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NDA NEWS

RAMADAN LIGHTS IN THE CITY

London's Piccadilly Circus shines thousands of lights to create an installation that illuminated the streets with the word 'Happy Ramadan'. Mayor Sadiq Khan initiated the display to mark the Islamic holy month of fasting, Ramadan. 'Ramadan Lights' is the first street illumination to celebrate the holy month in the UK and Europe. Lighting up Coventry Street (between Piccadilly Circus and Leicester Square).



The Holy Month in the Islamic Calendar is Celebrated by Muslims all over the world. It is a time of fasting, prayer, and reflection, where Muslims focus on their faith and try to strengthen their relationship with Allah.

One of the most significant events during Ramadan is the turning on of the Ramadan lights, which is a symbol of unity, peace, and love.

Turning on of the Ramadan lights in Piccadilly London was a particularly special event. The city was adorned with beautiful decorations and lights, creating a festive and joyous atmosphere.



The carefully curated display showcases the moon's phases throughout Ramadan, This was put together by a UK not-for-profit organisation called Ramadan Lights. According to a source London's Mayor Sadiq Khan expressed his pleasure in illuminating the lights and stated that it was an "honour to switch them on."

The ceremony began with a reading from the Quran, the holy book of Islam, followed by speeches from community leaders and religious figures. They spoke about the importance of Ramadan and the significance of the Ramadan lights, which represent hope, unity, and the coming together of people from all backgrounds and cultures.



After the speeches, the lights were turned on, and the crowd erupted into applause and cheers. Piccadilly Circus was lit up with beautiful lanterns, which symbolise the light of Allah and the guidance that he provides to Muslims during this holy month. The lights were also accompanied by beautiful Arabic calligraphy, which added to the beauty of the event.

The turning on of the Ramadan lights in Piccadilly London was a testament to the diversity and inclusivity of the city. It was a moment where people of all faiths and cultures came together to celebrate a shared belief in peace and unity.

The lights will hang on Coventry Street between Piccadilly Circus to Leicester Square, until Friday 21 April 2023.



Breaking the fast is traditionally done with dates. Iftar which is the main evening meal is shared with friends and family. We have created a list of the best Iftar meals in London to eat during Ramadan, including Lebanese, Persian and Palestinian restaurants.

1. Layalina : Lebanese - Knightsbridge
Serving Lebanese cuisine and culture It truly makes for a sublime venue for any occasion. Layalina offers creative delicious and enticing dining experience from canapés and bowl food to fine dining and 7 course meals. Perfect for a family meal to enjoy the flavours of Lebanon in the heart of London.

2. Ishbilia : Lebanese – Knightsbridge

Ishbilia is a lovely spot which has a large outdoor terrace, and serves a menu of classic Lebanese dishes. It first opened in 1998, Ishbilia is one of Knightsbridge's most iconic middle-Eastern restaurants.



3. Berenjak : Iranian – Soho & Borough

Berenjak serves Iranian meze and kebabs in a corridor – like space. Berenjak was praised by Michelin for its “modern Persian cooking” The food focuses on Persian cuisine, specialising in small ‘mازه’ style sharing plates and charcoal grilled kababs, using seasonal British produce.



4. Piano : Iranian – Chiswick

Piano is a beautiful restaurant serving authentic Persian food with a modern twist. Offering A la Carte menu and a set menu.



5. AKUB : Palestinian – Notting Hill Gate

AKUB has two sections to the menu one being Ard (land, aka veg dishes), Bahar (sea) and Lameh (meat). The perfect place for sharing and tasting Palestinian flavours.



SKIING IN SCOTLAND

Cairngorms National Park is one of two National Parks in Scotland and one of 15 in the UK. It is over approximately 4,528 km² (1,748 sq mi) of beautiful landscapes in the Northeast of Scotland. It's centred on the Cairngorms range of mountains, and surrounding hills, it's also close to Edinburgh and Glasgow. To drive to Cairngorms National Park, it's about 3 hours from Glasgow, Edinburgh or Loch Lomond, 9-10 hours from London and the South East.



