# Notting Hill Carnival 2025 highlights Alvaro Barrington art commission as ticketed Panorama returns



The Notting Hill Carnival returns to west London in late August 2025, promising two days of Caribbean music, costume and community celebration across the streets of Notting Hill. According to the official festival schedule, the main programme will take place on Sunday 24 and Monday 25 August 2025, with a ticketed Panorama steelband evening on Saturday 23 August; organisers and coverage of previous years underline the event’s status as Europe’s largest street festival and a staple of London’s summer calendar. Visitors can expect the usual mix of parades, sound systems and food stalls that make the weekend both a cultural showcase and a major city attraction.

The Saturday evening Panorama is a signature event this year. The UK National Panorama steelband competition will be staged on 23 August 2025 at Emslie Horniman’s Pleasance Park, with gates opening in the late afternoon and bands performing memorised ten‑minute pieces without sheet music. The competition, which the carnival presents as one of the largest steelpan contests outside the Caribbean, is ticketed and draws specialist audiences as well as festivalgoers seeking live, high‑energy steelpan performances in an open‑air park setting.

The weekend begins in earnest each year with J’ouvert, the pre‑dawn celebration that traditionally sees revellers cover themselves in paint, powder and other colourful media. The official programme lists J’ouvert from about 06:00 to 09:00 on Sunday morning, followed by the MAS judging and a Children’s Day/Family Day procession designed to encourage family participation and showcase younger masqueraders. Monday is Adults Day, when the full parade of bands and mas takes over the main route for the climax of the carnival.

For visitors who prefer stationary stages or who want to experience the festival’s art programming, the carnival’s network of sound systems and live stages runs from midday until early evening on both days. This year’s Powis Square programme has been curated by artist Alvaro Barrington in collaboration with Mangrove Mas: the Thaddaeus Ropac gallery has described Barrington’s commission as including work on the Mangrove Mas band truck and a performance programme, Emelda’s Junction, programmed across both Sunday and Monday from 12:00 to 19:00. The blending of contemporary art commissions with traditional masquerade underscores the carnival’s evolving cultural remit.

Amid the colour and music the weekend also contains moments of solemn remembrance. At 15:00 on both Sunday and Monday the carnival will observe a 72‑second period of reflection to honour the 72 people who died in the Grenfell Tower fire; that pause has become a fixed and emotive part of the carnival schedule in recent years and is observed by sound systems, marchers and emergency services alike.

Beyond culture and community, the carnival represents a significant economic boost to London. Research summarised by the London Assembly and other official sources estimates an average additional spend of roughly £54 per visitor; applying conservative attendance figures produces direct spending benefits to the city that have been estimated in the tens of millions of pounds each year. Organisers and local businesses point to the weekend as a vital source of trade for hotels, cafes, market stalls and retailers, and as a prominent showcase for London’s multicultural offer.

Practical information is being emphasised by the festival’s organisers. The official Notting Hill Carnival site provides detailed guidance on parade routes, ticketing for the Panorama evening, accessibility, safety advice and volunteer opportunities; independent guides also advise potential attendees to plan around likely transport restrictions and occasional tube station closures on carnival days and to observe local safety guidance when attending large street events.

Organisers present the 2025 weekend as both a celebratory and community‑led event — a chance to foreground Caribbean heritage and to expand the carnival’s artistic collaborations — while public agencies and independent analysts underline its civic and economic significance. For those planning to attend, the combination of early‑morning ritual, competitive steelband performance and late‑day parade offers a spectrum of experiences that together explain why the Notting Hill Carnival remains a defining moment in London’s cultural year.

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## Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.travelandtourworld.com/news/article/notting-hill-carnival-2025-in-london-immerse-yourself-in-the-heart-of-caribbean-culture-and-unforgettable-festivities/), [[2]](https://nhcarnival.org/), [[4]](https://www.timeout.com/london/things-to-do/notting-hill-carnival-guide)
* Paragraph 2 – [[3]](https://nhcarnival.org/carnival-info/saturday), [[1]](https://www.travelandtourworld.com/news/article/notting-hill-carnival-2025-in-london-immerse-yourself-in-the-heart-of-caribbean-culture-and-unforgettable-festivities/), [[2]](https://nhcarnival.org/)
* Paragraph 3 – [[2]](https://nhcarnival.org/), [[1]](https://www.travelandtourworld.com/news/article/notting-hill-carnival-2025-in-london-immerse-yourself-in-the-heart-of-caribbean-culture-and-unforgettable-festivities/), [[4]](https://www.timeout.com/london/things-to-do/notting-hill-carnival-guide)
* Paragraph 4 – [[5]](https://ropac.net/news/2471-alvaro-barrington-notting-hill-carnival-commission-2025/), [[1]](https://www.travelandtourworld.com/news/article/notting-hill-carnival-2025-in-london-immerse-yourself-in-the-heart-of-caribbean-culture-and-unforgettable-festivities/), [[2]](https://nhcarnival.org/)
* Paragraph 5 – [[6]](https://news.sky.com/story/notting-hill-carnival-grenfell-victims-remembered-amid-caribbean-celebrations-11483879), [[1]](https://www.travelandtourworld.com/news/article/notting-hill-carnival-2025-in-london-immerse-yourself-in-the-heart-of-caribbean-culture-and-unforgettable-festivities/)
* Paragraph 6 – [[7]](https://www.london.gov.uk/who-we-are/what-london-assembly-does/questions-mayor/find-an-answer/notting-hill-2), [[1]](https://www.travelandtourworld.com/news/article/notting-hill-carnival-2025-in-london-immerse-yourself-in-the-heart-of-caribbean-culture-and-unforgettable-festivities/), [[2]](https://nhcarnival.org/)
* Paragraph 7 – [[2]](https://nhcarnival.org/), [[4]](https://www.timeout.com/london/things-to-do/notting-hill-carnival-guide)
* Paragraph 8 – [[2]](https://nhcarnival.org/), [[1]](https://www.travelandtourworld.com/news/article/notting-hill-carnival-2025-in-london-immerse-yourself-in-the-heart-of-caribbean-culture-and-unforgettable-festivities/), [[7]](https://www.london.gov.uk/who-we-are/what-london-assembly-does/questions-mayor/find-an-answer/notting-hill-2)

