

WINNER
BEST MEDIUM FESTIVAL
UK FESTIVAL AWARDS



20-23 JULY 2023
JODRELL BANK OBSERVATORY
CHESHIRE • UK • EARTH

ESSENTIAL INFO

WEEKEND TICKETHOLDERS

[DISCOVERTHEBLUEDOT.COM/ESSENTIALINFO](https://discoverthebluedot.com/essentialinfo)



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The countdown is nearly over... bluedot is around the corner!

We are so thrilled to return to Cheshire's iconic Jodrell Bank this July, with another unique family weekend of music, science and cosmic culture. Over the weekend, our UNESCO World Heritage site home will play host to huge headliners, groundbreaking science speakers, panels and award-winning comedy, plus an array of immersive arts experiences in The Outer Space by The Kazimier, Opera North and more.

Three new arenas – the Music, Star and Future Fields – will host interactive space-themed entertainment and activities, including Jedi Lightsaber Training, and exhibitor teams from Chester Zoo, National Graphene Institute, Jodrell Bank Centre for Astrophysics and more will be presenting the latest scientific research on everything from the earth beneath our feet to the distant stars ... Plus headline science speakers from organisations including European Space Agency and British Antarctic Survey, curated by Jodrell Bank

We've made a number of improvements for 2023, and we continue to welcome your feedback as we look to make your bluedot weekend the best it can be. Find us at the Info Point during your weekend if there's anything that you'd like to bring to our attention and don't forget to fill in the post-event survey you'll receive via email after the show.

Our hope with this Essential Info Pack is to provide you with the practical information you require to get the very most out of your bluedot weekend. Read on for information detailing how to get to the festival site, information on our campsites and wider facilities, key opening times and much more.

We hope this pack is helpful and we look forward to seeing you at Jodrell Bank in the coming days

Love,

The bluedot team

Improvements since 2022

Thank you for all of your feedback after bluedot 2022. We're always proud of what we achieve each year producing bluedot but we always need your input as that helps us to develop the show and make it something that we hope you'll enjoy returning to year after year.

Therefore, without further ado, we'd like to welcome you to a new bluedot experience with five areas - Music Field, Star Field, Future Field, The Outer Space and VIP Village...

Music Field

The main arena you know and love, but better - with a repositioned Lovell Stage for improved site lines, new creatively led designs for the Nebula and Orbit stages, plus our pals at Rough Trade are joining us with their pop-up record store hosting artist signings all weekend.

Future Field

As you enter the arena from the campsites we welcome you to the future! Our new home for Mission Control, The Big Bang Stage, future defining science exhibitors and the majestic Luminarium... plus our brand new Craft Punks costume making station where you can get glittered up or craft an amazing outfit for Saturday's Space Carnival.

AND a brand new Elevate experience featuring free yoga classes (all abilities welcome, first-come, first-served with no pre-booking required).

Star Field

A huge array of science exhibitors from across astronomy, earth sciences, biology and more. Hands on sessions will now take place on a rolling basis throughout the day at exhibitor stands - no more pre-booking! Or you can take in more science talks in the Space Pavilion, explore the extraordinary Our Fragile Space exhibition in the Space Pavilion, or while away the hours at Notes taking in our arts and culture programme.

The Outer Space

Step into The Outer Space and delve head first into our biggest arts and family offering to date. Amble through the Arboretum taking in our most iconic arts programme ever, discover Origins, an immersive arts haven hosting everything from kids DJ schools through to late night curated soundscapes, or learn the way of The Force with Jedi Lightsabre Training sessions taking place on the hour, every hour. Unlike last year, these sessions won't require any pre-booking, just turn up and enjoy, or, if the class is full, join the queue and wait for the next session.

VIP Village

As well as having one the best food and drink line-ups it's possible to have at a festival, curated by our friends at Eat Well MCR, our VIP Village now also features a VIP Lovell Stage Viewing Area, more covered eating and more premium toilets.

And across bluedot...

In addition to our luxury Meteor Showers and Toilets in association with Lush, we have also introduced some basic pay as you go showers in the campsites for those just looking for a quick sloosh.

And if that's not enough, roaming characters and props, including classic Dr Who legends, will be dotted around the site across the weekend for awesome photo opportunities!

