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Accessible Brighton

A Festival Guide



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Travel for All



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Accessible Brighton: A Festival Guide

Raves on the beach, Graham Greene novels, mods and rockers in bank-holiday fisticuffs, naughty weekends for Mr and Mrs Smith, classic car runs from London, the UK's biggest gay scene and the Channel's best clubbing – this city by the sea evokes many images for the British. One thing is certain: with its bohemian, cosmopolitan and hedonistic vibe, Brighton is where England's seaside experience goes from cold to cool.

Brighton is without doubt Britain's most colourful and outrageous city, and one with many faces. Here, burlesque meets contemporary design; Spanish students leave Starbucks to rub shoulders with stars in Spanish bars; the southeast's grottiest hostels share thin walls with kinky boutique hotels; microbrew ales costing £4 a pint occupy bar space with £1 buckets of 'sex on the beach'; and stags watch drag. This is the

city that returned the UK's first Green Party MP, where Valentine's Day is celebrated with more gusto than Christmas, and is the place, according to the 2001 census, with the highest UK population of Jedi.

Brighton rocks all year round, but really comes to life during the summer months when tourists, language students and revellers from London pour into the city, keen to explore the city's legendary nightlife, summer festivals and quirky shops. The highlight for the sightseeing visitor is, without doubt, the weird and wonderful Royal Pavilion, a 19th-century party palace built by the Prince Regent, who kicked off Brighton's enduring love of the outlandish.

West Pier / © Adam Bronkhorst/VisitBrighton





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Acknowledgements

This title is part of the AccessFest series, a collaboration between Lonely Planet and UMOJA (www.umoja.in) to promote UK festival destinations to the more than 11m disabled people living in Great Britain today, 70,000 of whom visit festivals in the UK annually. UMOJA is an online travel portal providing people with disabilities with the detailed and dependable accessibility-related information they need to travel with comfort and confidence. UMOJA has performed access audits on all hotels featured in this guide as well as more than 100 more hotels in both the UK and India.

We gratefully acknowledge permission to use the access information for all venues reviewed in this guide provided by The Fed Centre for Independent Living (www.thefedonline.org.uk). We also gratefully acknowledge permission to reproduce images provided by Brighton Fringe (www.Brightonfringe.org) and VisitBrighton (www.visitbrighton.com).

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Resources

General

[Brighton City Guide \(www.brighton.co.uk\)](http://www.brighton.co.uk)

[City Council \(www.brighton-hove.gov.uk\)](http://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk)

Brighton closed its busy tourist office in 2013. You can call 01273 290337 or go to www.visitbrighton.com for information.

Access Guide

The Fed Centre for Independent Living (www.thefedonline.org.uk) is a local user-led organisation, which offers support and advice for disabled and older people to live more independently in Brighton and Hove. They have amassed a wealth of information on accessibility in the city that will help you decide where to visit, where to eat and drink and where to stay. This searchable resource can be found here: www.thefedonline.org.uk/services/out-and-about/accessible-city-guide.

Brighton Map



Brighton



Brighton

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Getting Around

On-Street Accessible Parking

All Pay & Display parking bays on streets are free for cars displaying a valid Blue Badge. Car parks often have their own rules so you should check whether concessions apply. Parking is forbidden in permit holder bays and you will be ticketed if you park in these without a resident's permit.

For further information on where you can or cannot park using a Blue Badge, please visit the Council's information page at <http://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/index.cfm?request=c1245800>.

Brighton & Hove Buses

01273 886200; <http://www.buses.co.uk/>

Brighton and Hove Buses run a fleet of around 280 modern buses on local bus services as well as eight luxury coaches available for private hire to meet any requirements. About 93% of the bus fleet is currently wheelchair accessible, but 100% of buses have low floors and step-free access.

The council introduced over 20 'talking bus stops' for blind and partially sighted passengers in 2007. People using the scheme have a battery-operated key fob which alerts them when they are near one of the talking bus stops. By pressing the fob the bus stop 'talks' to them, giving them details of which services are due, and where they are going. More information can be found at <https://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/content/parking-and-travel/travel-transport-and-road-safety/talking-bus-stops-0>.

A standard single journey fare is £2.50. Short hop and Centrefare tickets are available for £2. Children under 14 and teens of any age up to 19 with a busID can travel for a discount of 50%. National Concessionary Pass holders are entitled to free travel, but there are certain time restrictions (see <http://www.buses.co.uk/tickets/concessionarytravel.aspx>).

More information can be found at <http://www.buses.co.uk/tickets/index.aspx>. More information about accessibility can be found at <http://www.buses.co.uk/information/accessible-buses-wheelchairs.aspx>.

Brighton Train Station

<http://www.southernrailway.com/your-journey/accessibility/>

This large station has level access throughout, with good transport links and ample parking at the rear of the station. There are two accessible toilets located at the far right of the station near the taxi rank. Note that they cannot be accessed from that direction and must be accessed from the main concourse. The toilets are staffed at all times and you have to find a member of staff to unlock the toilet with a RADAR key. There is a hearing loop. The Station car park has 28 accessible parking spaces but there are no concessions for people with a disability. The concourse has a number of shops, all of which are more or less accessible (ie somewhat cluttered and with high counters). The station is staffed at all times. There is no left luggage facility.

For assisted travel, it is recommended that you contact the Southern Rail Assisted Travel Team on 0800 138 1016 (free call) at least 24 hours before your trip. If you wish to travel to/from a station which is on your onward journey which you cannot access due to steps they will provide an accessible taxi for the relevant part of your journey. If you do not give them 24 hours' notice there may be a considerable wait while they obtain an accessible taxi. They are able to carry powered mobility scooters provided they fit on the platform–train ramps, are no more than 300kg and can be manoeuvred safely inside their trains. They will accept any scooter up to 1200mm long by 700mm wide. They cannot provide alternative transport to inaccessible stations for scooter users.

National Express Coach Station

08717 818178; <http://www.nationalexpress.com>

Located just off the sea-front near the Palace Pier behind the Albion Hotel, not only is the coach station well placed and convenient for all the town's major attractions, it is also well connected, with speedy and regular links to attractions such as the nearby Beachy Head, Brighton University, Sussex University, Gatwick Airport, and the local towns of Bognor Regis, Worthing and Newhaven.

There is level access into the main ticket office which is very narrow inside, making manoeuvrability with a large wheelchair or mobility scooter tricky. Although the ticket counter is high, staff are helpful. There is an accessible toilet on entry level. There is no hearing loop.

There is no parking at the coach station itself, but there are a few accessible parking bays in nearby streets and a car park at Churchill Square.

Taxis

<http://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/content/parking-and-travel/travel-transport-and-road-safety/wheelchair-accessible-taxis>

To help improve the availability of wheelchair accessible taxis across the city, Brighton & Hove Council has launched a scheme that provides the direct telephone numbers for licensed drivers who are available and able to carry wheelchairs. Visit the link above for more details.

