# Festivals in Englishspeaking countries





Every country has its own holidays.

They reflect the history of the country and its cultural and religious traditions.

Some religious holidays are common in different countries.

They are Christmas and Easter.

Americans celebrate Christmas on the 25th of December.

They buy a lot of presents for each other, for their parents, children and friends.

The New Year's day, the 1st of January is not so widely celebrated in the United States as we do it in Russia.

Of course, the most important holiday in America is the 4th of July, The Independence Day.

People like to watch colorful fireworks in the evening.

The 4th of July is the day-off and people don't go to work.



The holidays when people don't go to work are:

Martin Luther King's day on the 20th of January,
Labour Day on the 7th of September and Thanksgiving
on the last Friday of November.

On Thanksgiving Americans usually cook turkey.
This holiday reminds the time when the first colonists
(pilgrims)

from England came to America in 11620 and could survive

in the unknown land.

There is still a big white stone on the shore in Plymouth in Massachusetts, that the pilgrims landed on.

It is called «The Plymouth Rock».

The 31st of October is the children's most favourite holiday — Halloween.

On this day children, dressed in funny dresses visit their neighbours and say «Trick or treat!» and get sweets. The rest of the holidays are usually on weekends. They are: the Flag's Day, Mother's Day, Armed Forces Day. Americans also celebrate Lincoln's birthday, Washington's birthday, President's Day in February. The 14th of February is Valentine's day or as it is called «All lovers day».



### The UK

Not only stunning tourist places, United Kingdom is also famous for vibrant culture and ethos.

The best of these traditions is reflected through an array of **festivals** in United Kingdom.

From religious to harvest, from music to heritage;

UK rejoices every kind of festivals with complete pomp and show.

To cherish the true colours and ethnicity the country, glance at the handy note on **important festivals of UK**.



## Diwali In Leicester: Fireworks, Food, Fun And Frolic

**Diwali in** Leicester is most famous religious festival of England, UK. With gorgeous fireworks, street décor, carnivals, music shows and dance performances; Leicester celebrates Diwali in full glory for two weeks. It is the grandest and most popular religious festival of England, **UK** and one of the biggest outside India. Admire the twinkling lights, enjoy the peppy songs and dances and indulge with mouth-watering Indian delicacies.



## **Burns Night: Remembering The Great Poet Robert Burns**

Burns Night is a celebration of life and work of famous Scottish poet, Robert Burns. This is one of the handpicked United Kingdom Festivals 2020, where the great masterpieces of this poet are remembered and matched with traditional Scottish food and drinks, on the poet's birthday. The Burns Supper was first held in 1801 and continuing over 200 years to emphasize the tradition and culture.



#### The USA

With 50 different states and a bundle of different races, cultures and nations, the United States of America has a large cultural and historical heritage, and these cultures are all celebrated through various festivals and events.

While many tourists visit the United States of America to admire the big cities or the beautiful parks, the **festivals in America** are a big part of what makes the country so great and are definitely worth attending.

So, if you are thinking of visiting US and want to see the cultural side of the country, but, not sure how to do that, don't worry as we are here to help! These festivals are going to give you memories of a lifetime and more as they reflect the art, culture, heritage and the music of the country in the most exciting way.

Show up and have fun with your friends, make memories and celebrate the love of music and art at these festivals.



## **Jazz And Heritage Festival**

New Orleans is known for being the party town of the United States of America, so it's no wonder that many of the **festivals in America** are hosted here.

Though there are a lot of parties and clubbing scenes held in the city all year round, rarely do you get to see the local talent and the heritage side of the people come out and perform their art.

From music pieces, to art showcases and much more, you get to see a side of New Orleans that's not commercial and much more rooted to the culture of the local people.

Also, this is one of the best music festivals in the us!



## Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta

This event, we guarantee, is like nothing you've ever seen before in your entire life!

Imagine a sky filled with hundreds of different coloured hot air balloons floating in the air.

You can turn this imagination into a reality when you visit the Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta, held every year in Ne Mexico, and witness over 500 air balloons fly over your head, creating an almost magical kind of atmosphere for the visitors. Not only watching, but you will also have an opportunity to fly up on a hot air balloon as well here, making it one of the best festivals in the US.



Canada is truly a multicultural and secular country with people of different ethnic groups cohesively living together, participating in different festivities of colors, light, music, culture and celebrating the oneness

of life. It is the home to some of the biggest carnivals that celebrate both traditions and life, making it a must for a traveler to be a part of at least some of the festivals of Canada.



## Winterlude

Winterlude is a three-week-long winter festival which usually starts in the first week of February each year. This is a carnival of ice – ice sports, ice art, and cheerful music. Ice skating at Rideau Canal Skateway is a unique experience in itself, as it is the world's largest skate rink. Ice sculptures, various musical events, and kids activities are the central attraction of this festival.

