

# 50+ Festivals 1 city birmingham festivals.com

**Birmingham is a festival city.** From arts to food, from Digbeth railway arches to world-class concert halls, there's something for everyone throughout 2017.

Find out about Birmingham's packed year of festivals at [birminghamfestivals.com](http://birminghamfestivals.com) @bhamfestivals

Information correct at time of going to press but is subject to change. Check website for details.

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 Birmingham City Council

**Birmingham Festivals in 2017**

## March

4 March  
**Whisky Birmingham**  
[thebirminghamwhiskyclub.co.uk/  
whisky-birmingham](http://thebirminghamwhiskyclub.co.uk/whisky-birmingham)



13 – 19 March  
**Arts & Science Festival**  
Arts & Science Festival is a week-long celebration of research, culture and collaboration at the University of Birmingham. For 2017, artists, academics and adventurers traverse 'land' and 'water' in a programme of activity across campus and beyond.  
[artsandsciencefestival.co.uk](http://artsandsciencefestival.co.uk)



25 March – 1 April  
**Frontiers Festival**  
A week of boundless musical creativity and cross-border collaboration featuring guest composer Martijn Padding, Ensemble Court-Circuit, the Fidelio Trio performing work by Joe Cutler, events by Sean Clancy and Wolters/Norman/Harvey and Ed Bennett's group Decibel.  
[frontiersmusic.org](http://frontiersmusic.org)

## April

4 – 9 April  
**Flatpack Film Festival**  
You know that spring has hit Birmingham when Flatpack arrives, taking over venues across the city with a dizzying array of events, screenings and surprises. 2017 highlights include a VR focus, canal-side installations and some David Lynch exclusives, plus the usual feast of animation, live soundtracks and family activities.  
[flatpackfestival.org.uk](http://flatpackfestival.org.uk)



17 – 19 April  
**BEAST FEaST**  
BEAST FEaST Festival launched in 2015 at The Bramall (University of Birmingham) and is a must for the curious sonic explorer. Over three days, a diverse range of talks, concerts and installations showcase some of the most recent and cutting-edge developments in electronic and electroacoustic music.  
[beast.bham.ac.uk](http://beast.bham.ac.uk)



21 – 23 April  
**Birmingham Literature Festival Spring Edition**  
The Spring Edition of Birmingham Literature Festival incorporates canoes, bicycles and walks, a variety of venues across the city, and a host of writers from Birmingham and further afield, including Romania, Poland and the US.  
[birminghamliteraturefestival.org](http://birminghamliteraturefestival.org)



30 April  
**Swingamajig**  
Nestled deep under Digbeth's atmospheric railway arches, Swingamajig Festival truly is a show like no other. Seven stages of live music, DJs, cabaret, swing dancing, workshops, street food and market, attended by the best-dressed and friendliest crowd you could imagine.  
[swingamajig.co.uk](http://swingamajig.co.uk)

30 April  
**Vaisakhi Birmingham**  
[vaisakhibirmingham.co.uk](http://vaisakhibirmingham.co.uk)

## May

19 – 21 May  
**B-Side Hip-Hop Festival**  
Following the success of Birmingham's first annual hip-hop festival, B-Side 2017 showcases emerging and established talent from the region, supported by respected city partners and international artists. Expect performance-based hip-hop culture, from dance to beatbox, from spoken word to DJ and VJs.  
[birminghamhippodrome.com](http://birminghamhippodrome.com)

27 – 28 May  
**Birmingham Pride**  
[birminghampride.com](http://birminghampride.com)

27 – 28 May  
**Birmingham Fear Fest**  
[birmingham-fearfest.co.uk](http://birmingham-fearfest.co.uk)

## June

1 – 30 June  
**Inspired Festival**  
[www.bcu.ac.uk/inspired](http://www.bcu.ac.uk/inspired)

4 – 16 June  
**University of Birmingham Summer Festival of Music**  
Twelve days of concerts and performances celebrating the year-round activity in University Music and the work of the University Music Society. The festival includes an opera production, plus a variety of vocal, orchestral, jazz and chamber music concerts.  
[birmingham.ac.uk/events](http://birmingham.ac.uk/events)



16 – 18 June  
**Supersonic Festival**  
[supersonicfestival.com](http://supersonicfestival.com)

17 – 18 June  
**Summer in Southside**  
This year's Summer in Southside festival takes on a rural theme, bringing the countryside to the streets of Southside. Enjoy an exuberant programme of music, dance and theatre, from traditional town and country fare and bespoke West Midlands traditions right through to a rich blend of folk dance.  
[birminghamhippodrome.com](http://birminghamhippodrome.com)



