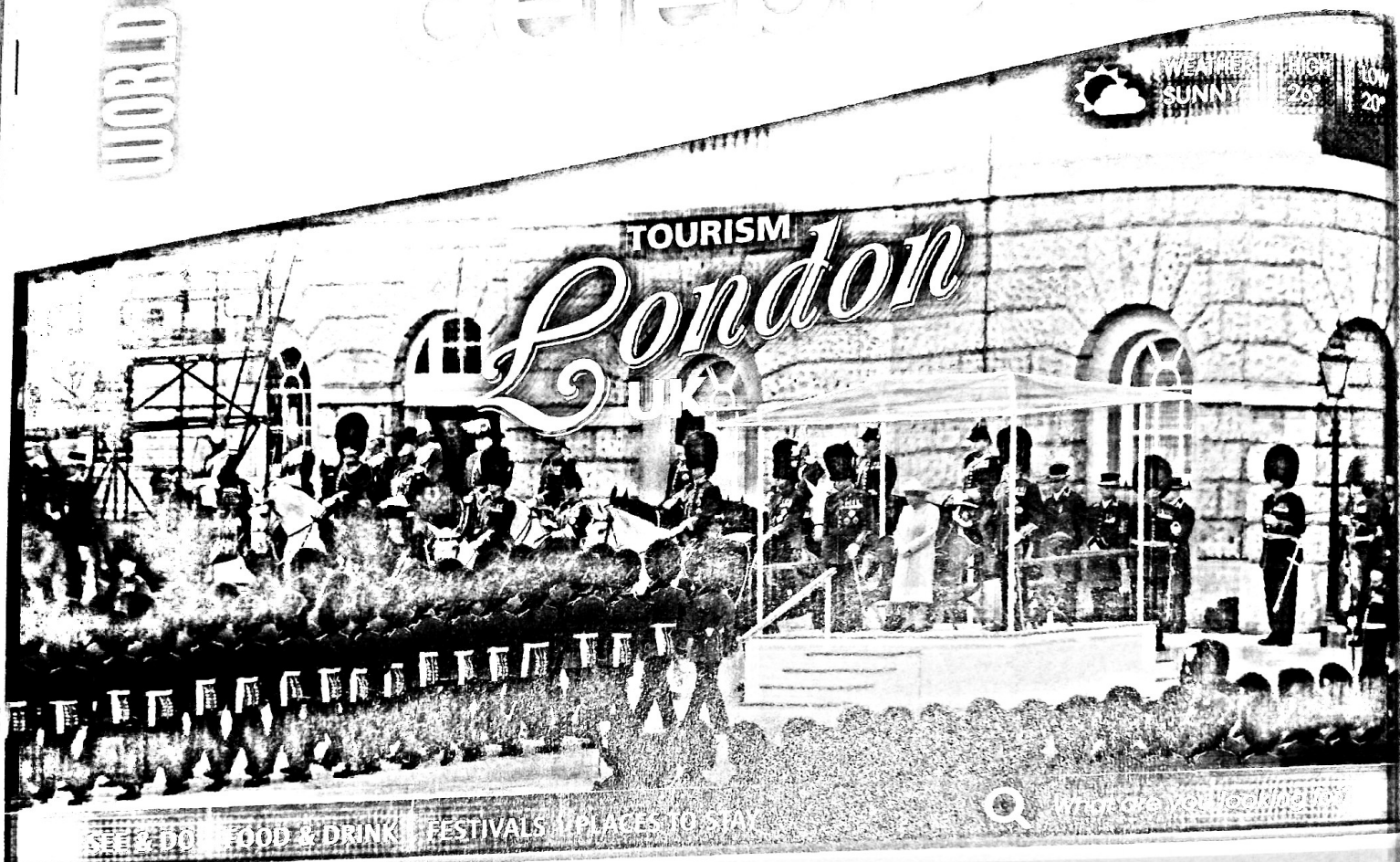


How do you like to  
celebrate?

WEDNESDAY  
SUNNY  
26°  
LOW 20°

TOURISM

London



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## Multicultural festivals in London

The eighteenth-century writer Samuel Johnson said, 'If you're tired of London, you're tired of life.' Looking at the city's annual calendar of cultural events, it's easy to agree with him!

There is such a mixture! There are traditional festivities that have existed for generations and new events which highlight the city's varied population. If you're looking for tradition, why not head for **Trooping the Colour** in June? It's a summer military parade which celebrates the Queen's official birthday.

For something more international, a big favourite is the five-day Hindu Festival of Lights, called **Diwali**. It is held in autumn and celebrates the victory of good over evil. Head for Trafalgar Square to see the best contemporary Asian music and dance, and the

most beautiful costumes. You also have the chance to taste delicious Indian food.

Don't forget the **Chinese New Year**, usually held in February. There's a parade in Chinatown, which changes each year to celebrate a different animal – the horse, the monkey, the cow, the dragon, etc. There's also a great atmosphere in the streets and restaurants nearby.

Finally, if it's Caribbean culture you are after, go to Europe's biggest summer street festival – the **Notting Hill Carnival**. You will find live reggae, calypso and soul sounds, costume parades and the most amazing party atmosphere in the streets!

### GLOSSARY

**highlight** (v) if you highlight something, you say it is very important

**head for** (v) go towards

**parade** (n) an event in which people walk through the streets and play music

## EXPLORE

**1** What events do you celebrate in your country? You can divide the list of events into national and local.

**2** Read the text. Complete the sentences with the words below.

multicultural parade animal traditional

- 1 A lot of London's new festivals are multicultural.
- 2 One of the most \_\_\_\_\_ festivals is linked to the Royal Family.
- 3 Many of the festivals in the text have a \_\_\_\_\_.
- 4 The Chinese New Year features a different \_\_\_\_\_ each year.

**3** Match festivals 1-4 with descriptions a-e. There is an extra description.

- 1 b Trooping the Colour
  - 2 \_\_\_\_\_ Diwali
  - 3 \_\_\_\_\_ Chinese New Year
  - 4 \_\_\_\_\_ Notting Hill Carnival
- a It lasts for a few days.
  - b It happens on the same day every year.
  - c There are lots of types of music.
  - d It is a big spring favourite
  - e It is a little different every year.

**4** Which of the festivals from the text would you most like to go to? Why?

EXPLORE MORE

**7**  **24** Watch Part 2 of the video. Tick the things you see.

- 1 ☐ sunny weather
- 2 ☐ a man with a blue T-shirt
- 3 ☐ a lot of people in the street
- 4 ☐ man with green face make-up
- 5 ☐ people playing steel pan drums
- 6 ☐ people celebrating on a train

**8** Watch again. Complete the text with the words below. There are four extra words.

police costumes parties weather  
million Caribbean ages happiest  
~~fifty~~ much biggest British

The Notting Hill Carnival is <sup>1</sup> fifty years old. It celebrates <sup>2</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ culture. It's famous for its colourful <sup>3</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ and great live music and performances. It's now the <sup>4</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ street festival in Europe, with more than a <sup>5</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ people coming to the party! There are people of all <sup>6</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ here - both young and old. 7,000 <sup>7</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ officers are at the Carnival to help keep everybody safe. The only problem is the London <sup>8</sup> \_\_\_\_\_!

**9** Have you ever been to a festival like the ones in the video? What were the differences and similarities?

YOU EXPLORE