

Major Events, Exhibitions and Festivals

January to December 2017

This round-up gives vital media information about events in Brighton & Hove. While every care has been taken to ensure that all the events listed are accurate at the time of going to press, VisitBrighton cannot be held responsible for any errors, omissions or subsequent alterations. For more information, as well as images, please contact media@visitbrighton.com.

Headlines

The Very Independent Brighton Food Tour

The V.I.B (Very Independent Brighton) Tour is a celebration of independent Brighton, packed with the eclectic sights and tastes from the unique makers to the unsung heroes of Brighton's indy food & drink scene. Over the course of approx. 3 hours you'll get a chocolate-box selection of the best foodie hotspots that quirky, independent Brighton has to offer. The V.I.B tour will run weekends throughout 2017.

<http://brightonfoodtours.com>

Jane Austen by the Sea

From the 17 June to 8 January 2018, The Royal Pavilion will explore Jane Austen's relationship with coastal resorts, and life in Brighton during her time, to mark the bicentenary of her death. It will paint a picture of the fashionable watering hole in the early 1800s, when it was a thriving garrison town featured in Austen's novels alongside other towns all along the south coast. Curator Dr Alexandra Loske has gathered items including one of Jane Austen's music books, rare manuscripts and letters, which will sit alongside prints, paintings and caricatures of the resorts and fashions popular with coastal visitors in Austen's lifetime, and original Regency costumes from Brighton & Hove's own collection.

www.brightonmuseums.org.uk/janeausten

New Openings

Malmaison - Brighton Marina

Malmaison is a contemporary hotel, uniquely located, with big personality, opening on the waterfront at Brighton Marina. Simple and uncluttered bedrooms with an abundance of light - you can choose from doubles, kings and large kings; many with balconies. Malmaison will be the closest hotel to the sea in Brighton so get ready for plenty of fresh air and some big views.

<https://www.malmaison.com/>

Hollywood Bowl - Brighton Marina

Following a £400,000 refurbishment in the original Bowlplex centre at Brighton Marina, Hollywood Bowl is opening January 2017. The redesign will see the bowling centre undergo a full rebrand and refurbishment to include a brand new Hollywood Diner, serving gourmet dogs and burgers, freshly made shakes served in milk bottles and retro glasses, signature desserts, as well as

American classics from the new menu. The Diner will sit alongside a brand new American-style bar serving house speciality cocktails.

<http://www.hollywoodbowl.co.uk/our-centres/brighton>

EVENTS

JANUARY

Until 8 January

Holiday on Ice - Brighton Centre

Directed and choreographed by none other than Olympic and four-time world champion, Christopher Dean, BELIEVE will open at The Brighton Centre on Wednesday 4th January and run until Sunday 8th January 2017. The show is an incredibly exciting and fast paced production that tells the modern day story of the traditional Shakespeare classic, Romeo and Juliet.

<http://brightoncentre.co.uk>

31 January to 4 February

The Twits - Theatre Royal

Mr Twit has a very hairy face. His beard is spiky and smelly. It also contains cornflakes, sardines and even some stilton. Mrs Twit is equally as foul and she hates Mr Twit as much as Mr Twit hates her! Directed by Max Webster (The Lorax at The Old Vic), this mischievous new show promises to be just as disgusting and repulsive as earth worms disguised as spaghetti - the perfect treat for all the family.