23 – 25 June  
**Foodies Festival**  
[foodiesfestival.com/birmingham-food-festival](http://foodiesfestival.com/birmingham-food-festival)

24 June  
**Brindleyplace Dragonboat Festival**  
[brindleyplace.com/event/dragonboat-race-2017](http://brindleyplace.com/event/dragonboat-race-2017)

30 June – 1 July  
**Colmore Food Festival**  
[www.colmorefoodfestival.com](http://www.colmorefoodfestival.com)

## July

1 – 2 July  
**Sandwell & Birmingham Mela**  
[birminghammela.com](http://birminghammela.com)

1 July  
**Birmingham Rum Festival**  
[birminghamrumfestival.com](http://birminghamrumfestival.com)

1 July  
**CoCoMaD**  
[cotteridgepark.org.uk](http://cotteridgepark.org.uk)



4-8 July  
**BE FESTIVAL**  
BE FESTIVAL turns the notion of conventional theatre upside down and blurs the boundary between audience and artist. The week-long festival takes place across various stages and backstage areas in the Birmingham Repertory Theatre. Expect a unique programme of boundary-pushing European theatre, dance, comedy, circus, music, visual and performing arts. The festival runs day and night with plentiful activities and shows for all ages and backgrounds.  
[befestival.org](http://befestival.org)

4 – 8 July  
**Music for Youth National Festival**  
[mfy.org.uk](http://mfy.org.uk)

7 – 9 July  
**Mostly Jazz Funk & Soul**  
Mostly Jazz Funk & Soul festival returns to Birmingham this summer to celebrate all things Jazz Funk & Soul. Now in its 8th year the event has hosted some of the biggest names around including Public Enemy, De La Soul, Chic, Bonobo, plus many many more.  
[mostlyjazz.co.uk](http://mostlyjazz.co.uk)

14 – 16 July 2017  
**Birmingham Cocktail Weekend**  
[birminghamcocktailweekend.co.uk](http://birminghamcocktailweekend.co.uk)

14 – 23 July  
**Birmingham & Solihull Jazz Festival**

Celebrating its 33rd year with 200 mostly free performances, workshops, masterclasses and exhibitions throughout the city, the festival typically attracts audiences of around 80,000.  
[birminghamjazzfestival.com](http://birminghamjazzfestival.com)



14 – 31 July  
**Birmingham Fest**  
[birminghamfest.co.uk](http://birminghamfest.co.uk)



17 – 23 July  
**TILT Festival**  
TILT is a week-long Aerial & Physical Theatre Festival run by RoguePlay Theatre, delivering high quality teaching and performance from national and international circus artists. Enjoy a masterclass programme catering for beginners to professional performers, free outdoor circus shows for all the family, young people's work, rigging and massage courses and even a midnight feast! You name it... TILT has got it.  
[tiltfestival.com](http://tiltfestival.com)

28-30 July  
**Jewellery Quarter Festival**  
[jewelleryquarter.net](http://jewelleryquarter.net)

29 July  
**Made Festival**  
[made-festival.co.uk](http://made-festival.co.uk)

July – check website for dates  
**Shock & Gore Festival**  
Shock & Gore is the twisted offspring of The Electric Cinema in Birmingham and celebrates the weird, the wonderful and the fantastic, including science fiction, fantasy and some of the most extreme cinema out there.  
[shockandgore.co.uk](http://shockandgore.co.uk)

## August



19 August  
**The Flyover Show**  
The Flyover Show is a groundbreaking and unconventional urban arts festival, which takes place beneath the motorway flyover in Hockley. Bringing together decades of black British creative expression, the festival was established to challenge the narrative that urban and black culture are only notable for social deprivation. Combining jazz, theatre, dance, roots reggae, hip hop and grime, it celebrates positive contributions of black creativity in Britain.  
[uprize-cic.com/the-flyover-show](http://uprize-cic.com/the-flyover-show)