Eat Well MCR

bluedot is delighted to be supporting Eat Well MCR to raise money that will fund "Meals for Manchester".

Eat Well MCR delivers meals collected from restaurants across Greater Manchester to homeless families, women fleeing violence, food banks, kids living with food poverty and others.

We're asking festival goers to consider donating just £1 at some point in the festival to help provide a meal to someone having a tough time.

We hope to make it as easy as possible for you to donate:

- "£1 a round!" Keep an eye out signage at the bar and food traders - just ask if you can add £1 to your order!
- Text EATWELL to 70201 to donate £1*

Since April 2020 Eat Well MCR has provided over 85,000 meals to people in need. With your help we hope to reach 100,000 Meals for Manchester by the end of the year. Every pound counts, we can't thank you enough for your consideration.

Find them on socials at @eatwellmcr

*texts cost £1 + your standard network charge

Festival Entry & Car Parking Tickets

In order to gain entry to bluedot you will require a festival ticket. All adults attending bluedot who are planning on camping must have purchased an **ADULT WEEKEND CAMPING TICKET**.

If you're extending your bluedot experience to include Thursday night's opening concert then you must also have purchased an **ADULT THURSDAY UPGRADE TICKET**.

If you are bringing your family to bluedot then please note that children's tickets are split into the following age categories:

- 11 - 15
- 4 - 10
- 3 & Under

You must ensure that you have the relevant aged ticket for everyone in your party to gain entrance to the festival. If you're unsure please contact hello@discoverthebluedot.com or speak to a member of our Box Office team on site who will be located next to the main gates.

You may have also purchased a **VIP VILLAGE UPGRADE TICKET** meaning that you may be arriving to bluedot with 3 tickets. Please note that each ticket will need to be presented for scanning at the gates.

We strongly recommend that you purchase your **WEEKEND PARKING PASS** in advance to take advantage of the cheaper price. Unlike previous years, no hangers will be sent out in advance. Please just have your tickets ready for scanning upon entry to the car parks.

Weekend camping tickets include camping in one of our standard campsites, you must bring your own tent unless you've booked a pre-pitched tent in Tangerine Fields or The Colony.

You may also have one of the below tickets which are valid in conjunction with your weekend ticket:

- The Colony Boutique Camping – physical ticket
- Weekend Car Park – physical ticket or eticket if booked week of show
- Live-in Vehicle/Campervan/Caravan – physical ticket or eticket if booked week of show
- Meteor Showers – physical ticket or eticket if booked week of show
- Locker Storage - physical ticket or eticket if booked week of show

Re-Entry

There's no need for you to bring everything with you from your car to the campsites in one go, re-entry at bluedot is permitted.

Our only stipulation is that any alcohol that you bring into bluedot needs to come in on your first entry. Anyone found to be bringing alcohol in on subsequent entries to the show may have it confiscated.

Ticket Agents

Our primary ticket agent is Ticketline, we also sell some tickets via SEE Tickets.

If you have any questions relating to ticket purchase, please contact the ticket agent you purchased through directly.

bluedot/Ticketline: 0844 888 9991

See: seetickets.com/customerservice

We have also partnered with Tixel as our official resale partner. Whilst we wish everyone who purchased a ticket for bluedot was able to join us, we realise that life can sometimes get in the way and so we want you to have the opportunity to re-sell your ticket to a genuine bluedot fan.

To find out more about how to list your ticket for resale on Tixel check out our FAQ pages [here](#).

If you need to speak with Tixel about your resale purchase then please head to tixel.com/contact-form

Cashless

bluedot is a cashless festival. All bars, food concessions, merchandise and other points of sale will only accept card or mobile payment.

Please make sure you bring a card or appropriate payment device with you to ensure you have a way of making payments at bluedot. Cash will not be accepted.

What Payment Methods Are Accepted?

We accept all major credit and debit cards that provide contactless and chip and pin payment. Alongside this, we will accept mobile and wearable forms of payment including Apple Pay and Google Pay.

Is There A Payment Limit?

We do not have a payment limit at the festival, this excludes individual bank/mobile payment limits.

