

ClimbOut Festival 2025 Report

Peak District, 23-26 May 2025



Photo credit: Roxanna Barry

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Summary

*“ClimbOut is SO very different to any other climbing event I know
- everything I wanted and hoped to find, and so much more.”*

ClimbOut 2025 took place 23-26 May 2025, the UK's third annual queer climbing festival. We achieved our aim to build on the success of ClimbOut 2023 and 2024. It was again based at Thornbridge Outdoors centre. 366 people participated.

ClimbOut 2025 built on the success of ClimbOut 2024 and fewer changes were made compared to the previous year in the light of feedback from 2023. A conscious decision was taken to maintain a similar number of participants. The festival continued to be valued as an inspiring, safe and inclusive environment for a broad spectrum of the LGBTQIA+ community, with many participants returning for the second year. In 2025 we expanded the social programme. We are immensely grateful to all our partners, supporters, instructors and organising team for what we have achieved. Most of all we are grateful to our community of attendees, whose participation and feedback have shaped ClimbOut at every step.



Photo credit: Roxanna Barry

The main changes for ClimbOut 2025 made mainly in response to feedback from ClimbOut 2024 were:

- To further increase the sense of inclusion.
- An online communication platform (Oak) to facilitate pre-festival communication between instructors and participants and in real-time communication during the festival.
- Increase sustainable travel options by adding coach travel from London to Thornbridge



- Diversify the social programme: more variety but also a collective event (the ceilidh)
- Manage evening events to minimise excess noise after 10pm

We're incredibly proud that ClimbOut 2025 achieved a major milestone in our ongoing commitment to equity and inclusion. After two festivals where ethnic diversity fell short of Census benchmarks, this year's focused effort to create a safe and welcoming space for all ethnic groups and reduce barriers to engagement has paid off. Asian, Black, Mixed, and Other ethnic groups represented 24% of attendees, up from 16% in 2024, marking the first time the festival has matched, and in some areas exceeded, Census diversity. This represents a significant step forward for representation in outdoor climbing and demonstrates what's possible when inclusion is intentional, sustained, and embedded at every level of the festival.

Again we met our aim to increase the visibility of queer outdoor climbers, by bringing together a diversity of LGBTQ+ identities, and having a strong presence in the crags of the Peak District (over the weekend ClimbOut courses took place at over 20 different crags). In addition, participants not on courses are likely to have climbed at other crags. Instructors were identifiable by their branded ClimbOut T-shirts and most ClimbOut participants chose to wear their ClimbOut T-shirts when climbing.

We maintained the approach of involving high-profile climbing members of our community but particularly for the evening talks, we involved more community participants.

We met our aim to inspire more queer folk to get into outdoor climbing, by providing them with equipment, training, and visible role models, thereby reducing some of the barriers present in accessing outdoor climbing. By working with a wider range of diverse community groups ClimbOut 2025 had a higher level 19% (2024: 7%) of attendees who had not previously climbed outdoors before. 14% (2024: 18%) had only done so occasionally.

We met our aim to create an inclusive space for everyone, from experienced climbers to people who have never climbed before. This space was built with intersectionality in mind and we intentionally made space for the most marginalised groups within our community.



Attendance

ClimbOut 2025 total attendance was: 366.

277 attendees (ticket holders), 50 instructors, 34 partner representatives, 4 speakers, 1 photographer.

47% of 2025 participants had attended a previous ClimbOut; 53% of 2025 participants were first time ClimbOut attendees. This is in line with our objective to maintain and expand participation.

11% of attendees volunteered at ClimbOut, and we thank them for their time. Thanks to the support of our brand partner Osprey, all volunteers were given a special, limited edition Pride Daylite Sling as a thank you gift.

We are particularly grateful to our major partner The British Mountaineering Council. The President Dom Oughton and Chief executive Paul Ratcliffe (along with other members of BMC staff) attended the festival, and engaged fully with participants. Paul Ratcliffe participated in a “meet club representatives” session attended by many queer clubs present at ClimbOut. The discussion centred on the negative impact particularly for trans people of the Supreme Court decision on gender and on other barriers to widening participation in climbing for all types of diversity.



Photo credit: Roxanna Barry



Partners

Thanks to all partners

Major Partners:

The British Mountaineering Council

Patagonia

Course Partners:

Mountain Training

The Association of Mountaineering
Instructors

Plas y Brenin

Glenmore Lodge

Kit Partners:

DMM

Alpkit

Wild Country

Osprey

Beta Outdoor Sports (including Beta Climb,
Tenaya, Wildcountry, and Flashed)

Accessibility Partners:

Arc'teryx

Sunbelt Rentals

National Trust and Eastern Moors
Partnership

Support Partners:

Lattice Training

The Climbers' Club

Rockfax

Psychi

The Climbing Hangar, Depot Climbing, and
Awesome Wall

The following had representatives at the festival:

The British Mountaineering Council

Beta Outdoor Sports

DMM

The Climbers' Club

Patagonia

Alpkit

Mountain Training

Plas y Brenin

Glenmore Lodge





Photo credit: Roxanna Barry



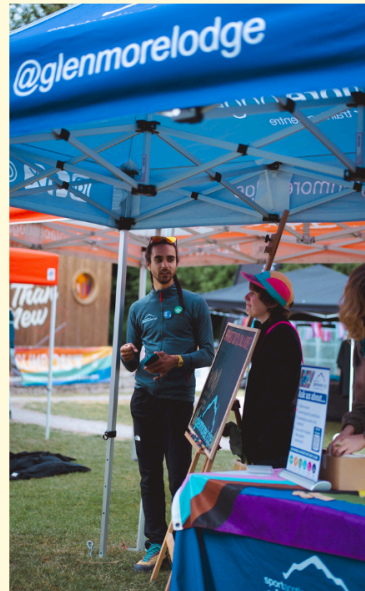


Photo credit: Roxanna Barry



ClimbOut 2025 satisfaction - (ClimbOut 2024 shown for comparison)

The very high levels of satisfaction were maintained or improved.

| Feedback from participants | ClimbOut 2025 | ClimbOut 2024 | Change |
|---|--|---------------|--------|
| Thought ClimbOut was good or excellent | 96% (good - 27%, excellent 69%) | 96% | - |
| Felt included or strongly included | 93% (included - 35%, strongly included 58%) | 75% | ↑18% |
| Enjoyed ClimbOut | 97% (agreed 19%, strongly agreed 78%) | 97% | - |
| Met or exceeded expectations | 91% (met 27%, exceeded 64%) | 89% | ↑2% |
| Festival was good or excellent value for money | 90% (good 15%, excellent 75%) | 95% | ↓5% |
| Agreed their climbing ability improved (if taking a course) | 94% (improved 31%, strongly improved 63%) | 90% | ↑4% |

The significant increase in the percentage of attendees who felt included or strongly included from 75% to 92% (bringing it into line with all the other levels) is particularly heartening. In line with ClimbOut's values and participant feedback, more emphasis was given to inclusion in the planning and delivery of ClimbOut 2025.



What was the best thing about ClimbOut 2025?

“There were too many beautiful moments to list. The overarching theme was the welcoming, inclusive and joyful atmosphere. It felt magical. So needed after the stress this year of the SC [Supreme Court] ruling.”

The feedback comments continue to show that ClimbOut provided a supportive and joyous environment that allowed attendees to enjoy both climbing and the camaraderie of a shared queer identity. The inclusive efforts and sense of safety cultivated here clearly set ClimbOut apart as a deeply impactful event.

Participants highlighted the following key aspects:

- The people and community – consistently seen as the heart of the festival
- Much more diverse but just as queer
- Evidence of continual improvement – “best yet”
- The atmosphere described as positive, magical, and inspiring
- Smoother operation
- Stronger POC presence was noted and commended by multiple responses
- The Ceilidh was a huge highlight, creating togetherness and celebration
- Having more communication (though teething troubles with system)
- Stronger social programme
- Coach from London (despite its late arrival)

Overall, the festival continues to be highly praised for how people from diverse backgrounds are welcomed and included. A unique space of queer community, acceptance, and joy – something attendees said they needed and wanted to return to.

“The sheer unbridled joy and the welcoming, accommodating community.”

Were your access needs and/or adjustments met?

