

Festivals are an absolute blast

“But they can also go downhill very quickly”

Festival going is a quintessential summer activity, not just here in Australia, but all around the world. Whether it's a one-day event or an all out three-nighter, attending a festival is often high up on a young adult's summer to-do list.

While festivals can be an absolute blast, they can also go downhill very quickly, and turn into a horrific experience that will leave you longing for the comfort of your own bed and an industrial-sized tub of aloe vera gel.

Here is my list of do's and don'ts, taken from personal experience, for the summer festival period

Do dress practically

I know you want to look like a whimsical gypsy covered in glitter while you sway carelessly to the music, but let's be honest – festivals are sweaty places. While that giant bindi on your forehead might look great at the start of the day, it will probably melt off your face within the hour. Also, that dress you're wearing? Please put some form of fabric in between your thighs. Trust me, walking home with your legs spread because of chafing isn't a good look for anyone.



Do stay cautious

I've once had someone steal my water bottle right out of my hand, and while my \$2 Mount Franklin didn't bother me, something pinching your new phone probably will. This is especially important at a festival where you'll be leaving items in your tents while you're not near them. If you have a car, lock up your values in there so you don't have them stolen while you're not nearby.

Don't expect a good night's sleep

If your festival's one that includes camping at the venue, always be prepared for the worst. And by the worst I mean being woken up at 5am every morning because your drug-dealing neighbours are pelting ham steaks at your tent and blasting 50 Cent's Candy Shop on repeat.

Do be sun smart

This is a huge one. You might be so caught up in the fun of the festival that you forget to slip slop slap, but in the hot Australian heat you'll massively regret this one the next day when your sunburnt lips have swollen to three times their original size and you're shedding more skin than a snake.

Don't jeopardise your friend's fun for yours

Festivals are rife with drugs and alcohol, and while you may think that you're in control of yourself, remember that you are all obliged to look after each other, whether you like it or not. By putting yourself in a dangerous situation, you're inadvertently asking your friends to look after you should anything go wrong. It's not fair for them, and no one wants to miss Kanye West because they're looking after their vomiting friend.

Here's a final note of warning

I know you've been looking forward to this festival for months. I know all you can think about it the amazing time you're going to have in the sunshine with music and friends. But if you're unsure about anything, it's much better to be safe than sorry. Speak up if something's wrong. Festivals are great fun and really can make the most amazing memories. Look after your friends, look after yourself, and don't go to a three-night festival if you have chronic tonsillitis, it's a bad time for everyone involved.

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Tickets to Darebin Music Festival

Utimes and Darebin Music Festival are giving away to readers of *Utimes* THREE double passes to *Darebin Music Festival* closing night event on Sunday 29 September at Northcote Town Hall for a night of Caribbean/Mexican music and dance. To enter send an email with 'WIN DAREBIN' in the subject line to win@utimes.com.au by September 15. Also let us know your name, address and where you study.



Tickets to One Big Voice

Utimes and Creativity Australia are giving away to readers of *Utimes* THREE double passes to *One Big Voice* concert on Sunday 15 September at Melbourne Town Hall with 400 voices from 40 nationalities sharing inspirational songs. To enter send an email with 'WIN ONE BIG VOICE' in the subject line to win@utimes.com.au by September 9. Also let us know your name, address and where you study.

