

Derby Festivals and Events 2025

Derby FORMAT

13 to 30 March 2025

[FORMAT International Photography Festival](#) was established in 2004 and is the UK's leading international contemporary festival of photography. In addition to organising a year-round programme of international commissions, open calls, residencies, conferences and collaborations, it also welcomes more than 100,000 visitors to its Biennale in Derby from all corners of the globe. The Festival's launch weekend is scheduled for 13 to 16 March, and will include the exhibition openings, portfolio reviews, FORMAT's annual conference, artist talks as well as the hugely popular FORMAT Photobook Market.

English Tourism Week 2025 in Derby

14 to 23 March 2025

[English Tourism Week](#), an annual celebration of the English tourism industry, unfolds from 14 to 23 March 2025. This event serves as a significant platform to celebrate Derby's diverse, exciting and vibrant sector, and highlight the quality and value of English tourism. It is a moment to revel in the dynamism of the tourism economy, prompting reflection on the exceptional businesses and captivating attractions that enrich the city. Discover Derby as the perfect destination during English Tourism Week, with offerings of a tapestry of rich culture, heritage, and hidden gems.

Psychic Dancehall Festival

22 March 2025

[Psychic Dancehall](#) is a new electronic and experimental music festival in Derby, UK. It takes place across two venues, The Wardwick and Dubrek Studios in Derby, bringing an unmissable selection of electronic and experimental artists to the Midlands. Headline act The Utopia Strong is a kosmiche electronic trio featuring Steve Davis (World Champion snooker player), Kavus Torabi (Knifeworld, Cardiacs, Gong), and Mike York (Coil). Their critically acclaimed 2022 album 'International Treasure' has been a major success. Tickets from £20.

TOASTED Ceramic Fair 2025

29 & 30 March 2025

Calling all pottery enthusiasts... [TOASTED](#) Ceramic Fair is back for another year. TOASTED boasts 37 potters from Scotland to Brighton and everywhere in-between. With free entry all day long and a jam-packed programme of demonstrations, bookable workshops and free potters talks, this is a must visit event for anyone with an interest in ceramics. A pottery tombola will support Derby Museums and Cromartie who will be selling a wide range of kilns, clays and glazes and pottery wheels on the day.

Alien Day - LV426

26 April 2025

With 26 April being 4/26 to our American friends, and [LV426](#) being a key planet in the *Alien* universe, this is the perfect opportunity to celebrate one of the galaxy's greatest sci-fi franchises, with all screenings held, highly appropriately, in QUAD's Sir John Hurt Cinema screen. Films screening (in *Alien* universe chronological order): 12:45pm, [Prometheus](#); 3:00pm, [Alien](#) (15); 6:00pm, [Alien: Romulus](#) (15); 8:30pm, [Aliens](#) (18). Passes to see all 4 films are priced at £30 (standard), £25 (concessions).

Dracula Returns to Derby - A Conference and Celebration

15 to 18 May 2025

In 1924, at the world premiere in Derby, Dracula stepped onto the stage. He was charming and suave, a different vampire to the monster of Bram Stoker's novel. When the curtain rose, Hamilton Deane's adaptation debuted Dracula in evening dress and a cloak. The monstrous Nosferatu of the novel was recast as an urbane and sophisticated figure, still threatening but more of an insider than an invader. The Derby Dracula became wildly successful; the show toured the country and, from the West End, transferred to Broadway, where Bela Lugosi was cast as the Count. This production was

then adapted by Hollywood for the iconic 1931 film. The [Conference and Celebration](#) will bring together scholars, practitioners, and members of the public for four days of events and discussions about Dracula in its many forms including theatre, literature, cinema, television, photography, and digital and online media.

Derby Book Festival 2025

23 May 2025 - 1 June 2025,

The [Derby Book Festival](#) will be back for its 10th anniversary in 2025 with their Summer Festival - and an Autumn Edition from 14 to 18 November - with a packed programme of events for all the family. The book festival programme appeals to all ages and interests with a range of events, including some with a particular Derby resonance, with themes including railways, science, local history and architecture, cycling, walking, birding, cricket - and even real ale.

