

KEEP ON TOP OF YOUR FESTIVAL FINANCES

Whether you're heading to Wireless or the Isle of Wight, Beach Break Live or Benicàssim, it pays to plan ahead – so you can enjoy the festival experience to the full without breaking the bank

Whatever your destination, once you've bought your tickets you may find you're on a tighter budget than you thought. And costs can mount up quickly, if you're unprepared.

So the Festival Guide asked the Financial Ombudsman Service – the free service with the power to sort out problems between consumers and financial businesses – how you can stay on top of your festival finances.

TOP MONEY TIPS FOR A HASSLE-FREE FESTIVAL:

1

Spread the cost:
Your festival ticket may seem like the biggest expense – but don't forget to factor in your travel costs too. Shop around for the best deals on public transport – or think about sharing a car with a group of friends. But if anyone will be driving who's not already covered by your policy – contact your insurer and get them covered before you go.

2

Can you afford to lose it?:
Keep your belongings secure at all times – and if the festival has locker facilities, use them! Most of us carry around more items of value than we realise – from mobile phones and mp3 players to fancy watches and jewellery. Think before you set out – and if you don't need it, don't take it. If you've a home insurance policy – or insurance for specific items, like your mobile phone – check what you're covered for.

3

Protect your PIN:
Make sure you keep your credit or debit card safe at all times and don't write down your PIN. Remember to always keep your cash and cards separate. If you misplace your card – contact your bank right away. It should be able to help. And tempting as it may be to give your card and PIN to a friend so they can get some cash for you while you're staking out a spot at the front of the stage – take care. You could find yourself liable if your card is lost or stolen.

4

Get away:
If you've decided to check out a festival abroad this year, don't forget to take out travel insurance. It's a false economy not to bother, as a good travel policy gives you real peace of mind in case anything goes wrong. But remember, travel insurance cover can vary considerably – and cheaper isn't necessarily better. Choose a policy that does what you need it to do.

Whichever festival you find yourself at this summer, we hope you have a great time with no money troubles! But if you're unlucky and you do have a problem, the financial ombudsman may be able to help. You can contact the ombudsman service on 0300 123 9 123 or www.financial-ombudsman.org.uk