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OFF DUTY TRAVEL

Itching to Travel? Attend These Music and Film Festivals—Online

A full slate of music, arts and film festivals scheduled for September is going virtual, bringing top talent—and a Scottish treasure hunt—directly to couch potatoes



FESTIVE SEASON Detroit, Toronto and Washington D.C. are all hosting jazz fests in September. No flights required.

PHOTO: ANDREA MONGIA

By Charu Suri

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Dive Deep into Dandelions

Traditionally, most people reach the Orkney Islands—a wild archipelago off Scotland’s northern coast—by plane or ferry, or a combination thereof. This year, simply log on to the **Foraging Fortnight** festival (*Aug. 29-Sept. 13*) to catch daily glimpses of the craggy coastline, ancient woodlands and island kitchens. In partnership with the annual Orkney International Science Festival, which draws Nobel laureates to this remote enclave, the two-week festival includes a hunt for wild plants with an ethnobotanist, a cooking demo with a local chef, a papermaking class and a few sessions with traditional Orcadian musicians. According to Howie Firth, the director of the Orkney International Science

Festival, the events will educate the audience on the beauty and perhaps surprising value of plantlife like dandelions and seaweed. “About 5,000 years ago, the Orkney Islands were at the center of the Neolithic world; today they are a leader in marine renewable energy and tidal power,” he said. Find the event calendar at foragingfortnight.co.uk; events are streamed on the festival’s YouTube channel.

Virtually Shop for A Picasso

Rick Friedman, who founded and ran **ArtHamptons** for 10 years, launches a virtual 3-D art fair in early September, spanning Labor Day weekend (*Sept. 2-7*). More than 75 global galleries will display 1,300 pieces of art and sculptures for sale, including works by Claude Monet, Pablo Picasso and Norman Rockwell, as well as contemporary artists Ed Ruscha and David Hockney. “The total value of art displayed is over \$100 million,” said Mr. Friedman. Snooping, however, is free. The event kicks off on Sept. 2, and while the former iteration had a very exclusive opening night, this year’s is open to all. “The virtual fair is much more democratic,” said Mr. Friedman. hamptonsvirtualartfair.com

Revel in the Blues

Three powerhouse jazz festivals also go virtual in September, starting with the Detroit Jazz Festival (*Sept. 4-7*, detroitjazzfest.org) which will stream performances from three soundstages on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/detroitjazzfest) Live and Instagram. Each day will bring 12 hours of nonstop performances by virtuosos including saxophonist Pharoah Sanders. From the nation’s capital comes the **DC Jazz Fest** (*Sept. 24-28*, dcjazzfest.org), where performances are streamed live from various neighborhoods. And though the U.S.-Canada border is still closed, you can hop on over to Toronto thanks to the **South Coast Jazz & Blues** (*Sept. 18-20*, southcoastjazz.com) with three evenings of performances after 6 p.m. ET daily, accessible on the festival website and its social media channels. Among the headliners: blues and gospel singer Jackie Richardson.

Reward Your Short Attention Span

SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS

Which annual festivals do you normally attend? Will you watch them virtually this year? Join the conversation below.

The two-year-old **French Riviera Film Festival (FRFF)**—not to be confused with the glitzier Cannes Film Festival, which was canceled this year—pays tributes to short films and other content (less than 40 minutes) created for tv and the Web. Documentaries, comedies, music videos and even fashion-focused shorts are all part of the mix. For \$10, viewers can watch two days of virtual screenings are held on Sept. 18 and 19 from 1-4 p.m. (the link to purchase tickets at frenchrivierafilmfestival.com goes live by Sept. 1.). The event kicks off on Sept. 18 with a “Women Filmmakers Panel” live-streamed through Zoom and culminates in a virtual awards ceremony from the Beverly Hills Hotel on Sept. 19 at 5 p.m. PT.

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