

What's On *festivals* Summer 2023





Welcome to Leicester Festivals

Leicester is a unique city and a wonderful place to visit, with a superb range of visitor attractions and shopping that is second to none.

It's a city that combines the finest English traditions with multicultural activities and the cosmopolitan feel of city life. Throughout the year, our city buzzes with amazing festivals and fabulous events and this summer is no exception.

With masterclass performances at Let's Dance International Frontiers, chilled-out summer atmosphere at Riverside Festival, live music at Ibiza Proms in the Park and Beyond Festival, cycling fun with Open Streets, world cultures at Journeys International Festival and diversity at Cosmopolitan Arts Festival.

Enjoy all day partying at Caribbean Carnival, relaxing music at For the Love of Jazz, South Asian arts & culture at Belgrave Mela, creativity at Punk Weekender, climate focus at Re/action Festival, flamboyant parade at Pride...plus much more!

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Leicester Riverside Festival

Saturday 3 and Sunday 4 June

12noon – 6pm & 12noon – 5pm

**Bede Park, Castle Gardens, Western Boulevard
and River Soar**

One of Leicester's biggest free festivals, spread across various sites, features activities on and off the water. Keep an eye out for highlights on the river including colourful boats from across the region, demonstrations and boat trips.

On land, there's plenty more to entertain the whole family, listen to a fantastic line up of live music on the main stage and chilled out acoustic area.

Food lovers can enjoy a varied choice of quality street food from around the globe and sample some craft ales, lager, cocktails and much more from registered bars.

Wind your way through the sites by exploring this year's local art installations. For the first time Vehicle Arts introduces a 10-piece visual arts trail to the festival titled Up Your High Street: We Are Leicester.

Walk along the boulevard lined with a market full of local, hand-crafted gifts and adorning the railings view 'Art on River', a gallery of local talent.

Adults and kids alike can get creative with an array of activities on the parks from arts & crafts to live theatre or sit back and enjoy the ride with children's funfair and much more to keep you busy across the weekend.

W: visitleicester.info





Let's Dance International Frontiers

Saturday 29 April - Saturday 6 May

Various locations

The annual international dance festival showcases high quality dance that celebrates diversity and intersectional identities. Supporting the work of 280 artists from over 46 countries with the theme Uncovering The Dance Within: Origins and Authenticity.

The range of dance performances, masterclasses, conversations and annual conference gives a voice to how artists have reimagined approaches to dance from the African and African Caribbean Diaspora.

W: serendipity-uk.com



Walk Leicester Festival

Monday 1 – Wednesday 31 May

Various locations

Walk Leicester Festival is a month-long festival that celebrates Leicester's heritage and great outdoors. Now in its fifth year, the festival aims to get people out and about with a range of activities that will make walking fun for all ages and abilities.

Whether you want to take a walk in the fresh air, see beautiful sights, explore your local parks and open spaces, connect with your community, or learn more about the city's great heritage, there will be something for everyone.

W: choosehowyoumove.co.uk/walkleicester



Bike Fest

Last Saturday of every month

27 May, 24 June, 29 July, 26 August,

30 September and 28 October

1pm – 4pm

Leicester Cycle Circuit

This free monthly event provides the chance to try all sorts of cycles on our traffic-free cycle circuit as many times as you want at a pace that suits and open to all ages and abilities. With British Cycling Go-Ride coaches, Cycling UK's E-bike try-out, Cyclone Works & Leicester Wheels For All to help improve cycling skills for the whole family.

W: visitleicester.info

Open Streets

Last Sunday of every month

**28 May, 25 June, 30 July, 27 August
and 24 September**

**Town Hall Square, Green Dragon Square,
Gallowtree Gate and Humberstone Gate**

Leicester's Open Streets event is back with traffic free streets, open for people. Walk, wheel or cycle into the city centre for free family-friendly fun. With Danny Butler's Mountain Bike Show, Cyclone Works, Cycling UK, Wheels For All, Graffwerks, Street-art Market, guided tours, climbing wall and live music from Sambando and BETAcoustix.

W: visitleicester.info



Ibiza Proms in the Park

Friday 23 June

5pm – 10pm

Abbey Park

Experience a two-hour musical journey through house and trance, performed by a 50-Piece Orchestra. They have played all over the UK in symphony halls, festival stages, stately homes, seaside piers, arenas, cathedrals and other fantastic spaces. Plus enjoy a street food village, bars and fairground

W: promsleicester.co.uk



Armed Forces Day

Saturday 24 June

10.40am

Jubilee Square and City Centre

A parade of military personnel across the city centre, including High Street and Clock Tower followed by an open-air drumhead service in Jubilee Square, which members of the public are welcome to join. In addition, a number of static displays in Humberstone Gate showcasing the work of the armed forces.

W: visitleicester.info





Beyond Festival

Saturday 24 June

11am – 10pm

Abbey Park

After huge success in 2022, the event returns to the idyllic surrounds of Abbey Park for the best Drum & Bass, House, Techno, UKG, Disco, RnB, Grime, Bass, Jungle and everything in between. With three incredible stages, over 30 international artists, local food stalls, fairground rides and more.

