# Notting Hill Carnival returns with new ticketed judging grandstand and Panorama line‑up



West London is preparing for the return of Notting Hill Carnival over the August bank holiday, with organisers expecting a technicolour weekend of music, mas and street food that draws millions. According to the official event website and local guides, the community-led celebration — which began in 1966 to honour Caribbean culture — runs from Saturday 23 to Monday 25 August 2025 and brings together thousands of performers and vast crowds across the W10 and W11 neighbourhoods. The parade, sound systems and live stages form the heart of the free Sunday and Monday festivities, while ticketed events supplement the programme.

Saturday night is given over to Panorama, the UK’s premier steelband competition. The carnival’s organisers confirm gates open in the late afternoon at Emslie Horniman’s Pleasance Park for Junior Panorama and the main Panorama showcase; tickets are on sale for those who want a guaranteed seat. VisitLondon and the official Panorama notices highlight that the competition is the standout pan showcase of the weekend and that Junior Panorama will share the main stage this year, underscoring the event’s focus on both youth and adult musical excellence.

Sunday begins with traditional pre-dawn J’Ouvert paint and powder celebrations and the carnival opening ceremony, followed by family day activities — a children’s parade, Dutty Mas and daytime sound systems across the route. New for 2025, organisers say a public Judging Zone Grandstand will offer ticketed viewing for those who prefer a reserved position to watch the judging of mas bands. On both Sunday and Monday at 15:00 a 72‑second silence will be observed in memory of the 72 lives lost in the Grenfell Tower fire, a solemn moment woven into the weekend’s programme.

The parade route threads through Notting Hill and adjacent parts of Kensington, starting near Westbourne Park and following Chepstow Road, Westbourne Grove and Ladbroke Grove before looping back. Local authority and transport guidance stresses that road closures and stewarding will be in place and that buses and taxis cannot reach the centre of the route. Transport for London advises visitors to plan journeys in advance, use major stations such as Paddington where possible, and expect smaller Tube stations to be closed or to operate entry restrictions during peak periods.

Safety and operational planning have been emphasised by boroughs and council teams. The Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea has published interactive maps, road‑closure information, stewarding and trader guidance; Westminster City Council outlines practical arrangements on toilets, first aid and stewarding and lists participating groups, noting dozens of mas and steel bands, plus several Brazilian bands and numerous sound systems and stalls along the route. Organisers and councils urge attendees to follow steward and police instructions, respect road closures, and check official updates before travelling.

Food, music and culture remain the weekend’s attractions: dozens of food stalls will serve Caribbean dishes including jerk chicken and roti, while sound systems spin reggae, soca, calypso and house across multiple stages. The capital’s tourism body and the carnival’s official communications describe the weekend as a celebration of Caribbean heritage, with a mix of traditional pan music and contemporary carnival mas showcasing the event’s long cultural lineage. Transport for London also highlights partnerships with Windrush legacy groups and staff participation in carnival activity, reflecting wider civic recognition of the festival’s cultural importance.

If you plan to attend, sensible planning will ease the experience: buy Panorama tickets if you want to attend Saturday’s competition, arrive early for Sunday and Monday events, allow extra time for journeys and queues, and follow TfL and council travel advisories. Bring water, dress for weather, and be prepared for stewarded exit routes — organisers recommend checking the official carnival website and local authority pages for the latest maps, access arrangements and safety updates in the days immediately before the event.

Notting Hill Carnival remains a community-centred celebration with a complex logistics operation behind it. According to organisers and borough authorities, the weekend offers a mix of free street entertainment and ticketed headline events, with public-safety and travel planning information publicly available to help visitors and residents navigate what is once again one of London’s most vivid annual celebrations.

### 📌 Reference Map:

## Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.independent.co.uk/travel/uk/england/london/notting-hill-carnival-2025-route-where-watch-travel-london-b2810272.html), [[2]](https://nhcarnival.org/), [[4]](https://www.visitlondon.com/things-to-do/event/9023471-notting-hill-carnival)
* Paragraph 2 – [[3]](https://nhcarnival.org/updates/uk-national-panorama-competition-2025-tickets-on-sale-now), [[2]](https://nhcarnival.org/), [[4]](https://www.visitlondon.com/things-to-do/event/9023471-notting-hill-carnival)
* Paragraph 3 – [[1]](https://www.independent.co.uk/travel/uk/england/london/notting-hill-carnival-2025-route-where-watch-travel-london-b2810272.html), [[2]](https://nhcarnival.org/), [[4]](https://www.visitlondon.com/things-to-do/event/9023471-notting-hill-carnival)
* Paragraph 4 – [[1]](https://www.independent.co.uk/travel/uk/england/london/notting-hill-carnival-2025-route-where-watch-travel-london-b2810272.html), [[2]](https://nhcarnival.org/), [[7]](https://tfl.gov.uk/info-for/media/press-releases/2024/august/tfl-gets-into-carnival-spirit-to-celebrate-caribbean-culture-and-heritage-ahead-of-notting-hill-carnival)
* Paragraph 5 – [[5]](https://www.rbkc.gov.uk/leisureandlibraries/events/nottinghillcarnival.aspx), [[6]](https://www.westminster.gov.uk/notting-hill-carnival), [[1]](https://www.independent.co.uk/travel/uk/england/london/notting-hill-carnival-2025-route-where-watch-travel-london-b2810272.html)
* Paragraph 6 – [[1]](https://www.independent.co.uk/travel/uk/england/london/notting-hill-carnival-2025-route-where-watch-travel-london-b2810272.html), [[2]](https://nhcarnival.org/), [[7]](https://tfl.gov.uk/info-for/media/press-releases/2024/august/tfl-gets-into-carnival-spirit-to-celebrate-caribbean-culture-and-heritage-ahead-of-notting-hill-carnival), [[4]](https://www.visitlondon.com/things-to-do/event/9023471-notting-hill-carnival)
* Paragraph 7 – [[3]](https://nhcarnival.org/updates/uk-national-panorama-competition-2025-tickets-on-sale-now), [[7]](https://tfl.gov.uk/info-for/media/press-releases/2024/august/tfl-gets-into-carnival-spirit-to-celebrate-caribbean-culture-and-heritage-ahead-of-notting-hill-carnival), [[5]](https://www.rbkc.gov.uk/leisureandlibraries/events/nottinghillcarnival.aspx)
* Paragraph 8 – [[2]](https://nhcarnival.org/), [[5]](https://www.rbkc.gov.uk/leisureandlibraries/events/nottinghillcarnival.aspx), [[4]](https://www.visitlondon.com/things-to-do/event/9023471-notting-hill-carnival)

