

## Style & Culture – South East Asia 3

It is said, the old buildings of Portuguese architecture are colourful, charming with intricate and decorative details. That is true. The cobble stone walking path of the old city is a memory lane of a village somewhere in Europe.

But amid to the European architectural flavour, the East influence of local buildings, the food shops remind the tourist of the city lane in Singapore. That contrast has affirmed the beauty of this old city of Macao. Macao's cuisine and architecture is a fusion of Chinese and Portuguese cultures. The locals speak fluently in Spanish, Chinese and English.



The tourists' rowdiness, the smell of baked egg tart and pork jerky, the bustling of the city, are what to expect here.



Opposite to these old town homes [shown above] are the well known bakery to many visitors. The hot egg tarts are freshly baked many times during the day, in keeping the flavour intact to satisfy the taste bud of the tourists arriving there every hour from morning till dawn. Tasting a hot egg tart, is a sweet deal to this Macao trip. But, if you are not a sweet tooth, then try the local beef or pork jerky here. They are so tasty, sweet, peppery, spicy, and this snack is sold either in this bakery or in the shops below the hill of the old city. Majority of the tourists from South East Asia, prefer the taste of the jerky here. And some come here every year for the jerky, believe it or not?

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The old city is ended where The Town Hall is located. It is painted in white with stone carvings as architraves *[as below]*



A statue of Jorge Alvarez's is erected in this park, right in the centre of Macao City. Parks are scattered around hotels and casinos. It is said, formula 1 grand prix is taken place here, in Macao. This is a big event at an expense that runs in millions. But, let's focus to Jorge Alvarez. Around 500 years ago, in June 1513 Jorge Alvarez landed in Southern China. He is the first European explorer to have reached China and Hong Kong by sea. And on December 20, 1999 Macao became the last colony to be handed back over to the People's Republic of China, thus ending the colonial rule.

