

GILLBERT'S



BIG

GUIDE

TO SUMMER

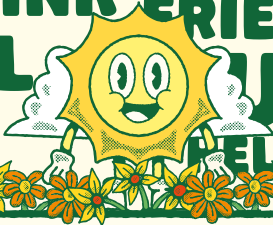
IN
MCR

HEY UP

Gillbert here, whether it's your first summer in Manchester or the last you'll spend here as a student, I've put together a big list of places, events and activities to help you make the most of your time!

From my top pub picks to budget friendly activities, there's something for absolutely everyone in **Gillbert's Guide to Summer in Manchester 2025...**

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JUNE EVENTS

Five unmissable events this month...

FESTIVAL OF LIBRARIES

4th - 8th June

Libraries of Greater Manchester

Performances, exhibitions, and workshops celebrating Manchester's literary heritage. Free entry to most events.

ON THE COMMON

Friday 6th June, 11am - 3pm

**Outside the SU Building, 532 Beer Garden
& Ali G Commons, Free Entry**

Exams are over and summer is about to begin? Nice one.

Celebrate the end of term with our big summer send off on the Ali G commons. We've got free ice cream, a photobooth, stalls, yoga sessions, craft activities and even a BBQ!

Grab your mates, your sunnies and a couple of bevs and join us for big summer send off!



PARKLIFE

14th - 15th June

Heaton Park

Manchester's biggest music festival brings top artists across hip hop, grime, pop, and electronic music. Limited student tickets still available.

UNIVERSALLY MCR FESTIVAL

Saturday 14 June

On campus, 11am - 4.30pm

This vibrant free one-day festival is packed with fun, interactive activities for all ages. Whether you're curious about the latest scientific discoveries or passionate about arts and culture, there's something for everyone. Take a look at What's On and plan your own festival programme.

GOBEFEST

20th - 22nd June

Cathedral Gardens Manchester

Folk music, dance, storytelling and food from independent traders. Free entry on Sunday 'Dance Day'.



JULY EVENTS

Five fantastic events to enjoy...

SOUNDS OF THE CITY

3rd - 12th July

Castlefield Bowl

Open-air concerts featuring acclaimed artists in this amphitheater-style venue. Check manchestermusic.co.uk for the 2025 lineup and student discounts.

MCR INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL

3rd - 20th July

Various locations across Manchester

The city's biennial arts festival returns with spectacular installations, performances, and music from artists worldwide. Many free events throughout the city.



MCR JAZZ FESTIVAL

10th - 18th July

Various venues across Manchester

Celebrating its 30th anniversary with performances ranging from traditional to experimental jazz. Many free events in public spaces throughout the city.

SPARKLE WEEKEND

11th - 13th July

Sackville Gardens

The world's largest free celebration of gender diversity, featuring live music, entertainment, talks and workshops. Open to all and family-friendly.

MANCHESTER MEGA MELA

12th - 13th July

Platt Fields Park, Fallowfield

A vibrant South Asian cultural festival featuring live music, dance performances, food stalls, and a funfair. It's one of the largest events of its kind in the UK and is free to attend.



AUGUST EVENTS

Don't miss these summer highlights...

FOOD & DRINK FESTIVAL

2nd - 3rd August
Heaton Park

A feast in the park with food, drink, live music, and cooking demonstrations. Students receive 25% off ticket prices with valid ID.

MCR CARIBBEAN CARNIVAL

9th - 10th August
Alexandra Park

The vibrant and much-anticipated Manchester Caribbean Carnival is set to return from 12pm to 8pm each day. After the resounding success of last year's event, which attracted over 58,000 attendees, this year's carnival promises to be even bigger and better. The two-day free event will be a family friendly celebration of community, heritage, and music taking place in the heart of the community at Alexandra Park.



MANCHESTER PRIDE

22nd - 25th August
City Centre

Celebrate with thousands at the parade, candlelit vigil, arts programs and human rights forum. All accessible for free, with tickets needed only for the village street party.

Fancy joining in with the Pride Parade? Sign up here to be in the Pride Parade alongside the SU on 24th August Pride Parade - Register your interest **here**.

SUMMER SCREEN

Throughout August
First Street

New for 2025: outdoor cinema showing cult classics and new releases every weekend. Free entry, just bring something to sit on and enjoy!

CREAMFIELDS FESTIVAL

21st - 24th August

Located in Daresbury, Cheshire, near Manchester, Creamfields is one of the UK's leading dance music festivals, featuring top DJs and electronic artists.



FOOD, DRINKS & SOCIAL SPOTS

From casual hangouts to special occasion spots, here are our top picks for summer 2025.

532 BAR + KITCHEN

Home base! Our SU venue now hosts Sunset Sessions on Thursday evenings with student DJs and 2-for-1 cocktails from 5pm - 7pm. The new outdoor seating area is perfect for those sunny afternoons.

RAIN BAR

This canal-side gem near Deansgate combines a classic British pub atmosphere with relaxed summer vibes. Their rooftop terrace is perfect for sunny afternoons, offering craft beers, ciders, and seasonal Pimm's pitchers. Rain Bar's Summer Grill menu features BBQ favourites and vegetarian specials, with a 2-for-1 offer on selected mains every Wednesday evening.



