# Notting Hill Carnival 2024: community spirit endures despite J'ouvert cancellation



The streets of west London erupted in a vibrant celebration as the Notting Hill Carnival kicked off with its much-anticipated Children's Day Parade. Marking one of the largest annual street parties in Europe, the event drew around one million attendees, who gathered to enjoy a spectacular display of music, dance, and colour. The day began at dawn with the traditional J'ouvert celebration, where revellers covered themselves in bright paint and powder, illuminating the early morning streets in a riot of hues.

J'ouvert, meaning "daybreak" or "opening of the day" in French Creole, is a deeply rooted Caribbean tradition that heralds the start of Carnival festivities. Participants embraced this heritage with enthusiasm, some adorning themselves in symbolic chains or black paint, reflecting the ritualistic and celebratory spirit of the event. This early-morning festivity, which has been an integral part of Notting Hill Carnival since its inception in 1966, sets the tone for the weekend's celebrations.

Following J'ouvert, the Children's Day Parade featured young dancers and musicians in colourful costumes, showcasing the rich cultural tapestry of the Caribbean community. Families and children took centre stage, dancing to the rhythms of steel drums and other Caribbean beats, underscoring the event's family-friendly nature. This parade not only offers entertainment but also serves as a vivid expression of Caribbean heritage, arts, and culture, continuing a legacy maintained for over five decades.

Throughout the day, the atmosphere was charged with music from various sound systems playing genres such as reggae, house, and samba, inviting spectators to join in the festive spirit. The Dutty/Fun Mas, a joyful tradition where participants and onlookers alike are splashed with brightly coloured paints and powders, added a playful and interactive element to the celebrations.

While this year’s Notting Hill Carnival featured a full array of events including J'ouvert and the Children's Parade, reports indicate that the J'ouvert segment for the 2024 carnival was cancelled due to a lack of official bands able to participate. Organisers urged the public to respect this decision and refrain from unofficial gatherings. This highlights the ongoing challenges of organising such large-scale cultural events, although the community’s enthusiasm and attendance remain undiminished.

The carnival is scheduled to continue throughout the August Bank Holiday weekend, culminating in the grand Mas parade on Monday, where adult participants take to the streets in elaborate costumes and vibrant displays. The event remains free to attend, attracting visitors from across London and beyond, while providing a vital cultural platform for the celebration and preservation of Caribbean traditions in the UK.

As always, the Notting Hill Carnival not only entertains but also serves as a powerful reminder of the multicultural fabric of London, drawing people together in a jubilant affirmation of cultural identity, resilience, and unity.

### 📌 Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.bbc.com/news/videos/cm2krzrz2xgo?at_medium=RSS&at_campaign=rss), [[2]](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cy9epv538x9o), [[3]](https://www.theguardian.com/culture/gallery/2023/aug/27/jouvert-celebrations-at-notting-hill-carnival-in-pictures)
* Paragraph 2 – [[3]](https://www.theguardian.com/culture/gallery/2023/aug/27/jouvert-celebrations-at-notting-hill-carnival-in-pictures), [[4]](https://www.mylondon.news/whats-on/whats-on-news/notting-hill-carnival-jouvert-2024-29717136)
* Paragraph 3 – [[2]](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cy9epv538x9o), [[5]](https://www.mylondon.news/whats-on/whats-on-news/notting-hill-carnival-sunday-schedule-27520296), [[7]](https://nhcarnival.org/sunday)
* Paragraph 4 – [[5]](https://www.mylondon.news/whats-on/whats-on-news/notting-hill-carnival-sunday-schedule-27520296), [[7]](https://nhcarnival.org/sunday)
* Paragraph 5 – [[4]](https://www.mylondon.news/whats-on/whats-on-news/notting-hill-carnival-jouvert-2024-29717136)
* Paragraph 6 – [[2]](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cy9epv538x9o), [[6]](https://www.the-independent.com/travel/uk/england/london/notting-hill-carnival-guide-b2598859.html)
* Paragraph 7 – [[1]](https://www.bbc.com/news/videos/cm2krzrz2xgo?at_medium=RSS&at_campaign=rss), [[2]](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cy9epv538x9o)

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

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.bbc.com/news/videos/cm2krzrz2xgo?at_medium=RSS&at_campaign=rss> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cy9epv538x9o> - The BBC News article highlights the vibrant Children's Day Parade at the Notting Hill Carnival, where children and families participated in one of the world's largest annual street parties. The event, held in west London, attracted approximately one million attendees and featured steel drum performances, a children's parade, and a celebration of Caribbean heritage, arts, and culture. The carnival has been a significant event for over 50 years, culminating in a grand Mas parade on Monday.
3. <https://www.theguardian.com/culture/gallery/2023/aug/27/jouvert-celebrations-at-notting-hill-carnival-in-pictures> - The Guardian's photo gallery captures the J'Ouvert celebrations at the Notting Hill Carnival, showcasing participants enacting the Caribbean tradition of 'jab' by wearing chains and snakes, and covering themselves in black paint. The images depict the vibrant and messy festivities, with revellers arriving as early as 6am to immerse themselves in the spirit of the carnival. The annual festival, which has been taking place in London since 1966, is a significant cultural event celebrating Caribbean heritage.
4. <https://www.mylondon.news/whats-on/whats-on-news/notting-hill-carnival-jouvert-2024-29717136> - MyLondon reports on the cancellation of the traditional J'Ouvert event for the Notting Hill Carnival 2024, scheduled for Sunday, August 25. The organisers announced the cancellation due to the absence of official bands able to participate, urging attendees to refrain from attending. J'Ouvert, a pre-dawn celebration marking the start of the carnival, is deeply rooted in Caribbean traditions and has been a staple of the London carnival for years.
5. <https://www.mylondon.news/whats-on/whats-on-news/notting-hill-carnival-sunday-schedule-27520296> - MyLondon provides a detailed schedule for the Notting Hill Carnival's Sunday events, focusing on the family-friendly Children's Day. The day's highlights include the J'Ouvert celebration, the official opening ceremony at the MAS Judging Point on Great Western Road, the Children's Day Parade featuring young participants in colourful costumes, the Dutty/Fun Mas where spectators are splashed with brightly coloured paints and powder, and various sound systems playing reggae, house, and samba music from 12pm to 7pm.
6. <https://www.the-independent.com/travel/uk/england/london/notting-hill-carnival-guide-b2598859.html> - The Independent offers a comprehensive guide to the Notting Hill Carnival 2024, detailing the event's dates, schedule, and key information. The carnival spans the August bank holiday weekend from Saturday, August 24 to Monday, August 26, with most celebrations being free to attend. The guide outlines the Panorama Steel Band Competition on Saturday, the J'Ouvert celebration and Children's Day Parade on Sunday, and the main Adult's Day Parade on Monday, along with information on the parade route, nearest Tube stations, and accommodation options.
7. <https://nhcarnival.org/sunday> - The official Notting Hill Carnival website provides a detailed schedule for Sunday, August 24, 2025. The day's events include the J'Ouvert celebration from 6am to 9am, starting at Sainsbury's by Canal Way Roundabout; the Official Opening Ceremony at 10am at the MAS Judging Point on Great Western Road; the Children's Day Parade featuring young participants in colourful costumes; the Dutty/Fun Mas where spectators are splashed with brightly coloured paints and powder; and various sound systems playing reggae, house, and samba music from 12pm to 7pm at locations like Emslie Horniman’s Pleasance Park and Powis Square Stage.