

## A Guyanese Easter



Easter is a very unique and exciting time in Guyana, and it is celebrated with kites. Big ones, small ones, round ones, boxed ones and every which way. Along the coast, there is a seawall to keep the seas out of our 'six feet below sea-level' land and our coast is blessed with the steady breezes of the Atlantic tradewinds and this makes the seawall the perfect location for kite flying.

Kites can be seen dotting the skies from a week before

Easter. But Easter Monday (a holiday vestige of our Anglo colonial history) is the major day for kite flying. Music blasts from trucks for miles along the seawall and, of course, all kinds of food stalls and carts overflow with everything from curry and roti to plantain and cook-up rice. Cold beers and drinks are in abundance as kite-flying is thirsty work.

The practice of kite flying originated because of the unique geographic conditions but it signifies the ascension of Jesus into the heavens on the third day after the crucifixion on Good Friday. Many adults tell children that they fly kites on Easter Monday in an attempt to reach out to Jesus and earn his blessings and goodwill as he ascends to the heavens.



Easter Monday is an enjoyable day that usually leaves everyone sunburned, exhausted, and reeling with excitement on Tuesday. The number of kites caught in overhead wires along the road or in very tall coconut trees are a testament to how much fun was had by all on Easter Monday.