Overall most participants reported that their access needs were met, with many attendees expressing gratitude for the efforts made to accommodate a wide range of needs. There was very positive feedback, particularly around quieter spaces (including quiet camping) traffic light badges indicating sociability preferences, financial support, bursaries, and shuttle options.

Many found ramps, matting, and accessible lodge spaces helpful, but some issues were raised about the ramp steepness, broken or poorly maintained accessible facilities (e.g. sinks, heavy doors, lack of red cord), and accessibility of the ceilidh dance spaces.

Requests included clearer, detailed advance information about accessibility features (and limitations) of the venue. We will also feed this information back to Thornbridge.

“Absolutely! Very useful indeed to have quiet spaces and the ability to step away when overwhelmed was essential.”





Photo credit: Frit Tam (left), Roxanna Barry (right)

If you could change one thing about ClimbOut, what would it be?

Overall, participants really enjoyed the event but suggested some improvements:

- Communication & scheduling – clearer advance info on courses, shuttles, and socials; more reliable real-time updates (many found the Oak app slow and confusing).
- Solo climbers – more structured ways to connect (icebreakers, “meet the clubs,” whiteboards for finding partners, more bouldering-friendly activities).
- Food – communal meal portions too small and slow to serve; more variety and allergy-friendly options requested; extra vendors suggested.
- Facilities & site – broken or cold showers, blocked toilets, limited covered spaces in bad weather; requests for quieter vs. social bunkhouse options.
- Transport – earlier and more reliable London coach, more flexible crag shuttles.
- Inclusivity & safeguarding – stronger safeguarding against racism/discrimination, more intentional integration of POC spaces, and leadership that reflects marginalised groups.
- Social programme – while the ceilidh was popular, some wanted alternatives: more music, bar, DJ nights, and quieter low-energy socials (e.g. crafts, mindfulness).
- Festival length – many asked for a longer event, more Monday activities, or even a second annual ClimbOut in another region, e.g. Wales/Scotland.



Comparison of 2025 and previous ClimbOut festivals

Survey respondents who had attended ClimbOut previously mainly said it was:

- Bigger and busier, but still enjoyable. Many appreciated the growing scale and energy of the festival, though a few noted it risked becoming overwhelming or losing some of the close-knit community feel.
- Better organised and more professional. Improvements were highlighted in scheduling, communication (especially through the Oak app, despite the issues), smoother operations, transport links, and overall structure.
- Expanded and varied social programme. The ceilidh was repeatedly praised, along with the addition of diverse evening and daytime workshops (e.g. cyanotype, meditation, acroyoga). Some attendees wished for more music and party options.
- Improved facilities. Extra showers, toilets, and food/coffee vans were well received, though some flagged issues with washrooms, meal organisation, and food portions.
- Inclusivity and diversity. Respondents noticed and appreciated increased diversity, especially BPOC representation and POC-specific provisions. However, some participants raised serious concerns about microaggressions and the need for stronger safeguarding and a zero-tolerance policy on discrimination.
- A more relaxed and accessible pace. Several commented on less hectic scheduling, later course starts, and earlier finishes to loud events, which helped balance activity and downtime.
- Evidence of continuous improvement. Many felt their past feedback had been listened to, with new additions and refinements year-on-year. This responsiveness was noted and valued.
- Consistently positive atmosphere. The inclusive, queer-friendly, and community-driven vibe was maintained, making the festival feel welcoming and special.

Feedback from instructors

A total of 22 instructors out of the 50 who attended gave us feedback this year, with all of them rating ClimbOut either Good or Excellent and all but one wanting to return next year. Even though many of our instructors do not themselves identify as queer, a broad theme of the feedback was that it was a “supportive and inclusive environment”.

The main point for improvement was regarding communication with clients. We were trialling a new method this year (a partnership with Oak, an app for linking up with fellow outdoor enthusiasts), and this didn't come without teething problems. A reason we were keen to adopt this was to limit the sharing of personal mobile numbers, of both the ClimbOut team members and the attendees. This is still a primary concern, so we hope to be able to use Oak in the future. We are working with them to make it better tailored to our event.

An instructor also suggested a queer instructor directory, which we hope to establish on our website for next year.



Ticket sales

ClimbOut 2025 tickets were made available in 4 “waves”.

1. Bursary holders
2. Early bird tickets for people from the global majority, ensuring people of colour had first access
3. First release (50% of accommodation and course spaces listed)
4. Second release (remaining accommodation and course spaces)
5. Waiting list system

Like in previous years there was a huge demand for tickets, particularly for courses. Several attendees commented on the stress of the process. This year we shared the ticketing form in advance for people to familiarise themselves ahead of time. We will continue to work on improving this process.

Bursaries

We recognise the intersection of multiple disadvantages and that these mean financial barriers to participation will affect a disproportionate number of climbers from minorities within the climbing community. In line with our goal to improve access and diversity within outdoor climbing, it was important to us to offer a substantial bursary scheme in addition to the already subsidised standard ticket price. For this reason we ring fenced bursary tickets for members of specific minority groups who might struggle or be unable to pay the full price.

In total 36 bursary spaces were allocated, bursaries were ring fenced for 3 categories: Racialised minorities (10 spaces), Genderqueer and trans umbrella (10 spaces), and Disabled folk (10 spaces). The remaining 6 spaces were left open to queer people outside of these groups whose primary barrier was financial need. Bursary applications went live ahead of main ticket sales in order to prioritise course access for participants from these groups.

To support equity of access bursaries were allocated by lottery rather than first-come. After allocation, participants were given 2 weeks to purchase their ticket and book courses. Participants were directly contacted to give them every chance of using their allocation. Any unclaimed bursary places beyond the 2 week deadline were reallocated, unless participants had communicated needing more time.

Travel was highlighted as a financial burden especially for those coming from further away or travelling solo. To mitigate this, bursaries included a reduced place on the coach service from key stations.

Thanks to the generosity of our partners, we were able to offer kit to those who do not have their own. Beta Climbing, Wildcountry and DMM have supported ClimbOut since the first festival by providing climbing shoes, helmets, harnesses, and belay devices, respectively. Flashed, Psycho, and Alpkite provided bouldering mats. In addition this year, Alpkite provided ready pitched tents, mats and sleeping bags which made camping a lot more accessible to attendees.

“Thank you for my bursary space, it’s amazing that I can access a space like this without financial barriers.”



Diversity Monitoring Results

Why we monitor diversity

We collect comprehensive diversity data so that we can understand:

- Who attends ClimbOut (and, who doesn't)
- Whether there are barriers or biases in who we reach
- How well we are supporting different underrepresented communities in outdoor climbing
- Whether we are making progress in inclusivity, year on year

How we monitor diversity

The way we collect and use this data has evolved from festival to festival, driven by feedback from attendees and community groups. We don't claim this is the "best" way of doing it, and we're very aware that prioritising census comparability limits nuance. But, it also makes the data more usable, allowing us to demonstrate impact in a way that is comparable to other organisations and events. We feel we have found effective ways to balance nuance and usability (further detail in the Considerations section).

Data is captured alongside bookings to ensure completeness. Entries are then unlinked from personal information after the event (with last-minute cancellations removed) but before analysis, to ensure a comprehensive, de-identified dataset. Results are compared to the 2021 Census and to the Your Movement Matters survey results. These datasets act as the closest relevant comparison points for the outdoor climbing community.

Results

This year we captured data for all 366 attendees, which gives us detailed insight into who the festival is catering to. Analysis of the data was performed for each of the assessed categories with subdivision by attendance type to differentiate: Ticket holders (attendees); Brand / Partner organisation reps / Speakers / Filmmaker / Guests; Instructors.

As anticipated, diversity was much greater within the ticket holder category than within the instructor category. We need to hire qualified Rock Climbing Instructors, Rock Climbing Development Instructors, and Mountaineering and Climbing Instructors qualified instructors which means we are limited by the lack of diversity within the existing pool of instructors. Recognising the importance of addressing this issue, we are continuing with the Outdoor Qualification Scheme - launched in 2024 - in partnership with Plas y Brenin and Mountain Training. We will continue our work alongside Mountain Training, Plas y Brenin, the British Mountaineering Council and other stakeholders to increase diversity within the Mountain Training qualifications, particularly: RCI, RCDI, and MCI qualifications.