## September

1 – 3 September  
**Moseley Folk Festival**  
Moseley Folk Festival is celebrating its 12th year this summer. This family-friendly event has returned to its origins of folk, world and roots and boasts some of the world's most exciting artists from those genres, playing in the beautiful setting of Moseley Park. Last year's highlights included Levellers, The Coral, The Proclaimers, Billy Bragg and Songhoy Blues.  
[moseleyfolk.co.uk](http://moseleyfolk.co.uk)



check website for dates  
**Still Walking**  
Still Walking is Birmingham's festival of walking events. Since 2012 Still Walking has challenged what guided tours are about, who can lead them and what exploring the environment might involve. Walkers should variously expect forays into underground tunnels, encounters with moss and lichen, Black Sabbath history or epic treks round BHX.  
[stillwalking.org](http://stillwalking.org)

7 – 17 September  
**Birmingham Heritage Week**  
[birminghamheritageweek.co.uk](http://birminghamheritageweek.co.uk)

22 – 24 September  
**Birmingham Weekender**  
Birmingham's biggest free arts festival, Birmingham Weekender fills the city-centre with performances from world-class musicians, dancers and artists. Birmingham's major arts organisations come together with shining lights from the city's independent scene, plus invited international artists, to create three great days out for all the family.  
[birminghamweekender.com](http://birminghamweekender.com)

## October

6 – 15 October  
**Birmingham Comedy Festival**  
[bhamcomfest.co.uk](http://bhamcomfest.co.uk)

7 – 14 October  
**Birmingham Literature Festival**  
The annual Birmingham Literature Festival is firmly established in the cultural calendar as the region's brightest literary event. Every October it gathers household names and rising stars to celebrate the power of words.  
[birminghamliteraturefestival.org](http://birminghamliteraturefestival.org)

18 – 22 October  
**Fierce Festival**  
Fierce is an international festival of cross-artform performance centred in Birmingham. The festival embraces theatre, dance, music, installations, activism, digital practices and parties. Fierce fills the city with performances in theatres, galleries and other out-of-the-ordinary spaces.  
[wearefierce.org](http://wearefierce.org)



23 – 29 October  
**Birmingham Improv Festival**  
[birminghamimprovfestival.com](http://birminghamimprovfestival.com)

26 – 29 October  
**Screening Rights Film Festival**  
[screeningrights.org/film-festival/](http://screeningrights.org/film-festival/)

27 October – 4 November  
**Birmingham International Piano Festival**  
Established in 2014, Birmingham International Piano Festival brings some of the world's finest pianists to the city, with performances in the University of Birmingham's world-class concert halls in the Barber Institute and the Bramall.  
[birminghampianofestival.com](http://birminghampianofestival.com)

## November



9 – 17 November  
**BASS Festival**  
BASS Festival is the UK's only black arts commissioning festival, bringing a world-class line-up of artists and events every year to shine a spotlight on our city. BASS has previously featured Ghettos, Professor Green, Slick Rick and DJ Jazzy Jeff and brings thousands of people together for an alternative annual celebration.  
[punchbass.com](http://punchbass.com)

9 – 19 November  
**SHOUT Festival of Queer Arts and Culture**  
SHOUT Festival brings the best in queer and lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans artists, performance and culture from across the UK and beyond to Birmingham. Each November SHOUT ignites debate, inspires discussion, increases representation and showcases the work of queer artists at venues across the city.  
[shouffestival.co.uk](http://shouffestival.co.uk)

1 – 11 November  
**Behind the Curtain**  
Now in its fourth year, Behind the Curtain is a unique film festival that brings high quality films and new media from Central and Eastern Europe to Birmingham. The festival promotes a positive, inclusive image of the city, gathering international and local artists for a packed programme of screenings and live events.  
[behindthecurtainfestival.co.uk](http://behindthecurtainfestival.co.uk)

23 – 26 November  
**The Trip to Birmingham Tradfest**  
[www.birminghamtradfest.co.uk](http://www.birminghamtradfest.co.uk)

## Get your 2018 diary out...

16 – 24 February 2018  
**CrossCurrents**  
Contemporary music festival CrossCurrents brings together internationally acclaimed musicians and student performers and composers, as well as some of the UK's most respected composers. Nine days of concerts, free performances, talks and workshops at the University of Birmingham every other year.  
[birmingham.ac.uk/crosscurrents](http://birmingham.ac.uk/crosscurrents)

18 February 2018  
**Chinese New Year**  
[cnybirmingham.org.uk](http://cnybirmingham.org.uk)

1 – 24 June 2018  
**International Dance Festival Birmingham (IDFB)**  
IDFB is an award-winning biennial festival that brings fantastic international dance to Birmingham's theatres, takes over the city's streets and squares with exciting free performances and entertainment, and creates lots of opportunities for people to take part and have fun.  
[idfb.co.uk](http://idfb.co.uk)