

Celebrate Australia's colourful cultural diversity with a season of free festivals

As spring approaches, it's time to explore cultures from around the world in Sydney's backyard at Darling Harbour.

Each year, more than 10 community groups host their free, vibrant cultural festivals at Darling Harbour to celebrate their national days and showcase their finest traditions.

The community festivals' spring season kicks off in September with the **Malaysia Festival**, an event that has been held at Darling Harbour for more than 20 years. The festival is coordinated by a non-profit organisation dedicated to sharing the wonders and joys of Malaysian culture and will be held on Saturday 1 and Sunday 2 September.

October brings the **Lebanon Carnival**, proudly presented by the Cedars of Lebanon Folkloric Group. The carnival will fill Tumbalong Park with entertainment from incredible performers, showcasing the traditional and modern-day influences on Lebanese culture, on Sunday 7 October.

Celebrate the 50th anniversary of assisted Turkish migration to Australia at the annual **Taste of Turkey Festival** on Saturday 13 and Sunday 14 October. The festival will have live Turkish music, entertainment and cultural exhibitions, as well as traditional folk dancing workshops for all age groups!

The **New Beginnings Festival** is a one-day arts and culture festival on Saturday 3 November. The festival promotes the talents, vitality and diversity that people from refugee and migrant backgrounds bring to Australia's creative sector. The outdoor festival will feature live music, dance performances, kids' workshops and food and market stalls offering an array of international cuisines and cultural handicrafts.

The **Philippine Christmas Festival (Filipino Food Festival)** will give visitors a glimpse into the colourful celebrations of a Filipino Christmas. Visitors can enjoy all-day entertainment featuring traditional song and dance performances and food stalls touting festive Filipino dishes. There will be Christmas lanterns on display and carols. Bring family and friends to join in the celebrations during this two-day event on Saturday 10 and Sunday 11 November.

Since 2006, the **Nepal Festival** has attracted thousands of people to Darling Harbour to learn about the birthplace of Buddha, in a day of food, art and live performances. Join in all the fun again this year on Saturday 24 and Sunday 25 November.

The cultural festivals calendar continues into summer, with **Matsuri**, Sydney's largest Japanese festival, on Saturday 8 December. Matsuri celebrates Japanese culture and the cross-cultural friendship between the Japanese and Australian people with a variety of traditional attractions, food and performances.

The **Sydney Armenian Festival** on Sunday 16 December concludes the 2018 calendar. Come down for a fun-filled day of food, music, dancing and all things Armenian at Tumbalong Park.

From discovering the rich history of global cultures to enjoying delicious food and live performances, the cultural community festivals are the perfect way to spend your weekend.

To find out more, head to www.darlingharbour.com.

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