

Dream tickets you'll want to book today

Nowhere does festivals like the UK, says **Katie Gibson**. Here are the ones you definitely won't want to miss out on this year

BEST FOR MUSIC LOVERS

JUNE 11-14 ISLE OF WIGHT FESTIVAL
With a line-up boasting the likes of Fleetwood Mac, Blur, The Black Keys and The Prodigy, this year's Isle of Wight festival is well worth crossing the Solent for. Away from the main stage you'll find everything from Eighties electro to soul, funk and disco classics, as well as circus acts, art installations and even a casino. And if you have little ones in tow, head to the kids' zone for storytelling, arts and crafts and dressing up. It's all just two days away, though, so you'll have to be quick to snap up a ticket.
isleofwightfestival.com

JUNE 24-28 GLASTONBURY FESTIVAL
Grab your wellies and head west for the biggest festival of the summer. With everyone from Foo Fighters and The Who to Kanye West and Florence and the Machine, plus big-name DJs (below), there really is something for



everyone. And thanks to EE, it'll be the most connected festival ever, with 4G coverage and lots of places to charge your phone so you can share all those smugg selfies on the spot. If you missed out on tickets, just get the barbecue going, pull up a deck chair and catch all the action on the BBC.
glastonburyfestivals.co.uk

JULY 10-12 CORNBURY MUSIC FESTIVAL
From music to morris dancing, and arts and crafts to comedy and cake, this quirky festival is a real melting pot. Razorlight, Tom Jones and The Fratellis lead the line-up, while Chas & Dave will be back at their rockney best. For something a little more literary, head to the Festival of Words hosted by QI and Unbound, or catch funny folk like Aisling Bea, Joe Lycett and Katherine Ryan at the Best's Nest Comedy Emporium. And when it's time for a breather, the therapy and massage zone is just the ticket.
cornburyfestival.com

JULY 16-19 LATTITUDE
The beautiful Suffolk countryside will once again spring into life this summer as the likes of all-I, Portishead and Manic Street Preachers descend on Henham Park, along with alternative acts including Jon Hopkins, SBTRK and Django Django. There's also comedy from the Last Leg boys and Alan Davies as well as dance from Sadler's Wells and poetry readings by Simon Armitage and Michael Rosen. It's about as well-rounded a festival as you can get, so pack the tent and prepare for a whirlwind weekend of culture and fun.
latitudefestival.com

SEPTEMBER 10-13 BESTIVAL
Wrap up the summer in style with music from The

Green party: right: the woods near Portmeirion in north Wales come alive for Festival No 6

Chemical Brothers. Underworld, Mark Ronson and Duran Duran, or catch DJ sets from Skrillex, Annie Mac and Rudimental – all in the stunning surroundings of the Isle of Wight's Robin Hill Park. There's even a cinema under the stars, where you can catch cult classics and a selection from the London Short Film Festival. And if you've been looking to improve your raw knitting or reggaerobics, look no further – you're in the right place.
festival.net

BEST FOR FOODIES

JUNE 17-21 TASTE OF LONDON
Work up an appetite and head to Regent's Park this summer for a smörgåsbord of global cuisine. From quirky pop-ups to Michelin-starred samples, you'll find your taste buds tantalised at every turn. And with live demonstrations and interactive masterclasses from the likes of Raymond Blanc, *MasterChef's* Monica Galetti and Marcus Wareing, you can pick up tips from some of the world's top chefs. That's if you can bear to drag yourself away from the cocktail bars, whisky tastings and nibbles, of course.
london.tastefestivals.com

JULY 11-12 POMMERY DORSET SEAFOOD FESTIVAL
If the British seaside brings to mind cod, chips and mushy peas, be prepared for a bit of a rethink. Now in its eighth year, this free festival along Weymouth's beautiful historic harbourside is a treat for seafood and champagne lovers alike. From crab and cockles to lobster (below), scallops and sea bass, sample some of the incredible treats found along our very own shores – all washed down with a glass or two of Pommery, of course. There are also demonstrations from Dorset's finest chefs and plenty for the kids to do, too.
dorsetseafood.co.uk



