

Welcome to the South West Sardine Festival!



For centuries, our European neighbours have known something we've been slow to catch on to... From Lisbon to Cádiz, whole streets shut down every summer to celebrate one small, brilliant fish with long tables, open fires, cold drinks, and a crowd who know how to have a good time.

Well, we reckon it's our turn! Here in the South West, we've got the finest sardines in the world, some of the best chefs in the country, and a harbour that was made for exactly this kind of day. The only thing missing was the party. And that's what today is all about!

Because the sardine represents a moment in time. A true invitation to stop and savour, live in the now and celebrate the season when these little fish are at their absolute best.

Whether you're a sardine devotee or you've never touched one in your life - welcome! Pull up a chair, grab a drink, and let the smell of the grill do the rest. Today is about great fish, great people, and a community celebration of everything that makes this coastline so special.

A huge thank you for being here! And even bigger thank you to every sponsor, chef, fisherman, musician, volunteer, and speaker who has given their time to make this happen. And thank you to Brixham - the town that made it all possible.



Mitch Tonks and Lewis Colam
Festival Co-founders



The South West Sardine Festival wouldn't be possible without our Sponsors - THANK YOU!



SOUTH WEST
Sardine
Festival

Festival Programme

12-9pm | Sunday 9th August 2026



Magic

Catch the magicians roaming around the festival!

12:00 - 14:00 Magic Moon Sean
13:30 - 15:30 Graham Prigg
15:00 - 17:00 CoSmo
16:30 - 18:30 Lez

Education

Talk to Some of the faces Saving our Seas and Shorelines! Visit between:

12:00-16:00

Brixham Trawler Agent (BTA) Fish Counter
Fishermen's Mission
Till the Coast is Clear
Marine Stewardship Council (MSC)

Kid's Marquee

There's a bunch of fun stuff happening in our Kid's Marquee

Arts & Craft

12:00 - 17:00

Sarah & Mark Bell from
'A Kick Up The Arts'

Face Painting with JoSefin
13:00 - 16:00

Visit 'Emalini The Mermaid'
12:00 - 17:00

Bubble LaFae

Catch the bubble performances outside of the Kid's Area

12:30 - 13:00

14:00 - 14:30

15:15 - 15:45

16:30 - 17:00

The Stage

Live Music

Panel Talks

12:00 - 13:30

Yonder folks

Devon husband-and-wife duo with guitar, uke, mandolin and kick drum singing old favourites

13:30 - 13:45

"The Future of the Catch"

Exploring the next generation of British fishing and what 'Sustainable' really means

13:45 - 15:10

Ward & Cole

Blues, country and Southern Soul. Mark on vocals and guitar, Liam on a Seriously good harmonica

15:10 - 15:30

"Tin, Salt & Smoke"

The ancient art of keeping fish, and why it's having a very modern moment...

15:30 - 17:00

Nick Tilly

Arguably one of the best guitarists in the country, played all over the world. Nick now lives in Torbay

17:00 - 17:15

"Why Aren't We Eating More Sardines?"

The fish that outperforms almost everything... and yet somehow get overlooked

17:15 - 18:15

DJ Ben Tonks

Sun-soaked Brazilian Samba beats meet bossa nova cool. The sound these festivals were made for

18:15 - 18:30

"The Chef's Verdict"

Matt Tebbutt and Mitch Tonks on the greatest fish to put over a flame

18:30 - 19:30

Break Beat Bandits

Brazilian samba drums meets club classics to create an explosive carnival atmosphere

19:30 - 21:00

Sam & the String

Big rhythms, big vocals, party favourites and crowd-pleasing classics to close off the day!