

Somersault



Jack Johnson coming to Devon - a coup for the West Country

MUSIC, adventure and outdoor living is at the heart of a brand new festival taking place in Devon this July—with Hawaiian musician Jack Johnson topping the bill.

Held at the beautiful Castle Hill Estate near Barnstable, just half an hour from the North Devon coast, Somersault promises a full programme of activities, from theatre performances to trapeze yoga, as well as an eclectic mix of world music from renowned artists.

Making his only festival appearance in the United Kingdom this year, Jack Johnson—a professional surfer-turned-singer-songwriter—is a fantastic coup for the inaugural summer camp (and the West Country). Johnson's stripped-back style resonates with the festival's strong emphasis on water sports, as festival goers of all abilities will be encouraged to get down to the shore to surf, kayak or paddleboard. The event has also partnered with South West charity Surfers Against Sewage an environmental charity protecting the UK's oceans, waves and beaches for all to enjoy safely and sustainably.

Despite 2014 being its first year, Somersault's ability to attract big names to the South West is again evident from Sunday night's headliner: Ben Howard, the Devon-born singer-songwriter

whose melodic, rootsy folk sound became widely known after the release of his 2011 debut album *Every Kingdom*. Neil Halstead, yet another surfer and founding member of the recently reformed Slowdive, will be making an appearance, as will Grammy-nominated Afro-Blues duo Amadou and Mariam, Canadian band Half Moon Run, and Welsh indie four-piece Catfish and the Bottlemen. Sierra Leone's Refugee All Stars, formed by a group of refugees displaced to Guinea during the Sierra Leone civil war, are a must-hear for their special brand of reggae.

Aside from the outdoor pursuits and live music (including some late-night guest DJ sets), Somersault will be a rustic gastronomic treat, with campfire feasts forming a centre piece of the food offerings.

The carefree essence of Somersault makes it something for the whole family, and the Kids Camp area will set children's imaginations wild with a range of creative activities and performances. Highlights include wildlife walks, sculpture, experimental painting and storytelling—there will be something to tempt and nurture any budding talent.

For more information on Somersault and to see the full line-up, visit www.somersaultfestival.com