AVA
BELFAST

avafestival.com

Festival Guide 2026

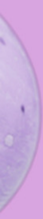
Partners

VELO Red Bull Asahi JUBEL Wing It JUICE JAR IBILẸ LYLE & SCOTT E/P WAR child PRS Foundation Talent Development Network PPL

Made by

UP!

Your guide to AVA Belfast 2026



Twelve years in, and we still get that same excited feeling, the one that reminds us why we started.

This May 29th and 30th, we return to the heart of Belfast on the Titanic Slipways with a programme that celebrates the diversity of talent both locally and internationally – a reflection of today's music landscape, spanning house, techno, trance, DnB, hip-hop, post-punk, tradtronic, experimental and beyond.

The Slipways are unlike anywhere else. With Belfast city centre on one side and the vast docklands stretching out on the other, Cavehill watching over from a distance, it's a setting that still stops us in our tracks.

This year we've expanded the site, added five programmed stages, introduced new food concepts, deepened our welfare, charity and visual arts initiatives, and evolved existing partnerships, whilst adding new.

We've put this guide together to help you get the most from your time at the festival and across the city. See you on the Slipways.

AVA x

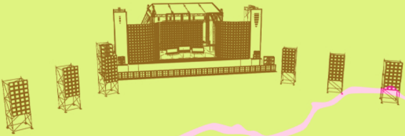
Audio Visual Arts

There are five stages at AVA this year

The Slipways

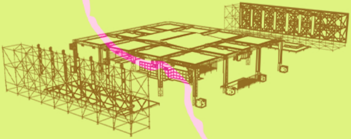
Our main stage, where headliners

alongside leading talent throw down, with epic AV shows across the weekend.



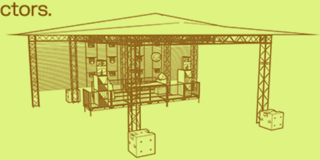
The Dock

The Dock is a purpose-built dockside amphitheatre co-presented with Resident Advisor — layered platforms, full dancefloor immersion, a world class Funktion-One system from Hertz-U Audio and a bespoke AV rig.



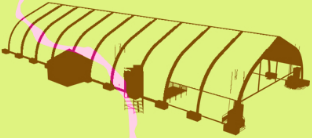
The Yard

A local favourite, set on the grasses, looking out across the water - this area blends live performance with DJ sets from some of our programme's finest selectors.



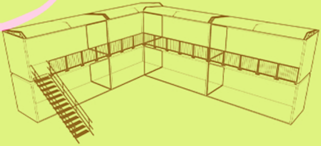
The Pumphouse

Dark, immersive and designed for impact, the Pumphouse is engineered for a big room club atmosphere, driven by heavyweight production and some of the most dynamic music of the weekend.



VELO The Anywhere House*

A brand new stage in partnership with Velo and in association with Lab54. Bringing the infamous Belfast house party energy to AVA.



* 18+ VERIFY

FOR ADULT NICOTINE CONSUMERS ONLY. This product contains nicotine and is addictive. You should not use this product if you do not already use nicotine.

Friday 29th
Stage Breakdowns

The Pumphouse

Blawan Live
Calibre

The Slipways

KETTAMA
¥ØU$UK€ ¥UK1MAT$U
Partiboi69
riria
Derv
Caoimhe

The Yard

Oblig b2b Hannah
Crilli
Plain Sailing
deathtoricky Live
AR1AH
JWY
Myka

TBA*
Sam Girling
Body Clinic
DIEBYVEG
Sophie
Matcha

The Dock

Honey Dijon
Chloé Caillet
Cromby
Angel D'lite
Swoose
CIAN
Puzzy Wrangler
More Gain
ByPhil

VELO The Anywhere House*

Princess Glitoris
AOIFE
Hi Kru x Divergence
Matheson
Calum Connell
Twentyfourevan
S.Sentif