<http://www.atgtickets.com/venues/theatre-royal-brighton/>

FEBRUARY

10 to 12 February

Lord of the Dance - Brighton Centre

Following the phenomenal success of the 2015 UK tour, Michael Flatley's Lord of the Dance is excited to announce a return to the UK in 2017. Lord of the Dance: Dangerous Games continues to thrill audiences around the globe with its intoxicating mix of dance and music that fuses the traditional with the contemporary in a classic tale that showcases the exceptional talent of the cast. <http://brightoncentre.co.uk/whats-on/2017/lord-of-the-dance>

26 February

Vitality Run - Brighton Half Marathon - Brighton Seafront

The Vitality Brighton Half Marathon 2017 is on Sunday 26 February. A beautiful seafront course, amazing crowd support and one of the first half marathons on the running calendar is an event not to miss. <http://www.brightonhalfmarathon.com>

MARCH

11 to 12 March

VegFest UK - Brighton Centre

Europe's prime vegan festival VegfestUK will be back at the Brighton Centre for a weekend of vegan food, shopping and education! <http://brighton.vegfest.co.uk>

19 March

Pioneer Run - Madeira Drive

Pioneer Run is a must-see event with more than 300 machines and their 'careful owners' there for your amazement and enjoyment. This huge museum-for-a-day gives a fascinating insight into the very early history of the motorbike, as it evolved from the bicycle. <http://www.sunbeam-mcc.co.uk>

APRIL

9 April

Brighton Marathon - Ends Madeira Drive

The Brighton Marathon is one of the UK's favourite 26.2-milers. With a stunning backdrop of the sea in one of the country's most vibrant cities, the race gets bigger and better every year. Renowned for its buzzing atmosphere and roaring crowd support, the course winds through the city streets, finishing up on the spectacular Brighton seafront www.brightonmarathon.co.uk

22 April

Ace Café Reunion 'inCarNation' - Madeira Drive

Calling all Petrol heads! On Saturday 22nd April 2016, from 10am - 6pm, Brighton's famous seafront road, Madeira Drive will again host the UK's finest on four wheels as Ace Cafe London present the 5th annual InCarNation Brighton. www.ace-cafe-london.com

29 April to 1 May

Foodies Festival - Hove Lawns

The UK's largest celebration of food & drink will see visitors flock to Hove Lawns to enjoy an array of culinary activities including a live entertainment stage, cooking demonstrations and tasty treats from some of the top city restaurants. www.foodiesfestival.com

MAY - THE Festival Month!

Weekends throughout May

Artists' Open Houses - Citywide

Artists' Open Houses is the biggest free arts event in the UK, with over 1,000 artists exhibiting in 200 houses and art studios opened to the public across the city. www.aoh.org.uk

5 May to 4 June

Brighton Spiegel tent - New Steine

This May sees the return of the world-renowned Spiegel tent, the fantastic hub of all things Fringe. Situated in the heart of Brighton on the Old Steine, the fountain will be surrounded by the Spiegel tent, the Spiegel pub and the best beer garden in the city.

<http://www.brightonspiegel tent.com>

6 May to 3 June

Brighton Fringe - Citywide

The Brighton Fringe is one of the world's largest fringe festivals. Brighton Fringe runs alongside (and beyond!) the Brighton Festival with cabaret, comedy, classical concerts, club nights, theatre and exhibitions, as well as street performances throughout the city. www.brightonfringe.org.uk

6 to 28 May

Brighton Festival - Citywide

The largest multi-arts festival in England, the Brighton Festival hosts a sensational programme of art, theatre, dance, music, literature and family shows. In previous years the Guest Artistic Directors have been Hofesh Shechter, Michael Rosen, Vanessa Redgrave, Aung San Suu Kyi, Brian

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Eno and Anish Kapoor. This year, the Brighton Festival are delighted to announce that the Guest Director is the acclaimed recording artist, poet, playwright and novelist Kate Tempest.