THE SOCIETY

Located under the arches near Bridgewater Hall, Society brings together street food vendors, local craft beer, and a buzzy, communal atmosphere. This summer, they're hosting a rotating lineup of live DJs and acoustic sets every Friday and Saturday night. Their "Sip & Share" deal runs 5pm – 7pm daily, offering a sharing board and two drinks for £20 – ideal for unwinding with friends after work.

FREIGHT ISLAND

This sprawling food, drink and entertainment space has launched The Plant Room, a greenhouse-inspired cocktail bar with botanical drinks. You can get 25% off drinks by showing a valid student ID.

RAMONA & THE FIREHOUSE

Detroit-style pizza, cocktails, and campfire vibes in a converted MOT garage. The massive outdoor area with fire pits is ideal for summer evenings, and their "Pizza & Pint" student deal for £10 (Monday - Wednesday) is unbeatable.



CULTURE HOTSPOTS

Explore Manchester's most exciting cultural venues this summer - a mix of new openings and reimagined classics.

AVIVA STUDIOS

This landmark cultural venue presents Borderless for summer 2025 - an ambitious programme of immersive installations exploring global connections through art. Don't miss the rooftop terrace for stunning city panoramas at sunset.

WHITWORTH ART GALLERY

Nestled in Whitworth Park, this award-winning gallery combines historic collections with cutting-edge contemporary art. Summer 2025 highlights include an outdoor sculpture trail and late-night openings with live music and food stalls.



MANCHESTER MUSEUM

Freshly revamped, the museum's summer focus is Living Worlds Reimagined - a blend of interactive biodiversity exhibits, pop-up performances, and family-friendly nature walks. Entry is free, with special student events every Thursday.

HOME MANCHESTER

A vibrant hub for film, theatre, and visual art. This summer's programme includes international cinema showcases, open-air theatre on the terrace, and a new exhibition exploring climate futures through digital art.

CASTLEFIELD GALLERY

Celebrating its 40th anniversary with bold new commissions and pop-up exhibitions in unexpected locations - including a floating gallery aboard a canal boat traveling between Castlefield and Ancoats all summer long.



OUR TOP PARK PICKS

Manchester's green spaces come alive in summer. Here are five perfect spots to soak up the sun.

PLATT FIELDS PARK

This green oasis features a lake, sports facilities, and a community garden. The new summer boating season runs through September with affordable hourly rentals, and the weekly Saturday morning park run is perfect for fitness enthusiasts.

FLETCHER MOSS GARDENS

A tranquil escape to admire wildlife in their natural habitat. The newly restored Alpine tea garden is open for summer, offering homemade cakes and drinks surrounded by beautiful, landscaped botanical gardens and rockeries.



HEATON PARK

Manchester's largest park boasts a boating lake, animal farm, and woodlands. The restored tramway now offers extended summer hours, and the new adventure playground provides fun for visitors of all ages.

PEEL PARK

Recently revitalized with new walking trails and art installations, this historic park offers beautiful riverside views and quiet picnic spots away from the city bustle. Look out for the summer bandstand performances every Sunday afternoon.

COTTON FIELD PARK

This urban eco-park features a water garden with floating wildlife islands and an urban beach. The new pontoon walkway lets visitors get closer to the water, while the wildflower meadow attracts butterflies and bees throughout summer.



BUDGET FRIENDLY MCR

Five ways to enjoy Manchester without breaking the bank...

MCR ART GALLERY FREE TOURS

Specially curated student tours exploring the gallery's "Northern Lights" exhibition featuring emerging artists from across the North. Every Friday at 2pm.

CASTLEFIELD SKY GARDEN

Manchester's elevated urban park offers spectacular views and pop-up exhibitions throughout summer. Free entry with pre-booking online.



MAKERS MARKETS

Browse handmade crafts, vintage finds, and local produce at rotating locations including Northern Quarter (first Sunday), Chorlton (last Tuesday), and Didsbury (last Saturday) each month.

NQ STREET ART TOURS

Download the free Manchester Street Art app for self-guided tours of the city's ever-changing outdoor gallery, with new commissioned works for 2025.

CURRY MILE FOOD CRAWL

Many restaurants on the Rusholme Curry Mile offer student lunch specials under £8, making it possible to sample different cuisines without spending much. Look for “Student Saver” stickers in windows.



SUMMER HELP & SUPPORT

Whether you need advice, housing support, or just a friendly face to talk to, we're here throughout the summer to make sure you're safe, supported, and feel at home.

ADVICE SERVICE

We are open all summer to advise on any academic, finance, student life and housing issues. Find us on the first floor of the SU building: 10am - 4pm Monday to Friday.

You can also find lots of information or get in touch with us via our website: manchesterstudentsunion.com/advice



DRUG TESTING KITS

Free drug testing kits are available at the SU Advice Service. Your visit will involve a short chat with an Advisor but will remain anonymous and confidential. For additional advice and support on drug and alcohol use CGL Eclipse host a weekly drop-in every Wednesday 1pm - 4pm.

ACCOMMODATION SUPPORT

Manchester Student Homes are available to help with summer housing issues such as contract reviews and deposit disputes. You can find further information or get in touch with them via their website: manchesterstudenthomes.com/Accommodation



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