For more information and FAQs, head to **discoverthebluedot.com/cashless**



Travel

Address

Bluedot is held at:
Jodrell Bank Observatory,
Bomish Lane,
Cheshire,
SK11 9DW

Vehicle Instructions

If you have purchased a Weekend Camping ticket, including Thursday and/or VIP upgrades and/or a Tangerine Fields pre-pitched tent and are travelling by car, taxi, private coach or bicycle, please follow signs to **BLUE GATE** for our car parks and pick-up/drop off point.

If you are an accessible customer and have been issued with a space in our Accessible Campsite and Car Park, please follow signs to **BLACK GATE**.

If you have purchased a live-in vehicle ticket please follow signs for **GREY GATE**.

if you have purchased a boutique tent in The Colony in addition to your Weekend Camping ticket, including Thursday and/or VIP upgrades please follow signs for **BOUTIQUE GATE** entering from the A535 via Bridge Lane.

Upon approaching Jodrell Bank, please turn off your Sat Nav and follow the event directional signs.

Travelling from the East / South

- Leave the M6 at Jct. 18.
- Take the A54 exit at the roundabout signposted Northwich / Chester / Middlewich / Holmes Chapel
- Continue on Middlewich Road / A535
- At the roundabout, take the 2nd exit onto Knutsford road
- Immediately after, take the first exit onto Macclesfield Road / A535
- Follow relevant festival signage
- **BLUE GATE** customers turn left onto Bomish Lane
- **BLACK GATE** customers please enter from A535.
- **GREY GATE** customers please follow festival signage for Grey Gate
- Please note on the roads surrounding the festival there will be road signs advertising a road closure to non-festival traffic.

Travelling from the West

- Join A34 (Manchester)
- Turn right onto Bollington Lane signposted Preston / Chester / Holmes Chapel
- Turn right onto Chelford Road / A537 signposted Preston / Holmes Chapel
- At the roundabout take the first exit onto A535 signposted Holmes Chapel
- Follow relevant festival signage
- **BLUE GATE** customers turn right onto Bomish Lane signposted Jodrell Bank
- **BLACK GATE** customers continue on A535 and the entrance is on your left
- **GREY GATE** customers follow festival signage for Grey Gate
- Please note on the roads surrounding the festival there will be road signs advertising a road closure to non-festival traffic.

Car Park

Onsite parking is available at bluedot. If you haven't already bought your advance car parking tickets, please do this at www.discoverthebluedot.com/tickets. We strongly advise attendees to purchase parking tickets in advance as they will be more expensive on the day.

Each parking ticket has a compulsory £1 donation added to it by way of balancing the carbon footprint of all audience travel to bluedot.

bluedot is a member of Ecolibrium, an unprecedented collaboration of festivals tackling climate change. By paying this fixed donation you are joining the Energy Revolution by making a donation to account for your carbon. 100% of your donation will be invested directly into renewable energy, together we can build a fossil free future. Find out more about the work that Ecolibrium does here. [LINK <https://www.ecolibrium.io/>]

Please note that as yet we do not have the facilities to charge electric vehicles on site at bluedot.

Train

If you're travelling to bluedot by train we strongly advise alighting at one of the mainland stations closest to Jodrell Bank, those being Macclesfield and Crew. From each of those stations it's then a 20 minute taxi ride and you will be able to pick up taxis from the ranks outside each station.

There are no shuttle busses running from any local stations so we **STRONGLY DISCOURAGE** anyone travelling to bluedot on the local rail network. No taxis will be available to pick you up and the roads surrounding Jodrell Bank are very dark with no paved footpaths. It's therefore a **HIGHLY UNSAFE OPTION TO ATTEMPT TO WALK**.

Please note that there are currently scheduled train strikes over the weekend of bluedot and you may wish to look at other methods of transport to the show. If you find yourself needing to drive to bluedot as a result of the train strikes then please consider lift sharing.

Coach

If you have purchased a National Express coach ticket then you will be dropped off at the pick-up/drop off area at **BLUE GATE**. National Express are operating weekend return coaches from many UK locations. Find out more at the National Express website.

Pick-Up & Drop Off

Pick-up, drop off and taxis should follow **BLUE GATE** directional festival signage which reads 'Drop Off/Pick Up'.

