

5 iconic iftar bazaars around the world

During the month of Ramadan, Muslims gather together to break their fast with a nice and hearty iftar. The meal usually comprises of foods that are not usually eaten any other time of the year. And these specialty items are sold at large iftar bazaars that open during Ramadan.

Little Siirt, Istanbul

Little Siirt is a modest iftar market located in the capital of Turkey. During Ramadan, dozens of people line up near the various stalls scattered around this picturesque Kurdish square.

Out of the various items sold there, the two most popular dishes are the 'biryani kebab' and the 'perde pilavi'. The biryani kebab is salted lamb that is been slow cooked in a pit, resulting in succulent meat encased in a crispy layer of fat. Perde pilavi, on the other hand, is a spicy pilaf made of rice, chicken, almonds and currants, all wrapped in a thin pastry shell and baked in a cup shaped mould.

Mohammad Ali Road, Mumbai

The market started a few decades ago with just a handful of stalls surrounding the Minara Masjid. Now the bazaar has also become a massively popular tourist attraction. During Ramadan, the streets become packed with massive crowds and there have even been reports of Bollywood stars queuing up to enjoy the food. One of the signature dishes here are

the 'malpua' with 'rabri' sold at Suleiman Usman Mithaiwala. Another iconic delicacy is the Sanju Baba chicken sold at Noor Mohammedi Hotel. Named after Sanjay Dutt, this spicy chicken curry is actually the famous actor's own recipe!

Tajrish Bazaar, Tehran

There is a surprising variety of street food and dishes sold in Tajrish Bazaar. One of the most common iftar snacks sold there is 'ash reshteh,' which is a lentil and noodle herb stew. Another equally



as popular snack is haleem. The Persian variant of haleem is actually a sweet wheat and beef stew that's been topped with brown sugar and sesame seeds. But if one ventures deeper into the winding walkways of the Tajrish Bazaar, they might



find themselves rewarded with the intoxicating smell of sizzling koobideh, minced meat that's been mixed with spices and grilled over hot coals. The grilled meat is then placed in a roll of Persian flatbread and the entire thing is dipped in a pot of a buttery tomato sauce.

Meena Bazaar, Dubai

Meena Bazaar is one of Dubai's oldest shopping districts. Hundreds of people gather in the district hoping to buy some of the delicious and varied iftar dishes. There's a large number of Indian stalls and stores there so it is possible to buy some classic Indian street food like aloo vada, pani puri, and masala dosa. But if you're in the mood for something heavier, there are also separate stores that specialise in kebabs and shawarma.

Benhil Market, Jakarta

Located in the capital of Indonesia, the Benhil Market is famous for selling an assortment of traditional Indonesia dishes all year round. But during the month of Ramadan, the Benhil Market starts selling a much larger variety of traditional snacks. One such snack is the humble kolak, a special dessert stew made from coconut milk, bananas and sweet potatoes. Kolak is usually served with biji salak or 'snakefruit seeds'. These caramel coloured balls are made from sweet potato and drenched in palm sugar syrup. Another popular iftar dish is gorengan or deep fried fritter. A cheap snack that's made by deep-frying battered potato, tofu or banana, gorengan is probably the most popular iftar dish in Indonesia.

Chawk Bazaar, Dhaka

While its popularity as a business hub has diminished over the years, Chawk Bazaar is still the busiest iftar market in the country. One of the most iconic, and often derided, items is the "boro baper polay khay." Even if the name may seem unfamiliar to some, many have actually seen this iconic dish in numerous photographs. It's essentially a heaping pile of puffed rice, chickpeas, potatoes, fried eggplants, yoghurt, chicken, eggs, ghee and 12 different spices.

By Fahim Ahmed Aurko

Photo: Amran Hossain

Need a genie to get groceries? Try pandamart

With Ramadan progressing fast and Eid around the corner, every household in the country has become busier with their



Ramadan rituals and Eid preparations. And what lies at the heart of rituals and celebrations is food. So, the frequency of running to supermarkets and wet markets is higher than ever during this month. However, making time for groceries and running around with bags is cumbersome for many. So, for those seeking a faster and more convenient way to get groceries,

foodpanda's pandamart may be a smart solution.

Since the launch of pandamart by foodpanda in 2020, pandamart has become a one-click grocery shopping destination for customers. Be it your daily or weekly bazaar or just random items, doing groceries no more requires walking with heavy bags. Pandamart has a broad range of products to choose from, and it delivers whatever you need or want in just 30 minutes, 24/7! So, not being able to satisfy your craving for mid-night munchies or ice-cream is a thing of the past. Want to make lemonade or fresh juice to replenish after daylong fasting? Just scroll through pandamart and place an order; your products will arrive within 30 minutes. Unexpected mess? Just scroll through and order

some cleaning supplies. Fussy toddler? There's no shortage of baby food options. Late night hangout? Popcorn, soda, chocolate and all sorts of other snacks are just one tap (and 30 minutes) away! If those scenarios aren't enough to convince you that pandamart is your grocery delivery genie, here are a couple more!

For when you wish you had a personal grocery shopper

Grocery shopping is a chore. There's no nicer way to put it. Prior to online shopping and delivery, there was no choice but to go to stores in person with a long grocery list. Now, you have the option of ordering from wherever you want, whenever you want. With pandamart, you can order your groceries from bed or from your car.

No matter the situation, you can get what you need thanks to pandamart and its large inventory of products, ranging from fresh produce to frozen items, cleaning supplies, baby products and more. All it takes to do your daily, weekly or monthly grocery is 30 minutes. No need to carry heavy bags or haggle with vendors. With pandamart's ability to deliver 24/7 – there's no need to keep shop opening or closing times in mind either.

For when you've forgotten to buy key ingredients

Sometimes, your day takes you by surprise and no amount of planning helps. For instance, you've realised that you have forgotten to buy some ingredients required for dinner. Once again, pandamart has got you covered – there's

no need to send somebody to fetch it. If you are in the middle of hosting a dinner and you realise you are missing something, just tap on pandamart within the foodpanda app. Order some extra tomatoes for your side salad, some soft drinks, and some fresh fruit as a healthy dessert. With pandamart's wide range of offerings, everything you might need is easily available in just minutes.

For anything else you need in a rush

Pandamart offers more than just groceries. You can get skincare, hair care, fragrances, baby care products, cleaning supplies and more on the platform. Imagine you are heading over to celebrate your friend's birthday when you suddenly realise you forgot to buy a gift.

Just order self-care essentials like some perfume, cosmetics and some chocolates. Throw that all together in a nice gift bag and you are good to go in under 30 minutes.

Pandamart is a popular quick commerce service used by millions of people daily across many countries in Asia. Prompt deliveries, pleasant customer service and product availability have made pandamart explode in popularity, with positive reviews indicating customer satisfaction.