W: beyond-festival.co.uk



Journeys Festival International

Saturday 22 and Sunday 23 July

City Centre

Journeys Festival International brings people together to explore big ideas and create exciting experiences, embracing world cultures and the world around us. The streets of Leicester will be filled with outdoor shows, circus, dance, hip-hop and disco bikes. Watch as paintings spring to life, discover a blend of virtual reality and live performance or join an urban safari. Enjoy as the festival takes over the city centre for an excellent weekend of free creative and cultural activity.

W: journeysfestival.com



An Indian Summer

Sunday 23 July

11am – 7.30pm

Curve and Orton Square

An Indian Summer is taking over Curve and Orton Square for a one day festival extravaganza - from tantalising Mumbai street food to the vibrant colours of Rajasthan; experience an eclectic mix of music, dance and pop up theatre, films, talks and family workshops. Headline performer, Nitin Sawhney, will be showcasing his new album 'Immigrants', along with his back catalogue of work.

W: indiansummer.org.uk

Cosmopolitan Arts Festival

Saturday 29 July

1pm – 10pm

Jubilee Square and City Centre

A dazzling celebration of cultural diversity with free arts workshops, stage and performance areas dotted around the city centre. The main stage area in Jubilee Square will host a fantastic line up of local, national and international talent, followed by a spectacular finale performance specially created with mapped film project, music and dance. Following the festival Haymarket Leicester will host a digital immersive experience from 11 – 13 August.

W: cosmopolitanarts.co.uk



Leicester Caribbean Carnival

Saturday 5 August

11am - 8pm

Victoria Park and City Centre Parade

Leicester's Caribbean Carnival village at Victoria Park opens to the public at 11am with the official opening ceremony on Granville Road 12.30pm, followed by the annual street carnival parade. Victoria Park hosts a variety of activities including three music stages featuring a wide variety of performances from different parts of the country and beyond. Enjoy games, children's fun fair and sample the delicious food representing many countries around the world.

W: leicestercarnival.com



For the Love of Jazz

Saturday 12 and Sunday 13 August

12noon – 8pm

Jubilee Square and City Centre

This star-studded event hosts the best international, national and local jazz artists and musicians, featuring different styles of jazz music and dance, plus free family workshops across the weekend.

W: cosmopolitanarts.co.uk





PUNK Festival Weekender

Friday 18 – Sunday 20 August

Various Locations

Celebrate the creativity and chaos of the Punk era in a one-of-a-kind Punk Festival Weekender. Curated by the award-winning team behind 2019's Mods Shaping a Generation exhibition & Revive Festival, venues, shops and bars across the city play host to Punk and counterculture themed events. Expect films, live music, art, fashion, talks and more with a large public music event on Jubilee Square from 12noon – 8pm on Saturday.

W: rageandrevolution.co.uk



Leicester Belgrave Mela

Sunday 20 August

11am - 6pm

City Centre

Leicester Belgrave Mela invite you to a day of scintillating entertainment, dazzling street performances, mouth-watering cuisine and dazzling arts and Indian culture. Enjoy a host of South Asian arts and cultural experiences and spot a bargain in the Mela shopping bazaar at Leicester Market.

W: leicester-mela.co.uk



Re/action Festival

Saturday 26 and Sunday 27 August

City Centre

Re/action festival celebrates Creativity for the Climate, with a focus on people and communities coming together to make small changes that add up to make a big difference. This inclusive festival features marvellous outdoor shows, giant puppets and tiny creatures.

Explore the world of bees, watch an orchestra playing tunes on vegetables, drink tea from herbs grown locally and listen to the trees sing. With pop-up performances, exhibitions and installations the festival helps people to learn how to re/wind our environmental impact. In the re/purpose area re/work old textiles, save household items and re/discover new ways to re/use old things.

W: reactionfestival.org.uk

Brew Beat

Friday 1 – Sunday 3 September

Jubilee Square

A celebration of music, local talent, craft beer, cocktails and street food, Brew Beat returns for the third time in 2023. The festival brings an extravaganza of live music, with some of Leicester's best musical talent, as well as well-known acts from further afield. Expect food stalls from the city's most loved restaurants, and a drinks selection with something for everyone.

W: brewbeat.co.uk



Credit: Alex Hannam/BID Leicester

Leicester Pride

Saturday 2 September

12noon – 9pm

Abbey Park and parade

Leicester Pride returns this summer with the parade starting from Curve at noon. It will make its way through the city to Abbey Park for 1pm where the main festival starts.

Featuring a main stage, DJ tent, Billy Bates Fair, market area and community area plus much more to be confirmed.

W: leicesterpride.com



Heritage Open Days

Friday 8 September – Sunday 17 September

Various locations

Heritage Open Days celebrates England's fantastic architecture and history by offering free access to properties that are usually closed to the public or normally charge for admission.

