Escape to the Forest, Summer 2019

Events Guide

Say hello to Waltham Forest, the first-ever Mayor’s London Borough of Culture in 2019.

Just 20 minutes from King’s Cross and a stone’s throw from London’s urban woodland Epping Forest, you will find a summer of fun waiting to be discovered.

Highlighting the character, diversity and cultures of the borough, 2019 is a year of celebration in Waltham Forest. From Chingford to Leytonstone and Leyton to Walthamstow the borough is bursting at the seams with things to see and do.

Escape the heat of the city this summer and step into Waltham Forest, as every corner of our borough fills with colourful, vibrant, dynamic events to captivate, challenge and inspire.

Grab your diary. Your summer awaits inside.
Walthamstow Garden Party

13-14 July, 12noon-9.30pm (Saturday), 12noon-8pm (Sunday)

Lloyd Park

FREE

East London’s biggest free community-powered festival, Walthamstow Garden Party, returns to Lloyd Park for a sixth year. Join thousands of residents and creative organisations from London’s first Borough of Culture for an inspiring weekend of arts and culture.

Discover emerging East London voices, craft a masterpiece with the whole family, defy gravity by learning circus tricks, dance or let your ears travel the globe on the Barbican Music Stage, showcasing artists from around the world.
Waltham Forest Mela

4 August, 2-9pm
Leyton Jubilee Park
FREE

Waltham Forest Mela returns, refreshed and redefined for 2019. The legendary Apache Indian headlines the main stage alongside Mona Singh, H-Dhami, Roach Killa, Bonafide, world music collective Lokkhi Terra plus many more. Our brand-new second stage will host the ever-popular fashion show as well as music, dance and spoken word.

There’ll be a sumptuous selection of food from South Asia and beyond, activities for all the family, kabaddi, fun fair and much, much more.
Chingfest

31 August, 1-9pm
Ridgeway Park
FREE

Chingfest is back and better than ever. Join us at the end of the summer holidays when Ridgeway Park is transformed into Waltham Forest’s very own free, family music festival.

As we’re the first London Borough of Culture expect surprise guests with some of the biggest names from Waltham Forest sharing the stage with very best in the next generation of homegrown talent. All this plus a packed programme of performances, talks and workshops, and a dizzying array of food and drink stalls. Bring friends, bring family, bring enthusiasm and get ready to dance.
Leytonstone Loves Film

27-29 September
Leytonstone
Ticketing information coming soon

Enjoy a spectacular weekend of film culture and pop-up films in expected places along Leytonstone High Road.

As a site of early film production and the celebrated birthplace of Hitchcock, Leytonstone has a rich cinema history. Leytonstone Loves Film is a free weekend-long event featuring screenings of local and international work, film-inspired workshops and activities, music, talks and installations in cafés, pubs and pop-up venues.

Produced by the Barbican in partnership with local residents and organisations and Waltham Forest London Borough of Culture 2019, this new festival will bring people together over a shared love of film to inspire a new generation of makers, risk takers and radical thinkers.
Wild About Highams Park

Summer Long
Highams Park
FREE

This new sculpture trail invites visitors to explore and enjoy the area and natural surroundings in new ways.
Along the trail, you will find wooden sculptural carvings, street art, murals and more. What will you discover?
John Rogers Walking Tours

June-October
Borough-wide
£10/£8

A series of walks led and instigated by writer, filmmaker and Leytonstone resident John Rogers, author of This Other London – Adventures in the Overlooked City.

The walks will explore various aspects of Waltham Forest from its topography, culture, overlooked heritage, and psychogeography.
Culinary Walking Tours

June-September
Borough-wide
£25/£20

Walthamstow-born tour guide Abdulmaalik Tailor will lead a series of Culinary Walking Tours of Waltham Forest’s diverse communities.

Travelling from cafés and bakeries to people’s homes to introduce your tastebuds to every sensation this vibrant place has to offer.
Think Globally, Create Locally

30 June, 12noon

OrganicLea, Chingford

FREE

Celebration Open Day with artists from Africa and Latin America exploring local growing culture and fair food systems. Expect African drumming, performances, art workshops and more.
Polish Jazz – London Series

4 July, 16 August, 19 September, 6.30pm

St Mary’s Music Hall and St John’s Music Hall

£11/£16

Showcasing the most interesting and highly acclaimed artists to come out of Poland the Polish Jazz – London Series will bring together polish communities and local audiences at concerts throughout the summer.
Café Abyss

17-21 July

Gnome House

FREE (day time) £10/£8 (evening)

The Domestic Godless open their anarchic travelling kitchen to the public, providing food and drink samples at the edge of credulity.

