

Survival Guide to the

MUSIC FESTIVAL

We go for the atmosphere. We go for the people. A few of us go for the drugs, but when it comes right down to it, we are all there for the music. Music festivals have been a popular go-to for college students since the times of Woodstock. We know the current big names; Coachella, Lollapalooza, SXSW and Bonnaroo, but those are extremely costly and involve months of advanced preparation. Music festivals are wonderful and life-changing, but they can be challenging if you're without the right things. So, the expenses are paid for, the hotel is booked, and the lineup has had you excited for months, **what can you do now to maximize your festival experience?**

1 PLAN IT OUT

The worst thing a festival-goer could do is make plans as they go along. There's nothing wrong with being flexible, but for a trip as big as these tend to be, keeping a general itinerary of things guarantees that everyone sees the artists they're interested in seeing, set time aside to eat, rest and relax. Creating a bucket list or a to-do list to help you better prepare may be a good idea. Festivals are usually multiple long days, creating a need to pace yourself and marathon through the fun.

2 DRESS SMART

Be prepared for all types of weather. Especially for camping festivals, layers are highly recommended to ensure warmth and comfort. "TomorrowWorld in September got much colder at night since we were deep in the Georgia woods for five nights. I wish I had brought more blankets and a sweatshirt for the time I spent at the campgrounds sleeping. When it rained, I ended up losing a lot of wet socks and my favorite pair of sneakers," Victoria Johnson, a junior Florida A&M University Psychology student, recalled. Often times, Camping-based festivals don't allow leaving and re-entry for their attendees, so there are no quick trips to Walmart if shoes and socks are soaked from hours in the mud. Yikes!

3 WATER & MORE WATER

Staying hydrated is a top priority for the music festival experience. "You'll need water more than anything else," Rinaldy Alvarez, City College of New York alumni, said when asked about the most important thing to pack. Although the festivals have water refill stations throughout the grounds, they're commonly crowded and hard to reach at times. Securing plenty of water for you and your crew ensures a night of dancing and fun times with no worries of someone fainting or feeling sick. Camelbaks are a great way to transport large amounts of water. Don't worry, empty ones are always allowed into the festivals.

4 KEEP IT POSITIVE

It can be overwhelming taking in all of the music, lights and people, so pick a festival that has the vibes and experience you want. If you're not ready to be around recreational drugs and fast-paced lifestyles, try to avoid scenes that tend to make that a large part of the experience. An open mind and a positive spirit can go a long way in enhancing the experience.

5 CHOOSE YOUR "RIDE OR DIE" WISELY

If you know Shondra doesn't like bugs and to be without her blow dryer for 24 hours, don't invite her on a 3-day camping music festival. It can become crucial picking the right buddies for the right music festivals or you may end up with petty arguments that could ruin the whole trip. That isn't to say to never invite the Shondra's on any festival trips, but maybe she'll catch the next one that has a hotel stay instead of a tent to sleep in.

Two up and coming killer music festivals are happening this spring break. Grab your fanny packs and glitter and prepare for your next adventure.

BUKU MUSIC + ART PROJECT 2016

www.thebukuproject.com

When: March 11-12, 2016

Where: Mardi Gras World, New Orleans, La.

Genre: EDM (Electronic & Dance Music) & Hip-Hop/Rap

Cost: General Adm. Adv. Tickets **\$169.50**

Info: Taking place on the Riverfront of the Big Easy, Buku Music + Art Project is a great festival for first-timers who are looking to get the ambience and energy of the larger EDM festivals without the financial commitment. There are no campgrounds at this venue which makes Buku purely a day-by-day festival. Past lineup includes ASAP Rocky, Lil Boosie, Bassnectar and Kaskade.

OKEECHOOBEE MUSIC & ARTS FESTIVAL 2016

www.okeechobeeefest.com

When: March 4-6, 2016

Where: Sunshine Grove in Okeechobee, Fla.

Lineup: Mumford & Sons, Kendrick Lamar, Future, Skrillex, Fetty Wap & More.

Genre: EDM, Hip-Hop/Rap, Indie Rock

Cost: 3-Day General Adm. + Camping Pass for **\$269.50 (Payment Plans available)**

The Facts: Coming from the creators of Bonnaroo is a new large festival down in South Florida who's debut festival is this coming March. Sure to rival the big names, this is hoped to be the largest camping festival in Florida to come. This new festival is a great starter for those who wish to eventually tackle the big dogs like Bonnaroo and Coachella.