13 to 14 May

Tattoo Convention - Brighton Centre

The 10th Edition of the Brighton Tattoo Convention will be held on 13th-14th May 2017. The weekend includes over 250 international artists, live music seminars, art gallery, late bars, indoor food court, trade rooms, competitions and much more www.brightontattoo.com

18 to 20 May

The Great Escape - Citywide

Since its launch The Great Escape festival has established itself as the place to catch the next big thing. Over the years acts that have played the festival have gone on to become household names including: Adele, White Lies, Kasabian, Mumford & Sons, Tinie Tempah, Ellie Goulding, Chase & Status, Foster the People, Rizzle Kicks, Jake Bugg, George Ezra and Royal Blood
www.escapegreat.com

26 to 29 May

Elderflower Fields Festival - Ashdown Forest

A family friendly festival set in the stunning Sussex countryside. The event includes fun activities, locally sourced food and an eclectic mix of live music acts. www.elderflowerfields.co.uk

JUNE

3 to 4 June

Vegan Fest - The Level

A huge outdoor vegan celebration taking place at The Level, Union Road, Brighton with over 100 stalls, cookery demonstrations, talks, children's activities, bars and live music.
<http://www.veggies.org.uk>

15 to 18 June

Brighton Bear Weekender - City Wide

Brighton Bear Weekend is an annual event for bears, cubs and friends in Brighton on the south coast of England. <http://brightonbearweekend.com>

18 June

BHF London to Brighton Bike Ride - End Madeira Drive

The annual bike ride from the capital to the coast in aid of the British Heart Foundation is the UK's largest charity bike ride with 27,000 riders. www.bhf.org.uk/london-brighton

18 June

Funk the Family Festival - Hove Park

Funk the Family is a rather splendid, all-day festival, born in Brighton & Hove with an emphasis on really high quality, live music, paired with brilliant entertainment, for all the family.
www.funkthefamily.co.uk

JULY

1 to 2 July

Paddle Round The Pier – Hove Lawns

A weekend of beach events which gets bigger every year, Paddle Round the Pier invites all kinds of vessels to take to the sea and spectators to enjoy the festivities on-land.

www.paddleroundthepier.com

8 to 9 July

Kite Festival – Stanmer Park

A perfect family event, the Brighton Kite Festival is one of the longest running kite festivals in the UK, flying for over 35 years. www.brightonkiteflyers.co.uk

28 July to 28 August

Brighton Big Screen - Seafront

Brighton's Big Screen on the beach is back for a summer of sport and blockbuster movies. The event will include grandstand seating, a licensed bar and refreshments area.

www.brightonsbigscreen.com

AUGUST

5 to 6 August

Pride - City Wide

The celebration of LGBT life in the UK's 'gay capital' includes a huge, colourful Pride Parade through the city with floats, music and amazing costumes, and a big party in Preston Park. Great fun, Pride is open, accessible and suitable for all. www.brightonpride.org

15 August to 3 September

Mamma Mia – Brighton Centre

Join the ultimate feel-good party at Mamma Mia, the world's sunniest and most exhilarating smash-hit musical! Set on a Greek island paradise, a story of love, friendship and identity is cleverly told through the timeless songs of ABBA. www.brightoncentre.co.uk/events

19 to 20 August

Thai Festival - Preston Park

Experience the taste of Thailand this summer and enjoy with all the family. Thai beer garden, traditional music and dancing, world class food and children's play area www.magicofthailand.co.uk

SEPTEMBER

1 to 3 September

Together The People - Preston Park

Together The People is an independent, non-camping, music and arts festival taking place in Preston Park, Brighton. The family friendly festival will host three different stages and is open to all ages. <http://www.togetherthepeople.co.uk>

2 September

Speed Trials - Madeira Drive

Britain's oldest motor racing event first staged in 1905, showcasing a wide range of cars and motorbikes racing over a quarter of a mile along Brighton's historic beachfront.

www.brightonrun.co.uk

10 September

Ace Café Reunion - Madeira Drive

The Brighton Burn Up & Ride with the Rockers, has been an integral part of Ace Cafe Reunions since 1996, and is a free, grand day out at the seaside on Brighton's famous seafront road, Madeira Drive. With trade and club stands and displays, live music and special guests, it's an experience not to be missed! www.ace-cafe-london.com