Photo credit: Frit Tam

Age

The age bracket 25-34 was significantly overrepresented compared both to the Your Movement Matters 2021 “outdoor climbing” (‘YMM’) and to the 2021 Census results. In contrast, the age brackets 45-54, 55-64, and 65+ were underrepresented.

We recognise that age representation is important in the queer community and that intergenerational connections hold great value. When we compare the last 3 years worth of age demographics data, it appears our attendance is getting younger. We will consider how we can make the festival more inclusive to both <16 and >45 age brackets. While ClimbOut remains an adult focused event, we took the decision to open course bookings to children in 2024, in response to feedback and as part of our strategy to enable a wider spectrum of people, including LGBT+ parents, to attend. We have continued with this approach in 2025, and one bursary space went to a child in 2025.

Gender

We did a good job at achieving a diverse representation of genders at the festival. (40.7% female, 30.6% male, 24.3% non-binary, 2.2% other). This is significantly better than the results reported in the YMM survey (39.3% female, 58.5% male, 1.4% gender fluid or non-binary, 0.35% other) for outdoor climbing. The results for the Instructor / Speaker / Brand rep / Partner rep / Photographer / Guest category show less gender diversity, however Non-binary and Female are both still overrepresented compared to the YMM results.



The YMM data reports that 1.8% of outdoor climbing respondents are gender fluid, non-binary, or prefer to use another term. 2021 Census data for England and Wales reports only 0.06% identifying as Non-binary and 0.04% as "All other gender identities". Within our data, 26.5% (32.5% of attendees) of respondents' gender lies outside of the female/male gender binary, with 24.3% self-describing as non-binary, and 2.2% using another descriptor. While these terms are not simply interchangeable, we have combined them here to allow for comparison to other data sources. This category is significantly overrepresented at ClimbOut both compared to outdoor climbing and the England and Wales population.

For ClimbOut 2024, taking onboard feedback and team reflections from 2023 where ClimbOut spaces were entirely ungendered, we created a small number of "Women+" bunkhouses and facilities. These were explicitly trans and non-binary inclusive and were well utilised, indicating that these were valued spaces. Building on this success, we continued to provide these dedicated spaces in 2025. Overall, gender diversity data shows that we have succeeded in catering to a diversity of genders and creating space within outdoor climbing for underrepresented gender identities.

Trans identity

28.7% of respondents identified as trans, and if we look only at ticket holders: 36.5% of attendees identified as trans. By comparison, only 0.54% of respondents in the YMM survey for outdoor climbing and 0.2% in the 2021 Census.

From the outset, ensuring that ClimbOut is a safe and welcoming space for trans people has been a central priority. This commitment has only grown in importance in light of the current political climate, transphobic discourse in the media, and, most recently, the Supreme Court ruling on the Equalities Act and the Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) guidance that followed, which have further challenged the rights and protections of trans communities in the UK. Based on both participant feedback and these figures, we believe we were successful in creating safety, visibility, and belonging for trans people, and in carving out space for the trans community within outdoor climbing.

Alongside making ClimbOut itself a safe and inclusive space, we have also been exploring ways to extend our impact beyond the festival. This has included responding to the EHRC consultation, actively advocating on issues affecting the trans community, and encouraging our community to engage with their MPs. These steps reflect our broader commitment not only to creating safety within the festival but also to challenging systemic barriers and amplifying trans voices in the wider climbing and outdoor community.

Sexual orientation

By virtue of ClimbOut being a queer climbing festival we expected the vast majority of ticket holders to fall within the LGBTQIA+ umbrella. Additionally, wherever possible, we have actively recruited Instructors / Speakers / Brand reps / Film Makers / Guests who identified as queer. A broad diversity of sexualities were present at the festival:

- 30.7% Queer
- 23.8% Bisexual
- 23.2% Homosexual / Gay / Lesbian



- 13.3% Heterosexual / Straight
- 2.5% Asexual
- 1.4% Pansexual
- 1.1% Other
- 4.1% Prefer not to say

In 2025, we made the decision to include “Queer” as a standalone response option, whereas in previous years it had been grouped under “Other, please specify.” Interestingly, the proportion of respondents identifying as Queer rose from 6.5% to 30.7%. This shift suggests that explicitly naming “Queer” as an option provides greater visibility and validation for participants who identify with the term, and highlights the importance of inclusive survey design in accurately capturing the diversity of our community. We were also able to retain comparability with Census data, as the Census reports the percentage of people who selected “Other” and specified Queer.

YMM results report 81.79% of outdoor climbing respondents identify as heterosexual/straight. 2.21% asexual, 6.81% bisexual, 3.09% gay/lesbian, 1.86% pansexual, 1.41% prefer to use another term. All categories except heterosexual/straight were overrepresented within our data. Importantly, a diversity of sexualities was achieved which included a spectrum of terms beyond those found in many other data sources. The breadth of sexualities here offers positive evidence that the festival is welcoming to a broad spectrum of the LGBTQIA+ community.

Last year’s report highlighted that asexuality was the one category not overrepresented and suggested that this may benefit from intentional focus in 2025. Despite not taking any targeted actions this year, asexual participants were slightly overrepresented, suggesting a small increased engagement from this group. We will continue to monitor this trend and explore ways of sustaining representation across the full spectrum of LGBTQIA+ identities.

Ethnic group

We recognise that the ethnic group categories used in our survey cannot fully capture the richness and complexity of identity. For consistency and comparability, categories were taken from the most recent Census framework, with the option to self-define also available. We remain grateful and indebted to our EDI team and to advisers from Asian Climbing Crew and Wanderers of Colour for their guidance in shaping this framework to ensure we gathered constructive and meaningful data.

After two festivals where the ethnic diversity of participants fell short of Census benchmarks, ClimbOut 2025 placed a strategic focus on developing the festival as a safe and inclusive space for all ethnic groups and on identifying ways to reduce barriers to engagement. Our baseline commitment was to at least match Census diversity, with the ambition of going further and overrepresenting historically marginalised ethnic groups within outdoor climbing.

This year, 75.7% of respondents were White, 10.4% Asian or Asian British or Asian Welsh, 7.9% Mixed or Multiple ethnic groups, 3.0% Black, Black British, Black Welsh, Caribbean or African, 1.4% Other. This



represents a significant improvement on previous years, showing greater ethnic diversity than the YMM outdoor climbing survey (93.75% White) and, for the first time, overrepresentation of participants from underrepresented ethnic groups compared with Census data.

The table below compares our data from 2023, 2024, and 2025 against Census data.

| | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | Census Data |
|---|-------------|-------------|-------------|--------------------|
| Asian, Asian British or Asian Welsh | 6.2% | 6.8% | 10.4% | 9.3% |
| Black, Black British, Black Welsh, Caribbean or African | 1.6% | 2.1% | 3.0% | 4.0% |
| Mixed or Multiple ethnic groups | 2.3% | 5.3% | 7.9% | 2.9% |
| Other ¹ | 1.6% | 1.5% | 1.4% | 2.1% |
| White | 88.4% | 83.2% | 75.7% | 81.7% |

Compared with 2024, these results show a much stronger picture: the White ethnic group is now slightly underrepresented, while Asian and Mixed ethnic groups are overrepresented. Black and Other ethnic groups remain slightly underrepresented, and we plan to focus our outreach on these communities for 2026.

Within the instructor category, 80% of respondents were White, 12% were Mixed, 2% were Black, and 2% were Other ethnic groups. While this shows greater diversity than the outdoor climbing average, and includes an overrepresentation of instructors from mixed ethnic backgrounds, Asian and Black ethnic groups remain underrepresented. Current underrepresentation within the MCI and RCDI awards continues to limit the pool of available instructors from the global majority, though we remain committed to addressing this.

To strengthen ethnic diversity within the ClimbOut instructor pool and to influence the wider instructor population, we have been working in partnership with Plas y Brenin and Mountain Training to deliver leadership courses for queer climbers, reserving 30% of spaces for people from the global majority. The first programme took place in August 2024, with a second planned for November 2025. In addition, we are collaborating with Mountain Training England to identify and support global majority instructors to become Rock Skills tutors.