The main taxi firms in Brighton and Hove are City Cabs (01273 205205), which has about 180 cabs, 35 of which are accessible; Streamline Taxis (01273 747474), which has a fleet of 350 vehicles, 56 of which are accessible; Brighton & Hove Radio Cabs (01273 204060), which has a fleet in excess of 100, 18 of which are accessible.

Shopmobility

01273 323239; www.thefedonline.org.uk/shopmobility

Shopmobility hires out wheelchairs, electric mobility scooters and powered wheelchairs to help you get out and about in Brighton and Hove. You can hire scooters from three locations – Churchill Square, London Road and Kemptown – from £5 per day. They will even arrange delivery to somewhere more convenient. Overnight and longer hire options are also available. Book and pay online or call ahead to ensure you get the equipment that's appropriate to your needs.

Community Transport

01273 677559; <http://www.bhct.co.uk>

Community Transport (Brighton, Hove & Area) Ltd provides accessible, safe and affordable transport to community groups, voluntary sector organisations and individuals with mobility difficulties. Their buses are fully accessible for wheelchair users and have passenger lifts or ramps fitted. All the drivers are fully trained to assist older people and passengers with disabilities, particularly those who find it difficult or impossible to use conventional public transport.

Costs vary depending on the service you require. Contact Community Transport or refer to their website for further information.

Blue Badge Parking

VisitBrighton has an up-to-date map of the Blue Badge parking areas in the town centre, along with a map of where the dropped kerbs are. You can find them at the following link, along with other info on accessibility in the town centre: <http://www.visit-brighton.com/plan-your-visit/accessibility>.



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Sights

Brighton Museum/ © Adam Bronkhorst/VisitBrighton



Brighton Marina

www.brightonmarina.co.uk; Marina Way

Brighton's wave-shaped marina washes ashore 1.5 miles east of the pier. In addition to brand-name shopping and numerous chain eateries, you'll also find Brighton's Hollywood-style Walk of Fame, which dedicates a pavement-embedded plaque to anyone rich, famous and with a link to the city, though some associations are tenuous. Big-hitting names honoured include Graham Greene, Winston Churchill and Lewis Carroll.

There is level access to the building with a permanent, moderately sloped ramp. There are lifts between The Boardwalk and the ground floor/Mermaid Walk. There are two accessible toilets located by the lifts in Mermaid Walk on the ground floor. A hearing loop is available.

The main buses are 7, 21 and 23. The multistorey car park offers free accessible parking located on both Level 6 (22 exclusive bays) and the ground floor (20 exclusive bays) on the east side of the car park. Once parked the Boardwalk is directly accessible from Level 6, via the footbridge or via the ramp on the ground floor opposite McDonalds. Access to the ground level shops, restaurants and market in Marina Square and Palm Drive is available from zebra crossings opposite the car park exits.

Reaching the marina is half the fun when you hop aboard the Volks Electric Railway – if you're able to! The world's oldest electric railway, opened in 1883, trundles along the seafront from just short of the pier. Although the stations are all accessible by wheelchair, wheelchairs must be folded to fit on the trains, so cannot be 'driven' on. Power wheelchair users are therefore excluded. Also, wheelchair access at the halfway station is very restrictive due to the positioning of the barriers. There are accessible toilets at each station.

Care must be taken by those with restricted mobility and impaired sight when stepping on and off the platform to the train. Staff are happy to help if asked. The space between the seat rails to get in and out is not very wide.

Brighton Museum & Art Gallery

www.brighton-hove-museums.org.uk; Royal Pavilion Gardens; 10am-5pm Tue-Sun

Set in the Royal Pavilion's renovated stable block, this museum and art gallery has a glittering collection of 20th-century art and

design, including a crimson Salvador Dalí sofa modelled on Mae West's lips. There's also an enthralling gallery of world art, an impressive collection of Egyptian artefacts, and an 'images of Brighton' multimedia exhibit containing a series of oral histories and a model of the defunct West Pier.

There is level access. In the entrance way, a set of double doors are always fixed open. Inside there are glass doors in a glass wall and there is a button on the left to open them automatically (and on the right-hand side on leaving). This brings you into the shop and reception area. Visitors using mobility scooters are asked to leave them in the foyer and transfer to freely available manual wheelchairs. If you can't manage yourself and don't have a companion to push the wheelchair, you can book assistance by phoning 03000 290900 or emailing visitor.services@brighton-hove.gov.uk in advance. There is a hearing loop at the enquiry desk. There is a floor plan which is also in braille. A lift will take you between the two floors of the museum. Both floors have an accessible toilet. There is a discount for residents and people with a disability as well as one free companion ticket per person with a disability.

The museum is in the Pavilion Gardens, near the North Gate, a 15-minute walk from the main line railway station, mainly hilly. Many buses stop in North Street, a few minutes away.

Nearby in Church Street there are some accessible parking bays. There are also four accessible bays in New Road, west of the gardens. This looks like a pedestrian-only road but you can drive along it to park. You enter from Church Street and you must park in the marked area only (this does not look like usual parking spaces – you need to park over a metal wheelchair symbol sunk into the pavement) and leave via North Street. There is an NCP car park about halfway up Church Street, and another in Churchill Square. Groups coming by minibus can park nearby by making a prior arrangement by telephone.

Brighton Pier

www.brightonpier.co.uk; Madeira Dr

This grand century-old pier is the place to experience Brighton's tackier side. There are plenty of stomach-churning fairground rides and dingy amusement arcades to keep you amused, and candy floss and Brighton rock to chomp on while you're doing so.

Look west and you'll see the sad remains of the West Pier, a skeletal iron hulk that attracts flocks of starlings at sunset. It's

a sad end for this Victorian marvel, where the likes of Charlie Chaplin and Stan Laurel once performed.

There is level access onto the pier and along its length. The surface of the pier is wooden planks with the sea below just visible through the planks, although there are some metal 'pathways' to ensure a smooth surface for wheelchair users.

There are two RADAR key accessible toilets, one inside the 'Palace of Fun' first arcade, and another near the fairground at the end with a small ramped access. There is a key available at the cafe, which is located on the east side.

Many bus routes stop at North Street, a 10- to 15-minute walk away.

There are several Blue Badge parking bays on Madeira Drive, 100m to the east of the pier.

Hove Museum & Art Gallery

www.brightonmuseums.org.uk; 19 New Church Rd;
10am-5pm Mon, Tue & Thu-Sat, 2-5pm Sun

Hove can justifiably claim to be the birthplace of British cinema, with the first short film shot here in 1898. You can see it alongside other fascinating films at this attractive Victorian villa. Another highlight is the kids' room, which is full of fairy lights and reverberates to the snores of a wizard and the whirr of an underfloor train. Exhibits include old zoetropes, a magic lantern and a small cupboard with a periscope inside.