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

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.independent.co.uk/travel/uk/england/london/notting-hill-carnival-2025-route-where-watch-travel-london-b2810272.html> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://nhcarnival.org/> - Notting Hill Carnival’s official website confirms Carnival 2025 will run over the August bank holiday weekend, with the UK National Panorama steelband competition on Saturday 23 August and family and adults’ parade days on Sunday 24 and Monday 25 August. The organisers describe the event as community-led and dedicated to celebrating Caribbean culture through mas bands, steel bands, sound systems, live stages and street food stalls. The site states Sunday and Monday parades are free to attend, advertises ticketed Panorama details, provides maps and travel guidance, and publishes practical safety updates, schedules and entry arrangements for residents, visitors and performers.
3. <https://nhcarnival.org/updates/uk-national-panorama-competition-2025-tickets-on-sale-now> - The Notting Hill Carnival page announces the UK National Panorama Steelband Competition for Saturday 23 August 2025 at Emslie Horniman’s Pleasance Park, with gates opening at 4pm, Junior Panorama at 5pm and the main Panorama at 8pm. It describes the event as the UK’s premier steelpan showcase, bringing together youth and adult bands to compete for the Panorama title, and notes this year Junior Panorama shares the main stage. The notice confirms tickets are on sale, promises a full band line-up, and emphasises musical excellence and cultural importance of the pan tradition. Local and visiting audiences are encouraged to attend.
4. <https://www.visitlondon.com/things-to-do/event/9023471-notting-hill-carnival> - VisitLondon’s event page for Notting Hill Carnival 2025 confirms the festivities run from Saturday 23 to Monday 25 August over the bank holiday weekend. The guide highlights Panorama, the UK’s biggest steelband competition at Emslie Horniman’s Pleasance Park, and notes that while the main parade and street entertainment are free, Panorama requires paid tickets. It outlines family-friendly events on Sunday, the adults’ parade on Monday, numerous sound systems and live stages across the route, and dozens of food stalls serving Caribbean dishes. The page also gives practical travel advice and suggests planning journeys due to expected crowds and transport disruptions.
5. <https://www.rbkc.gov.uk/leisureandlibraries/events/nottinghillcarnival.aspx> - The Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea’s Notting Hill Carnival hub provides local authority information for Carnival 2025, confirming the event’s dates and describing it as an iconic community celebration of Caribbean culture held for over fifty years. The hub offers interactive maps and a schedule, details on road closures and parking restrictions, pedestrian access and stewarding, and advice for businesses and traders. It emphasises safety measures, provides guidance on first aid and clean-up arrangements, and links to travel information. The page is updated with practical resources for residents, visitors and vendors to prepare for the bank holiday weekend’s activities.
6. <https://www.westminster.gov.uk/notting-hill-carnival> - Westminster City Council’s Notting Hill Carnival page confirms the Carnival will take place on Sunday 24 and Monday 25 August 2025 and provides local authority guidance. The page lists acts, noting 56 mas bands, nine Brazilian bands and 18 steel bands taking part, and highlights the presence of numerous sound systems and stalls along the route. It offers practical information on road closures, toilets, parking, stewarding and first aid, and advises visitors to plan travel using TfL guidance. The council stresses safety, provides contact details for resident meetings, and links to interactive maps and emergency arrangements for the carnival weekend.
7. <https://tfl.gov.uk/info-for/media/press-releases/2024/august/tfl-gets-into-carnival-spirit-to-celebrate-caribbean-culture-and-heritage-ahead-of-notting-hill-carnival> - Transport for London’s press release ahead of Notting Hill Carnival highlights travel guidance. TfL advises customers to plan journeys using the TfL Go app and Journey Planner, warns that smaller Tube stations close or become extremely busy during peak times, and points to Paddington and other major stations as better options. The release notes TfL staff participating in Carnival floats and partnership activity with Windrush legacy groups, and reminds passengers there may be service changes, entry restrictions and additional crowding. It encourages checking TfL updates during the bank holiday weekend and following official travel information to avoid disruption and delays.