We continued the measures introduced in 2024 to ensure ClimbOut provides a safe space for people of colour, including:

- an EDI support line available during the festival,
- dedicated POC bunkhouses (including POC Womens+ option), with 24 of 85 bunk spaces reserved for people from the global majority, and
- clear signage to ensure these spaces remained protected and respected.

¹ Arab; Arab, Middle Eastern, North African, Egyptian; Arab, SWANA; British Asian and African; Chinese; Middle Eastern/North African; New age traveler; North African; North African/Middle Eastern/Arab; White European



In 2025 we also introduced early-bird tickets for people from the global majority. Given the high demand for tickets and how quickly tickets sell out, this ensured that people of colour had first access, proving highly effective in increasing representation and demonstrating our commitment to creating space for underrepresented groups.

We continued to proactively recruit instructors, speakers, film makers, and guests from diverse ethnic backgrounds whenever possible. Our relationships with other organisations representing people from diverse ethnic backgrounds were crucial in identifying and reaching out to people.

While ClimbOut 2025 met its goal of at least matching Census diversity overall, ensuring the continued overrepresentation of historically marginalised ethnic groups will remain a core priority for 2026.

Disabilities and physical or mental health illnesses lasting over 12 months

22.7% of respondents identified as disabled, compared to 11.8% in the YMM survey for outdoor climbing and 17.8% in the 2021 Census. Additionally, 29.0% of ClimbOut respondents reported having a physical or mental health condition or illness lasting 12 months or more.

One of our key goals has been to ensure that ClimbOut provides an inclusive and accessible space for disabled people. We are proud to have continued this commitment in 2025, and we intend to build on it further.

Practical measures included:

- hiring matting again (in partnership with Sunbelt Rentals) to make all key outdoor areas wheelchair accessible,
- accessible vehicle hire to support wheelchair users in accessing the crags and coach travel options, and
- working with experts in outdoor access and paraclimbing to improve how access needs were captured during booking.

Participants' needs were relayed to instructors in advance, enabling courses to be tailored more effectively. Increased uptake of spaces by paraclimbers this year was positive but shone light on some limitations in the accommodation at Thornbridge; we will continue to review this closely and work with disabled attendees to manage access within the constraints of the site. This will include sharing the feedback with Thornbridge, as well as producing more explicit and accurate site accessibility information for ClimbOut 2026. We were glad to note that while some disabled participants found the accommodation lacking, they felt well supported by the team around these issues.

In response to feedback from the significant proportion of participants who identified as neurodivergent or living with energy disorders or mental health conditions, we continued to offer these measures:

- a better-located Quiet Room with clear guidelines for use,
- clear explanations of social activities, including the option to meet with leaders in advance,
- a Quiet Registration desk, and
- communication-preference badges, which proved very popular.



Learning from ClimbOut 2024, where the Quiet Camping area was not adequately protected, we made several changes in 2025. These included adjusting the festival layout, positioning loudspeakers away from the Quiet Camping area, and ending music earlier in the evening. These measures were far more successful in ensuring Quiet Camping remained a genuinely restful space.



Photo credit: Roxanna Barry

A further change, introduced this year was the addition of relaxed climbing courses. These were designed in response to feedback from participants who found standard courses too intense or who needed to conserve energy to enjoy the festival. These courses ran with later start times and earlier finishes, and options included relaxed top-roping and relaxed trad leading sessions. These proved highly popular and we will continue to offer them in future years.

Our social programme expanded this year with a specific intention of meeting the requests for activities that were accessible to a wider range of participants. New activities included:

- Better supported ice-breaker activities, designed to be adaptable for different access needs and experience levels,



- Gentler activities including an introduction to cyanotype and mindfulness sessions

Physical activities remained important in the programme including acroyoga classes and a ceilidh. In both cases we worked with the instructor / caller in advance to ensure that activities could be adapted for all participants. The ceilidh presented some challenges due to limited space but the majority of attendees joined in, including one wheelchair user. Following the event our ceilidh caller has produced a written guide on running inclusive ceilidhs, extending the impact of this work beyond ClimbOut itself. For 2026 we plan to expand the covered area, so that the space is safer and easier for all participants to access social dancing.

Location

The top five locations among our respondents were London (19.6%), Bristol (8.0%), Glasgow (5.2%), Leeds (5.5%), and Sheffield (5.5%). Based on these results, we believe that hosting ClimbOut 2026 in the Peak District again remains the most accessible option for the majority of our attendees.

This year, we trialled a coach service from London (52 spaces) alongside continuing shuttles from Manchester (17 spaces) and Sheffield (16 spaces). These services were well-received; however, for 2026, some improvements will be necessary for the London coach:

- Earlier departure on Friday to allow attendees to arrive in time for the festival evening activities and to account for potential delays and traffic.
- Smaller vehicle to ensure access to the site via narrow roads.

We also continued to offer shuttle services to nearby crags, supporting course attendees without vehicles as well as independent climbers. These measures help reduce both the festival's carbon footprint and the pressure on local parking.

For 2026, we will continue to evaluate shuttle services, balancing sustainability and accessibility while aiming to maximise flexibility, minimise costs, and reduce logistical challenges wherever possible.

Size inclusivity

Discussion with participants drew our attention to a lack of size-inclusivity in climbing, including at ClimbOut. Due to a confusion in arrangements, our kit loan partner did not have a harness size suitable for everyone to take part in the ice-breaker activities. For 2026 we want to ensure our loan kit and kit exchange event meet everyone's needs. We are also exploring how we can centre the plus-size climbing community so that all attendees feel welcomed and represented.



Considerations for gathering diversity data

Feedback from community groups and participants has shown us the importance of tailoring our language and explaining openly why we are gathering this data. By responding to feedback and offering transparent explanations for our choices, we feel we have been able to balance sensitivity and inclusivity with comparability to national datasets. Some examples of this are given below, we have included this detail in case it can help other organisations.

Opening statement

“We understand that the categories in some of the questions can be reductive, and fail to capture the full uniqueness of identity, so in each question you also have the option to self-define. The reason we use these categories is because they offer the most comparable data to the latest national census.”

Gender identity

“We understand that terms such as "Female", "Woman", "Male", and "Man" are politicised, and we may be conflating terms in this form. We have combined these terms here with the sole aim of comparing the gender split in outdoor climbing participation to the broader UK population. If the terms listed fail to represent your gender identity, please select "Other" and you will have the option to self-identify.”

Sexual orientation

In 2025 we added Queer as a dropdown option for the first time. Although the census didn't offer this as a selectable category, they did report the number of people who self-identified with it, allowing comparison. Among ClimbOut attendees, Queer had already proved to be a popular self-identification in 2023 and 2024 via the free-text option, so we felt it was important to recognise it directly in the dropdown despite the census not yet reaching this decision. The impact of this change was striking: the percentage of respondents identifying as Queer rose from 6.5% (when self-defined only) to 30.7% (when available in the dropdown).

This tells us two things:

- Dropdown design significantly influences how people respond to these questions
- Our current set of options (across all diversity questions) may not be giving people enough scope to describe themselves authentically.

Based on this, we will continue to review our categories, tracking census data and feedback to explore how we can achieve more granularity.

Ethnic group

For this category in particular we are indebted to ClimbOut organisers who are also community leaders within Wanderers of Colour and Asian Climbing Crew. After discussion, we kept the options the same as the census, with an explanatory note (“These categories are taken from the most recent UK census and will provide us with the most comparable data. If you feel that these categories fail to capture your identity, you can choose to self-define.”), the option to self-define and an explanation of why we used these terms. We also added a follow-up question allowing everyone to self-define in a free-text field in addition to selecting a standard census option. In our annual report we display these self-definitions as a word cloud, more accurately representing the breadth of identities within our community.



Speakers Report

Panel: Intersectionality in the Outdoors

This panel brought together three inspiring community leaders whose work embodies the power of inclusion, care, and resistance in outdoor spaces.

Tong (she/her), a community organiser for ESEA outdoors shared how climbing became a tool for building community among migrants, women, and queer people of colour.

Christine (she/her), founder of Vertigirls, reflected on her decades of experience creating supportive climbing spaces for women with additional needs, highlighting how climbing can aid mental health and foster belonging.

