

# What's On *festivals* Summer 2024





## 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.

Discover history and heritage at St George's Day Festival, Give it a Go activities at Spark, award-winning street art with Bring the Paint, masterclass performances at Let's Dance International Frontiers, chilled-out summer atmosphere at Riverside Festival and cycling fun with Open Streets.

Enjoy food from street vendors at Leicester Food Festival, relaxing music at For the Love of Jazz, South Asian arts and culture with an Indian Summer and Leicester Mela, diverse performances at Cosmopolitan Arts Festival, flamboyant parade at Pride and hidden treasures with Heritage Open Days...plus much more!

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# Festival highlight



## Leicester Riverside Festival

**Saturday 1 June 12noon – 6pm**

**Sunday 2 June 12noon – 5pm**

**Bede Park, Western Boulevard, River Soar, Castle Gardens & DMU Campus**

One of Leicester's biggest free festivals celebrates its 25th Anniversary, with fun on and off the water. Activities at Bede Park, Western Boulevard, Castle Gardens, the River Soar and new for this year, the DMU Campus.

Keep an eye out for highlights on the river including colourful boats from across the region and demonstrations, and boat trips.

On land, there's plenty more to entertain the whole family and chill out to the fantastic line-up on the main stage. Food lovers can enjoy a varied choice of quality street food from around the globe and sample craft ales, lager, cocktails and much more from registered bars.

The Boulevard and Mill Lane will be lined with a market full of local, hand-crafted gifts and adorn the railings with 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 the funfair. There's much more to keep everyone busy across the weekend.

**W: [visitleicester.info](http://visitleicester.info)**





# St George's Day Festival

**Saturday 20 April**

**12noon – 5pm**

**Old Town**

As the clock strikes 12, Leicester's Cathedral bells will ring to open St George's Day Celebrations in the new location: Leicester's Old Town.

The chimes mark a day of history and heritage across the area in and around Leicester Cathedral, Leicester Guildhall and the King Richard III Visitor Centre.

Fun for all ages includes venue tours and trails, living history re-enactments, morris and maypole dancing, storytelling, outdoor theatre, arts and crafts, a medieval market, film screenings and of course knights and dragons. Join us to bring Old Town alive.

**W: [visitleicester.info](http://visitleicester.info)**

# St George's Day Ale Trail

**Saturday 20 and Sunday 21 April**

**City Centre**

Follow the Ale Trail to visit some of Leicester's most historic pubs and bars each marking St George's Day weekend with a special offer.

With participating venues dating back as far as 15th century, history buffs and food and drink fanatics will all find something to entice. Which well know bar is thought to have begun life as a female prison, sharing under-ground tunnels below the city streets? Which oldest pub in Leicester houses a well in its cellar? And which pub is the namesake of an overnight inn for our very own Plantagenet King?



**Scan the QR code to see all participating venues on Visit Leicester plus a link to the Loyal Free app trail:**

**W: [visitleicester.info](http://visitleicester.info)**

## Leicester Regatta

**Sunday 21 April**

**8.30am – 5.30pm**

**Leicester Rowing Club**

One of the largest regattas in the East Midlands. The action starts at 8.30am and goes on all day, until 5.30pm in the afternoon. Refreshments available upstairs, including the best home-made cakes at any regatta

**W: [leicester-rowing.co.uk/leicester-regatta](http://leicester-rowing.co.uk/leicester-regatta)**



## Let's Dance International Frontiers

**Monday 29 April – Saturday 4 May**

**Curve, Phoenix, City Rooms, Serendipity Institute for Black Arts and Heritage**

Let's Dance International Frontiers 2024 explores the theme of Camouflage: Embodied Dance. Launching with a new work by Raúl Reinoso and concluding with headliners, National Dance Theatre Company of Jamaica.

**W: [serendipity-uk.com](http://serendipity-uk.com)**



The Sticky Dance by Second Hand Dance, 2024  
Photographer: Zoe Manders

## Walk Leicester Festival

**Wednesday 1 – Friday 31 May**

**Various locations**

A month-long celebration of walking and its benefits for health, happiness and the environment, through a series of free walks. The aim is to inspire and motivate people to lead a more active lifestyle through walking, creating a positive impact on mental wellbeing, social connections, and community spirit.

It is also a great opportunity to promote active travel and encourage people to choose more sustainable modes of transport, helping to reduce our carbon footprint and improve air quality in the city.

**W: [visitleicester.info](http://visitleicester.info)**







## The 21st Spark Festival

**Saturday 18 – Saturday 25 May**

### Various locations

Celebrate Joy, Freedom, and Choice at the 21st Spark festival with seven action-packed days, 34 performances, 15 'Give it a Go' activities and workshops and two exhibitions.