Saturday 30th

Stage Breakdowns

The Slipways

KNEECAP

The Pumphouse

Octo Octa b2b Eris Drew

Interplanetary Criminal
Annie Mac
MPH
Aika Mal
TBA*

The Yard

Cormac
Takuya Nakamura
Twitch
Inside Moves
Reger
Cartin Live
Chanty
Venus Dupree

VELO The Anywhere House*

Caolan Patrick
WILL CARRIGAN.
Keeva G
IndenialL
SoūLara
OJ Wilson
Sambo

Or:la
Effy
1tbsp
Ineffekt
Optmst Live
Huartan Live
Toraigh
Cooke

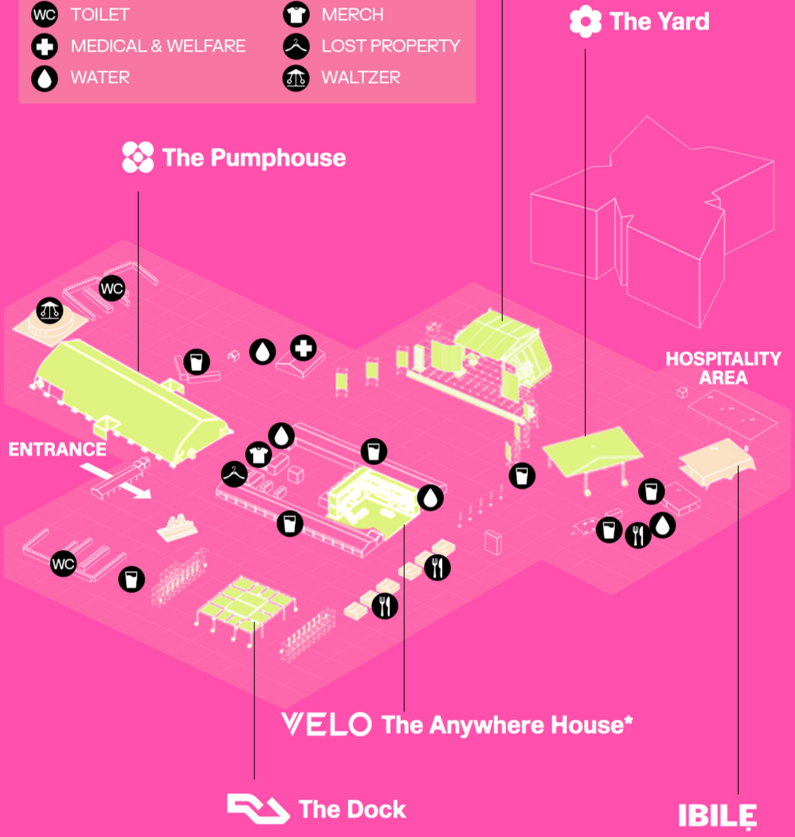
The Dock

Pegassi
DJ Gigola
Evian Christ
Surusinghe
Holly Lester
Chris Flannigan
Lorcan Kelly
DJ Time Of The Month
MK Best

Site Map ‘26

BAR
FOOD

The Slipways



ESSENTIAL INFORMATION

Opening Times & Entry

AVA Festival will take place on
Friday, 29th May & **Saturday, 30th May**
at Titanic Slipways, Belfast.

Admissions Information

If you have purchased a Pre-3 PM ticket, you must arrive before 3 PM; otherwise, you will be required to pay a surcharge of £10.

There is no re-entry permitted.

The festival will open each day at 1 PM and close at 11 PM

Last entry to the festival is **7 pm** on Friday and **6 pm** on Saturday. Please arrive early to avoid queues. Entry searches will be in operation, and queues are expected during peak times. Please allow sufficient time for entry and follow staff directions.

Alongside our Festival, we will also run our talks programme at The MAC on Thursday, 28th May, between 1 pm and 6 pm.
The daytime event is entirely free.

More information will be released on our website over the next few weeks.

Entry to the Festival

Proof Of Age

This is an 18+ event. You will need one of the following to match your ticket to be permitted entry to the festival:

- Valid Photo Driving Licence
- Valid Passport
- Yoti Citizen Card

Please note we cannot accept any other form of ID, so please ensure you have these in good time, before the festival.

To speed up entry, make sure you have your ticket downloaded to your phone or added to your wallet before you arrive at the festival site.

If you have purchased a Student/Resident Ticket, please bring a valid student ID or proof of address.

Weekend wristbands must be worn on Saturday to gain entry on the second day. Please **do not** remove it after the event on Friday.

Talks Programme

Our free-to-attend annual talks programme will take place at The MAC on Thursday, 28th May. More information will be released in the coming weeks.

Afterparties

Our festival afterparties will be announced in the coming weeks.

IBILE

Where every flavour tells our story. We are delighted to present a brand new pop-up dining restaurant dedicated to showcasing the vibrant flavours of contemporary West African cuisine. More information and bookings are available on our website.

Transport

Titanic Slipways is accessible by foot, taxi and public transport via train or bus with regular services running from Belfast City Centre. If arriving by taxi, ensure to use the taxi drop-off point on Hamilton Road.
For safety reasons, do not allow the driver to drop you directly outside the event.

