranked mind reader and mentalist, Nipin Niravath, who kept the audience thoroughly entertained with his enticing performance throughout the show.

The cultural event was followed by lunch.

By Mormee Mahtab

Making best of the Internet

When weekends sometimes tend to get too long you start to wonder how you could spend this leisure productively, when all you have at hand is — The World Wide Web. Logging on Facebook or Instagram is always an option, and you can only visit these sites so many times in a day, so what else is out there then?

Do not be overwhelmed at the thought because here is a little list to help you get started and help you productively navigate the Internet instead of fuming over everyone else's vacation pictures!

LEARN A LANGUAGE

"Learning another language is like becoming another person." That was Murakami.

One of the things anthropologists emphasised on especially in the beginning of the discipline was the necessity of learning the language of the people that one would interact with. This was in order to truly understand what they mean when they say something and to dismiss the phenomenon of the true essence being lost in translation.

One of my favourite apps is Duolingo, which offers multiple languages and easy interactive lessons and would take up only a few minutes of your day.

GET YOUR GROCERY SHOPPING DONE

Spend a few minutes and save travel time, fare and energy and complete your grocery shopping at home. Websites such as Chaldal and Direct Fresh have a variety of food products with just about anything you would need. They will deliver it right at your doorstep! And the best part about this is you can save yourself from mindlessly buying products you do not need but are so conveniently and aesthetically shelved that it is hard to resist.

READ A BOOK

Users of Aldiko and Moon+ Reader will already know of the range of books that are at their disposal. The free books range from favorites from childhood such as 'Grimm's fairy tales' and



'Madame Bovary' to text-heavy nonfiction and biographies. Additionally, you may just download a pdf version of a book and read it using these apps which are so user friendly, it will be hard for you to stop.

TAKE A FREE COURSE

Learn about something that interests you or something that has made you curious or confused over the years. There are many websites offering free online courses from top universities worldwide such as MIT. Some of the best websites include Coursera and edX, which offer a wide variety of courses following a similar selection of schools to follow.

LEARN DIY TRICKS AND HACKS

Keeping the house looking clean and organised can be quite an ordeal for most of us, what with our busy schedules and expensive options to be organised. But the world of Pinterest has opened up new realms of reach for us, with easy and cheap alternatives that also satisfy our creative thirst while filling us with a sense of achievement once we've made something.

LEARN TO COOK

Not only is this a basic life skill but it will help you eat healthier, because you will now know how to. With the help of mobile applications or the multiple selection of websites such as Allrecipes.com or the interactive Tastemade app, it is super easy to learn this important life skill, and can done on your own very conveniently.

By Ayesha Rahman Chowdhury








Smoother, softer more glowing skin.



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