It is a huge tourist attraction in Canada.



## **Celebration Of Light**

The celebration of life is fireworks and musical extravaganza which usually takes places in the period of July – August.

Usually, it is a week-long festival in which the fireworks teams from three selected countries perform and compete with each other.

Fireworks during the celebration are phenomenal and breathtaking. The whole celebration is usually around a special theme and the fireworks will stir your heart with their grandiosity and colors.

Top rock bands have performed in this festival year on year.



### **Australia**

Be it Sydney Mardi Gras or New Year's Eve, Australia is one of the most fun countries on the planet that comes alive during. The country, famous for its diverse and rich wildlife with incomparable landscapes, has a strong cultural and folk scene. **Australians love** to party, so you'll find loads of places to hang out and events to chill at on your trip here.

And what better way to immerse in this exciting culture of Australia than attending some of the most famous **festivals** in Australia!

See where and when you can be a part of these once-in-a-lifetime experiences in Australia.

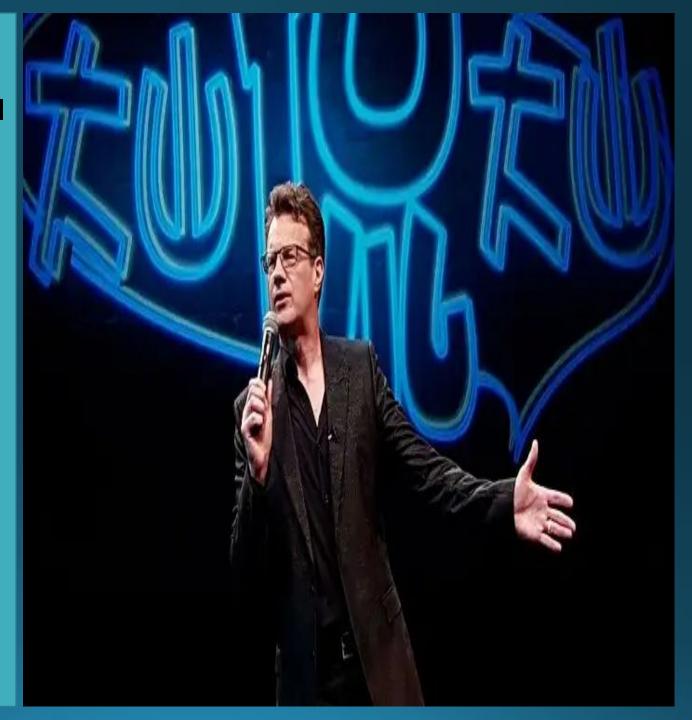


## **Melbourne International Comedy Festival**

One of the country's foremost platforms for budding as well as established stand up comics, this festival features performances that range from hilarious to beautiful stage art.

The open mic competition has served as an introduction of the wider Aussie audience to the up-and-coming comics of the country. Held at Town Hall, the best way to enjoy the festival is to show up and pick a random show marked on the dusty big blackboard outside.

You might want to book for the big shows in advance though.



#### **Melbourne International Arts Festival**

An international festival that seeks out all forms of art that are out there – dance, music, visual arts, theatre as well as the lost art of the circus – this is the epitome of Australian festivals and celebrations. Held in the metropolis of Melbourne, the festival is attended by over 400,000 people. The festival has been noted for epic art performances.

It is one of those rare, but popular festivals that still have performance art events or art installations.

This Melbourne festival is one of Australia's most high profile festivals and offers an insight into the evolving cultural dialogue that takes place between the artists and their audience all around the world.



#### **New Zealand**

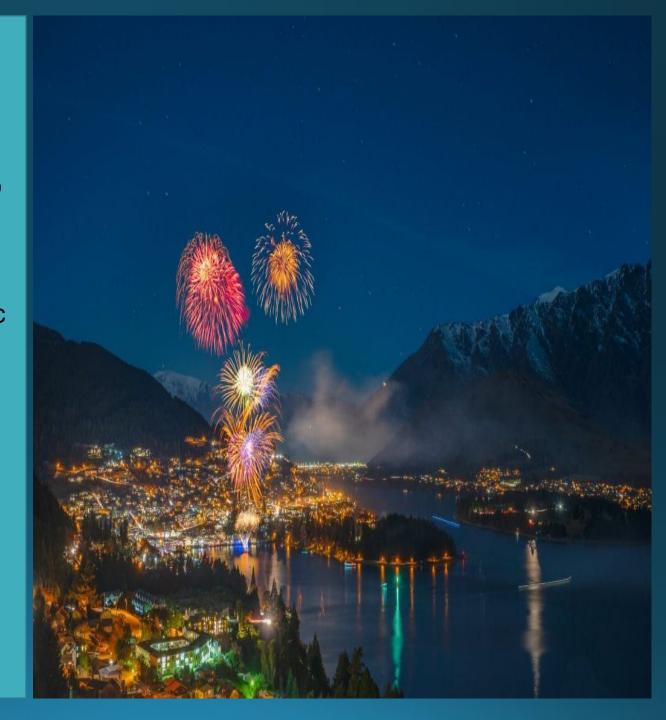
In the South West of Pacific Ocean is this stunningly beautiful country called New Zealand. You must have heard of the happening festivals in New Zealand organized in different parts of its two mainlands – North and South Islands.

