

# Fire up your engines for 6-week bash

SIX weeks of revelry have been lined up to celebrate Singapore's 43rd birthday.

The events will span the three weeks before and after National Day on Aug 9, and will include the usual highlights such as the fireworks display as well as new events like go-karting.

The two-day go-karting event will feature drifting clinics and demonstrations conducted by motorsports professionals as well as an opportunity for the public to try the go-karts on the actual F1 track.

Other new events include the Singapore Garden Festival, the Heart Rock Concert with various regional acts, as well as a new collaboration with the Bornfire Festival to keep the atmosphere heated.

The Bornfire Festival will feature performances as well as workshops on fire and circus arts.

But one old favourite – the fireworks display – is still likely to steal the show.

Award-winning fireworks teams from France and South Korea will be brought in to stage themed pyro-musicals, blending music with dazzling fireworks displays over a 15-minute period.

For the first time this year, about 2,500 tickets to watch the displays close up have been made available to the public and can be obtained

via [www.gatecrash.com.sg](http://www.gatecrash.com.sg) for \$18 a seat.

Those who want to watch the displays for free can still catch them from The Esplanade and Fullerton Bridge areas.

Lieutenant-Colonel Sunil Kumar, who heads the organising committee, said National Day celebrations should be spread out over several weeks to allow more people to be part of the festivities.

Caricature artist Kamal Dollah, who will be dolling up the glass panels of the Esplanade by spray-painting caricatures of images of the crowds, said: "I feel very proud...to be able to showcase my art, capture people's faces and emotions, and let Singaporeans have a good laugh at themselves."



He will also be at the Esplanade on National Day, together with other roving artists and bands such as Singapore Management University's percussion outfit Samba Masala, which will be revving up the crowd for the parade on the floating stage later in the evening.

For the first time, the parade will be broadcast live globally on Channel NewsAsia in an effort to allow Singaporeans living overseas to join in the celebrations.

**HE ZONGYING**  
**ARIF RAHMAN**