There are a few steps up to the entrance but there is a ramp for anyone who needs it. Once inside, the ground floor is all on one level, including to the tearoom. Visitors using mobility scooters need to leave them in the foyer and transfer to one of the freely available manual wheelchairs. If you can't push yourself or don't have a companion, you can book assistance by phoning 03000 290900 or emailing visitor.services@brighton-hove.gov.uk in advance. The first floor can be accessed by stairs or a small lift which contains a small pull-down seat.

The exhibits on this floor are excellent and wheelchair users should have no difficulty seeing things. Most things are at a height accessible for wheelchair users with pull-out information drawers at waist level. There is a tiny cinema showing short films of local interest with plenty of room for a wheelchair. Each room has braille signs and there is ample seating available for a rest. There are accessible toilets on the ground floor and the first floor. There is a hearing loop available.

Brighton Pier / © Adam Bronkhorst/VisitBrighton



Buses 1, 1A, 6, 49 and 49A from Brighton's North Street or Churchill Square stop near the entrance.

There is pay and display roadside parking. There is free parking for Blue Badge holders within the grounds.

Royal Pavilion

03000 290901; <http://brightonmuseums.org.uk/royalpavilion>; Royal Pavilion Gardens; adult/child £11.50/6.20; 9.30am-5.45pm Apr-Sep, 10am-5.15pm Oct-Mar

The city's must-see attraction is the Royal Pavilion, the glittering party pad and palace of Prince George, later Prince Regent and then King George IV. It's one of the most opulent buildings in England, certainly the finest example of early 19th-century chinoiserie anywhere in Europe and an apt symbol of Brighton's reputation for decadence. An unimpressed Queen Victoria called the Royal Pavilion 'a strange, odd Chinese place', but for visitors to Brighton it's an unmissable chunk of Sussex history.

The entire palace is an eye-popping spectacle, but some interiors stand out even amid the riot of decoration. The dragon-themed banqueting hall must be the most incredible in all England; more dragons and snakes writhe in the music room, with its ceiling of 26,000 gold scales; and the then state-of-the-art kitchen must have wowed Georgians with its automatic spits and hot tables. Prince Albert carted away all of the furniture, some of which has been loaned back by the present queen.

The ground floor has level access, with wide doorways and no steps to negotiate, but access to the first floor is via the staircase only. Lift access to the Turner exhibition in the Prince Regent Gallery for wheelchair users and visitors with limited mobility can be arranged in advance by calling 03000 290902, but note that this does not provide access to the remainder of the first floor. Visitors using mobility scooters need to leave them in the foyer and transfer to one of the freely available manual wheelchairs. If you can't push yourself or don't have a companion, you can book assistance by phoning 03000 290900 or emailing visitor.services@brighton-hove.gov.uk in advance.

Tactile tours of the palace can be booked for groups of visually impaired visitors. Sign-language interpreted group tours are available for the hard of hearing. All guided tours must be booked in advance. Included in the price of the visit is a handheld audio device that gives an interesting commentary as you do your tour. The staff will help anyone with hearing difficulties

to get the best from it and for those with a visual impairment there is an additional commentary which alerts you when there are ropes across your path or other obstacles. There are accessible toilets on the ground floor.

The nearest bus stops are Old Steine and North Street. Parking is available nearby in Church Street, where there are some accessible parking bays. There are also four accessible bays in New Road, west of the gardens. There is an NCP car park about halfway up Church Street and another in Churchill Square.

West Pier

www.westpier.co.uk

The historic West Pier, which closed in 1975, began to collapse into the sea in December 2002 and, having since caught fire twice, is just a dark shadow on the water. It's still quite an arresting, beautiful sight and many visitors – including thousands of starlings in November and December – flock to see it.

i360 Tower

03337 720360; www.britishairwaysi360.com; Lower King's Rd;

Brighton's newest attraction opened in 2016 at the point the now defunct West Pier used to make landfall. The world's most slender tower is a brutal, 162m-tall column of reinforced steel and concrete rising rudely in space-age spectacle from the seafront, a huge, impaled, glass doughnut taking 'passengers' 138m above the city for some gob-smacking vistas of the Sussex coast. The idea is that profits from the i360, a 21st-century 'vertical pier', will one day be used to rebuild the West Pier.

The i360 is the world's tallest moving observation tower and the vistas from it are truly spectacular – certainly much better than the views of it, especially as it rises incongruously near the architectural purity that is Regency Square. A fancy restaurant and bars are planned for the building at the base.

The i360 Tower is fully wheelchair-accessible, although there is a safety limit on the number of wheelchairs permitted so book in advance to avoid disappointment. Visitors with disabilities are allowed to bring one carer with them free of charge. A new wheelchair lift connecting the Kings Road upper esplanade down to the beach is promised.

Royal Pavilion / © VisitBrighton





Sleeping

Brighton has lots of places to sleep to suit every budget and taste, but beds can be scarce on summer weekends and during events such as the Brighton Festival, when booking ahead is recommended.

Our accessibility partner UMOJA has reviewed eight of the most accessible Brighton hotels. Please note that the hotel accessibility information was correct as of 1 May 2016. Visit https://www.umoja.in/location/brighton/?collection_id=5329 for the complete, most up-to-date information. You can also email UMOJA with any queries at info@umoja.in.

- » Hilton Brighton Metropole, Kings Road
- » Holiday Inn Brighton Seafront, 137 Kings Road
- » Ibis Brighton City Centre, 88–92 Queens Road
- » Jurys Inn Brighton, 101 Stroudley Road
- » Jurys Inn Brighton Waterfront, Kings Road
- » Mercure Brighton Seafront Hotel, 149 Kings Road
- » myhotel Brighton 17 Jubilee Street
- » The Old Ship Hotel, Kings Road

Here are the top three (in no particular order) chosen by UMOJA.

Jurys Inn, Brighton City Centre

Situated a stone's throw away from Brighton Station, Jurys Inn, Brighton City Centre has 12 disabled access rooms and is great value for a weekend trip from London. As well as being highly wheelchair accessible throughout, with ramp access to all public areas, there are also provisions in place for people with visual impairments and hearing impairments.

Highlights included the integration of audio readers on the restaurant menus to enable guests with visual impairments to order independently as well as the availability of vibrating pillows upon request for guests with hearing impairments staying in the hotel. In addition, the hotel seems to have done its accessibility homework right down to the smallest detail, as demonstrated by the lowering of public telephones and menu boards to enable easy access for wheelchair users and people of short stature.

Click [here](#) for the full UMOJA access profile.

Hilton Brighton Metropole

Located on Brighton beach with eight accessible rooms, if you're looking for a spot of luxury, this four-star hotel offers great sea views along with good accessibility features.

We found Hilton Metropole to be highly accessible for manual wheelchair users with ramp access to most public areas. Other highlights include a swimming pool hoist to enable transfer for wheelchair users and a sauna with a level entrance and good circulation space. With some members of staff able to use British Sign Language and vibrating pillows available on request, Metropole also offers some good features for guests with hearing impairments.

