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# get lost

irring travel

10

## OF THE WORLD'S BEST PARTIES

from BRAZIL to TAIWAN

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ARGENTINA | AUSTRALIA | INDIA | NEW ZEALAND | SOUTH AFRICA



# LET'S GET THIS PARTY STARTED

Shake it, drink it, just do it! To celebrate *get lost's* 10th birthday, we've come up with 10 parties around the world that will have you singing, dancing, carousing and waking up wondering where in the world you are.







## WILLIE NELSON'S FOURTH OF JULY PICNIC

FORT WORTH, USA  
4 JULY, 2014

The reason this is one of the parties you have to put on your bucket list is right there in its name: Willie Nelson. Regardless of whether or not you're a fan of country music, the 81-year-old songwriter, author, actor and activist is an absolute legend. He first held Willie's Picnic way back in 1973 in a field in Dripping Springs, Texas, which is outside Austin if your knowledge of Texan geography isn't that good. Kris Kristofferson, Waylon Jennings and Tom T Hall co-headlined, 40,000 people turned up (according to legend that's about 35,000 more than anyone expected) and it all turned into a bit of a debacle. Thankfully, not at all phased by the chaos that ensued, Nelson continued what would become a tradition, even if it's had the occasional year off now and then.

For the past few years, the event has been held in a large field adjacent to Billy Bob's Texas, the world's biggest honky tonk – and reason enough to visit to Fort Worth – with 6000 folks grabbing themselves a ticket to country-music heaven.

Last year Kristofferson returned to celebrate the picnic's 40th birthday. So far, this year's line-up includes Nelson and Grammy-nominated Dierks Bentley.

**MAKE SURE YOU...** grab a handful of napkins. Billy Bob's Bar-B-Que operates on site and, this being a picnic, you'd be mad not to stuff yourself silly on the Texan specialty.

**DON'T...** go too hard too early in the Texan sun. There's a cool zone inside Billy Bob's if you need it.

**TIP:** Tickets bought in advance cost about AU\$40, but you can live large and pay for a VIP one (AU\$280) that'll get you access to the skybox in the middle of the ground, with 360-degree views, private bar, free food and giveaways.  
[www.williespicnic.com](http://www.williespicnic.com)



## FETE DE LA MUSIQUE

PARIS, FRANCE  
21 JUNE, 2014

A jam of jazz, hip-hop and hedonism pours through the streets of the French capital each year to mark the summer solstice. Notching up 32 years on the social calendar, Fête de la Musique slips into the city's schedule just before Parisians depart for summer holidays and leave the city a hive of tourists.

Stages erected around the main tourist areas – Bastille, Montmartre and the Latin Quarter – pump up audiences with free performances from well-known names, but the real magic is the stuff you stumble upon down winding alleyways and in parks, bars and cafes – basically anywhere a musician can strum a chord. Orchestras jam in the Métro, opera singers croon from balconies and beatboxers lay down rhythms in the street, so there's something for everyone's ears.

The festival began in 1982 when, upon learning four million of his compatriots played an instrument, Minister of Culture Jack Lang called for all musicians to take to the streets and play for half an hour. Instead, they played all night.

Since then Parisians have embraced the city-wide party with a passion usually reserved for their favourite fromage. Posh ladies hit the footpath with manicured poodles, tourists mingle with *bobos* (bourgeois bohemians) and hardcore punks thrash with indie kids and everyone in between.

Convenience stores and booze shops abound and drinking on the street is legal, so grab a bottle of red or follow the lead of the locals and sip a Kronenbourg 1664 when grazing from pop-up stalls.

The city heats up as the sun goes down, so bolster your blood alcohol level and head to the Marais where near-naked dancers thrust in shop fronts and laser lights beam down roads thick with bodies and bubbles. Refuel at a late-night kebab shop or crêperie then trek into the side streets where dancers swarm around DJs spinning decks in doorways.

The festival is now celebrated in more than 450 cities around the world, but in this case the original is the best.

**MAKE SURE YOU...** get a feel for the different *arrondissements* (districts) of Paris – the festival is an ideal way to explore the unique flavour of each.

**DON'T...** expect smooth sailing on public transport. The Métro remains open all night but expect carriages to be cramped and buses to struggle on the bursting streets. Attack this one on foot.

**TIP:** On the morning of the festival grab a copy of the free newspaper *A Nous Paris* for a complete list of every official performance.  
[www.fetedelamusique.culture.fr](http://www.fetedelamusique.culture.fr)