See a show at one of the fantastic venues that are part of the festival and experience some of your favourite cultural spots across the city.

It's time to start planning your Spark Festival journey!

**W: [thesparkarts.co.uk](http://thesparkarts.co.uk)**



## Bring the Paint: Street Art Festival

**Monday 20 – Sunday 26 May**

### Various locations

The fourth instalment of the award-winning street art festival boasts the largest line up of acclaimed street artists. The festival features a huge selection of international, national and local artists creating over 30 murals across city, as well as a host of exhibitions, workshops, live music events, street tours and many other family friendly activities.

**W: [bringthepaint.co.uk](http://bringthepaint.co.uk)**



## Open Streets

**Last Sunday of every month**

**26 May, 30 June, 28 July, 25 August  
and 29 September**

### Various locations

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](http://visitleicester.info)**

# Windrush Caribbean High Tea on the Park

**Saturday 22 June**  
**12noon – 9pm**

## Diversity Day

**Sunday 23 June**  
**2pm – 8pm**

### Museum Square

A weekend of celebrations of culture and community. On Saturday indulge in a VIP Caribbean High Tea with live entertainment and Caribbean cuisine. On Sunday discover Culture Clash, a day filled with music, dance, and culinary delights that celebrate Leicester's rich cultural diversity.

**W: [opal22.co.uk](http://opal22.co.uk)**



# Armed Forces Day Parade & Service

**Saturday 29 June**

**11am parade start, 11.20am service start**

### Jubilee Square & City Centre

As part of Armed Forces week, the annual Military Parade along High Street and service at Jubilee Square. An opportunity to show support for the Armed Forces community, including serving troops, service families, veterans and cadets. Members of the public are invited to line the parade route in the city centre and join the armed forces for a service in Jubilee Square.

**W: [visitleicester.info](http://visitleicester.info)**



# For the Love of Jazz

**Saturday 20 July**  
**12noon – 8pm**

### Jubilee Square

A celebration of all things jazz with some of the best musicians in the industry. From award-winning artists to emerging talents, enjoy a diverse line-up that caters to all jazz enthusiasts and music lovers.

**W: [cosmopolitanarts.co.uk](http://cosmopolitanarts.co.uk)**





## An Indian Summer

**Friday 9 – Sunday 11 August**

**Various locations**

An exciting weekend of contemporary South Asian arts, celebrating the fusion of creativity across South Asia and the UK. The vibrant festival programme includes live music, theatre, comedy, exhibitions, workshops, talks and film screenings. Immerse yourself in cultural blends, such as delicious Keralan street food, chai and storytelling, bhangra and beatbox, hip hop and holi, to the mesmerising sounds of sufi and qawwali.

**W: [indiansummer.org.uk](http://indiansummer.org.uk)**



## Leicester Food Festival

**Saturday 10 & Sunday 11 August**

**Saturday 11am – 10pm**

**Sunday 11am – 8pm**

**Abbey Park**

Set to be the biggest food event of the year, the Leicester Food Festival will be making its debut this August, creating a paradise for food and drink lovers. With a diverse range of cuisines from local traders and beyond, including street food vendors, bars, local brewers, cocktails, and array of sweet treats. In addition, enjoy live local music, entertainment, workshops, tastings, talks, children's cooking classes, a circus school and other fun activities for all the family.

**W: [leicesterfoodfestival.co.uk](http://leicesterfoodfestival.co.uk)**



## Leicester Mela

**Saturday 17 & Sunday 18 August**

**Saturday 1pm – 7pm**

**Sunday 12noon – 7pm**

**Abbey Park**

After 20 years, Leicester Mela Festival returns to Abbey Park. With two days of live music, dance, food, fashion, South Asian culture and more!

**W: [leicestermela.co.uk](http://leicestermela.co.uk)**



# Cosmopolitan Arts Festival

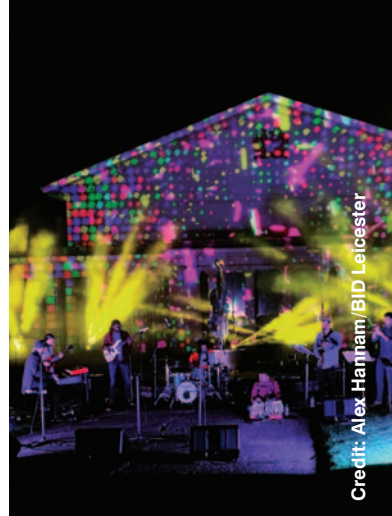
**Saturday 24 August**

**1pm – 9pm**

**Jubilee Square and Clocktower**

Celebrate Leicester's rich culture with incredible music artists, dance, art, and fun-filled workshops taking over the city centre.