Without a doubt one of the best places to visit in Scotland, being the most visited ski resort in all of Scotland. Scotland is a stunning place to visit. If you are ever in need of a new place to ski then why not experience it in the Scottish highlands. The park gives you the opportunity to try loads of snow activities which include skiing, snowboarding, sledging, and even dogsledding.

While you might not think of the UK as a key skiing destination, one of the most popular activities to do in Cairngorms National Park in winter is to hit the slopes. More people come skiing here than anywhere else in the UK.



The Cairngorms National Park has three ski resorts, open to both skiers and snowboarders. Cairngorm Mountain near Aviemore, Lecht near Tomintoul, and Glenshee near Braemar. Each resort offers ski kit hire and ski lessons if for those who require it.

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Apart from Skiing, Cairngorms National Park has so much more to offer, starting with Aviemore, which is the main town in the Cairngorms National Park, and it's a popular place to visit in the Cairngorms. It's a year round destination, with snow sports being a popular winter activity and hiking, cycling and climbing for the summer. It's a great for exploring if you're looking for somewhere to stay in the Cairngorms National Park.

If you enjoy hiking then these are the best places to explore:

- Ryvoan Pass
- Dalraddy to Ruthven
- Falls of Bruar, Perth and Kinross
- Jock's Road
- Loch Garten
- Kingussie to Newtonmore
- Glen Tilt
- Carrbridge and Docharn circuit
- Ben Macdui

Scotland is full of stunning areas of nature, and woodland is certainly something that is all over in the Cairngorms National Park. The Rothiemurchus Forest is what is left of the Caledonian Forest in the Cairngorms.

One of the greatest aspects to see in Cairngorms National Park is the waterfalls. They're absolutely beautiful.



The Waterfalls in Cairngorms National Park are:

- Falls of Pattack
- Falls of Bruar
- Linn of Avon
- Linn of Tanar
- Linn of Muick
- The Stulan
- Falls of Damff

THE NEW MURABBA

Saudi Arabian Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman Al Saud announced the launch of the New Murabba, the world's largest modern downtown. The size of Riyadh will double with the development of New Murabba and its centrepiece, a giant cube called the Mukaab.



The aim of this project is to diversify an economy that has long been dependent on oil. The New Murabba will be a large cube big enough to fit 20 Empire State Buildings that will feature fantastical vistas, a asymmetrical tower of stacked dunes. This will potentially attract more hospitality, retail and leisure to the city.

The project will also feature “green areas and walking and cycling paths that will enhance the quality of life by promoting healthy, active lifestyles and community activities.

The Large Cube will be located in the southwest of Riyadh. The Design will be an updated version of Najdi Architecture, which gives the traditional look of Arabia’s domestic buildings. The top of the cube will have a garden and the tower will contain “a myriad retail, cultural and tourist attractions”, including hotels.



The government looks to be building out these plans in time to host the World Expo in 2030.



New Murabba is not Saudi Arabia's first sci-fi project. The Line, a megacity in the desert that is designed to be in the shape of a straight line. The Line is planned to be a 170-kilometre linear city. With an aim to have nine million residents. It will run from the east to the west across the Neom region. According to the developer, the city will consist of two parallel, 500-metre-high,



Within a 15 minute walking radius an internal transport system for easy access to the various amenities, will be available. The project is also conveniently located, with a 20-minute drive to the airport.

This project is a great opportunity for creating new jobs and it will offer more jobs according to a source. Part of Saudi Arabia's Vision for 2030 plan is to diversify its economy and reduce its dependence on oil by developing tourism and entertainment destinations.

The New Mukaab is also criticised for its similarity to the most important cube-like structure in Saudi Arabia: the Kaaba. Muslims around the world pray towards the building in the centre of the Grand Mosque in Mecca, and circumambulate it during Hajj and Umrah pilgrimages. The project will cost more than \$1 billion .



Visitors can also be immersed in the deep sea, as well as what looks like the floating Hallelujah Mountains out of "Avatar,"



The New Mukaab aims to inject \$48 billion into the Saudi economy and generate 334,000 new job opportunities.

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