

Music Festival Guide 2021: From Bonnaroo to Lollapalooza

Let the music play!

BY JOSHUA MELLIN | JULY 22, 2021



Much like travel, music can generate a spark in us we can't so easily commodify. How can sound waves evoke the same feeling as soaking in a sunset at your favorite destination?



CREDIT: JOSHUA MELLIN

In the last 15 months we've all learned just how intrinsically travel and music are linked in not only connecting us, but inspiring us. It gets to the core of why we travel. To share experiences, create lasting memories and grow together. There's no greater excitement than gearing up for a festival weekend with your closest friends and setting off on a festival adventure.

With that in mind, these are the festivals we can't wait to get back to in 2021:

Newport Folk Festival

Location: Newport, Rhode Island

Dates: July 23-25 and July 26-28, 2021

Attendance: 50% capacity, split across 2 separate 3-day events, ~5k/daily, ~30,000 expected total

Covid guidelines: [Find updated COVID-19 protocols here](#)

Boats have been pulling into the Narragansett Bay to listen in on the Newport Folk Festival since it began in 1959. For over 60 years, the historic Fort Adams has hosted an encyclopedia of music history and welcomes attendees annually to bear witness to the next chapter.

Due to COVID-19 capacity restrictions, Newport Folk Festival elected to stretch its 2021 edition into two unique 3-day events billed as "Folk On" filled with "surprise performances, storytelling, and workshops" over the weekend of July 23rd through the 25th, with the second installment immediately following July 26th through the 28th. Fort-goers should expect a full-on festival for the most part, with a ton of collaboration sets like they're notoriously famous for.

Recent editions have forged a fresh legend of had-to-be-there moments like the John Prine tribute with Margo Price, Roger Waters, Jim James, and Justin Vernon in 2017 — the legendary folk singer-songwriter was able to join himself before passing due to Covid-19 last year; Jon Baptiste's civil rights showcase *A Change Is Gonna Come* with Mavis Staples in 2018; and the last edition's appearance by the 2019 surprise guest of honor Dolly Parton, who joined the Highwaywomen, a supergroup formed by Brandi Carlile, Maren Morris, Amanda Shires, and Natalie Hemby that premiered at the festival the very same weekend.

While perusing the most exciting beach town in New England, sample one of the best lobster rolls at Easton's Beach Snack Bar before visiting The Breakers, the most famous of the town's gilded age mansions lining Bellevue Avenue. The executive producer of the festival, Jay Sweet, expounds on the must haves while in Newport, "Chowder at Clarke Cooke House, avocado fries at Perro Salado, and, of course, a Del's Lemonade straight from the truck at Second Beach."