The only potential issue we identified was the slightly narrow width of some of the bedroom doors (79cm in places), which could be problematic for a motorised wheelchair user.

Click [here](#) for the full UMOJA access profile.

Hotel Ibis Brighton City Centre

Located just 50m from Brighton Station on the Queens Road, this moderately priced hotel has nine disabled access rooms. Our survey found it to be highly wheelchair-accessible throughout. With a level entrance, wide doors, roll-in showers, good manoeuvring space, and fittings such as beds and reception counters at lower heights, we recommend Ibis for wheelchair users of all stripes.

Click [here](#) for the full UMOJA access profile.



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Eating

Brighton easily has the best choice of eateries on the south coast, with cafes, diners and restaurants to fulfil every dining whim. It's also one of Britain's best destinations for vegetarians, and its innovative meat-free menus are terrific value for anyone on a budget. For food from the former British Empire and beyond, head for Preston St, which has an incredible concentration of ethnic eateries.

Patterns

www.patternsbrighton.com; 10 Marine Pde

Popular bar/pub above the Patterns nightclub. Ramped access with a handrail to the bar is located off the main entrance on Marine Parade. At the top of the ramp is a double-door entrance suitable for wheelchairs. The accessible toilets are kept locked and you have to ask staff to unlock them; they may double as storerooms. The bar and outside smoking terrace are on the same level as the ramped access. There are two steps to the back access, where the pool table and some seating is located. The main bar area is spacious with tables at various heights: settees with lower tables and chairs with higher tables. The main service area is high but staff can help when necessary and can also help with reading the menu and bringing food and drinks to the table. They have adaptable lighting and the background noise is typical of a bar area.

You can park along Marine Parade if you hold a badge, but pay parking is also available. On Madeira Drive, almost opposite the public toilets on the seafront, there is one place for accessible parking. There are also 10 places available for badge holders on the same road nearer to Brighton Pier. A third option would be on Madeira Place where there is only one place available 150ft from the venue.

Bankers Traditional Fish and Chip Restaurant

01273 734753; www.bankers-restaurant.co.uk;

116a Western Road; 11.30am-10pm

Bankers fish restaurant has been an institution in Brighton since 2001 serving traditional English (sustainably sourced) fish and chips.

The restaurant has level access with large double doors at the entrance. The tables and chairs are movable and can be easily adjusted to accommodate wheelchair users. There is a clean, accessible toilet. Staff are friendly and helpful, and are used to catering for older people with restricted mobility as well as wheelchair users.

The takeaway side to the restaurant is less accessible, with a narrower doorway and step. The limited size of the room also makes it difficult for a wheelchair user to enter, particularly when there is a queue (as is often the case).

Nearby streets have pay-and-display on-street parking (free

Fish and chips on Brighton Beach / © Peter Kollar



to Blue Badge holders) and there are many buses serving the area with adequate dropped kerbs on pavements.

English's of Brighton

www.englishs.co.uk; 29-31 East St; mains £9-30; noon-10.15pm
Mon-Sat, 12.30-4pm Sun

A 70-year-old institution and celebrity haunt, this Brightonian seafood paradise dishes up everything from Essex oysters to locally caught lobster and Dover sole. It's converted from fishers' cottages, with shades of the elegant Edwardian era inside and alfresco dining on the pedestrian square outside.

Given its age, there are problems with access: a ramp is available to negotiate the step to get in, but there is no accessible toilet on-site. The nearest accessible toilet is across North Street in the Pavilion Gardens. There is some parking at the southern end of East Street or in Brill Lane (a spur off East Street) there are about three Blue Badge bays.

Food for Friends

www.foodforfriends.com; 17-18 Prince Albert St; mains £11-13;
noon-10pm Mon-Thu, noon-10.30pm Fri-Sat, noon-10pm Sun

An ever-inventive choice of vegetarian and vegan food keeps bringing locals back for seconds and thirds at this place to see and be seen – literally, by every passerby through the huge streetside windows. Recently revamped and as popular as it has been since 1981, be prepared to wait for a table on busy shopping days.

As another old restaurant, it is not very accessible to people with mobility impairments and has no level access and no convenient parking.

Infinity Foods Kitchen

01273 670743; www.infinityfoodskitchen.co.uk; 50 Gardner St; mains £3.50-8; 9am-5pm Mon Sat, 10am-4pm Sun & bank holidays

The sister establishment of Infinity Foods wholefoods shop (health-food cooperative and Brighton institution) is light, airy and open plan. It serves a wide variety of vegetarian and organic food, with many vegan and wheat- or gluten-free options includ-

ing tofu burgers, mezze platters and veggie sausage sandwiches. Coeliacs should advise staff before ordering since dishes are made in a kitchen that contains wheat. Food is available to eat in or take away.

There is a wide, wheelchair-accessible entrance, and bar-type tables against the wall on the ground floor. The upstairs floor has more seating but is up two flights of stairs. There is no accessible toilet – you'll need to use the facilities at the nearby Komedia.

There are several nearby multistorey car parks, including NCP on North Road, with accessible bays available but no free parking for Blue Badge holders. Buses stop at nearby North Street. It's a 10-minute walk from Brighton Station, downhill on quite narrow pavements.

JB's American Diner

01273 771776; <http://jbsdiner.co.uk>; 31 King's Rd; burgers £8-10, mains £6.50-12; 10am-10pm Mon-Sat, from 9am Sun

The waft of hotdogs as you push open the door, the shiny red-leather booths, the stars and stripes draped across the wall, the 1950s soundtrack twanging in the background and the colossal portions of burgers, fries and milkshakes – in short, this is a hefty slab of authentic Americana teleported to the Brighton seafront.

The front entrance to the premises has several steep steps. The rear fire exit door is used for wheelchair access. There is a small step for which a ramp can be provided; you'll need to call ahead if you're visiting on your own. The accessible toilet uses a pin code so you will need to ask staff before using.

There is on-street pay-and-display parking available, free for Blue Badge holders. Multistorey parking is on Black Lion Street, where there are accessible bays available but no free parking for Blue Badge holders. Buses stop in the centre of town.

Riddle & Finns Champagne & Oyster Bar

www.riddleandfinns.co.uk 12 Meeting House Lane; mains £13-18; noon-late Sun-Fri, 11.30am-11pm Sat

Regarded as the town's most refined seafood spot, R&F is light on gimmicky interiors (think white butcher's shop tiles, marble tables and candles) but heavy on taste. With the kitchen open to the street outside, chefs put on a public cooking class with every

Riddle & Finns Champagne & Oyster Bar

© Adam Bronkhorst/VisitBrighton



dish as they prepare your smoked haddock in champagne sauce or wild sea bass.