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.travelandtourworld.com/news/article/notting-hill-carnival-2025-in-london-immerse-yourself-in-the-heart-of-caribbean-culture-and-unforgettable-festivities/> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://nhcarnival.org/> - The official Notting Hill Carnival website provides comprehensive information about the 2025 celebration, confirming dates, event structure and practical details. It lists the main festival dates as 24–25 August 2025 with a ticketed Panorama steelband evening on Saturday 23 August, and outlines Family Day, Children’s Day, J’ouvert and Adults Day programming. Pages explain parade routes, sound system locations, live stages, and community involvement while advising on safety, accessibility, and volunteer opportunities. The site emphasises the carnival’s community-led nature, promoting artist listings, band entries, and visitor guidance, making it a primary source for schedules, ticketing and official announcements, and practical advice.
3. <https://nhcarnival.org/carnival-info/saturday> - The Carnival’s Saturday programme centres on the UK National Panorama steel band competition, scheduled for Saturday 23 August 2025 at Emslie Horniman’s Pleasance Park. The official page details timings, with gates opening at 4pm and junior and main Panorama performances through the evening, and explains that each band performs a ten‑minute memorised composition without sheet music. It describes Panorama as one of the largest steelpan contests outside the Caribbean, set in an open‑air park atmosphere with food stalls. The page also notes ticketing arrangements, band line‑ups to be announced, and the event’s significance as a cornerstone of Carnival’s musical tradition.
4. <https://www.timeout.com/london/things-to-do/notting-hill-carnival-guide> - Time Out’s Notting Hill Carnival guide explains the festival’s history, schedule and tips for attendees in London. It confirms Family Day on Sunday 24 August and Adults Day on Monday 25 August, describes J’ouvert as a pre‑dawn celebration where participants cover each other in paint, powder and chocolate from about 6am, and outlines Dutty or Fun Mas as messy, paint‑splashing revelry. The piece highlights over thirty sound system locations active from midday to 7pm, live stages such as Powis Square, parade routes and travel advice including tube station closures. Time Out advises on safety and how to enjoy Carnival respectfully.
5. <https://ropac.net/news/2471-alvaro-barrington-notting-hill-carnival-commission-2025/> - The Thaddaeus Ropac gallery announcement describes Alvaro Barrington’s Notting Hill Carnival commission for 2025, confirming his continued collaboration with Mangrove Mas and his role in programming the Powis Square stage. It states Barrington will exhibit work on the Mangrove Mas band truck and that Emelda’s Junction, his performance collective, will curate Powis Square’s 12pm–7pm programme across Sunday 24 and Monday 25 August. The page highlights his Caribbean‑inspired visual practice and community engagement, explaining the commission as part of a broader initiative to foreground local artists at Carnival and to blend contemporary art with traditional masquerade performance and public programming opportunities.
6. <https://news.sky.com/story/notting-hill-carnival-grenfell-victims-remembered-amid-caribbean-celebrations-11483879> - Sky News reported on the Carnival’s annual act of remembrance for Grenfell Tower victims, describing how music and street sound systems fall silent for 72 seconds at 3pm on carnival days to honour the 72 people who died in the 2017 fire. The piece included images and eyewitness accounts of revellers and emergency services observing the pause, explains the proximity of the parade to North Kensington and notes how the moment has become embedded in Carnival’s weekend schedule. The report contextualises the tribute within ongoing community remembrance, and notes the emotional response from families and local campaigners at past ceremonies.
7. <https://www.london.gov.uk/who-we-are/what-london-assembly-does/questions-mayor/find-an-answer/notting-hill-2> - The London Assembly’s Q&A summarises research on Notting Hill Carnival’s economic contribution, citing studies that estimate per‑visitor spending and overall benefits. It notes independent analysis which found an average additional spend of around £54 per carnival goer and uses conservative attendance estimates to suggest the event contributes between £23 million and £54 million annually to London’s economy from direct visitor spending alone. The page places these figures in context, explaining wider indirect impacts through promotion of London and multiplier effects, and references formal studies such as the Impact of Major Events report and market research commissioned for Carnival planning purposes.