During the ten days discover hidden architectural treasures and enjoy a wide range of tours, events and activities which bring to life local history and culture. As well as old favourites there are plenty of new events to be enjoyed showcasing the fact that Leicester has so many hidden historical gems and stories to discover.

W: visitleicester.info



Event	Date	Time	Venue
April			
Let's Dance International Frontiers	Saturday 29 April – Saturday 6 May	Various	Various locations
Vaisakhi Nagar Kirtan Procession	Sunday 30 April	11am – 4pm	Guru Nanak Gurdwara to Guru Tegh Bahadu Gurdwara
May			
Walk Leicester Festival	Monday 1 – Wednesday 31 May	Various	Various locations
King's Coronation Screening	Saturday 6 May		De Montfort University Big Screen
Eurovision 2023	Saturday 13 May		De Montfort University Big Screen
Bike Fest	Saturday 27 May	1pm – 4pm	Leicester Cycle Circuit
Billy Bates Funfair	Saturday 27 May – Sunday 4 June		Humberstone Gate West
Open Streets	Sunday 28 May	1pm - 4pm	City Centre
June			
Haymarket 50th Anniversary	Friday 2 June		Leicester Haymarket Shopping
Leicester Riverside Festival	Saturday 3 & Sunday 4 June	12noon – 6pm & 12noon – 5pm	Bede Park & Castle Gardens
Clarendon Park Summer Fair	Sunday 18 June	11am – 5pm	Queens Road
Ibiza Proms in the Park	Friday 23 June	5pm – 10pm	Abbey Park
Armed Forces Day	Saturday 24 June	10.40am	City Centre
Beyond Festival	Saturday 24 June	11am – 10pm	Abbey Park
Bike Fest	Saturday 24 June	1pm – 4pm	Leicester Cycle Circuit
Open Streets	Sunday 25 June	1pm – 4pm	City Centre
July			
Rathayatra	Sunday 2 July	12noon start	City Centre
The Leicester Peace and Love Festival	Saturday 8 July	12noon - 6pm	Humberstone Gate West
Billy Bates Funfair	Saturday 8 July – Tuesday 29 August		Abbey Park
Billy Bates Funfair	Sunday 15 July – Thursday 31 August		Humberstone Gate West
Get Up and Go	Wednesday 19 & 26 July	11am – 3pm	Town Hall Square

Event	Date	Time	Venue
Outdoor Cinema	Friday 21 July	7pm – 11pm	Jubilee Square
Fake Festival	Saturday 22 July		Victoria Park
Journeys Festival International	Saturday 22 & Sunday 23 July		City Centre
An Indian Summer	Sunday 23 July	11am – 7.30pm	Curve & Orton Square
Bike Fest	Saturday 29 July	1pm - 4pm	Leicester Cycle Circuit
Cosmopolitan Arts	Saturday 29 July	1pm – 10pm	City Centre
Open Streets	Sunday 30 July	1pm – 4pm	City Centre
August			
National Play Day	Wednesday 2 August	11am – 3pm	Town Hall Square
Leicester Caribbean Carnival	Saturday 5 August	11am – 8pm	Victoria Park & City Centre Parade
Get Up and Go	Wednesday 9 & 16 August	11am – 3pm	Town Hall Square
Evington Village Show	Saturday 12 August	12noon – 5pm	Evington Village Green
For the Love of Jazz	Saturday 12 & Sunday 13 August	12noon – 8pm	City Centre
Punk Festival Weekender	Friday 18 – Sunday 20 August	Various	Various Locations
Leicester Belgrave Mela	Sunday 20 August	11am – 6pm	City Centre
Bike Fest	Saturday 26 August	1pm – 4pm	Leicester Cycle Circuit
Re/action Festival	Saturday 26 & Sunday 27 August	Various	City Centre
Open Streets	Sunday 27 August	1pm – 4pm	City Centre
September			
Brew Beat	Friday 1 – Sunday 3 September		Jubilee Square
Leicester Pride	Saturday 2 September	12noon – 9pm	Abbey Park
Heritage Open Days	Friday 8 – Sunday 17 September		Various locations
African Fest UK	Saturday 9 September	12noon - 6pm	Humberstone Gate West
Open Streets	Saturday 24 September	1pm – 4pm	City Centre
Bike Fest	Sunday 30 September	1pm – 4pm	Leicester Cycle Circuit



Find out more about these exciting festivals and so much more happening in the city at Visit Leicester. The centre is the hub for information located at 4A St. Martins, Leicester LE1 5DB or call us on +44(0)116 299 4444.

Our friendly, helpful staff are on-hand to ensure you make the most of your time in the city.

Stop by the information centre for maps, travel information and a personalised service based on your interests.

Browse through the many brochures on display, giving you information about everything that's happening in the city.

Find out more at: visitleicester.info

  [visitleicester](https://www.facebook.com/visitleicester)  [visit_leicester](https://twitter.com/visit_leicester) [#leicesterfestivals](https://twitter.com/visit_leicester)

All details were correct at the time of going to print. We apologise for any changes that may be necessary.