Article published on May 17th 2012 | Travel

During the month of May, the city of Brighton and Hove is host to the annual Brighton Festival - Englandâ€™s largest multi-art form event. Since its conception in the late 60s, the festival has grown more and more ambitious and now offers an astonishing variety of cultural events and performances in a range of different venues.

One of the major events in the festival is the famous Childrenâ€™s Parade, the procession which heralds the beginning of the festival each year. This is a free event and all ages are welcome. Thousands of children from local schools dress up in vibrant coloured clothing and fancy dress before proudly parading through the streets to live music with banners and incredible creations, such as giant puppets. This time honoured tradition is a real sight to behold and really kicks off the festival in style.

With different events taking place throughout each day during the month the festival is held, if you are planning to visit, it may be a good idea to study an event calendar online and mark up your itinerary to be sure not to miss anything. And with the events themselves covering everything from literature to the circus, there really is something for everyone.

Donâ€™t believe it? Then just stop to consider some of the different types of shows on offer at this yearâ€™ festival. For instance, there are several performances showcasing the work of contemporary musical artists from both the UK and across the world. However, if you prefer more classical stylings, youâ€™re well catered for as well â€“ there are various shows tailored towards providing visitors with the best classical music performances possible. Similarly, there are a variety of dance shows on throughout the festival (for those who like things a little more physical) as well as the aforementioned literature attractions (for those who prefer things at a slower pace).

Of course, the residents of Brighton are in the privileged position of having this incredible event on their doorstep. Those who live further afield will have to arrange travel and perhaps accommodation. A large amount of Londoners choose to visit the festival each year, and perhaps the easiest option for them is to catch a return train from London to Brighton, thus avoiding having to fork out extra for hotels. Extra services tend to be put on this route during the festival month. Visitors coming from greater distances could look at buying advance train tickets, car sharing or flying â€“ Brighton is around an hour from Gatwick airport.

Article Source:
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Article Keywords:
train from London to Brighton, the Brighton festival, advance train tickets

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