

BALUT

: is a fertilized duck egg that is boiled and eaten from its shell



Balut is sold all over the Philippines and known to be an exotic delicacy. It is a great challenge for many foreigners and locals to eat Balut. Balut is most commonly sold at night by vendors riding their bicycles carrying the Balut in small baskets. It is said to be best eaten at night so one does not have to see the gruesome but delicious duck he is about to devour.

For those who don't have the cast-iron stomach to eat the Balut, they can opt for a Penoy, which is a Balut minus the fertilized duck. Any trip to Cebu is not complete without trying Balut, as this would be considered a rare treat for tourists.

VOCABULARY

fertilized
exotic
rare
gruesome
devour
cast-iron stomach

QUESTIONS

1. Would you dare to eat this kind of food? Why or why not?
2. Do you have this kind of strange food in your country?
3. Do you think Balut is an interesting food?

EXERCISE

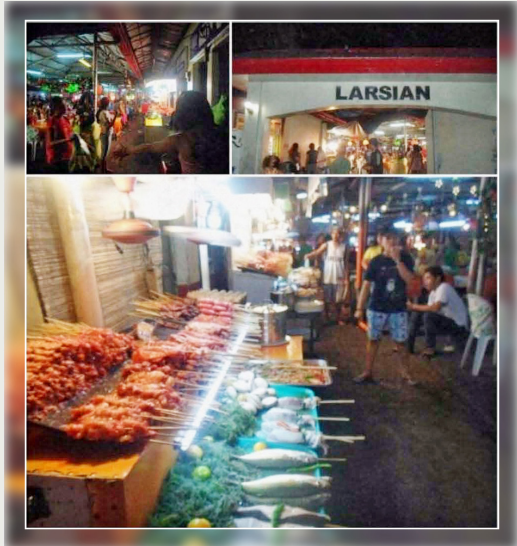
Use one of the words or phrases below to complete each of these sentences from the story.

fertilized exotic gruesome devours cast-iron stomach

1. Jason doesn't have a _____, he can't eat that snake.
2. Thailand offers a lot of _____ street food.
3. The lion has not eaten for days, it _____ its prey quickly.
4. A hen lays _____ egg for a week if it has mated even once.
5. The movie exhibits a _____ and terrifying act of violence.

BARBECUE (LARSIAN)

: a barbecue strip with numerous stalls



Larsian is an open-air market showcasing an array (or choices) of barbecue for barbecue enthusiasts. Most often customers are local patrons who come to enjoy delicious and affordable chicken and pork barbecue. It is easy to find as it is located in the city center easily accessible by taxi or by jeepney (a local transport within Cebu).

Once you enter, vendors will try to lure you to their stalls by offering excellent customer service and discounts. The distinct smell of flavorful barbecue will surely make you hungry. Spoons, forks or chopsticks are not readily available here because diners enjoy eating with bare hands. However, if you want to stay clean, plastic gloves are provided to use for free.

VOCABULARY

distinct
enthusiasts
patrons
lure
bare

QUESTIONS

1. Do you have this kind of place in your country?
2. Do you go to this kind of place when you eat out?
3. Do you like to eat barbecue? Why or why not?

EXERCISE

Use one of the words or phrases below to complete each of these sentences from the story.

Distinct enthusiasts patrons lure bare

1. The Aurora Borealis is a _____ phenomenon common in the Northern Hemisphere.
2. _____ often visits this busy ice cream shop.
3. The dress was too short, it showed her _____ legs.
4. He is an _____ for rap music.
5. Low prices _____ shoppers.

HANGING RICE

: rice, wrapped in coconut leaves and steamed to perfection



Puso (hanging rice) is rice that is steamed and woven in coconut leaves. And because it is designed this way, it is easy to carry and a great convenience for travelers who have to eat on the road. To eat puso, all one has to do is cut the leaves open to expose the delicious rice and start eating away. Puso is available in restaurants that serve local dishes, likewise in street stalls that serve street foods. Puso is commonly eaten with deep fried chicken, spring rolls, barbeque and pork dumplings (siomai).

VOCABULARY

steamed
wove
tricky
convenience
expose

QUESTIONS

1. Describe your favorite food.
2. What is the most unusual thing you've ever eaten? Did it taste good or bad?
3. Do you like finger foods?

EXERCISE

Use one of the words or phrases below to complete each of these sentences from the story.

steamed wove tricky convenience expose

1. The interview questions were _____, she had difficulty answering them.
2. Her friends encourage her to _____ her secret.
3. We bought freshly _____ dumplings for breakfast.
4. She _____ cloth on her loom.
5. She went to the _____ store to buy some toiletries.

JOLLIBEE

: is a Philippine multinational chain of fast-food restaurants headquartered in Pasig City, Philippines



Jollibee is McDonald's competition and greatest rival and is a great fast food alternative. This fast food restaurant is known for its fried chicken that is called "Chicken Joy" which is its trademark item. Jollibee's also serves many other tasty dishes that have the unbeatable and traditional Filipino signature taste, which is a combination of spicy, salty and a little bit sweet and are sure to make you crave this food. This Filipino style restaurant is craved by young and old alike. Jollibee has many branches nationwide and it has also open branches across the globe. A notable event was the opening of a brand new branch in Canada.

VOCABULARY

unbeatable
rival
notable
trademark
crave

QUESTIONS

1. What is the most famous fast-food restaurant in your country?
2. Do you like to eat in a fast-food restaurant?
3. What is your opinion of fast-food restaurants?

EXERCISE

Use one of the words or phrases below to complete each of these sentences from the story.

unbeatable rival notable trademark craves

1. The country's national team is _____ in soccer.
2. Hayao Miyazaki is _____ for being a masterful storyteller and maker of anime feature films.
3. Samsung is Apple's biggest and top _____.
4. Anna _____ for some chicken teriyaki.
5. Krispy Kreme is famous for its _____ honey-glazed doughnuts.

ROASTED PIG

: a roasted whole pig, or piglet seasoned in spices, cooked in charcoal



No celebration could be complete without serving the famous “lechon”. Serving “lechon” even signifies a family’s wealth showing status. Roasting the pig can be a very long and drawn out process and the wait agonizing but it delivers a delicious product in the end. Slaughtering, cleaning, stuffing herbs and spices into the pig and finally roasting for hours over hot coals is all part of the long process of preparing and cooking “lechon”. When the pig is ready it becomes a reddish and golden brown color showing the pig is ready and it produces a very tender meat. There are many lechon shops all over Cebu where you can pre-order or buy by kilograms for your next celebration. Lechon can be quite pricey but it’s worth every peso.

VOCABULARY

signifies
status
agonizing
slaughtering
tender

QUESTIONS

1. What national dishes from your country would you recommend to the world?
2. Do you think your country’s food is the best?
3. What kinds of international cuisine do you like?

EXERCISE

Use one of the words or phrases below to complete each of these sentences from the story.

Signifies status agonizing slaughtering tender

1. Raising the white flag _____ peace.
2. Her relationship _____ is complicated.
3. The _____ beef was his favorite during the meal.
4. _____ of endangered animals should be stopped.
5. The long walk up the steep hill was very _____.

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