There is one step to get into the restaurant and another to get into the accessible toilet(!), but a ramp is available on request. A bigger problem is that the tables are set at the height of a breakfast bar, and so are not able to be used by wheelchair users. There are some Blue Badge parking spaces dotted around this area but the chances of being in the right place at the right time to bag one are pretty slim. There is an NCP car park in Black Lion Street.

Terre à Terre

01273 729051; www.terreaterre.co.uk; 71 East St; mains £15; noon-10.30pm Mon-Fri, 10am-11pm Sat, 10am-10pm Sun

Even staunch meat-eaters will rave about this legendary vegetarian restaurant. A sublime dining experience, from the vibrant modern space to the entertaining menus and inventive dishes stuffed with excitingly zingy ingredients. There's also plenty for vegans. Desserts are on the steep side.

There are issues with access: the outward-opening door is heavy and patrons may need to ring the bell for assistance. The accessible toilet is very small and therefore may not be suitable for larger wheelchairs and scooters. There is no parking and, because the street is busy and narrow, even setting down passengers could be tricky. The Lanes car park, with an entrance in Black Line Street, is five minutes away.



Accessible Brighton: A Festival Guide

Drinking & Nightlife

With the exception of London, Brighton's nightlife is the best in the south, with its unique mix of seafront clubs and bars, and visits by top DJs. On West St, drunken stag and hens' parties and charmless, tacky nightclubs rule. For more ideas, visit www.drinkinbrighton.co.uk or search out publications such as The List, Source and What's On.

A Bar

01273 696691; www.amsterdam.uk.com;

11-12 Marine Pde; noon-2am

Extremely hip gay-friendly bar and sauna in the Amsterdam hotel; its sun terrace, with sea views, is a particular hit. Table service is available offering a wide choice of lagers, ales and fine wines. Food is freshly prepared on the premises; Sunday lunches are served from noon till they run out.

Regular music nights are hosted and the Honey Hush, Rockabilly dance night takes place on the first Saturday of every month.

The front entrance to the terrace area has steep steps. There is a side entrance with level access which may require furniture to be moved to enter. To access the indoor bar area there is a separate side entrance to the main building which has some steps but a ramp is available. There is an accessible toilet which doubles as a cupboard for cleaning equipment which could obstruct access.

There is on-street pay-and-display parking on the same street, free for Blue Badge holders.

Concorde 2

www.concorde2.co.uk; Madeira Dr

Brighton's best-known and best-loved club is a disarmingly unpretentious den, where DJ Fatboy Slim pioneered the Big Beat Boutique and still occasionally graces the decks. Each month there's a huge variety of club nights, live bands and concerts by international names.

This has got to be the flattest venue in Brighton! There is not even one step once you get down from the seafront. There are numerous ramps that you can use to get to that level. The bar is to the left and there is loads of free space around with no tables, so no obstacles. Straight on from the bar is the main concert hall, again all on the flat. Just after the bar in the concert hall, there are toilets accessible to those who can walk short distances. Further on, behind the stage are bigger toilets accessible to wheelchairs. Concorde 2 is a 30-minute walk from Brighton Station and cars can drop off comfortably at the door. Usually, you would have bought your ticket via the box office, so if you cannot stand in the queue to get in, just go up to one of the security staff at the entrance and explain your situation and they will

organise a chair for you. There is also pay-and-display parking available on Madeira Drive.

Patterns

www.patternsbrighton.com; 10 Marine Pde

Some of the city's top club nights are held at this ear-numbing venue. The music's top priority here, attracting a young, up-for-it crowd. It's down a flight of stairs and does not have an accessible toilet.

Verano Lounge Bar

01273 205424; www.thelounges.co.uk/lounges/verano-lounge;

95 Western Rd; 8am-11pm Mon-Fri, 8.30am-11pm Sat & Sun

Verano opened in 2014 in a magnificent gothic-style building. It's situated in the lively Western Road area among an eclectic mix of boutiques, bargain stores, cafes, designer shops and restaurants. This relaxed, informal cafe/bar – where you'd feel as comfortable ordering a coffee as an alcoholic drink – has the feel of a neighbourhood space where families, friends, locals and visitors alike might meet. It has a light and airy atmosphere, with plenty of natural light due to the large floor-to-ceiling windows.

The double-door front entrance has a pillar positioned in the middle but a side door can be opened for easier wheelchair access. There is level access to the ground floor, where the spaciousness of the bar area is ideal for wheelchair users. The staff are welcoming, with a good awareness of people with disabilities' needs. Although the bar itself is fairly high, table service can be provided. There is an accessible toilet with grab rails at the back of the ground floor.

Buses stop on Western Road, where there are wide pavements with adequate dropped kerbs. There is pay-and-display on-street parking (when available), free to Blue Badge holders.



Accessible Brighton: A Festival Guide

Entertainment

Theatre Royal/© Adam Bronkhorst/VisitBrighton



Brighton Dome

01273-709709; www.brightondome.org; Church St

Once the stables for King George IV's horses, this art deco complex houses three theatre venues within the Royal Pavilion estate. ABBA famously won the 1974 Eurovision Song Contest here.

There are two sets of double doors to enter the building, which open 45 minutes before each performance. Access into the building is level and access once within the building presents no problems. The Concert Hall, Corn Exchange and Pavilion Theatre are all accessible to customers with mobility issues. Each venue is equipped with lifts and designated wheelchair positions. There is a viewing platform that can be used by wheelchair users and people with mobility difficulties when the hall is used for concerts. There are two accessible unisex toilets on the ground floor, one at each end of the bar area (RADAR keys in operation). There is a lift to the first floor with audio announcements to tell you which floor you are on, but they do not say whether you are going up or down. The 'doors closing' warning is signalled by a long beep. There is a hearing loop available.

There are various seats that can be removed to accommodate wheelchairs. If you use a scooter you will be in the back row, but this is not as bad as it sounds: there is still a very good view of the stage. There is a radio frequency Sennheiser hearing enhancement system, which can be used with or without hearing aids. You can reserve your unit when you book your tickets on 01273 261538. Guide dogs are welcome. Printed matter is available in large print by calling 01273 260825.

There are four accessible parking bays opposite and just around the corner in New Road there is room for three or four more Blue Badge holders. New Road looks like a pedestrian-only road but you can drive along it to park. You must enter from Church Street and you must park in the marked area only, (this does not look like usual parking spaces) and leave via North Street. There is an NCP car park about halfway up Church Street which has a special deal after 6pm for Dome users.

It is a 10-minute walk from the main line railway station but the pavement at the top of Church Street is not brilliant and the return journey is up a steep hill, so anyone pushing a wheelchair would need to be very fit!

Komedia

0845 293 8480; www.komedia.co.uk; 44-47 Gardner St

A stylish comedy, theatre, music and cabaret venue attracting top stand-up acts.