Please note, if you're relying on taxi travel back from bluedot we strongly advise that you book in advance. A list of local companies can be found [here](#).

Bicycles

Whilst there is no official cycling route to bluedot, we actively encourage anyone who wishes to, to travel to bluedot by bicycle. Entry for all bicycle traffic will be via **BLUE GATE** on Bomish Lane.

Bike racks will be located in the Blue Gate car park near the main gate, a further bike rack will be located in the camp sites. Any bikes left are at the owners risk.

The Bicycle Repair Hub (a local bike shop based in Knutsford) will be on site located next to the Main Gate and bike racks. They will be on hand to offer small repairs and tune ups with customers able to pay for any parts that are required (inner tubes etc.) The Bicycle Repair Hub will be open Thursday, Friday and Saturday between 1pm – 4pm.

Opening/Closing Times

Thursday 20 July

Car park	12:00 - 00:00
Gates	12:00 – 21:00
Campsites	12:00 onwards
Music Field	17:00 – 23:00
Future Field	17:00 – 23:00
Outer Space	12:00 onwards
Star Field	CLOSED
VIP Village	17:00 - 23:00

Friday 21 July

Car park	08:00 - onwards
Gates	09:00 – 21:00
Campsites	24 hours
Future Field	08:00 – 02:00
Music Field	10:30 – 02:00
Outer Space	12:00 onwards
Star Field	10:30-02:00
VIP Village	10:30 – 02:00

Saturday 22 July

Car park	08:00 - onwards
Gates	09:00 – 21:00
Campsites	24 hours
Future Field	08:00 – 02:00
Music Field	10:30 – 02:00
Outer Space	12:00 onwards

Star Field	10:30-02:00
VIP Village	10:30 – 02:00

Sunday 23 July

Car park	08:00 - onwards
Gates	09:00 – 21:00
Campsites	24 hours
Future Field	08:00 – 01:00
Music Field	10:30 – 01:00
Outer Space	12:00 onwards
Star Field	10:30-01:00
VIP Village	10:30 – 01:00

Monday 25 July

Car park	Closes at 13:00
Campsite	Closes at 13:00

The Info Point

The main festival information point is located in Future Field on the right hand side as you cross over into Star Field. It is open on Thursday from 17:00 - 23:00 and on Friday - Sunday from 09:00 - 21:00. Please come and say hello, ask us your questions and give us your feedback.

Entry Rules

There are a few things that we need to be super clear about in advance of you arriving at the festival. This is to ensure you get access to the festival as quickly and as stress free as possible. Entry to the festival is by pre-purchased ticket only.

- Age 11 to 15 Weekend Tickets must be accompanied by a ticket holding parent or guardian over the age of 25. Each adult can accompany a maximum of 4 children.
- By purchasing a child (under 11) ticket or a teen (age 11-15) ticket you are confirming that you are either the parent or legal guardian of that teen or child.

Alcohol is allowed into the campsite. We ask that each person only brings a reasonable amount for themselves to enjoy and please note there are no glass bottles allowed on site. Alcohol is not permitted to leave the campsites. In the arena there are plenty of bars offering a wide selection of alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks for you to enjoy.

DSLR cameras are permitted on site for personal use. For everyone's safety, our security team will undertake general searches on entry and occasional searches throughout the weekend.

Whilst canned water will be available to purchase on site, we encourage our festival goers to bring refillable water bottles and make use of one of our many water refill points and help us minimise the use of single use packaging at bluedot.

Please find a handy list of what you can and can't bring to the festival below.