Ife (she/her/Ife), founder of Wanderers of Colour, discussed increasing access to the outdoors for people of colour and the intersections between race, gender, and justice in community work. Together, they explored how intersectionality shapes experiences in the outdoors, emphasising

the need to centre care, accessibility, and representation in building more inclusive and equitable climbing and outdoor communities.



Photo credit: Roxanna Barry

Talk: From smoking rocks to climbing them

Photographer Tommy Ga-Ken Wan (he/him) shared a deeply personal story about recovery and reconnection through climbing. Based in Glasgow and known for his work across theatre, film, and the arts, Tommy reflected on how discovering climbing became a transformative part of his journey overcoming addiction. Drawing from his creative background and experiences documenting human stories around the world, he spoke about the parallels between photography and climbing, both practices of focus, presence, and self-discovery. His talk offered an honest and hopeful perspective on healing, creativity, and finding purpose through the outdoors.



Photo credit: Roxanna Barry



Social Programme Report

In response to 2024 feedback we revisited the social programme, aiming to build on popular elements but make it more connecting, accessible and inclusive.

We particularly wanted to increase activities that provided lower-energy and neurodivergent-friendly options. Initiatives included:

- Improving the location of the board games room and hosting it on the first night
- Providing facilitated ice-breaker games on Friday evening
- Adding a led campfire sing-a-long
- Stopping any loud music at 10pm to ensure people could rest
- Describing the content of social activities in advance and inviting people to speak to the facilitator / instructor beforehand if needed

It is essential that ClimbOut is co-created with the queer community, many of whom are keen to contribute. This year we invited attendees to offer skills or activities that they wanted to share. This brought popular additions to the programme including relaxing mindfulness sessions hosted by counsellor Pui Sum Wong (he/they) and an introduction to cyanotype art with organiser Mike Philips (he/him). We hope to continue and expand this element.

Following the informal jam sessions that sprang up in 2024 we added acroyoga classes to the programme, offering new ways for attendees to play and connect. 2025 also saw us hosting our first (but certainly not our last) ceilidh. Delivered by Bowreed ceilidh band and ceilidh caller and arts and disability advocate Steph West, Sunday night's dancing was a joyful highlight for many attendees.

Communities share in both joy and loss. The month before ClimbOut we tragically lost two members of the ClimbOut community, one of whom was closely connected to our friends at Wanderers of Colour, and another who was very close to our instructor community. At the suggestion of Wanderers of Colour, a memorial space was created to allow people to honour, share and grieve together. Participants were invited to write on seed paper, planting this at the festival end to remember those we have lost, embedding their presence in the landscape.



Courses Report

A total of 215 course spaces were allocated across 182 distinct attendees (some courses were 1-day courses). Course additions in 2025 were Relaxed Top Roping and Relaxed Trad Lead Climbing, following the feedback received in 2024. Some courses didn't run in 2025 due to instructor unavailability.

The table below summarises the number of attendees per course compared across 2023, 2024, and 2025.

| Course | Attendees 2023 | Attendees 2024 | Attendees 2025 |
|---|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Introduction to Outdoor Bouldering | - | 12 | 21 |
| Relaxed Top Roping | - | - | 19 |
| Rock Skills Introduction (Mountain Training) | 26 | 26 | 24 |
| Rock Skills Intermediate (Mountain Training) | 12 | 20 | 20 |
| Rock Skills Learn to Lead Sport Climbs (Mountain Training) | 12 | 18 | 18 |
| Rock Skills Learn to Lead Trad Climbs (Mountain Training) | 15 | 24 | 24 |
| Relaxed Trad Lead Climbing | - | - | 9 |
| Fine Tune Your Trad Leading | - | 15 | 12 |
| Rock Climbing Instructor Training | - | 4 | 4 |
| Beginner Self-rescue | 12 | 8 | 8 |
| Advanced Self-rescue | 4 | 8 | 8 |
| Trust your Trad Gear | 12 | 12 | 12 |
| Improve your Head Game | 12 | 12 | 12 |
| Roped Climbing Movement Clinic with Be Fuller and Rachel Carr | 8 | 5 | - |
| Bouldering Movement Clinic with Be Fuller and Rachel Carr | 8 | 6 | - |
| Trad Crack Climbing Masterclass with Zoe Wood | 9 | - | - |
| Flowy Movement Clinic with Ian Cooper | 4 | 6 | 8 |
| Trad Tactics Clinic with Ian Cooper | 6 | 6 | 6 |
| Crack Climbing Clinic with Jaume Peiró and Álex González | 14 | 10 | - |
| Climbing with Style Clinic with Jaume Peiró and Álex González | - | 9 | - |
| Total | 154 | 201 | 215 |



Instructors

The team totalled 50 instructors, including 4 volunteer trainees, 13 Rock Climbing Instructors (RCIs), 4 Rock Climbing Development Instructors (RCDI), 25 Mountaineering and Climbing Instructors (MCIs), 1 BMG trainee, 2 coaches, and 1 acroyoga instructor.

6 instructors were provided by the Association of Mountaineering Instructors (AMI)

2 instructor was provided by Glenmore Lodge

2 instructors were provided by Plas y Brenin (PYB)

4 instructors were provided by Mountain Training England (MTE)

Outdoor Qualification Scheme

The results of the diversity monitoring survey at ClimbOut 2023 clearly showed that the diversity within the instructor team was not representative of the ClimbOut attendees, despite our best efforts. We believe this is a result of a lack of diversity present within the relevant Mountain Training qualifications, e.g. across gender identity, ethnicity, sexual orientation, etc. and more generally within the outdoor industry.

Recognising the importance of addressing this issue, we partnered with Mountain Training and Plas y Brenin in 2024 to deliver outdoor leadership courses at Plas Y Brenin for members of the queer community. Following on the success from last summer we have launched the second iteration of this scheme.

This programme will take place at Plas y Brenin in November 2025. Offering the following courses:

- Climbing Wall Instructor Training (4 candidates)
- Rock Climbing Instructor Training (4 candidates)
- Rock Climbing Instructor Assessment (2 candidates)
- Summer Mountain Leader Training (5 candidates)

The aim of this programme was to increase the accessibility and diversity of the outdoor instructor sector. Applications were assessed on a case by case basis, taking into account applicants' prior experience, additional barriers, and community work and impact. The final decision was based on helping us achieve the end goal of helping people from the LGBTQ+ community become outdoor instructors.

We reserved 30% of spaces to people from the global majority. In 2025, 40% of awarded spaces were to members of the global majority.

Plas y Brenin and Mountain Training provided a superb discount on the courses. Their joint support subsidised the residential course costs by 40%. In addition to this, ClimbOut allocated some of its 2025 budget to support this programme. This was used to offer additional financial support for applicants for whom the financial barrier was still too high. Funds were allocated on a case by case basis, and used to cover transport costs or course costs.



Safeguarding

As in previous years, we displayed information on how to report a safeguarding concern. All attendees could either tell a member of the core team or call the safeguarding number, which forwards to an appropriately qualified volunteer. There were two concerns logged at the festival, and one logged shortly after the festival. Safeguarding concerns were referred to the safeguarding lead and then responded to in line with the ClimbOut safeguarding policy.

First Aid

ClimbOut used a combination of paid medics and volunteer first-aiders to meet the needs of the festival, in line with HSE guidance. There was a phone number to call to get the attention of the volunteer first aider, and the paid medics had a radio in order to co-ordinate with ClimbOut organisers as necessary. The paid medic service reported 3 minor incidences of first aid being required. The health and safety lead received 4 reports of injuries, 2 of which occurred during courses, 1 on site and 1 had occurred 2 days prior to the festival. 1 of these resulted in a trip to the minor injuries unit.