There is level access with wide doors. There is lift access to all three performance spaces, with buttons at a convenient height for wheelchair users. The bars have low-level access for wheelchair users. They also have large-print menus and wine lists available on request. They recommend contacting them in advance if you have specific requirements. For example, they can reserve tables near the front for visually impaired customers and can reserve suitable seats and headsets for anyone wanting to use the Sennheiser hearing enhancement system.

There are roomy, spotlessly clean and tidy accessible toilets on each floor. A hearing loop is available.

The Komedia is in the trendy North Laines area of Brighton just off North Road. It is a 10-minute walk from Brighton Station, downhill on quite narrow pavements. There is an NCP car park on North Road.

The Old Market Theatre & Venue

01273 201802; www.theoldmarket.com/;

Upper Market Street, Hove

The Old Market offers a diverse programme of entertainment including live music, theatre and comedy. It also has a licensed bar selling drinks and snacks at reasonable prices.

There is level access to the foyer and theatre area. The main entrance is double doored, both of which remain open during events. In the theatre area there are sections provided for wheelchair users which can be rearranged according to preference. The relatively spacious bar area has movable seats, making it very wheelchair-friendly. There is lift access to the accessible toilet which is easy to reach.

Concessionary and complimentary tickets are offered where applicable, including a free ticket for any required carer.

Blue Badge parking is available in the residential streets surrounding the building, though spaces cannot be guaranteed. Visitors can be dropped off directly outside the main entrance. Guide dogs are welcome. Buses stop on Western Road, a five-minute walk downhill along fairly wide pavements.

Staff are welcoming and friendly, very happy to offer further

assistance if required. It's possible to call or email in advance of your visit or speak to a member of the front-of-house team upon arrival. See <http://theoldmarket.com/your-visit/accessibility/> for more details.

Theatre Royal

08448 717650; <http://theatreroyalbrighton.com>; New Rd

Built by decree of the Prince of Wales in 1806, this grand venue hosts musicals, plays and operas.

There are varied access rates; contact the theatre directly to find out what is available. People with disabilities and their companion are entitled to £5 off any seat for Interpreted Performances. The theatre tries to offer at least three signed, one captioned and one audio performance per season.

With flat access from pavement level, there are double doors into the foyer, and two other doors into the theatre which are open and attended. There is an accessible toilet in the foyer near the bar. A hearing loop is available.

Many buses stop at North Street, which is a 10-minute walk away. There are accessible parking bays along New Road; around the corner in Church Street there are also some accessible bays. There is an NCP car park about halfway up Church Street.



Accessible Brighton: A Festival Guide

Gay & Lesbian Brighton

Brighton has the most vibrant gay community in the country outside London and Kemptown (aka Camptown). On and off St James's St is where it's all at. The old Brunswick Town area of Hove is a quieter alternative to the traditionally cruisy (and sometimes seedy) scene in Kemptown.

For up-to-date information on the gay scene in Brighton, check out www.gay.brighton.co.uk and www.realbrighton.com, or pick up the free monthly magazine *Gscene* (www.gscene.com) from gay venues.

Legends hotel, bar and club

www.legendsbrighton.com; 31-34 Marine Parade; bar 11am-5am, club 10pm-5am Wed & Fri-Sun

The Legends hotel is arguably the best gay hotel in town and 2009 winner of the Golden Handbag award.

The bar is bright, breezy, funky, friendly and has stunning views of the Pier and sea from the sun terrace. The bar staff are amazingly friendly and it is the sort of venue you could go to alone and leave with a whole new bunch of friends. It attracts all sorts and, although primarily a gay/lesbian venue, it is very welcoming to all visitors (although they have a strict 'no hen or stag parties' policy). Legends hold cabaret days and evenings and you really have not lived until you experience the drag cabaret at Legends! The bar is open 11am to 5am, so if partying through the night is your thing then this is definitely a venue for you. The door staff are also incredibly vigilant and do a wonderful job of keeping out the drunks and trouble makers, which make this just about the most friendly, trouble-free venue on the scene today. If you are a foodie, they also have a great chef who serves food 12pm until 6pm Monday to Saturday. A full menu can be viewed on the website.

There are steps leading up to the main door and a lift to the side of the building for wheelchair and scooter access. There is an accessible toilet on the right-hand side of the bar. The High Street multistorey car park is at the end of Camelford Street, within a minute's walk of the hotel. Most streets nearby have (charged) on-street parking. You will find the cheapest around Queens Park.

Queen's Arms

www.queensarmsbrighton.com; 7 George St; 3pm-late

They ain't talking Victoria or Elizabeth! During the day, chilled out and relaxed, but come night-time there's plenty of camp cabaret and karaoke.

There is a step leading up the entrance, although staff have been known to assist manual wheelchair users up the step without any problems. There is no accessible toilet. There are double yellow lines which can be parked on by Blue Badge holders for up to three hours.

Pride flag/ © VisitBrighton





Accessible Brighton: A Festival Guide

Shopping

In the market for a pair of vegetarian shoes, a gauche portrait of a Lego man or a letter opener in the shape of something naughty? Whatever item you yearn for, old or new, you'll probably find it in Brighton. The tightly packed Lanes is the most popular shopping district, its every twist and turn jam-packed with jewellers and gift shops, coffee shops and boutiques selling everything from antique firearms to hard-to-find vinyls. There's another, less-claustrophobic shopping district in North Laine, a series of partially pedestrian thoroughfares north of the Lanes, including Bond, Gardner, Kensington and Sydney Sts, lined with retro-cool boutiques and bohemian cafes. Mainstream chains gather within the Churchill Square shopping centre and along Western Rd.



Accessible Brighton: A Festival Guide

Festivals

Street performers / © David Smith



Brighton Festival

www.brightonfestival.org

7–29 May

After Edinburgh, this is the UK's biggest arts festival. It draws star performers from around the globe for three weeks by the sea and features a different guest director each year. This year's director for the festival's 50th anniversary is musician and performance artist, Laurie Anderson, who is presiding over more than 150 events, including 54 exclusive events, premieres and direct commissions from across the arts spectrum. The festival will showcase theatre performances, contemporary and classical music recitals, dance performances, art exhibitions, book readings, debates and film screenings, among other events. It's really got everything covered.

The festival caters very well for people with various disabilities. Not only are the venues themselves accessible, there are also BSL-interpreted and captioned performances, touch tours, audio-described events and transcripts for download. For full information on access at the festival, including links to a large-print version of the Brighton Festival 2016 brochure and full contact details, visit <http://brightonfestival.org/access/>.

Brighton Pride

www.brighton-pride.org

5–7 August

This is one of the UK's biggest gay festivals, attracting more than 200,000 participants and spectators. The Pride Director says, 'Pride has evolved over the years with more communities coming together to celebrate every aspect of our city, regardless of sexuality, race, gender, age or ability'. In honour of this, all of the Pride Day Festival is wheelchair accessible. In addition to accessible toilets, the organisers also offer volunteer guides who can offer information and support to those who are visually impaired or have mobility restrictions. All carers get free entry to all events. There is an Access Tent located at the southern end of Preston Park with a high-dependency accessible toilet with a powered hoist and change table.

