



Smaller | Independent Events

Boutique food festivals, indie music, county shows and artisan markets

August 2026 · 18 verified events · 5 during your trip

Reprobates Intelligence Division · May 2026

● HAPPENING DURING YOUR TRIP (21-24 AUGUST)

Harrogate Food and Drink Festival

22-23 August · Ripley Castle, Yorkshire · £15-20 day ticket

Artisan food festival in a 14th-century castle. Cookery theatre, real ale tent, local cheese and charcuterie, live music. Civilised. Day-trip friendly. Saturday 22nd is your second day.

Beautiful Days · SOLD OUT

21-23 August · Escot Park, Devon · SOLD OUT (April 2026) · The Levellers' festival

The UK's most loved small festival. No sponsors, no advertising. Lineup 2026: Super Furry Animals (reunion), Madness, The Proclaimers, The Divine Comedy, Skindred, Gogol Bordello. 6 stages. Otter Brewery real ale. "Sunday theme: Back to the 70's." If you can find resale tickets, this is the trip.

Green Man Festival

20-23 August · Brecon Beacons, Wales · £245 · Camping included

UK's best-curated indie festival. Folk, psychedelia, alternative. Previous headliners: PJ Harvey, Underworld, Fontaines D.C. Natural wine bars, Welsh producers, science stages. If your trip is in Wales, collision is inevitable.

● EARLIER IN AUGUST

Bristol International Balloon Fiesta

7-9 August · Ashton Court, Bristol · FREE · 100+ balloons

Europe's largest balloon festival. Dawn and dusk launches, nightglows with music. Street food village. Free entry. Bring a blanket.

Vegan Camp Out

14-16 August · Bygrave Woods, Herefordshire · Camping · Vegan food & bar

Europe's biggest vegan camping festival. Music, yoga, activism, surprisingly excellent food. Family-friendly.

Smoke & Fire Festival

15-16 August · Maldon, Essex · BBQ & live-fire cooking

Pitmasters from across the UK. BBQ competitions, craft beer, street food. Small and focused on the food.

Isle of Wight Garlic Festival

15-16 August · Isle of Wight · £10-15 · Since 1983

Garlic beer, garlic ice cream, garlic fudge. Circus acts, cookery demos. Requires loW ferry from Portsmouth or Southampton.

Mid-Somerset Show

16 August · Somerset · Agricultural show · Livestock · Real ale & cider

Traditional agricultural show. Vintage tractors, show jumping, dog shows, craft stalls, real ale bar. One day. Cheap.

● BANK HOLIDAY WEEKEND (28-31 AUGUST)

The Big Feastival

28-30 August · Kingham, Cotswolds · £180+ · Jamie Oliver / Alex James's farm

Food demos from top chefs, artisan stalls, live music, cooking classes. In the Cotswolds countryside. Family-friendly. Very much about the food.

Bolton Food and Drink Festival

28-31 August · Bolton Market, Lancashire · FREE · 4 days

One of the largest free food festivals in the North. Live cookery theatre, artisan market, street food, real ale.

Festa Italiana Manchester

Bank Holiday weekend · Cathedral Gardens, Manchester · FREE · Italian food & drink

Free Italian street food festival. Aperol bar, delis, live music. 12pm-11pm. No tickets.

Notting Hill Carnival

30-31 August · Notting Hill, London · FREE · 2 million visitors

Largest street festival in Europe. Sunday Family Day; Monday main parade. Sound systems, steel bands, masquerade. Completely free.

● JUST AFTER YOUR TRIP

Meatopia

3-6 September · Tobacco Dock, London · Live-fire BBQ · World-class chefs

The UK's original live-fire BBQ festival. Pitmasters and fire chefs at Tobacco Dock. Session-based long lunches and dinners. If anyone stays in London, extraordinary.

Ludlow Food Festival

11-13 September · Ludlow Castle, Shropshire · 150+ producers · Medieval town

One of the UK's oldest food festivals. Castle grounds, 150+ Shropshire and Welsh Marches producers. More Michelin stars per capita than anywhere outside London.

Abergavenny Food Festival

19-20 September · Abergavenny, Wales · ~£25 · Welsh food scene

Historic market town in Brecon Beacons. "The beating heart of the Welsh food scene." World-class chefs, local producers. Autumnal and atmospheric.

● QUICK REFERENCE

Event	Dates	Location	Entry	Type
Harrogate Food & Drink	22-23 Aug	Ripley Castle, Yorks	£15-20	Food
Beautiful Days	21-23 Aug	Escot Park, Devon	SOLD OUT	Music
Green Man Festival	20-23 Aug	Brecon Beacons, Wales	£245	Music
Bristol Balloon Fiesta	7-9 Aug	Bristol	FREE	Spectacle
Vegan Camp Out	14-16 Aug	Herefordshire	£TBC	Music/Food
Smoke & Fire Festival	15-16 Aug	Maldon, Essex	£TBC	Food
IoW Garlic Festival	15-16 Aug	Isle of Wight	£10-15	Food
Mid-Somerset Show	16 Aug	Somerset	Cheap	Agricultural
The Big Feastival	28-30 Aug	Kingham, Cotswolds	£180+	Food/Music
Bolton Food & Drink Festival	28-31 Aug	Bolton, Lancs	FREE	Food
Festa Italiana Manchester	Bank Holiday	Manchester	FREE	Food
Notting Hill Carnival	30-31 Aug	London W11	FREE	Street
Meatopia	3-6 Sep	London	£TBC	Food
Ludlow Food Festival	11-13 Sep	Ludlow, Shrops	£TBC	Food
Abergavenny Food Festival	19-20 Sep	Abergavenny, Wales	~£25	Food

INTELLIGENCE ASSESSMENT

Beautiful Days (21-23 Aug) is the perfect Reprobates event — indie music, real ale, no sponsors, sold out. If you can find resale tickets, it's the obvious choice. Harrogate Food Festival (22-23 Aug) is a civilised day in a castle if you're in the north. Bristol Balloon Fiesta (7-9 Aug) is free and spectacular — worth arriving early for. Meatopia (3-6 Sep) and Ludlow (11-13 Sep) are worth the extension if anyone can stay.