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Top tips for festival-goers from Etherlive.

Essential festival kit used to consist of little more than a tent that didn't leak, some wet wipes if you were really hygienic, and a bagful of cash for a couple of beers.

But increasingly festival-goers are much more tooled up with technology and the festivals are providing more content, apps and other reasons to bring your smart phone along with your big floppy hat and flag on a stick.

However you should know what to expect from your gadgets once you get onsite so Tom McInerney, Events Director at Etherlive has put together a few top tips for that big weekend:

1. It's an obvious one but make sure you have batteries that are fully charged before you go, for all your gadgets. If you do run low on power most festivals now have charging points, but you may have to pay for the service. Alternatively you could take a wind-up charger, or even a solar panel charger which just needs daylight to work, so even if it's not sunny you can still find your friends after seeing an act
2. Security is key and gadgets are an attractive target for thieves. Find out where the official lock-up points are to safeguard your valuables. Don't leave them in your tent. Use a pin code to lock your phone and ensure that if anything does walk you call your phone company and put a freeze on your account.
3. Don't rely on network coverage at the event, the chances are cellular coverage will be inadequate because of the number of people trying to use their phones. But most festivals have good wifi hotspots and cyber cafes which are the best to use for your smart phone. The cyber cafes should also have laptops you can use as well.
4. Make use of the content produced by the festival. There are a number of useful apps to download from helping to find your tent to buying the music of the artist on stage. You may also be able to look at schedules and get text alerts to secret gigs happening onsite, and it will be useful for people trying to organise travel plans for getting home from the event.
5. The most advanced festivals also allow you to use your phone to pay for drinks, and may even send your ticket to it. Many will allow you to use a contactless credit card, which means you don't have to take as much cash and it's a lot more secure.
6. Most people have an enjoyable time at festivals, but emergencies do happen and in that case ensure you have a pre-arranged meeting place if you get separated and pay attention to any steward instructions – and most of all enjoy the summer sun!

About Etherlive

A successful event depends on great performances. From WOMAD and The Green Man Festival to Southampton Boat Show and the Three Counties Show, we are the ones that make IT work. Etherlive sits behind the scenes delivering reliable Wi-Fi internet, telephony, laptops, PDQs and interactive messaging. Whether in a field or a building, we make connectivity simple.

<http://events.etherlive.co.uk>