ITEM	CAMPSITE	ARENA
Aerosols	Yes	No
Alcohol	Yes	No
Animals (excl. assistance dogs)	No	No
Audio/Visual recording equipment	Yes	Yes
Barbeques	Yes	No
Blowtorches	No	No
Chinese Lanterns	No	No
Campfires	No	No
Cans	Yes	No
Camping chairs	Yes	No
Children under 16 (unsupervised)	No	No
Fireworks	No	No
Flares	No	No
Glass	No	No
Perfume/aftershave	Yes	No
Gazebos	No	No
Gas stoves	Yes – canisters limited to 220g	No
Illegal substances	No	No
Knives for cooking	Yes	No
Small hammers for pitching tents	Yes	No
Soft drinks	Yes	Yes (Sealed only)
Weapons	No	No
Drugs including legal highs	No	No
Liquid fuels	No	No
Selfie Sticks	No	No

Camping Options

Campsites

Bluedot is made up of 7 campsites which are available to those with a weekend ticket. General camping locations are on a first come first served basis. Our campsites are as follows:

- General Camping - the furthest campsite from the arena, for those looking to get the most out of their bluedot weekend but still needing some quality kip
- Late Night Star Gazers Camping - the campsite closest to the arena, for those looking to stay out late or bring the party back to their tent
- Family & Quiet Camping - families and 'quiet' aren't two words you usually get together! This campsite is for those who are looking to wind down a bit earlier after a full day in the fields, and for those looking to protect those core sleeping hours
- Tangerine Fields - our pre-pitched campsite, located near The Meteor Showers
- Live-in vehicle campsite - for those joining us in their campervans or caravans
- Accessible campsite - for our guests joining us with access requirements
- The Colony - our Boutique Campsite for pre-booked bell tents and other luxury structures

Onsite Facilities

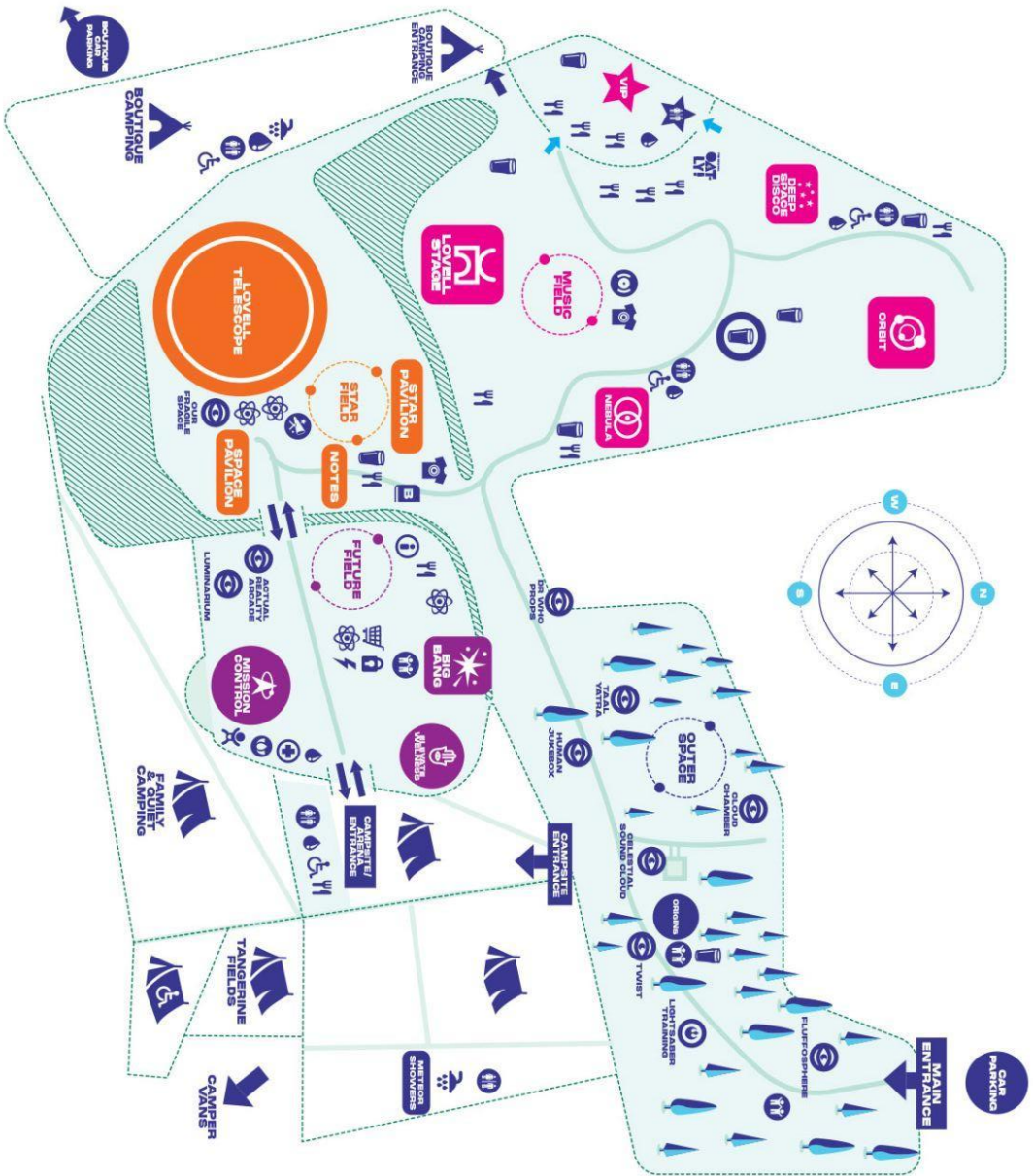
- Phone charging – located in Future Field and will be open from 17:00 - 23:00 on Thursday and from 08:00 - 23:00 Friday - Sunday
- Lockers/storage – located in Future Field and will be open from 17:00 - 23:00 on Thursday and from 08:00 - 23:00 Friday - Sunday
- General festival store with festival essentials – vitals like milk, toothpaste & loo roll! – located in Future Field
- Food – loads of stalls offering cuisine from around the World are located across the arena and campsites
- Drinks – a variety of bars offering alcoholic, low and non-alcoholic drinks
- Information point – located in Future Field
- First Aid & Welfare – First Aid and Welfare are situated in Future Field, immediately to the left as you walk in from the campsites. They will be accessible at all times, even when the arena is closed.
- Official Merchandise – located in the Music Arena opposite the Lovell Stage
- Baby changing facilities – located in Future Field next to the First Aid & Welfare tents for those with young explorers
- Water points – located in all campsites, and at all toilets in the Arena