We strongly advise arriving on foot or via public transport, as there is likely to be significant traffic disruption around the festival. Please note there is no customer

car park.

See our website FAQ's for more info on transport to the Festival.

Leaving the Festival

The city centre is a pleasant 25-30 minute walk from the Festival site - you can see the route **here**.

Our taxi and private vehicle pick-up and drop-off location is on Hamilton Road.

Translink also operates the Belfast Glider, which connects East and West Belfast and the Titanic Quarter with the city centre. The closest Glider stop is 'Titanic', which is situated on Queens Road, outside Belfast Met. These services will run extra shuttles from 10 pm to midnight.

Event Info

💳 The event is cashless. All bars and food traders will not accept cash

🧥 There is a cloakroom and phone charging facility located beside the Merchandise Stand

🥤 Free drinking water is available at the water stations across the site, so bring your refillable water bottles. These will need to be empty as you arrive.

👕 Lost Property is located at the Merch & Info stand during the event. On Sunday, please visit the Site Office between 10 am and 4 pm. From Monday onwards, please email info@avafestival.com to arrange an appointment.

Festival App

WOOV

Download our Official festival app via our partner

woov.to/avafestival

To personalise your timetable, chat with friends and get custom alerts so you never miss a set.

Accessibility

The event site is accessible, and there are multiple accessible toilets. If you are attending the festival or have any questions relating to accessibility, please get in touch with info@avafestival.com

Important

- No sunscreen bottles larger than 100ml
- Maximum of 10ml of vaping liquid is allowed
- Empty Water bottles only

Prohibited Items - please check our website for the FULL LIST.

All customers will be subject to search upon entry, and there will be drug detection dogs in operation. Management reserves the right to refuse entry, regardless of whether you have a ticket. If any of the items are found above, they will be confiscated and not returnable.

Ask for Angela - Welfare Scheme

Please prepare for all conditions, wear sunscreen during the day and bring a light jacket for the evening, as temperatures can drop later on.

We recommend checking out the **Be Sound** website for harm reduction advice. Info and guidance on how to enjoy your night, and also keep safe!
URL: besound.club

Charity Partners

Anyone who is feeling unsafe, vulnerable or threatened can discreetly seek help by approaching venue staff and asking them for 'Angela'. This code phrase will indicate to staff that you require help, and a trained member of staff will then provide support and assistance. Our staff are there to help at all times, and your safety & experience are our priority.

Festival Guardians

AVA's Festival Guardians are a friendly, visible team dedicated to keeping the site safe, welcoming and easy to navigate. On hand to offer guidance, support and reassurance, they help ensure everyone can relax and enjoy the festival experience. They will be wearing pink hi-vis vests - come and say hello!

Medical & Welfare

We encourage you to have a great time at AVA. Please treat everyone with respect, be kind, and look after yourself and those around you.

If you feel unwell, overwhelmed, or need assistance at any time, please speak to a member of staff, a Festival Guardian, or head to the Medical & Welfare area, which is clearly marked on the festival map.
Our friendly teams are here to help.

AVA is proud to partner with organisations driving meaningful change beyond the dancefloor.

EarthPercent mobilises the music industry to support climate action, encouraging artists and businesses to pledge a percentage of their income to environmental causes. For every AVA ticket sold, £1 goes directly to the planet.

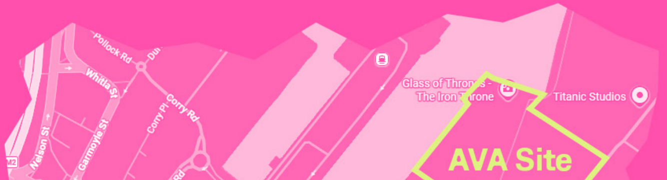
War Child works to protect, educate, and stand up for the rights of children affected by conflict worldwide. Each year, AVA donates to the cause.

