National Day fun to stretch beyond Marina Bay

THIS year’s National Day Parade (NDP) celebrations will be extended beyond the Marina Bay waterfront and involve more than 100,000 Singaporeans.

Besides the main parade on the floating platform at Marina Bay, there will be live telecasts and performances in eight other locations – the Esplanade, the Singapore Flyer, the Marina Barrage, Marina Bay Sands’ event plaza, Clifford Square, the Promontory@Marina Bay, Resorts World Sentosa (RWS) and the Padang.

Lieutenant-Colonel Kennedy Lim, who chairs the parade’s outreach management and celebrations committee, said: “It’s a concerted effort to extend the festivities from the float so we can connect with more Singaporeans.”

The focus will, however, still be around Marina Bay, he said, to draw attention to its completed skyline and showcase Singapore’s progress.

RWS will offer 5,000 senior citizens aged 65 and above free entry to its Universal Studios theme park on Aug 9. Tickets may be redeemed in person at the park’s ticketing booths from Aug 1 to Aug 5. It will also have a five-minute fireworks display there from 9pm on Aug 9.

Organisers have also unveiled a “Pledge Moment” competition, which invites Singaporeans to film themselves taking the pledge with the whole nation in a creative manner. They hope this will encourage more people to recite the pledge and sing the national anthem at about 8.10pm on Aug 9. The competition is open from Aug 9 to Aug 16, and up to $10,000 worth of prizes are on offer.

Participants can upload their videos on YouTube and submit the links using the contest form on the official NDP 2011 website at http://www.ndp.org.sg or mail a CD/DVD to 1169 Piccadilly Road, Singapore 797781.

With roads closed for Saturday’s NDP National Education Show, 14 bus services will be temporarily diverted between 9am and 11.30pm. For details, visit www.sbstransit.com.sg