

Summer festivals in Britain

Task 3 – Summer festivals in Britain: The big five – fact files

The Edinburgh Festival

What type of festival is it? A better name for 'The Edinburgh Festival' is 'The Edinburgh Festivals' as the name refers to much more than a single event. In the summer months, Edinburgh is the host of many festivals. The main two are the Edinburgh International Festival, three weeks of music, theatre and dance, and the Edinburgh Fringe Festival which plays host to thousands of performances from all over the world. There's also a film festival, a science festival, an art festival, the Festival of Spirituality and Peace, a book festival, a Mela, which is an intercultural festival, and many, many, more!

When did it start? The Festival began in 1947, with the aim of providing 'a platform for the flowering of the human spirit'.

Where does it take place? In the city of Edinburgh, the capital of Scotland.

How many people go to the Festival? Because there are so many events and so many festivals within 'The Edinburgh Festival' it's impossible to know how many people attend. Last year, over 250,000 spectators watched the final firework display.

How much does a ticket cost? Ticket prices depend on which of the many hundreds of events you choose to see. You can also see lots of events for free as they take place in the streets and in public places.

For more information: <http://www.edinburghfestivals.co.uk/>

T in the park

What type of festival is it? A three day music festival. People usually stay in the campsite next to the festival to spend the three days the festival lasts, There is also a fairground.

When did it start? T in the Park started in 1994.

Where does it take place? In the small town called Kinross in the east of Scotland. The festival takes place in an old airfield.

How many people go to the Festival? About 80,000 each year.

How much does a ticket cost? £85.75 for a 1-day ticket. Or you can pay up to £1,250 for a ticket that includes luxury accommodation.

What are the highlights for 2015? Kasabian, Fatboy Slim, Mark Ronson, The Script, The Libertines, The Prodigy, Duke Dumont and many, many more.

More information: <http://www.tinthePark.com/home.aspx>

Womad

What type of festival is it? WOMAD stands for World Of Music Arts and Dance. It celebrates music, arts and dance from countries and cultures from all over the world.

When did it start? The first Womad festival was in 1982 and the aim was to give talented artists an international audience. This year it's the 25th anniversary of the Womad Festival.

Where does it take place? Womad started in the UK but now it has festivals all over the world. Womad festivals have taken place in over 20 countries.

How many people go to the Festival? 20,000 people just in Womad Charlton Park in the UK.

How much does a ticket cost? Prices vary. For example, the three day Womad festival to be held in Charlton Park, in Wiltshire, near Bristol costs from £165. For one night at Bristol Zoo you can pay £20 for an adult ticket.

What are the highlights for 2011? In Womad UK some of the highlights include De La Soul, Dona Onete, ESKA, Osaka Monaurail, 47 Soul

For more information: <http://www.womad.org>

The Isle of Wight Festival

What type of festival is it? A music festival.

When did it start? It started in 1968. 1970 was the most famous festival and 600,000 people attended. The most famous performers were Jimi Hendrix, Joni Mitchell, The Doors and Leonard Cohen. The 1970 Isle of White Festival is now part of rock festival history! From 1970 – 2001 there were no festivals. It has only been revived in 2002.

Where does it take place? On the Isle of Wight, an island on the south coast of England.

How many people go to the Festival? 50,000. This year the tickets are already sold out!

How much does a ticket cost? £195

What are the highlights for 2015? The Black Keys, Fleetwood Mac, The Prodigy, Pharrell Williams and many more

For more information: <http://isleofwightfestival.com/default.aspx>

Glastonbury Festival

What type of festival is it? Glastonbury Festival is a very special festival. In the words of Michael Eavis, the man who started the Festival, "The Glastonbury Festival aims to encourage and stimulate youth culture from around the world in all its forms, including pop music, dance music, jazz, folk music, fringe theatre, drama, mime, circus, cinema, poetry and all the creative forms of art and design, including painting, sculpture and textile art." Most people think of Glastonbury Festival as a giant music festival where friends go to spend three days together going to concerts, dancing, watching performances from around the world, and generally having a three day party. Part of the Glastonbury festival experience is camping in tents in the fields of the farm.

When did it start? It started in 1970.

Where does it take place? The home of the Festival is Worthy Farm in the town of Glastonbury in Somerset, in the south west of England. Glastonbury is known for its mystical atmosphere.

How many people go to the Festival? Each year there are 145,000 tickets on sale for Glastonbury Festival but over 350,000 people register and want to buy tickets. Usually the tickets all sell out in a few hours, so you are very lucky to get one.

How much does a ticket cost? £220

What are the highlights for 2015? Foo Fighters, Lionel Richie are already confirmed.

For more information: <http://isleofwightfestival.com/default.aspx>