



A joyful celebration of cultures, colour
and creativity in the heart of Cork



EVENT GUIDE & MAP



Cork
City Council
Comhairle Cathrach Chorcaí

RETHINK
IRELAND





WELCOME TO CORK MELA!

A heartfelt welcome to the 1st Cork Mela – a dazzling celebration of food, music, dance, carnival, circus, visual arts, fashion, and family fun, showcasing the rich cultures of over twenty nations from around the world. Join us for an unforgettable day of global culture, creativity, and togetherness for the whole family.



A Message from CEO of ArtsEkta, Dr. Nisha Tandon OBE

Inspired by the global tradition of Mela – gatherings that bring people together in celebration – this festival invites you to experience the music, dance, food and cultures that make Cork such a vibrant and diverse city.

We are proud to be working with over 20 local groups to create a joyful afternoon of performances, creative activities and cultural experiences for all to enjoy.

Thank you for being part of this special first Cork Mela. We hope you have a wonderful day celebrating culture, community and creativity with us.



A Message from Lord Mayor of Cork, Councillor Fergal Dennehy

It is a great pleasure to welcome the inaugural Cork Mela to our city. This wonderful festival celebrates the cultural diversity that makes Cork such a vibrant and welcoming place to live, work and visit.

Cork Mela is a powerful reminder of the richness we gain when we embrace the traditions, talents and stories of communities from around the world. I encourage everyone to come along, enjoy the performances and experiences, and celebrate the spirit of unity and connection that defines our city.

I wish everyone involved a fantastic first Cork Mela.



CORK MELA HIGHLIGHTS

From powerful performances to hands-on cultural experiences, Cork Mela is packed with moments you won't want to miss. Here are just some of the highlights to catch during this vibrant afternoon of music, movement and celebration in Fitzgerald Park.

1.30pm OPENING PROCESSION

Feel the rhythm as Cork Mela bursts into life with a colourful opening procession filled with drumming, dance and spectacular carnival energy. The perfect way to start the celebration.

2.00pm CULTURE LAND

Step into a world of creativity and discovery. Try crafts, experience global traditions, enjoy storytelling and explore cultural activities designed for curious minds of all ages.

2.30pm VOICES OF PEACE CHOIR

Be moved by the uplifting voices of this intercultural choir celebrating connection, harmony and the power of music to bring people together.

2.50pm CORK CAPOEIRA

Don't miss this high-energy display of Capoeira, where martial arts, dance and music combine in a thrilling and rhythmic performance.

3.30pm YOGA AT THE WORLD OF WELLBEING

Take a breath and reset with a relaxing yoga session in the peaceful World of Wellbeing space.

3.45pm MOVE WITH THE CHINESE LION

Discover the colour, movement and tradition behind the famous Lion Dance in this lively and interactive workshop.

4.15pm TRIO TERRA NOVA

Enjoy a rich musical journey as Trio Terra Nova blend global influences into a beautiful live performance.

4.30pm CITADEL

Finish the day on a high note with an electrifying performance from Citadel, bringing Cork Mela to a vibrant close.



Line Up

Get ready for a full afternoon of music, dance and cultural experiences across Cork Mela. From vibrant performances on the World Stage to local talent on the Showcase Stage and interactive activities throughout the park, there's something happening at every moment.

Family Fun

A trip to the Mela isn't complete without diving into our exciting family attractions. From vibrant global arts and crafts and lively dance workshops to enchanting street theatre and captivating storytelling, there's something magical for every member of the family!



Experience a line up of crafts, sounds, dance, stories and art, giving your young ones a true cultural experience they will never forget.

- 2.00pm Bollywood Dance Workshop
- 2.45pm Bolivian Community in Cork
- 3.15pm Karate Workshop – Dohman Green Society
- 3.45pm Chinese Lion Workshop

WORLD OF Wellbeing

Grounded in sensory awareness, inclusivity, and care, this is a gentle space to move with intention, listen with presence, and simply be – whether you're engaging in an activity or finding rest within it.

- 1.30pm Alchemy School of Yoga
- 2.15pm Zumba Workshop
- 2.45pm SkySound Mindful Way Academy
- 3.30pm Alchemy School of Yoga
- 4.15pm Zumba Workshop

World Stage

Move to the rhythm of the world with global beats, vibrant dance and cultural fusion at the heart of Fitzgerald Park. Hosted by 96FM's Ken Perrott.

- 1.15pm Opening Procession
- 1.30pm Lord Mayor of Cork
- 1.35pm Ukrainian Community Choir - Kalyna
- 2.00pm Mexican Community in Cork
- 2.30pm Voices of Young People Intercultural Choir
- 3.00pm Kabin Crew
- 3.20pm Aatma Dance
- 3.35pm AMDIE Mexican Dance
- 4.00pm Mark Outsider & Kestine
- 4.30pm Citadel
- 4.55pm South Asian Dance Academy - Finale

Showcase Stage

From soulful sounds to high-energy performances, this stage showcases artists from Cork and around the world. Discover tradition, modern beats and unforgettable moments.

- 1.35pm Bangladeshi Association Cork
- 1.55pm Lithuanian House in Cork
- 2.10pm AMDIE Mexican Dance
- 2.30pm Chinese Lion
- 2.50pm Cork Capoeira
- 3.35pm Marathi Mandal
- 3.50pm MTU Samba
- 4.15pm Trio Terra Nova



Shadow Puppetry

Get creative with this hands-on puppet making workshop from the Cork Puppetry Company where children and families can design and create their own characters to take home. A fun and imaginative way to explore storytelling through art.



A colourful and playful space for younger visitors to explore the magic of Bollywood through music, movement and creative activities. Perfect for little ones and families looking to join the celebration.



WORLD FOOD VILLAGE



Take your tastebuds on a journey around the world. Discover a delicious mix of global street food and cultural flavours from local vendors throughout the park.



Experience the beauty of traditional henna art and watch intricate designs come to life with your own free henna tattoo. A wonderful cultural experience for all ages.



20 YEARS OF CREATIVITY & CONNECTION



We would love to see your photos and videos from Mela Day!
If you are posting online don't forget to tag our social media accounts using the information below.

 artsekta1  corkmela

Use #CorkMela to help us create memories for the Cork Mela 2026.

Want to attend future events?

We run events throughout the year, many of which are free to attend and take part in. Sign up to our mailing list at www.artsekta.org.uk to keep updated with our latest news and events.



Event Map

Sunday 3 May 2026, 1pm - 5pm, Fitzgerald's Park



Map correct at the time of print and subject to change