AUGUST 11-15 GREAT BRITISH BEER FESTIVAL
Strong and stout or blonde and bubbly, go in search of your perfect pint at London's Olympia this summer, where more than 350 British breweries and a slew of international names will be showing off their finest wares (below). With 900 ales, beers, ciders and perries to choose from, you'll need to pace yourself, but there's plenty to do while you sink your pint, from live music to traditional pub games. And if liquid lunches aren't your thing, line your stomach with a delicious pie or pastry.
gbbf.org.uk

SEPTEMBER 11-13 LUDLOW FOOD FESTIVAL
Set in the picturesque grounds of Ludlow Castle, Shropshire, this laid-back festival is a must for foodies and their families. With more than 160 stalls and pop-ups, plus a wealth of talks and demonstrations by Michelin-starred chefs and local



producers, it's the perfect way to spend a late-summer weekend. If you fancy venturing further afield and working up an appetite as you go, try one of the tasting trails and take in the town's butchers, bakers and brewers. There's also live music in the most and activities to keep little ones amused while you let lunch go down.
foodfestival.co.uk

Here raising: clockwise from above, going with the glow at Wildernesse; the Red Arrows perform at the Isle of Wight Festival; getting creative at the Just So Festival

BEST FOR BOOKWORMS

JULY 3-13 THE TELEGRAPH WAYS WITH WORDS FESTIVAL OF WORDS AND IDEAS
Prepare to be challenged, inspired and thoroughly entertained at this literary



extravaganza sponsored by the Telegraph. Spanning 10 days and set against the stunning backdrop of Devon's Dartington Hall, it's the perfect chance to meet and listen to writers from every walk of life, including Simon Armitage, Terry Waite, Yasmin Alibhai-Brown, Caroline Criado-Perez, Jane Hawking and John Hegley. From fact to fiction, politics to poetry, comedy to crime and everything in between, there's something for every reader.
wayswithwords.co.uk

JULY 16-19 THEAKSTON OLD PECULIER CRIME WRITING FESTIVAL
With Ann Cleeves, the author behind ITV's *Vera* and the BBC's *Shetland* series, at the helm, the 2015 festival (right) boasts a pretty stellar line-up, including MC Beaton, Mark Billingham, Lee Child, Lisa Gardner and Val McDermid. This year, the ability of crime fiction to transport us to

JULY 24-26 WIGMORE
Go around the world in a weekend at this truly global festival held at Charton Park at Malmesbury in Wiltshire. With a music line-up featuring Laura Mvula and Souad Massi, De La Soul and Tiken Jah Fakoly and everything in between, there's a sound to suit everyone. And when hunger strikes, just follow your nose to the bustling Global Market where there's a taste sensation at every turn, from Spanish paella to Tibetan dumplings. There's plenty on offer for kids, too, with face painting, circus workshops, storytelling and crafts as well as drum tents and get-stuck-in-cookery classes.
womad.co.uk

JULY 30-AUGUST 2 CAMP BESTIVAL
Lulworth Castle in Dorset once again plays host to this family-friendly festival, with headliners such as Underworld, Clean Bandit and Kaiser Chiefs rubbing shoulders with wild and wonderful acts for kids, including Dick and Dom, Mr Tumble and a performance of Julia Donaldson's *The Snacrovous Wedding*. For little ravers in search of something a bit more upbeat, Big Fish Little Fish and Pun DMG will be on hand for some serious shape-throwing, while grown-ups can take a breather from the bass lines

with comedy, poetry and talks from the likes of Marcus Brigstocke and Bill Oddie. The Feast Collective will feature the tastiest street food from around the world.
campbestival.net

AUGUST 21-23 JUST SO FESTIVAL
Take a break from reality at this magical family festival tucked away in the woods at Cheshire's Rode Hall Estate. By day you can unleash your competitive side with everything from pillow fights and sack races to tug of war and toddler jousting (yes, we're intrigued, too), then settle in as the sun goes down for stories and music around the bonfire. And if dancing is more your thing, take some tips in tap or learn the lindy hop, then flit away to the fairy ball to dance the night away under the stars.
justsofestival.org.uk