As in previous years, the deaf, disabled, elderly and those with mobility issues will have a safe space at the head of the Pride Community Parade. There is a priority zone for wheelchair users and those with disability to be able to sit and view the

main stage easily. What's more, Performance Interpreting is providing BSL signers for the main stage. The Theatre Night, Dog Show, Gaming, Talks and Film Festival are all wheelchair accessible. For more information, and if you wish to register your needs or for updates on access information, visit www.brighton-pride.org/category/access/.

Elderflower Fields

www.elderflowerfields.co.uk/

27–30 May

Elderflower Fields is a small, independent festival, created in 2012 by a group of friends and set within the private grounds and woodland of Pippingford Park in the Ashdown. Set in the heart of the beautiful Sussex countryside, this festival has been designed especially for families with children in mind. There will be more than 40 bands, DJs and performers appearing on three stages, as well as family cinema screenings. Outdoor activities include climbing, parkour, slacklining, skateboarding, nature walks, orienteering and disc golf, as well as sports and arts camp sessions and wildlife, environmental and creative workshops and activities.

Brighton Food Festival

www.brightonfoodfestival.com/

28–30 May

Rated by the *New York Post* in February 2012 as one of the world's leading local food events, the Brighton & Hove Food and Drink Festival is a celebration of food and drink. With local producers, growers, restaurants, bars and food retailers firmly at its heart, it's a showcase of the fantastic food, drink and hospitality to be found in the city and surrounding Sussex.

The main event takes place on Hove Lawns, but other festival events are hosted at various venues – check online for details. You will need to enquire at individual venues regarding access.

If attending the event on Hove Lawns there is paid parking available on the seafront. The event takes place on level ground with some pathways that can take you near the event itself, making it relatively disabled/wheelchair friendly. However, since the event takes place on a lawn, be aware that muddy conditions might make wheelchair access tricky. There is an accessible toilet on site.

Brighton Fringe/© Edward Thomas



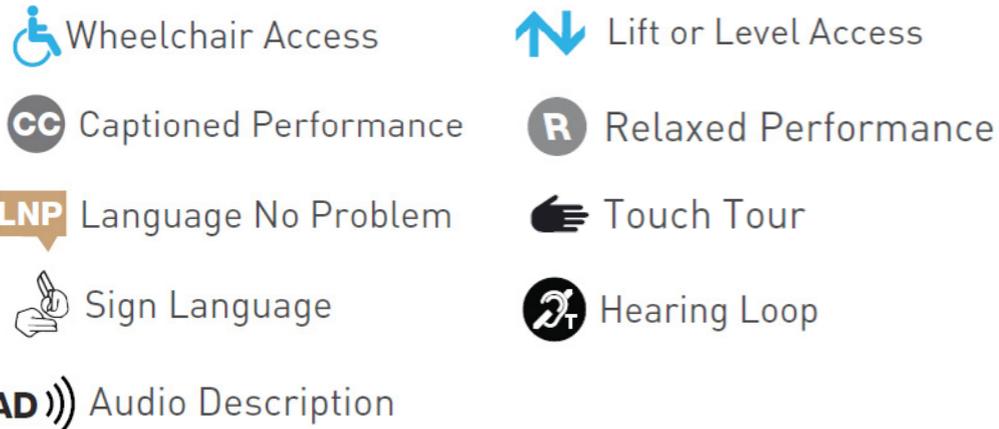
Brighton Fringe

<https://www.brightonfringe.org/>

6 May – 5 June

Brighton Fringe is an open-access arts festival, meaning that anyone can register a show and perform during the festival. The organisers therefore do not curate or programme any shows and nor do they run any Fringe venues; rather they support the individual performers and venues in the work that they do. Having said this, they have a strong belief in equality and respect for all and encourage venues and performers to offer accessible shows.

On Brighton Fringe's website, accessibility options for each show are displayed as follows:



HOW TO IDENTIFY ACCESSIBLE SHOWS

To see all the shows accessible for a certain kind of disability, use the advanced search filters. This year, the Fringe has the following number of shows for each category:

- » Wheelchair accessible: 591
- » Relaxed performances: 213
- » Hearing loop: 55
- » Signed performance: 6
- » Touch tour: 3
- » Audio description: 1
- » Captioned performances: 1

THE FRINGE'S MOST ACCESSIBLE VENUES

Venues with wheelchair access, accessible toilets, level access and hearing loop:

- » **All Saints Church** – The Drive, Eaton Road, Hove, BN3 3QE
- » **Huxley Lecture Theatre** – Room 300, UoB, Lewes Road, Brighton, BN2 4GJ
- » **Jurys Inn, Brighton Waterfront Hotel** – Kings Road, Brighton, BN1 2GS
- » **Komedia Main Space** – 44-47 Gardner Street, Brighton, BN1 1UN
- » **Purple Playhouse Theatre** – 36 Montefiore Road, Hove, BN3 6EP. All venue profits are reinvested in funding the activities of Grace Eyre, a charity for people with learning disabilities.
- » **St George's R C Church** – St George's Road, Kemptown, Brighton, BN2 1ED
- » **St John The Evangelist** – Knoyle Road, Preston Park, Brighton, BN1 6RB

Venues with wheelchair access, accessible toilets and level access:

- » **Sweet Waterfront 1 and 2** – King's Road, Brighton, BN1 2GS
- » **Brighton Spiegel tent** – Old Steine Pleasure Gardens, Brighton, BN1 1GY
- » **Village** – 129 Islingword Road, Brighton, BN2 9SH
- » **The Warren** – St Peter's Church North, York Place, Brighton, BN1 4GU
- » **Republic** – Next to Brighton Wheel, Brighton Beach, Madeira Drive, Brighton, BN2 1TB

Venue with hearing loop:

- » **The Rialto Theatre** – 11 Dyke Road, Brighton, BN1 3FE

SHOWS INTERPRETED INTO SIGN LANGUAGE

All The Nice Girls (Behind The Lines) **Theatre**

Sweet Waterfront 1, King's Road, Brighton, BN1 2GS; wheelchair accessible, lift or level access; 4.45pm 8, 15, 22, 29 May, 5 Jun; admission £8; 1hr

Brighton Fringe/© Edward Thomas



A children's performance at the Fringe City Family Picnic/© Nick Henley



Cabalesque (Normal People Productions) **Cabaret & Circus**

88 London Road (Formerly Emporium), Brighton, BN1 4JF; wheelchair accessible; 8pm 22 May, 9.45pm 4 Jun; admission £10; 2hr