New Zealand is a treat to the eyes with diverse scenic beauty having mountains, wide green pastures, lakes, rivers, beaches and even volcanic zones.

Just like its name, indicating a "new zeal" or new excitement, the country's spirit is reflected in its hundreds of festivals celebrated throughout the year.

These festivals are usually a celebration of New Zealand's culture and its openness to other cultures.

An amalgamation of great music, crazy food & beverage, vivid forms of performing arts and activities setup amidst breathtaking scenic beauty.



## **WOMAD**

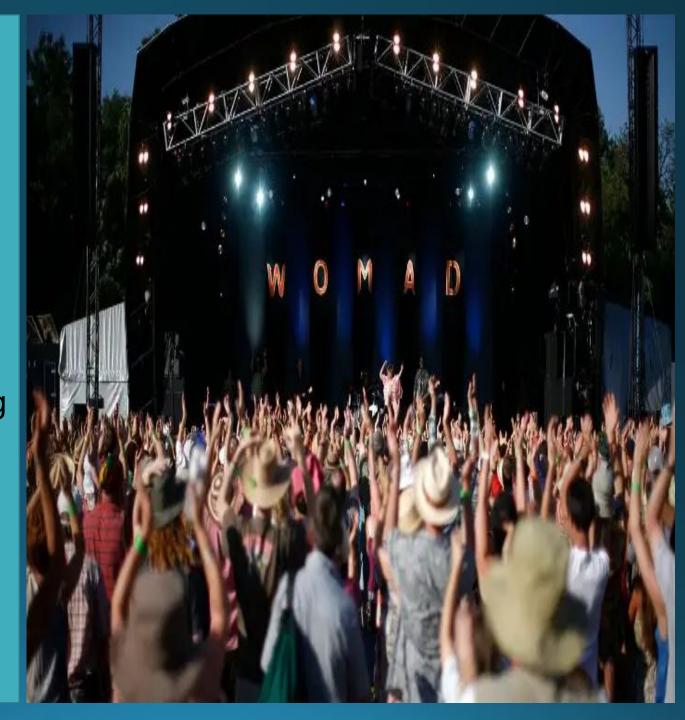
WOMAD – World of Music, Arts and Dance is an internationally established festival that celebrates the world's many forms of music, arts and dance.

The festival's central aim is to excite,

inform, and create awareness of the worth and potential of a multicultural society.

An interesting twist you would see during this festival is 'Nova Energy Taste The World' where artists swap instruments and microphones for cooking utensils and unusual ingredients.

This celebration has surely become one of the **traditional festivals in New Zealand** now.



## **Wellington On A Plate**

Wellington on a Plate (WOAP) is an epic food festival in New Zealand which is not limited to just one place or one day.

It's a region-wide culinary takeover.

Wellington's restaurants, venues, laneways, and even car parks become hosts to this wild celebration of

Burgers are a popular food choice in Wellington.

food and beverage.

The Wellington Festival has exclusive set menus with experimental burgers, creative cocktails, a variety of Garage Project wines, over 100 exciting events and pop-ups.



Festivals have historically been a great source of entertainment especially before the advent of mass-produced entertainment.

They divert peoples' attention from their demanding lives and amuse them in their leisure time.

Festivals contribute immensely to feelings of social cohesion. No matter which country you live in, festivals are unavoidable. For as long as people have lived together in communities, it seems we have had a longing to celebrate together as a group.

Festival celebrations take place in all cultures, all over the globe and for lots of different reasons.

Religion, music, food – all these and more have inspired festivals new and old.

Whether you love culture, you're <u>learning English</u>, or you're just looking to party, these festivals are gathered specially for your attention and cultural education. Festivals have both social and economic angles.

In the chaotic and stressful planet we inhabit, happiness is overshadowed by negativity and insecurity and so the need for something that could bring positivity has been felt time and again. Thus, festivals that give us the opportunity to forget all our worries and celebrate the positive side of life, even if it is for a few days, came into existence.