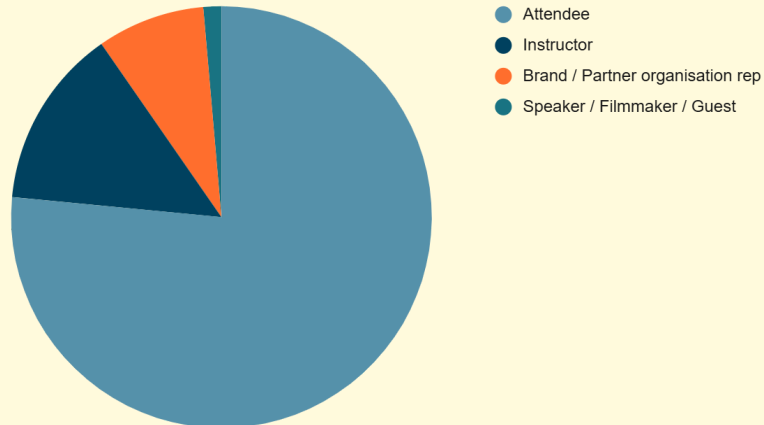


Appendix 1

Diversity monitoring form comprehensive results

Attendance

How are you involved in the festival?

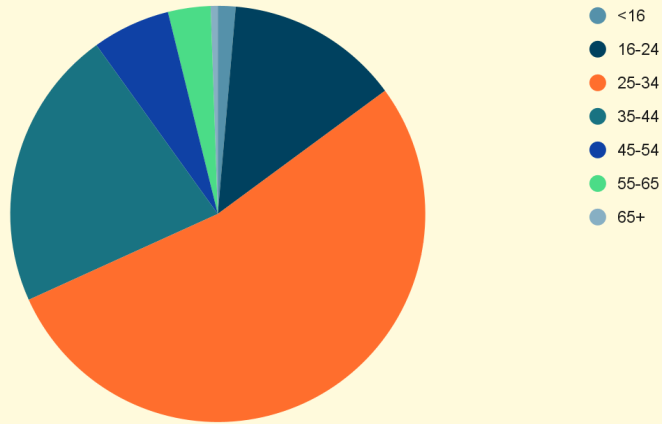


| How are you involved in the festival? | N |
|---------------------------------------|-----|
| Attendee | 277 |
| Instructor | 50 |
| Brand / Partner organisation rep | 34 |
| Speaker / Filmmaker / Guest | 5 |
| All | 366 |

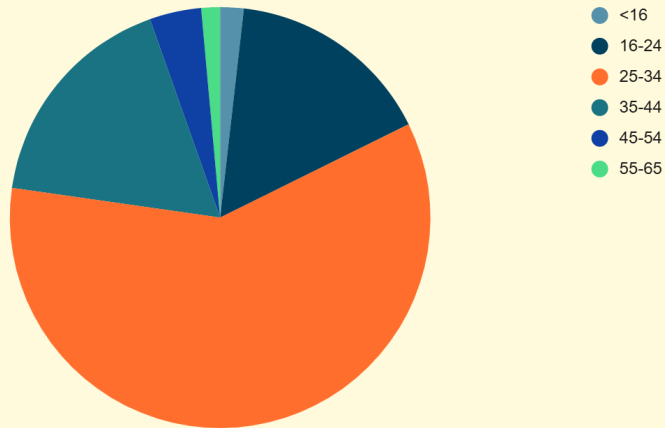


Age

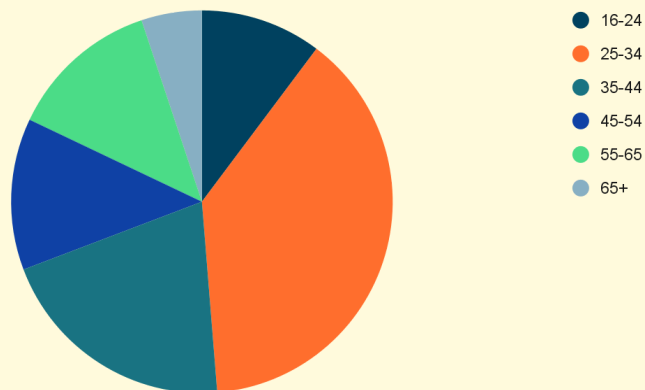
Age: All



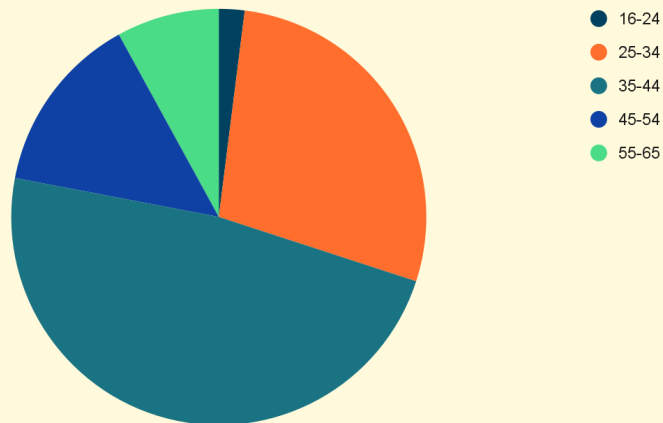
Age: Attendee



Age: Brand / Partner organisation rep / Speaker / Filmmaker / Guest



Age: Instructor



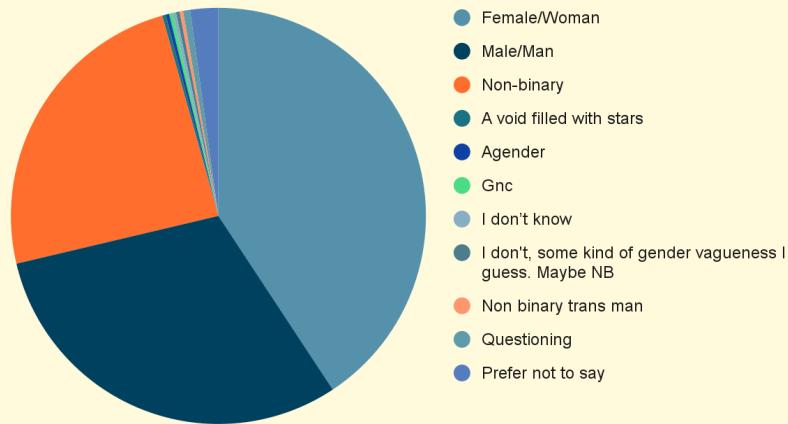
| How are you involved in the festival? | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|----------|--|------------|-----|
| Age | Attendee | Brand / Partner organisation rep / Speaker / Filmmaker / Guest | Instructor | All |
| <16 | 5 | | | 5 |
| 16-24 | 44 | 4 | 1 | 49 |
| 25-34 | 165 | 15 | 14 | 194 |
| 35-44 | 48 | 8 | 24 | 80 |
| 45-54 | 11 | 5 | 7 | 23 |
| 55-65 | 4 | 5 | 4 | 13 |
| 65+ | | 2 | | 2 |
| All | 277 | 39 | 50 | 366 |

| Age bracket | Percentage |
|-------------|------------|
| <16 | 1.4% |
| 16-24 | 13.4% |
| 25-34 | 53.0% |
| 35-44 | 21.9% |
| 45-54 | 6.3% |
| 55-65 | 3.6% |
| 65+ | 0.6% |