Deep in The Heart of Me (Behind The Lines) **Theatre**

Sweet Waterfront 1, King's Road, Brighton, BN1 2GS; wheelchair accessible, lift or level access; 4.45pm 7, 14, 21, 28 May, 4 Jun; admission £8; 1hr 15min

iF Not Now, When? (Stopgap Dance Company) **Events & Film**

Sallis Benney Theatre, 58-67 Grand Parade, University of Brighton, Brighton, BN2 0JY; wheelchair accessible; 1pm 9 May; admission free, ticketed; 5hr

Rainbow Chorus Sings Out! (Rainbow Chorus) **Music**

St George's Church, St George's Road, Kemptown, Brighton, BN2 1ED; wheelchair accessible; 8pm 23 May; adult/concession £5/3; 1hr 30min

The Secret Garden (Brightonshed) **Kids & Youth**

Brighton Open Air Theatre (BOAT), Park Dyke Road, Hove, BN3 6EH; wheelchair accessible, lift or level access; performance partially signed; 4pm 8 May; adult/concession £8/5, family ticket (2 adults, 2 children) £22; 45min

EVENTS AND SHOWS WITH HEARING LOOPS AVAILABLE

There are 55 events for which hearing loops are available. These include the following:

A Pocketful of Grimms (Story Pocket) **Kids & Youth**

The Rialto Theatre; 11 Dyke Road, Brighton, BN1 3FE; 11am 3-5 Jun; adult/concession £9/7; 1hr

Comic Boom

(Komedia & Jill Edwards Comedy Workshops) **Comedy**
Komedia Main Space, 44-47 Gardner Street, Brighton, BN1 1UN; 8pm 26 May; adult/concession £9/7; 2hr 30min

Sussex Symphony Orchestra Children's Concert (Sussex Symphony Orchestra) **Kids & Youth**

All Saints Church, The Drive, Eaton Road, Hove, BN3 3QE; 3.30pm 21 May; adult/concession/under 16s £12/10/3; 50min

Traditional African Acrobatics (Fanti Acrobats International) **Dance & Physical Theatre**

Jurys Inn, Brighton Waterfront Hotel, Kings Road, Brighton, BN1 2GS; 6pm 13-14, 20-21 May; adult/concession £7.50/4; 1hr

Dancing Shadows (Annelies Clarke) **Visual Arts**

St John the Evangelist, Knoyle Road, Preston Park, Brighton, BN1 6RB; 11.15am 7-8, 14-15, 21-22, 28-29 May; admission free, non-ticketed; 5hr 45min

SHOWS ABOUT DISABILITY**Cook it how you like, it's still a potato!** **Comedy; Learning Disability**

(Romina Puma)
Derived from an Italian saying, 'Cook it how you like, it's still a potato' is an expression for the many words and the articulate ways we keep coming up with to describe and sometimes disguise something, without, in fact, changing its meaning. To the point where, when it comes to disability, at times now even Romina is confused about how to describe herself!

iF Not Now, When? **Events & Film**

(Stopgap Dance Company)
A day of provocations and presentations: creating a diverse future and raising the profile of artists with a disability. Who are the champions? How can artists access funding? Can we change the face of philanthropy? Do we need to label artists with a disability? Join the conversation, see things differently, take part, and change perceptions in a day of talking, doing and making a difference. This will be a mix of performances, discus-



Brighton Hove Children's Parade/© VisitBrighton

sions, debates and networking, followed by a performance from the iF bursary winners.

Lost Voice Guy: Disability for Dunces

Comedy

(Lamb Comedy Productions)

Can you really not talk? Have you considered an exorcism? Are you just in it for the parking? Have you ever tried talking, just to see what happens? How do you have sex? Seriously, can you not talk at all? These are just a few of the bizarre questions that BBC New Comedy Award Winner Lost Voice Guy gets asked on a regular basis. Now he's decided to answer them all for you in his new show. Think of it as being like a disabled FAQ for stupid people.

The Red Lamps

Music

(Chailey Heritage Foundation)

The Red Lamps are an integrated group of musicians from Chailey Heritage School for disabled young people. They will be performing live, using Soundbeam technology: intercepting ultrasonic beams using movement. This live performance will consist of both improvised and prerecorded material.

Beaton & Dillon: Unleashed

Comedy

Cally is female, upbeat and ginger. Josh is male, deadpan and dark-haired. Together they are comedy's odd couple, who aren't even a couple. A fringe must-see – Beaton & Dillon will take you to places you never expected to go. With observations about everything from relationships to gender stereotyping to body image to autism to life and death itself and all the way back again, 'Beaton & Dillon: Unleashed' has it all!

Guerilla Aspies: the Show of the Book. Become Autistic

Literature & Spoken Word

(Paul Wady)

The author of Guerilla Aspies, a neurotypical society infiltration manual, brings his unique and hilarious autism conversion show to Brighton in its second year.

The Bula Loop

Theatre

(Perf@ECT in association with Printers Playhouse)

A darkly comic new play about a family living with autism, drawn from personal experience.

Follow Suit

Theatre

(Silent Faces)

Art InSight

Visual Arts; Sight loss

(ESAB)

Experience works created by both sighted and visually impaired artists. Try your hand at Sound Tennis. Explore our sensory trail and find out what it's really like to live with sight loss.

Brighton Comedy Festival

www.brightoncomedyfestival.com/

October

The Brighton Comedy Festival is now a well-established part of the Brighton entertainment calendar. The festival hub is at the Brighton Dome but also takes place at the Komedia and the jewel in Hove's crown, The Old Market.

The aim of the festival has always been to showcase the best stand-up comedians working in the UK. This year, once again, the line-up includes the most exciting new talent of the moment along with many festival favourites that are established names in the industry and some of the best comedy shows from the Edinburgh Festival Fringe, including Foster's Edinburgh Comedy Award Nominees Sarah Kendall, Nish Kumar and James Acaster, plus the winner, Sam Simmons. They are also showcasing some of the hottest new talent including the Foster's Edinburgh Best Newcomer Sofie Hagen.

The Irish contingent includes Dara Ó Briain, Jason Byrne, David O'Doherty, Tommy Tiernan, Ed Byrne and Patrick Kielty all bringing their craic to the seaside.

It is very pleased to welcome The Guardian Live with their Football Weekly; as well as the brains behind famous TV programme QI, with both its producer John Lloyd, fresh from an Edinburgh triumph, along with the QI Elves. And don't miss the mighty Frankie Boyle.

There is wheelchair access to all comedy festival venues; see detailed access reviews of these venues above. Inform the Box Office at the time of booking if you are a wheelchair user. There are wheelchair-accessible toilets at all sites. General enquiries may be sent to info@brightoncomedyfestival.com.

Brighton Photo Biennial

www.bpb.org.uk/

October

Brighton Photo Biennial is the UK's largest photography festival. It presents itself as an ambitious, bold and innovative festival of international photography, aiming to offer a challenging and stimulating event to wide and varied audiences.

Although the final line-up of venues has not been decided, at the time of this guide going to press, those that have been confirmed are fully accessible with parking and wheelchair-accessible bathrooms and would also accept service animals.



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