AUGUST 28-30 THE BIG FESTIVAL
Join Jamie Oliver and Idris's Alex James for a feast of fun on his Cotswolds farm, with chefs and foodies cooking up a storm to a soundtrack of live, summery music. With headliners including Groove Armada, Dizzee Rascal and Paloma Faith, you can dance up an appetite before tucking into delicious British street food. And while you let your lunch settle, you'll be able to catch

musicians, comedians, poets, writers, foodies and fashionistas for the Port Eliot Festival in Cornwall. Head down to the river for live music and dancing, settle in on the bowling green to be inspired by great literary minds – headlined this year by Simon Armitage and Sarah Walters – or watch the likes of Rick Stein and Thomasina Miers rustle up delicious dishes on the food stage. It promises to be perfect fodder for mind, body and soul.
porteliotfestival.com

AUGUST 6-9 WILDERNESS
Take a walk on the wild side this summer, in the company of artists including Björk, Ben Howard and Roisin Murphy in the beautiful grounds of Oxfordshire's Cornbury Park. With wild swimming, a blissful lakeside spa, fly fishing, horse riding and foraging, this festival is an outdoor-lover's dream, but if hunter-gathering's not for you, there's plenty to tuck into at the banquets and feasts that abound. Each is headed up by a top chef, and this year Angela Hartnett and Niklas Ekstedt are in the kitchen.
wildernessfestival.com

AUGUST 7-31 THE EDINBURGH FESTIVALS
In one of the most diverse events in the festival calendar, Edinburgh is transformed



Field day: fun on the farm for the whole family at The Big Festival in Oxfordshire

a host of top chefs like Raymond Blanc, Mark Hix and Nathan Outlaw on stage as they share tricks of the trade. Afterwards, shop until you drop in the market.
jamieoliver.com/thebigfestival

BEST FOR A LITTLE BIT OF EVERYTHING

JULY 30-AUGUST 2 PORT ELIOT FESTIVAL
Experience a garden party like no other as Lord and Lady St Germans throw open their grand, ancestral gates to

each summer into a bustling metropolis of artists, actors, musicians, comedians, singers, dancers and storytellers. With Lang Lang playing Bartok, Bach and Chopin, Juliette Binoche starring in *Antigone* and performances by Ballett am Rhein and Ballett Zurich, the International Festival is a must for culture lovers. Those in search of something more offbeat should seek out the Fringe, where comedy, cabaret, theatre and music acts pop up in the most unlikely places.
efi.co.uk

SEPTEMBER 3-6 FESTIVAL NO 6
Enjoy a gloriously surreal slice of the Italian Riviera on the west coast of Wales at Portmerion's Festival No 6, named after the Patrick McGoochan character in Sixties television series *The Prisoner*, which was shot there. This year's performers include the inimitable Grace Jones, Belle & Sebastian, Metronomy and Mark Ronson, plus sets from DJ Harvey, 808 State and The 2 Bears. It's much more than just a music festival, though, and Irvine Welsh heads a line-up of writers, while Katherine Ryan and Ardal O'Hanlon lead the charge in the comedy stakes. Look out for a live performance of Dylan Thomas's *Under Milk Wood*, starring Rhys Ians.
festivalnumber6.com

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BEST FOR FAMILIES

AUGUST 15-17 VOEWOOD FESTIVAL
This bijou festival is a relative newcomer to the literary circuit, but its air of exclusive garden party chic makes it an irresistible addition to a book-lover's calendar. Created and curated by rare-book dealer Simon Finch and held in the stunning gardens of his Holt, Norfolk, home, it offers an eclectic mix of writers, thinkers, politicians, actors, musicians and explorers. By day, intimate readings and fiery debates spark discussion at every turn, mellowing as the sun and the ciders go down and the musicians tune up.
voewoodfestival.com