The Colony – Boutique Camping

Entrance to The Colony is via the Boutique Camping entrance. Once you have had your tickets scanned, please head to the Boutique Reception upon entrance to the campsite to be checked in and our reception team will show you to your tent for the weekend.

The Colony Boutique Campsite includes showers and toilets and has one of the best views of the campsite, located beneath the iconic Lovell Telescope.

There will be 2 entrances and exits from The Colony into the main arena. The first entrance (the main entrance) allows you to access the Music Arena from 10.30am - late each day. However for those wishing to visit the Future Field before 10.30am a second entrance will be opened up connecting The Colony and Future Field by way of the Star Field between 8am - 4pm Friday - Sunday.



SITE MAP

- SCIENCE & EXPLORATION
- WATER
- FOOD TRADERS
- BAR
- BEER HALL
- MERCHANDISE
- ATTRACTION
- FIRST AID
- BBQ STATION
- LOCKERS
- PHONE CHARGING
- INFORMATION
- CAMP SITE SHOWERS
- ROUGH TRADE
- BOOKSHOP
- TOILETS
- ACCESSIBLE TOILETS
- GENERAL STORE
- WELFARE
- CHILDRENS ACTIVITY
- TELESCOPE VIEWING
- PATH

Leave No Trace

Cheshire is a beautiful place. Green fields and untouched landscapes are what make it beautiful. It is not acceptable to litter and abandon possessions while you are at Jodrell Bank.

Please make sure you put your rubbish in the bins provided around the campsite and recycle where you can. Please leave no trace.

Safety & Security Tips

It's important to keep your possessions safe while you are on site. Here are our top tips:

1. Keep your phone and wallet on your person 24/7
2. TENTWATCH: Know your neighbours, make friends with them, watch each other's kit
3. Install "Find my iPhone" or "Find my Phone" on your smart phone

Final Word

Thanks again for joining us on our journey to discover the bluedot. We hope that you've found this information useful.

If you have any further queries please take a look at our FAQ's on our website: discoverthebluedot.com. If you still require more information, please don't hesitate to contact us via hello@discoverthebluedot.com

See you soon to discover the bluedot!

"Look again at that dot. That's here. That's home. That's us."
– **Carl Sagan, 1934 – 1996.**