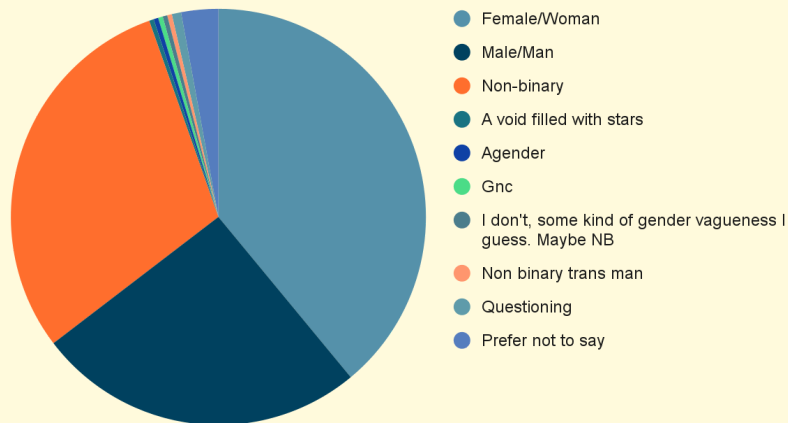


Gender

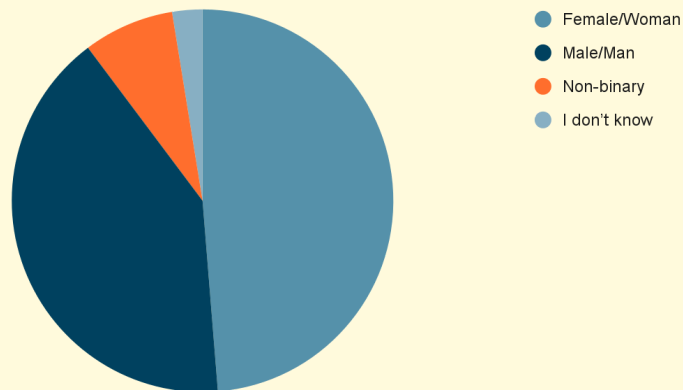
Gender: All



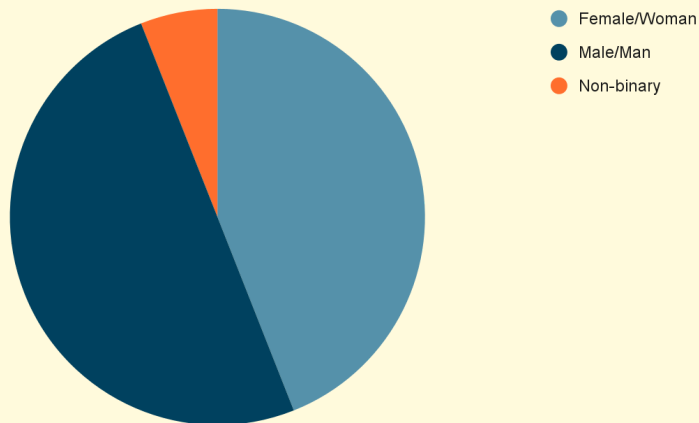
Gender: Attendee



Gender: Brand / Partner organisation rep / Speaker / Filmmaker / Guest



Gender: Instructor

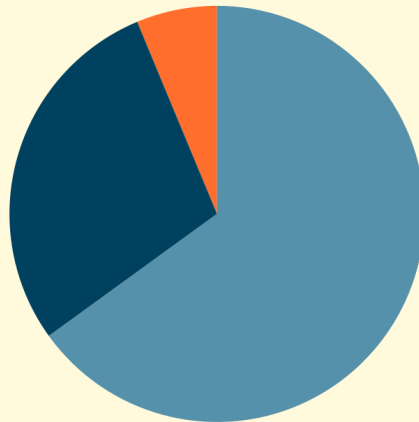


| How are you involved in the festival? | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|----------|--|------------|-----|
| What is your gender? | Please specify | Attendee | Brand / Partner organisation rep / Speaker / Filmmaker / Guest | Instructor | All |
| Female/Woman | | 108 | 19 | 22 | 149 |
| Male/Man | | 71 | 16 | 25 | 112 |
| Non-binary | | 83 | 3 | 3 | 89 |
| Other | A void filled with stars | 1 | | | 1 |
| | Agender | 1 | | | 1 |
| | Gnc | 1 | | | 1 |
| | I don't know | | 1 | | 1 |
| | I don't, some kind of gender vagueness I guess. Maybe NB | 1 | | | 1 |
| | Non binary trans man | 1 | | | 1 |
| | Questioning | 2 | | | 2 |
| Prefer not to say | | 8 | | | 8 |
| All | | 277 | 39 | 50 | 366 |



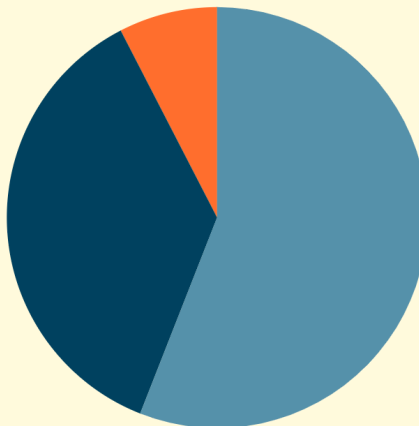
Identify as trans

Do you identify as trans: All



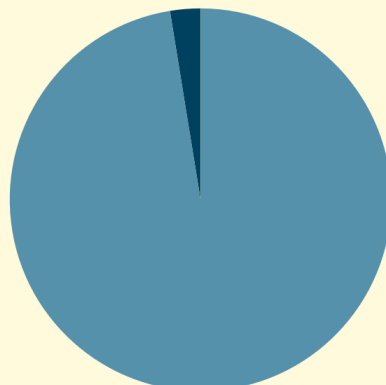
- No
- Yes
- Prefer not to say

Do you identify as trans: Attendee



- No
- Yes
- Prefer not to say

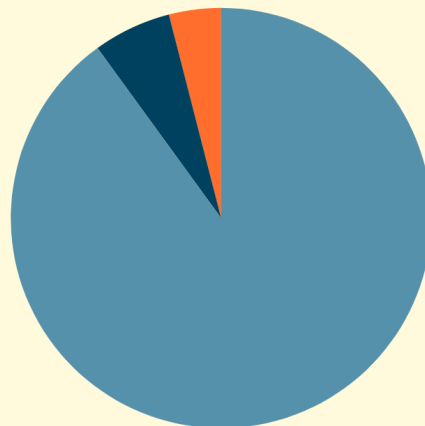
Do you identify as trans: Brand / Partner organisation rep /
Speaker / Filmmaker / Guest



- No
- Yes



Do you identify as trans: Instructor



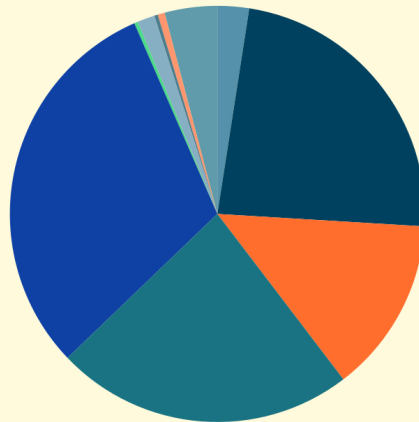
- No
- Yes
- Prefer not to say

| | | How are you involved in the festival? | | |
|---------------------------|----------|--|------------|-----|
| Do you identify as trans? | Attendee | Brand / Partner organisation rep / Speaker / Filmmaker / Guest | Instructor | All |
| No | 155 | 38 | 45 | 238 |
| Yes | 101 | 1 | 3 | 105 |
| Prefer not to say | 21 | | 2 | 23 |
| All | 277 | 39 | 50 | 366 |



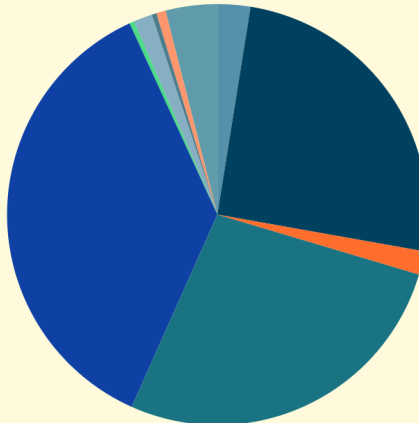
Sexual Orientation

Sexual Orientation: All



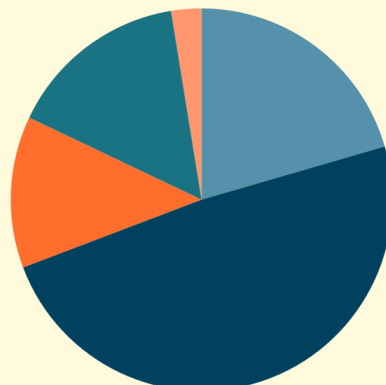
- Asexual
- Bisexual
- Heterosexual / straight
- Homosexual / Gay / Lesbian
- Queer
- Bi demisexual
- Pansexual
- Queer/bisexual
- Questioning
- Prefer not to say

Sexual Orientation: Attendee



- Asexual
- Bisexual
- Heterosexual / straight
- Homosexual / Gay / Lesbian
- Queer
- Bi demisexual
- Pansexual
- Queer/bisexual
- Questioning
- Prefer not to say