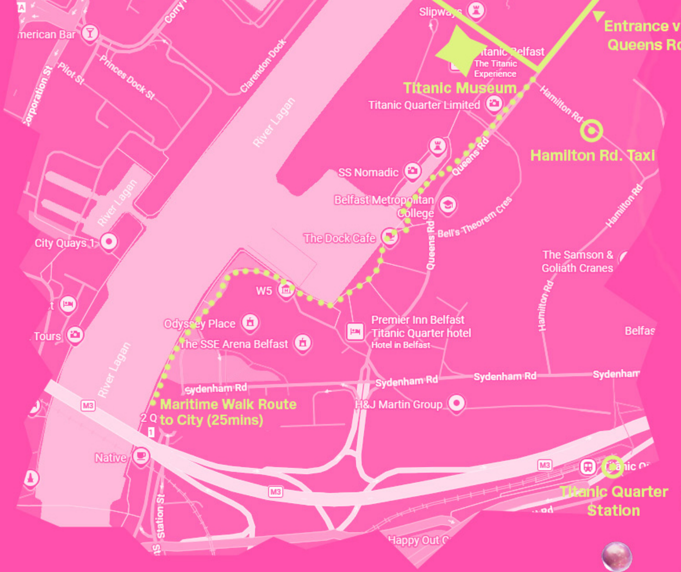
Nexus provides vital support to people impacted by sexual abuse and abusive relationships, delivering counselling, advocacy and prevention services across Northern Ireland.

Gig Buddies pairs people with learning disabilities and/or autistic people with volunteers who share their interests. Gig buddies have been coming and dancing at AVA since 2022!

Extern New to AVA 2026, this dedicated wellbeing and harm reduction tent offering a calm, non-judgemental environment for anyone who may be feeling overwhelmed or not quite themselves. The team provides guidance, education, and practical advice to help you stay safe and in control of your experience.

Getting to AVA





Belfast Highlights

Drinks

The Sunflower Public House
An iconic pub renowned for its craft beer offering. Best enjoyed in the beer garden while gazing at street art.

Bullhouse

Food

Common Market
This former fruit & veg warehouse turned indoor market is home to some of the tastiest pop-ups in the city. Perfect for big groups.

Jumon

Activities

Titanic Belfast
A world-class visitor centre built on The Titanic's original site. Telling its story from design to sinking. With interactive experiences and archive materials.

A wise choice for fans of craft beer & sourdough pizza in East Belfast.

Orisha
Intimate and dimly lit - with staff who know their stuff. This Latin-inspired cocktail bar is the hidden gem of Belfast's Linen Quarter.

Maddens
World-class Irish bar with frequent trad sessions. Tucked away but always lively with authentic stout & boisterous local characters.

Bittles Bar
Ask John for a pint of the best Guinness in Belfast. Tell him we sent you. He's not as mean as he lets on.

Ulster Sports Club
This retro lounge has become a A mainstay for local music lovers. Home to our afterparties.

The Reporter
Like your bars cosy? This shipping-container sized pub, is tucked away in the heart of Belfast's Queer Quarter.

Lavery's
Pool hall, karaoke bar, beer garden, tap room - with something on offer across four floors, few can argue with Lavery's.

Asian inspired small plates from an all-veggie menu, with no compromises on flavour. Their staff & cocktails will ensure your visit is memorable

Yugo
Asian-inspired dishes made with local ingredients. A mix of bold flavours with subtle Irish touches.
Get the coconut marg!

Mourne's Seafood Bar
Fresh shellfish carefully hand-selected from independently-run beds.

Wing-It
Stylish chicken joint that likes to stand out from the crowd.
Don't ask for ketchup!

Juice Jar
Healthy brunch snacks, shakes & smoothies to help you bounce back after AVA 2026.

Coffee

Native Coffee
Community-oriented, water-front coffee kiosk, hosting pop-up events from soundbaths to bagels, DJs to run clubs.

Neighbourhood
Classy & delicious, Neighbourhood puts as much care into design as they do their coffee, and it shows.

Works Coffee Roasters
Family-owned Works offer coffee, pastries & toasties from an intimate roasterie, at the foot of Cavehill - the "sleeping giant" that overlooks the Slipways.

Black Taxi Tour
Guided cab tour through Belfast's political and cultural history. Includes stops at murals, interface zones and the peace walls.

Titanic Distillers Tour
In the heart of the Shipyards, Titanic Distillers have made their home in the former Dock & Pumphouse. You can visit them to learn more about the rich heritage of ships & spirits.

Giants Causeway
Walk in the footsteps of giants at NI's most legendary volcanic landscape.

Oh Yeah Music Tour
Learn about the city's rich musical heritage, traditions, and roots.

AVA
BELFAST

Thanks to our Partners

VELO*
Red Bull
ENERGY DRINK
WHITE CLAW
HARD SELTZER
Asahi

JUBEL
Wing It
JUICE JAR
IBILẸ
LYLE & SCOTT
EST 1874

E/P
SUPPORTING
WAR
child
PRS
Foundation
Talent
Development
Network
Supported by
PPL