

The Boston Globe

SUMMER ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

25 outdoor events around New England from Memorial Day to Labor Day weekend

To fill your summer weekends with fun, check out these events around the region.

By Patricia Harris and David Lyon Updated May 13, 2021, 11:33 a.m.

Expect a big welcome at outdoor events this summer. It's hard to tell who's more excited — the organizers, the artists and vendors, or the rest of us who want to go *somewhere* and do *something*. As vaccination numbers are rising and gathering restrictions are easing, organizers are moving ahead with cautious optimism. They're eager to welcome visitors, but the situation remains fluid. Before heading out, check to make sure an event has not been canceled and to find out about health protocols. And because crowd size may be limited, it's best to buy tickets or make reservations far in advance.



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6. THIRD ANNUAL JUNETEENTH RI CELEBRATION

When: June 19

This festival commemorates the emancipation of the last enslaved African Americans and celebrates centuries of strength and resilience. Local poets, singers, and dancers will perform and old-school games like cornhole and tug of war will keep the children busy. There will be plenty of food along with vendors of multicultural goods and a health and wellness fair.

Where: Temple to Music, Roger Williams Park, Providence, Rhode Island

Contact: 401-288-7864, juneteenthri.com

13. FringePVD: THE PROVIDENCE FRINGE FESTIVAL

When: July 18-31

Unjuried and uncensored, Providence Fringe sets the imagination free. Representing theater, comedy, dance, acrobatics, circus, music, and performance art, the 38 in-person groups (and another 37 confirmed for online shows) at this year's festival range from the sweet to the outrageous. Most live events are outdoors around WaterFire Arts Center, with a few in the cavernous main hall with its 40-foot ceiling. One day will feature the kid-friendly antics of Family Fringe.

Where: WaterFire Arts Center, 475 Valley Street, Providence, Rhode Island

Contact: 401-400-7100, fringepvd.org



Visitors at FringePVD: The Providence Fringe Festival in 2019. JAMES LASTOWSKI

14. NEWPORT FOLK FESTIVAL

When: July 23-25 and 26-28

Pandemic capacity limitations wreaked havoc with plans for this grandparent of all folk festivals, so the 2021 edition is broken into two three-day sessions of concerts, storytelling, and workshops. British soul sensation Yola was the first to announce she's coming; she'll be only the sixth artist to perform at both the Newport Folk and Newport Jazz festivals the same year. Festival members got the first crack at early tickets. As advisories on capacity are issued, more tickets are expected to be released to the public.

Where: Fort Adams State Park, 90 Fort Adams Drive, Newport, Rhode Island

Website: newportfolk.org



Yola is scheduled to perform at both the Newport Folk and the Newport Jazz festivals this year. NINA WESTERVELT

15. NEWPORT JAZZ FESTIVAL

When: July 30-August 1

Ever since Miles Davis's 1955 solo on "Round Midnight," jazz fans have dreamt of hearing landmark live performances on the lawns at Newport. In contrast with years past, 2021 will be a more intimate gathering of performances and collaborations before a capacity-limited crowd. Tickets are being released in stages in the coming weeks.

Where: Fort Adams State Park, 90 Fort Adams Drive, Newport, Rhode Island

Website: newportjazz.org

17. WASHINGTON COUNTY FAIR

When: August 11-15

You might hear the twang of country music before you even enter the gates of this old-time county fair that celebrates a way of life that seems especially appealing after a year of pandemic stress. Livestock shows, tractor and oxen pulls, and the lights and sounds of the midway combine with stage concerts and country-fair food for several days of hay-scented fun.

Where: 78 Richmond Townhouse Road, Route 112, Richmond, Rhode Island

Website: washingtoncountyfair-ri.com

24. RHYTHM & ROOTS FESTIVAL

When: September 3-5

If it's part of the rich gumbo of our national music, someone will be performing it at this joyous end-of-summer celebration of blues, zydeco, bluegrass, Americana, and more. The lineup is still evolving but will include longtime favorites like John Hiatt and Rusted Root. On-site camping offers the bonus of sometimes hearing the performers (who also camp) as they jam after hours.

Where: Ninigret Park, 4890A Old Post Road, Charlestown, Rhode Island

Contact: 401-783-3926, rhythmandroots.com