The Big Feastival ©Visit Britain

An appetite for UK food festivals

The UK has become a nation of foodies and they know a thing or two about throwing a good festival so it's little wonder their food festivals put on such a good show.

While some festivals are dedicated to a certain region's produce others are a celebration of a kind of food, or even a single ingredient. Here are some of the best to whet your travelling appetite.

The Big Feastival, Cotswolds

28-30 August 2020

Every year Blur's bassist-turned-cheesemaker Alex James turns his farm in the Cotswolds into a food and music festival for a weekend. The Big Feastival offers rock and roll with your Roquefort and combines feasts, markets and street food with bands across three stages. This year's chefs included Marco Pierre White, Mark

Hix and Anna Haugh while Sigala and Nile Rodgers and Chic are among those gracing the music stages.

Ludlow Food Festival

11-13 September 2020

One of the most prominent foodie towns in the UK, Ludlow was the first UK member of the Slow Food movement and this year will be celebrating 25 years of the annual food festival showcasing local specialities. Ludlow Castle provides a romantic backdrop for around 180 local food and drink producers who set up stalls in the castle square, and festivalgoers can take part in cooking masterclasses, foraging excursions and explore local pubs on 'real ale trails.'

Abergavenny Food Festival

19-20 September 2020

One of the biggest food festivals in Wales started in 1999 when two farmers tried to respond to the BSE crisis. Over the years it has grown to attract around 30,000 visitors a year to the small town with a mix of top chefs, masterclasses, forages and feasts, markets and a farmyard making up the festival. Topical debates around the food industry are also held. This year's

Top left: Festival-goers enjoy a brew at the Great British Beer Festival in London ©Visit Britain

Bottom left: One of the stall-holders at Abergavenny Food Festival ©Visit Britain

Top right: There is garlic galore at the Isle of Wight Garlic Festival, one of Britain's more unusual food events ©Visit Britain

line-up for the festival is yet to be announced but past chefs attending the event have included Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall and Jamie Oliver.

Isle of Wight Garlic Festival

15-16 August 2020

Fancy some garlic scones, garlic biscuits or garlic popcorn? How about garlic fudge or garlic ice cream? These are just some of the unusual garlic treats on offer at the Isle of Wight Garlic Festival where you can also find live music, arts and crafts and non-garlicky foods including meats, cheese, honey and wine. There's even a Garlic Queen with her own special perfume. As for garlic breath, odds are almost everyone else at this festival will have eaten garlic too so there's no need to worry.

Great British Beer Festival, London

4-8 August 2020

As well as food festivals the UK also has its fair share of wine and beer festivals. The Great British Beer Festival started back in 1977 and now has more than 900 real ales, international beers, ciders and perries under the iconic Olympia roof in London's West Kensington. Guests can tuck into food from London street food trucks, listen to live bands and take a trip down memory lane playing traditional pub games. The festival is organised by the Campaign for Real Ale (CAMRA), which crowns one of the brews the prestigious CAMRA Champion Beer of Britain on the first day of the festival.

Left: The chilli eating competition is a staple of Festival by the Sea (formerly North East Chilli Festival) ©North East Chilli Festival

Clockwise from top: Abergavenny Food Festival in Wales ©Visit Britain

Fulfil all your coffee dreams at London Coffee Festival ©Visit Britain

Nyetimber Dorset Seafood Festival is held in the picturesque Weymouth Harbour ©Dorset Media Service

Fresh seafood is the star at Nyetimber Dorset Seafood Festival ©Visit Britain

Festival by the Sea, Northumberland

17-19 July 2020

Prefer something with more of a fiery kick? The annual Festival by the Sea, formerly known as North East Chilli Festival in Blyth, Northumberland is a three-day festival with chillies as the star of the show. A firm staple of the festival is the chilli eating competition for those brave, or perhaps silly, enough to take part. But it's not just about the chillies, with Martin Kemp to headline the event this year with 80s disco hits. There are also milder food options for those who can't stand the heat but are happy to join their chilli loving friends, with street food traders, a food producer area, other live acts, a dance area and, new for this year, an outdoor cinema.

Nyetimber Dorset Seafood Festival, Weymouth Harbour

11-12 July 2020

The largest seafood festival in the country takes place in the seaside town of Weymouth Harbour. The festival is free to attend and visitors can see and taste a variety of fish and shellfish being prepared and cooked in the open air. Past highlights include appearances by top seafood chefs, lobster and English sparkling wine pop ups, demo theatres and live music on stages made from upturned boats. There are nearly 100 stalls arranged around the harbour offering a variety of fresh seafood, and the festival has an emphasis on responsibly sourced seafood from the region.

London Coffee Festival

2-5 April 2020

When travelling overseas many Australians lament the lack of good coffee, so caffeine addicts will rejoice at the London Coffee Festival. The event covers more than just what makes a good brew, with live latte art, home barista workshops and a Lab Programme which offers interactive demonstrations, workshops, tasting sessions and talks from starting a career in coffee to cocktail masterclasses. There's also the Coffee Masters competition where 16 contenders will go head to head in a range of coffee-making disciplines such as brewing, latte art, remembering orders and blending coffee beans.