16 to 17 September

Fiery Food Festival - Victoria Gardens

The Fiery Foods Festival is back and it is bigger, better and badder than ever before! Lots to do for all the family! <http://fieryfoodsuk.co.uk>

16 to 17 September

Brighton Triathlon - City Wide

Brighton and Hove seafront will provide the iconic backdrop to the official Brighton and Hove Triathlon. Now in its second year, Professional Triathletes, and first-timers alike will commence their race along Brighton & Hove Seafront. Alongside of the event there will also be a Sport & Fitness show which promises to be fun and inspirational packed with the widest range of sports and fitness experiences, demos from top fitness brands and nutrition experts, and exciting new technology. www.brightonandhovetriathlon.com / www.sportandfitnessshow.com

23 September

The Color Run

The Color Run is a five-kilometre, un-timed race in which thousands of participants are doused from head to toe in different colours at each kilometre. The fun continues at the finish line with a gigantic "Color Festival". www.thecolorrun.co.uk

OCTOBER

6 to 7 October

Witchfest International- Brighton Centre

After a successful first year in 2016, Witchfest is returning to Brighton in October 2017. Witchfest is the largest Witchcraft festival held in the World within recorded history, and includes talks on a wide range of Witchcraft, Wiccan, Pagan, Occult and Mythological subjects. <http://witchfest.net>

12 to 14 October

Oktoberfest - The Level

After exceeding all expectations in 2016 Oktoberfest returns to Brighton in 2017! Expect an even larger Oktoberfest experience with a brand new Saturday afternoon session added to further develop the real Oktoberfest experience in Brighton! <http://www.oktoberfestbrighton.co.uk>

15 October

Bright 10 - Hove Lawns

Get yourself to the start line and enjoy this fast and accurately measured course that takes in all the highlights of the fantastic city. With up to 5,000 runner registrations expected, and over the classic 10 mile race distance, the Bright10 is a very achievable challenge event. It's hoped that the classic 10 mile distance will resonate with both a traditional and new audience. www.bright10.co.uk

27 October to 12 November

Brighton Early Music Festival – Citywide

The second-largest early music festival in the UK, the festival is well known for its lively and inspired programming, with events exploring different art forms and performance formats. This year's theme for 2017 will dig deep into the past and explore the varied routes along which music travelled, tracing the origins of many classical forms and instruments.

www.bremf.org.uk

NOVEMBER

5 November

London to Brighton Veteran Car Run - Ends on Madeira Drive

This annual event commemorates the Emancipation Run of 14 November 1896. Today, this run attracts hundreds of vintage vehicles from the UK and abroad as well as thousands of spectators. A fantastic photo opportunity! www.lbvcr.com

Date tbc

CineCity - Various venues

Celebrating the best in local, national and international film on screens across the city, events include premieres and previews, artists' cinema and installations, treasures from the archive, retrospectives, free education screenings and events, talks and debates. www.cine-city.co.uk

Date tbc

Royal Pavilion Ice Rink - Royal Pavilion

Situated in the gardens of Brighton's iconic pleasure palace, the Royal Pavilion, this beautiful outdoor ice-rink allows up to 250 skaters per session, with penguin stabilisers for younger skaters and a learners area for the unsure-footed. There will be a restaurant and vantage point, offering great views of the colourfully lit Royal Pavilion

www.royalpavilionicerink.co.uk

DECEMBER

First three weekends in December

Christmas Artists' Open Houses - Citywide

Explore over 100 houses across the city, to see and buy the work of local artists, or to simply enjoy a mince pie and mulled wine. www.aoh.org.uk

21 December

Burning the Clocks - Winter Solstice Parade, ends on Brighton Beach

The dark grip of long wintry nights is broken by a flicker of light... Started in 1993, Burning the Clocks represents an alternative to the commercial Christmas. Thousands of people gather to make paper and willow lanterns to carry through the city before burning them on the beach as a token for the end of the year and to greet the lengthening days. www.burningtheclocks.co.uk