

UK HOLIDAYS AND CULTURAL EVENTS

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(Great Britain)



Approximately 1 million people attend the Notting Hill Carnival each year to watch the costumed parades and dancing and to listen to music.

BANK HOLIDAYS

In the United Kingdom, we call official days off bank holidays. The banks close for a day, and so do most businesses and services.

New Year's Day is the first bank holiday in the year. **May Day** is in early May, **Spring Bank Holiday** at the end of May and then finally **Summer Bank Holiday** at the end of August, when there is a mass rush to the seaside. **Christmas** and **Easter** are also considered bank holidays.

In Northern Ireland, there is also the **Orangeman's Day** on July 12th. This commemorates the victory of the protestant Prince William of Orange over Catholic King James in the Battle of the Boyne in 1690, which strengthened

The actors and comedians sometimes wear masks when performing in the streets during the Edinburgh Fringe.

the Protestant dominance of Ireland. When the Orangemen try to march with pipes and drums through protestant residential areas, serious rioting occurs. Most people try to be away on holiday at this time.

CULTURAL FESTIVALS

EDINBURGH FESTIVAL AND THE 'FRINGE'

The Edinburgh Festival and the Edinburgh 'Fringe' with its music and drama take place each August in the city. **Aspiring** actors, singers, comedians and dancers hire local venues to perform their work to small audiences. Street theatre is very popular.

GLYNDEBOURNE FESTIVAL OPERA

The attraction, apart from the opera, is that you

can picnic with your champagne and cucumber sandwiches on the lawns and in the gardens of Glyndebournne near Lewes in East Sussex, England, during the intervals. In May to August this year, operas will include Verdi's *Macbeth* and Bach's *St. Matthew Passion*.

GLASTONBURY FESTIVAL

The Glastonbury Festival in Somerset in England is a major contemporary music festival that takes place in the fields of a farm near Glastonbury in June. Many groups and musicians have played here such as Coldplay, Kaiser Chiefs and Paul McCartney.

THE BBC PROMS AT THE ROYAL ALBERT HALL

From July to September each year, The Royal Albert Hall in London is the venue for the world's largest classical music festival. With over 70 concerts, it culminates with the televised 'last night of the proms' ('the proms' is a colloquial abbreviation for Promenade Concerts). Traditional English tunes such as 'Land of Hope and Glory', the unofficial English national anthem, are sung.

NOTTING HILL CARNIVAL

The end of August is carnival time in London. Steel bands, parades and calypso competitions bring music, rhythm and the colour of the Caribbean and Brazil to the streets of Notting Hill.

→ Vocabulary

when there is a mass rush to the seaside

- kdy lidé hromadně odjíždějí k moři

to commemorate [kə'meməreɪt] - připomínat, oslavovat

to march [mɑ:tʃ] - pochodovat

pipes and drums [paɪps drʌmz] - dudy a bubny

residential area [ˌrezi'denʃ(ə)l 'e:riə] - obytná čtvrť

rioting ['raɪəɪŋ] - pouliční bouře

aspiring [ə'spraɪɪŋ] - usilující prorazit, nadějný

to hire ['haɪə] - pronajmout si

cucumber [kju:kʌmbə] - okurkový

lawn [lɔ:n] - trávník

interval ['ɪntəv(ə)l] - přestávka, pauza

contemporary [kən'temp(ə)r(ə)rɪ] - současný

to culminate ['kʌlɪmɪneɪt] - vrcholit

colloquial abbreviation

[kə'lɒkwɪəl əbrɪ:vɪ'eɪʃ(ə)n] - hovorová zkratka

steel band [sti:l] - bubnová kapela

calypso [kə'lɪpsəʊ] - hudba z oblasti Karibiku

● Language point

Fringe can describe anything on the outside, or on the edge. ("I live on the fringe of the city.") The Edinburgh Fringe Festival is named because the performances of the musicians and actors are not mainstream.

✘ British versus American English

interval (BrE) - intermission (AmE)