

# Diwali on the Square – videos transcripts

## VIDEO 1

### Introduction to Diwali on the Square

The Mayor of London's annual Diwali on the Square takes place at Trafalgar Square, in central London on 27 October 2024.

The event runs from 1pm to 7pm. There is no need to book a ticket, and entrance is free.

The event is a celebration of Diwali, also known as the Festival of Lights, a significant festival in Hindu, Sikh, and Jain traditions. Symbolizing the triumph of light over darkness and good over evil, Diwali on the Square is open and accessible to all, bringing Londoners together in a joyful celebration of light, hope, and unity.

The event offers a vibrant day with:

- A colorful opening dance sequence
- A main stage filled with musical acts and dance performances
- Light displays and projections
- A variety of activities for families and young people, including sari and turban tying, puppet shows, meditation and yoga, demonstrations of Diwali cultural performances, dance workshops, and comedy performances
- A variety of stalls to browse and a food market where you can purchase some tasty treats

The most up-to-date information and full details of performance and activities please are included on this webpage.

You can also find this information in an easy-read document, and a transcript of this video in downloadable formats on this webpage. If you scroll to the bottom of the webpage there is a button to translate the page into another language.

If you have any questions, please email [diwali@london.gov.uk](mailto:diwali@london.gov.uk)

We look forward to welcoming you to Diwali on the Square!"

## VIDEO 2

### What to expect at our event

We will do our best to make sure you feel welcome and enjoy our event. Our event staff and volunteers are here to help with any questions you might have.

When you arrive, our stewards and Team London volunteers will greet you. Our Team London volunteers will be wearing purple high-visibility jackets and are ready to answer any questions. There will also be clear signs to help guide you around the event. Please note, we will conduct a bag search at the entrance for everyone attending.

The event has a level access entrance, and it is wheelchair accessible. All paths are accessible for wheelchair users and there is a lift that connects the North Terrace thoroughfare, in front of the National Gallery, with the Main Square. Stewards will be there to help you find your way. Assistance dogs are welcome too.

The festival can get busy. If being in crowds is difficult for you, you can use our accessible viewing area. It is located on the north terrace of Trafalgar Square. This area has hearing loop facilities for the performances on the main stage, and chairs are available for companions and anyone who needs to sit.

All shows with speech on the main stage will have a live British Sign Language interpreter. You can see the interpreter on the screen which is located to the right side of the main stage.

The event may be loud at times, due to music and performances. If you need ear defenders, you can ask for them at our information point or speak to a volunteer for help.

The event is relaxed. You can join or leave at any time and move around as you like. You do not need to be quiet.

In addition to accessible toilets, we will also have a Mobiloo accessible toilet at the event. This toilet has a hoist and a changing table. If you need to use the hoist, please bring your own sling for safety and convenience. You can find more information on Mobiloo's website: [www.mobiloo.org.uk](http://www.mobiloo.org.uk).

If you need any help on the day or to find out more information about the event, just ask one of our stewards or volunteers, and they will be happy to assist you.

If you have any questions in advance of the event, please email [events@london.gov.uk](mailto:events@london.gov.uk)

We can't wait to welcome you!

## VIDEO 3

### How to get to Trafalgar Square

Trafalgar Square is easy to reach by public transport, including buses, the Tube, and national rail services.

The nearest Underground station with step-free access from platform to street level is Westminster Station, which is served by the Jubilee, District, and Circle lines. From Westminster Station, it's about a 10-minute walk to Trafalgar Square.

Charing Cross Underground Station is the closest Tube station and is served by the Northern and Bakerloo lines. However, please note that this station does not have step-free access.

Bus routes that stop close to Trafalgar Square include:

- Routes 3, 6, 9, 11, 12, 15, 23, 87, 88, 91, 139, and 176, with most buses having wheelchair access.

For accessible travel options, including step-free routes and Dial-A-Ride services, you can visit the TfL (Transport for London) website for maps and to plan your journey at [www.tfl.gov.uk](http://www.tfl.gov.uk)

The surrounding area on Trafalgar Square can get very busy on the day of the event, so we recommend you take public transport if you're visiting the event. If you're unable to take public transport for accessibility reasons, accessible parking is available near Trafalgar Square.

There are Blue Badge parking spaces on St Martin's Street, located next to the National Gallery. Please be aware that these spaces are around 250 metres from the National Gallery. There are three designated Blue Badge parking bays available here.

For more information on parking, you can contact the Westminster Parking Information Service on 020 7823 4567. The helpline is open Monday to Saturday, from 8am to 8pm. You can also visit their website at [www.westminster.gov.uk/parking/disabled-parking](http://www.westminster.gov.uk/parking/disabled-parking)

Public car parks are available near Leicester Square and Trafalgar Square. If driving, we ask you to plan your journey in advance.

If you have any questions in advance of the event, please email [events@london.gov.uk](mailto:events@london.gov.uk)