



Fiesta fun brings summer holidays to life for all the family

Bristol's iconic hot air ballooning event offers visitors four action-packed days of fun for the whole family to enjoy.

On top of the ballooning events, this year the Astra Bristol International Balloon Fiesta provides a host of new family activities and an expanded schedule of arena events to keep people entertained throughout the day.

Amongst the new attractions will be a 'Fiesta Activity Zone' on the West Lawn in front of the Mansion House. This features giant transparent balls which enable people to walk on water, an assault course, climbing walls, archery and laser clay-pigeon shooting.

The main arena will see a strong turn-out by the Armed Forces, with a first-time appearance from the Royal Navy's Black Cats Helicopter Display Team, a performance by the Royal Signals White Helmets motorcycle display team as well as a series of staged combat exercises by Army reservists. It will also play host to the head turning displays of the world famous Red Arrows team on Sunday 15th, brought to the Fiesta in association with Mail Handling International.

New to the event this year are Parabatix, a team of paramotor pilots who plan to demonstrate the ultra light air sport of powered paragliding. To celebrate 50 years of modern ballooning, a series of model balloons will also be on show to give visitors a close-up view of how the main stars of the Fiesta work and there will be inflation demonstrations of full sized hot air balloons, to give the crowds an insight into how they work.

Around the show site, there will be a range of other family entertainment, including; a fun fair, face-painting, giant outdoor games and a 'chill-out area' at the Heart FM Zone; a computer gaming hub from EA Sports; and interactive games from Saturday Night Glow sponsor Milka. Younger fans should watch out for Disney's most famous face, Mickey Mouse, who will be parked up with his Clubhouse Campervan to greet his young fans and encourage children and parents to have fun counting together.

To accompany its busy schedule of events, the Fiesta will host a Bristol Food Court for the first time with food and drink by local suppliers including Pieminister. The five bars at the event will also be stocked with a range of beers and ales by Zerodegrees.

This year's Astra Bristol International Balloon Fiesta takes place in the rolling hills of Ashton Court from Thursday 12th to Sunday 15th August. Attracting over half a million visitors each year, the free event is one of the UK's top five outdoor events and the biggest of its kind in Europe.

- Ends -