The kitchen and foyer of Gnome House will host the Domestic Godless's anarchic repertoire of food and drink. The café will be open free to the public during the day with ticketed events on Friday and Saturday evening. This is a walk-in experience, to see and listen to, and to eat and drink... if you’re brave enough.
Inua Ellams’ R.A.P Parties

25 July and 19 Sept
Leyton and Leytonstone
£10/£5

Neither a club night nor poetry reading, rave nor literary event, Inua Ellams’ R.A.P Parties are unashamedly nostalgic, fun, no clutter, no fuss, evenings of hip-hop inspired poems and favourite hip-hop songs.

Want to find out what eloquent voices from contemporary poetry and spoken word movements have to say about hip-hop’s past, present and future? Come chill and find out at one of Inua Ellams’ rhythm and poetry parties.
Living Symphonies

20-28 July, 11am-8pm

Chingford

FREE

Living Symphonies is a musical composition that grows with the forest ecosystem. It portrays the thriving activity of the forest’s wildlife, plants and atmospheric conditions.

Explore this sound installation from speakers hidden throughout the woodland itself. As you walk through the forest Living Symphonies begins to spring to life from the undergrowth and canopy around you.
Out in the Forest

3 August, 10pm-6am

Magic Spells Tap Room, Leyton

£5/£10/£15

Join us at Out in the Forest for a queering of the landscape at Magic Spells Brewery on the edges of Epping Forest. Expect performances from the Radical Faerie Drum Circle, Sgàire Wood, Rhys’ Pieces. Music from Black Obsidian Sound System (B.O.S.S), Lewis G. Burton [INFERNO] and Sophie Coletta with more to be announced. This will be a magical night, with space to dance hard and soft. Come out, the moon will pull you.
Red Light Busking

24 August
Walthamstow
FREE

Red Light Busking will transform the shops of Walthamstow into a buskers paradise with a 1-day busking festival taking over 6 shop fronts.
Ways of Seeing

Until 31 August
Borough-wide
FREE

In partnership with the Government Art Collection, Waltham Forest London Borough of Culture 2019 presents Ways of Seeing.

Transforming the whole borough of Waltham Forest into an art gallery, Ways of Seeing will display the work of 33 internationally-known artists from the Government Art Collection in 28 unusual and unexpected venues across the borough until 31 August.

Grab a guide and see how many you can find.
Blacksmithing at Brooks Farm

13-16 September

Brooks Farm, Leyton

FREE

Feel the heat this summer and visit the Urban Crafts Foundation mobile blacksmiths forge at Brooks Farm in Leyton.

Join workshops and drop-in sessions to discover the ancient craft of blacksmithing.
Duckie Loves Fanny

6 September, 9pm-2am
Walthamstow Assembly Hall
£15/£12

Bent London trifle makers Duckie come to Waltham Forest to celebrate the legacy of Leytonstone’s formidable homegal Fanny Cradock, as post-war pop culture, style, food, gender politics and aspiration combine in this queer celebration of a real British icon.

Join Amy Lamé and 25 identical Fanny Cradock dragsters of all genders in a spectacular disco for a thousand fans of Fanny. Designed by Laura Hopkins, choreographed by Lea Anderson, with vintage chanteuse Alison David and militant culinarian Tracey Smith.
The Big Bagaga Show

13-22 September
Chestnuts Field
£2/£8/£12

Taking place in their big top circus tent, The Big Bagaga Show is a celebration of failure through theatre, acrobatics, aerial performance and juggling. Expect a show that is absurd and awesome, intimate and ridiculous! Experience a new kind of circus.
Pastoral

13 September, 8pm
Mirth, Marvel and Maud
£12/£8

Gazelle Twin’s critically-acclaimed Pastoral album is an intense exploration of a divided England, taking a look behind the picture postcard image of our countryside.

Gazelle Twin will come to Mirth Marvel & Maud with support from prolific Waltham Forest resident and experimental musician Helm, AKA Luke Younger.
One Hoe Street

Welcome to the London Borough of Culture 2019 hub.

From yoga courses, craft sessions, seminars, workshops, networking events and more, One Hoe Street is your one stop shop for everything London Borough of Culture 2019.

Located in the middle of Walthamstow, One Hoe Street is a space where you can discover more about the London Borough of Culture programme, share ideas and network.

Tuesday-Saturday 10am-5pm, Sunday 10am-4pm
1 Hoe Street, Walthamstow, London E17 4SD
onehoestreet@walthamforest.gov.uk

Check out the programme of One Hoe Street events online at wfculture19.co.uk/onehoestreet

For more information and full programme, please visit wfculture19.co.uk

Thank you to our partners, funders and sponsors.