

August bank holiday weekend is one of the busiest days of the year, with festivals happening all around the UK, appealing to a huge audience of different people. Have you got your ticket for one of these big events yet?



Creamfields

22nd – 25th August

If you prefer your music with an electronic dance edge, then you should be at Creamfields. One of the biggest music events of the year, it regularly attracts some of the biggest acts in the dance world. This year's line-up includes the return of heavyweights such as Calvin Harris, Tiesto and Skeptoo as well as some newbies to the scene that you won't want to miss.

The brainchild of event organisers, Cream, Creamfields started as a one-day event in Hampshire in 1998, with an attendance of over 25,000 people and headliners including Daft Punk, Paul van Dyke and Sasha, so it was always destined to go down in history, but it has grown from strength to strength ever since.

Back then, a ticket was only £37.50, but now they have a range of ticket options starting from £75 for a day ticket, up to £430 for a four-day Gold ticket. The different ticket types determine the level of comfort you can enjoy while staying at Creamfields.

- The standard ticket gives you basic facilities where you can pitch a tent and access to the main arena.
- The bronze ticket includes hot showers, 'proper' toilets and access to the main arena.
- The silver tickets gives you the same, plus a pamper tent and free car parking ticket.

- The gold ticket gives you all the above plus access to the Gold Hospitality Arena which includes one complementary meal a day and a cocktail bar.

There are also standard and gold day tickets. While a standard day ticket just gives you access to the main arena, the gold ticket also offers free parking, hospitality arena, food and 'proper' toilets. And we all know how important 'proper' toilets are at a festival!

Set over four days in Cheshire, tickets are now extremely limited, but you can camp on site, making for a proper festival experience. There are also glamping spaces, for those that want a few more luxuries and if you really can't bear the thought of sleeping in a field, then there are plenty of local hotels.

There is on-site parking, which has to be booked in advance, and shuttle buses running to and from all the major local towns, such as Liverpool, Warrington and Manchester, so it's easy to get to the campsite. Once you're in, there's no nipping out to collect more supplies, as security won't let you back in, so you'll need to be well prepared before you leave.

Join the madness at

www.creamfields.com



Notting Hill Carnival

24th - 26th August

The very first Notting Hill Carnival took place in 1966, led by local activist and human rights campaigner, Rhaune Laslett. The aim was to bring all the local inter-cultural communities together, so they could live in London in peace, without any racial or cultural tension. Entertainment was provided by a local West Indies pan band and had the desired effect of drawing local Caribbean people to the event. The band made its way along Portobello Road and drew a huge crowd.

The event is now an important event on the capital's calendar and is bigger than Laslett could ever have dreamed. It is now the second largest carnival in the world (only Rio Carnival in Brazil is bigger), drawing over five million people each year. To accommodate so many visitors, it is set out over the three-day weekend, with paid and unpaid events throughout London.

Steel bands still form a key part of the event, with the UK National Panorama Steel Band Competition in Pleasance Park on the Saturday. Sunday is the main day, with a J'Ouvert early morning launch following Caribbean tradition, followed by an Official Opening Ceremony, Children's Day Parade, Dutty Fun/Mas (you will get messy!) and then the Sound Systems, where you can dance to reggae music all afternoon long. Monday features the adult parade and more Sound Systems.

You'll be able to enjoy Caribbean food all weekend and there are always some big headliner acts announced. You'll have to keep an eye on the website and Notting Hill Carnival socials to find out who they are – some aren't announced until the very last minute!

If you're travelling down from the Midlands, it's probably best to travel by train and then jump on the tube once you're in London. It's a nine-minute walk from Notting Hill Gate which is accessible by the Circle and District or Central Line. Alternatively, you could stay in London for the weekend, but Air BnBs, hotels and guest houses fill up months before and prices go up in preparation for this busy time of year, so it's best to book as far in advance as possible.

Find out more about the event and get tickets here:

www.nhcarnival.org 



Reading & Leeds

23rd – 25th August



If your idea of a good weekend is rocking out to some of the biggest names in rock, indie and alternative music, then you can't miss the Reading and Leeds festival. As the name suggests, the event is held over three days at two different venues, with the same line-up but on different days, appealing to people from the north and south of the country. The bonus of this arrangement is that if you miss out on tickets to one of the festivals, you might still be able to make it to the other one, with coach tickets available from some of the bigger cities.

Since its inception, Reading and Leeds has constantly moved with the times,

reflecting current trends in the musical zeitgeist, organically evolving into the much-loved festival that it is now. With an array

of genres from its rock roots to dance and pop, headlining this year are some of the biggest artists in music, such as Lana Del Rey and Fred Again, Blink 182 and Liam Gallagher. With seven stages with jam-packed schedules, your biggest dilemma will be choosing which acts to watch!

Weekend tickets are £325 each for standard camping. There are also day tickets available and VIP tickets for those that need a little more glamour to their festival.

The venues are easily accessed via public transport, with links via shuttle bus, train, coach and even shuttleboat! And car parking tickets are also available. There are places to stay around the festival if camping is not for you, but they book up early and you don't get the full festival experience this way!

Looks like you're set for a musical bank holiday! Find out more about get your tickets at:

www.readingfestival.com

www.leedsfestival.com 