**W: [cosmopolitanarts.co.uk](http://cosmopolitanarts.co.uk)**



# Leicester Pride

**Saturday 31 August**

**12noon – 9pm**

**Abbey Park**

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](http://leicesterpride.com)**



# Heritage Open Days

**Friday 6 – Sunday 15 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.

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](http://visitleicester.info)**



Event	Date	Time	Venue
<b>April 2024</b>			
St George's Day Festival	Saturday 20 April	12noon – 5pm	Old Town
St George's Day Ale Trail	Saturday 20 & Sunday 21 April	Check venues for opening times	Leicester City Centre
Leicester's Regatta	Sunday 21 April	8.30am – 5.30pm	Leicester Rowing Club
Vaisakhi Procession Nagar Kirtan	Sunday 28 April	11.30am – 2.30pm	From Holy Bones to East Park Road temples
Bike Fest	Sunday 28 April	1pm – 4pm	Leicester Cycle Circuit
Let's Dance International Frontiers	Monday 29 April – Sunday 4 May	Various	Various
<b>May 2024</b>			
Walk Leicester Festival	Wednesday 1 – Friday 31 May	Various	Various
The 21st Spark Festival	Saturday 18 – Saturday 25 May	Various	Various
Bring the Paint	Monday 20 – Sunday 26 May	Various	Various
Billy Bates Funfair	Saturday 25 May Sunday 2 June	Various	Humberstone Gate West
Bike Fest	Sunday 26 May	1pm – 4pm	Leicester Cycle Circuit
Open Streets	Sunday 26 May	1pm – 4pm	City Centre
<b>June 2024</b>			
Leicester Riverside Festival	Saturday 1 & Sunday 2 June	Saturday 12noon – 6pm Sunday 12noon – 5pm	Bede Park, Castle Gardens, Western Boulevard River Soar & DMU Campus
Eid Prayers & Festival	Between 13 – 21 June	9am – 7pm	Victoria Park
Queens Road Summer Fair	Sunday 16 June	11am – 5pm	Queens Road
Windrush Caribbean High Tea on the Park	Saturday 22 June	12noon – 9pm	Museum Square
Diversity Day	Sunday 23 June	2pm – 8pm	Museum Square
Armed Forces Day Parade & Service	Saturday 29 June	Parade 11am Service 11.20am	High Steet, service at Jubilee Square
Rathayatra	Sunday 30 June	12 noon	Begins at Humberstone Gate
Bike Fest	Sunday 30 June	1pm – 4pm	Leicester Cycle Circuit
Open Streets	Sunday 30 June	1pm – 4pm	City Centre

Event	Date	Time	Venue
<b>July 2024</b>			
Kasabian Solstice II	Saturday 6 July	Doors at 3.30pm	Victoria Park
Billy Bates Funfair	Monday 8 July – Thursday 29 August	Various	Abbey Park
Billy Bates Funfair	Saturday 13 July – Monday 26 August	Various	Humberstone Gate West
For the Love of Jazz	Saturday 20 July	12noon – 8pm	Jubilee Square
Halal Food Festival	Saturday 27 & Sunday 28 July	12noon start	Victoria Park
Bike Fest	Sunday 28 July	1pm – 4pm	Leicester Cycle Circuit
Open Streets	Sunday 28 July	1pm – 4pm	City Centre
<b>August 2024</b>			
An Indian Summer	Friday 9 – Sunday 11 August	Various	Various venues across Cultural Quarter
Fake Festival	Saturday 10 August	11.45am – 11pm	Victoria Park
Leicester Food Festival	Saturday 10 & Sunday 11 August	Saturday 11am – 10pm Sunday 11am – 8pm	Abbey Park
Outdoor Theatre	Thursday 15 – Sunday 18 August	Various	De Montfort Hall
Get Up and Go	Friday 23 August	11am – 3pm	Victoria Park
Cosmopolitan Arts Festival	Saturday 24 August	1pm – 9pm	Jubilee Square, Clock Tower
Bike Fest	Sunday 25 August	1pm – 4pm	Leicester Cycle Circuit
Open Streets	Sunday 25 August	1pm – 4pm	Various City Centre
Brew Beat	Friday 30 August – Sunday 1 September	12noon – 10pm	Jubilee Square
Leicester Pride	Saturday 31 August	12noon – 9pm	Abbey Park
<b>September 2024</b>			
Heritage Open Days	Friday 6 – Sunday 15 September	1pm – 4pm	Various
Bike Fest	Sunday 29 September	1pm – 4pm	Leicester Cycle Circuit
Open Streets	Sunday 29 September	1pm – 4pm	City Centre





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](https://www.visitleicester.info)**



**visitleicester**



**visit\_leicester #leicesterfestivals**

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