

## 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](http://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](http://www.thefedonline.org.uk)). We also gratefully acknowledge permission to reproduce images provided by Brighton Fringe ([www.Brightonfringe.org](http://www.Brightonfringe.org)) and VisitBrighton ([www.visitbrighton.com](http://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](http://www.visitbrighton.com) for information.

### Access Guide

The Fed Centre for Independent Living ([www.thefedonline.org.uk](http://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](http://www.thefedonline.org.uk/services/out-and-about/accessible-city-guide).





Brighton Hove Children's Parade/© VisitBrighton