Download 2025

13 to 15 June 2025

[Download Festival](#) the UK's top rock event, rocks Donington Park, the iconic home of rock music. Headlining Download XXII Festival for the first time in its 22nd edition are pop-punk icons Green Day, genre-blenders Sleep Token, and nu-metal giants Korn.

TK Maxx presents Derby Summer Sessions 2025

3-13 July

Markeaton Park, the city's most-visited outdoor destination, will host TK Maxx presents [Derby Summer Sessions](#) this July - to establish itself as one of the biggest city-centre music festivals in the UK. Rain or shine, Derby Summer Sessions has got you covered - literally. The Big Top Tent ensures that nothing can dampen the spirit of this festival. If the sun's blazing, you can step out to the outdoor spaces and enjoy some well-earned shade. Top acts for 2025 include The Human League, 3 July; Blossoms, 5 July; Rag N Bone Man, 6 July; Simple Minds, 8 July; Faithless, 11 July; Jess Glynne, 12 July; and UB40, 13 July.

Japan Fest 2025

12 July 2025

[Japan Fest](#) is taking over QUAD in Derby on Saturday 13 July with a range of film screenings, Martial Arts demonstrations, Japanese arts and crafts activities, koto and shamisen performances, reiki healing, enka singing, authentic handmade food, kimono Dress Up, traders, and much more. Bringing a small taste of Japan to Derby this is an ideal day for Japan fans of all ages. The event presented in association with [Otaku World](#). Tickets are priced at £20 (£15 Concessions). Family ticket are £50.

Derby Caribbean Carnival 2025 – 50th anniversary

20 July 2025

For 50 years, the [Derby Caribbean Carnival](#) has taken place on the third Sunday of July each year. This year, it will include a procession featuring troupes from London, Luton, Leeds, Bradford, Preston, Leicester, Birmingham and Nottingham as well as MProductiontime2show Troupe from Derby and the Association's own troupe Cultural Roots Carnival Troupe (CRCT). All troupes gather on Cathedral Green near the Derby Silk Mill (The Museum of Making). For the start of the procession at 1.00 pm, finally arriving at Osmaston Park at approximately 3.00 pm, culminating in a costume exhibition of all troupe members. Once there, revellers can enjoy the stage show with an international headline artist, other local and national artists.

Alstom presents The Greatest Gathering

1 Aug to 3 August 2025

Alstom, the UK's leading supplier of new trains and train services, will be opening its historic Derby factory to the public for the first time in 2025 to host an unprecedented event in celebration of [Railway 200](#). [The Greatest Gathering](#) will see the largest temporary assembly of rolling stock and railway-related exhibits in a generation, all coming together for three fun-filled days across the vast estate of Derby Litchurch Lane Works. Alongside displays of historic and modern, mainline locomotives, Britain's biggest

rail celebration will also feature rides along Derby's test track, a variety of miniature trains in operation and layouts staged by some of the biggest names in model railways.

Darley Park Weekender 2025

29 to 31 August 2025

[Darley Park Weekender](#) is back in 2025 with three days of musical entertainment, set against the backdrop of the beautiful Darley Park. [80s Mixtape](#) returns with Bananarama, Haircut 100 and Gary Davies. Poptastic icons Heather Small, East 17, 911 and Damage will join the [Ultimate 90s](#) line up and rounding the weekend off is [The Darley Park Concert](#), Derby's annual summer highlight with classical music and fireworks.

Whooverville 16

30 August 2025

The Whoovers, in association with Derby QUAD, are bringing the East Midlands favourite convention for fans of the BBC's *Doctor Who* back to QUAD for its sixteenth year. Expect [Whooverville 16](#) to be packed with activities, including celebrity guest panels, autograph and photo sessions, displays and dealers, and above all a chance to meet fellow fans in a relaxed and fun environment. The first star guests have just been announced: Jo Martin, who plays the mysterious 'Fugitive' incarnation of the Doctor, and Susan Twist, who played the enigmatic Susan Triad, throughout Ncuti Gatwa's first season as the Doctor. Come and meet Jo and Susan and look out for announcements of more guests over the coming months. Tickets are priced at £60 (Concession £40; 12 and under £15).

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For further details, visit:

<https://www.visitderby.co.uk>.

For all media enquiries, interview opportunities and images, please contact:

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