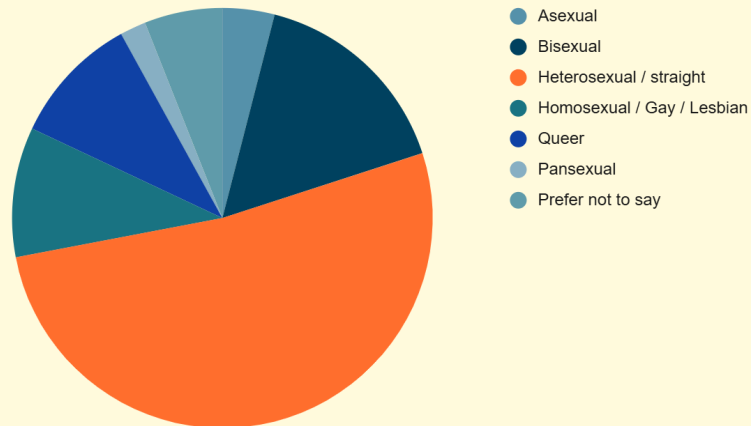
Sexual Orientation: Brand / Partner organisation rep / Speaker / Filmmaker / Guest



- Bisexual
- Heterosexual / straight
- Homosexual / Gay / Lesbian
- Queer
- Prefer not to say



Sexual Orientation: Instructor

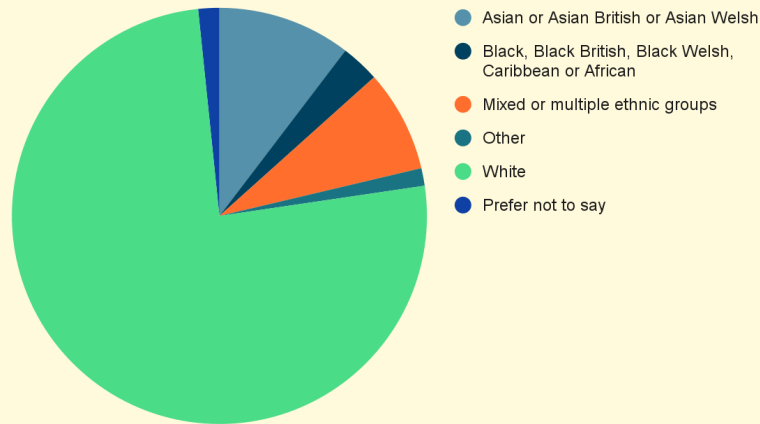


| Which of the following best describes your sexual orientation? | How are you involved in the festival? | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|----------|--|------------|-----|
| | Please specify | Attendee | Brand / Partner organisation rep / Speaker / Filmmaker / Guest | Instructor | All |
| Asexual | | 7 | | 2 | 9 |
| Bisexual | | 70 | 8 | 8 | 86 |
| Heterosexual / straight | | 5 | 19 | 26 | 50 |
| Homosexual / Gay / Lesbian | | 75 | 5 | 5 | 85 |
| Queer | | 101 | 6 | 5 | 112 |
| Other | Bi demisexual | 1 | | | 1 |
| | Pansexual | 4 | | 1 | 5 |
| | Queer / bisexual | 1 | | | 1 |
| | Questioning | 2 | | | 2 |
| Prefer not to say | | 11 | 1 | 3 | 15 |
| All | | 277 | 39 | 50 | 366 |

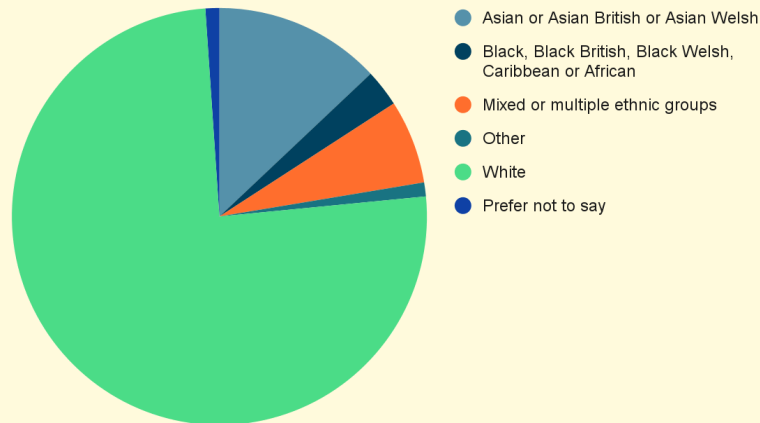


Ethnic group

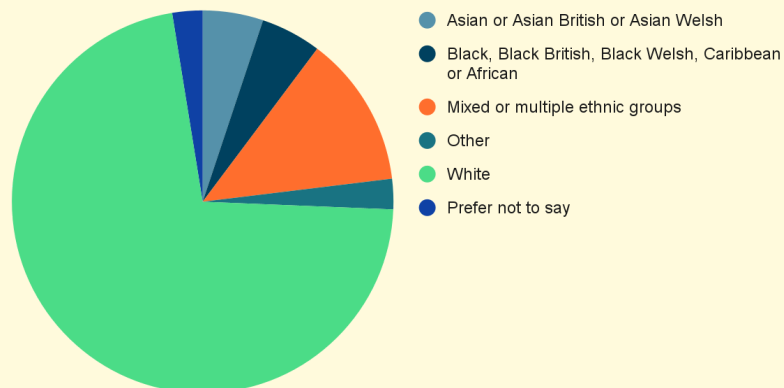
What is your ethnic group: All



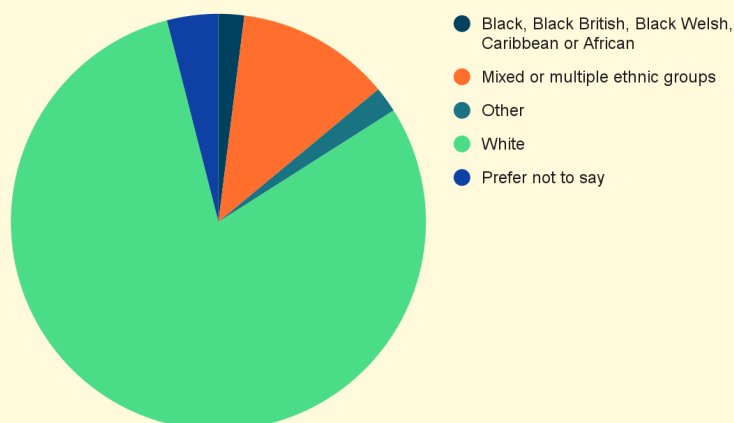
What is your ethnic group: Attendee



What is your ethnic group: Brand / Partner organisation rep / Speaker / Filmmaker / Guest



What is your ethnic group: Instructor



We understand that the categories in the ethnic group question fail to capture the richness of identity. Categories were taken from the most recent census framework as they provide equal descriptors across different groups and result in the most comparable data. The option to choose self-define was also available, along with a second free-form question where we explicitly asked attendees to self-define.

| What is your ethnic group? | Please specify | How are you involved in the festival? | | | |
|---|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|------------|-----|
| | | Attendee | Brand / Partner organisation rep / Speaker / Filmmaker / Guest | Instructor | All |
| Asian or Asian British or Asian Welsh | | 36 | 2 | | 38 |
| Black, Black British, Black Welsh, Caribbean or African | | 8 | 2 | 1 | 11 |
| Mixed or multiple ethnic groups | | 18 | 5 | 6 | 29 |
| Other | Arab, SWANA | 1 | | | 1 |
| | Chinese | 1 | | | 1 |
| | Middle Eastern/ North African | | 1 | | 1 |
| | New age traveler | | | 1 | 1 |
| | North African | 1 | | | 1 |
| White | | 209 | 28 | 40 | 277 |
| Prefer not to say | | 3 | 1 | 2 | 6 |
| All | 0 | 277 | 39 | 50 | 366 |



Self-defined ethnicity

We recognise that the ethnic group categories provided in the previous question do not fully capture the diversity within the ClimbOut community. To better reflect this, we invited attendees to self-identify their ethnicity in an open-ended format.

Rather than using a pie chart, which proved challenging to read and interpret, we chose a more engaging visual representation: a word cloud. We hope this approach highlights the richness and variety of responses in a format that's both visually impactful and easy to read. To emphasise the breadth of identities represented rather than the frequency of each, all responses are displayed in the same font size.



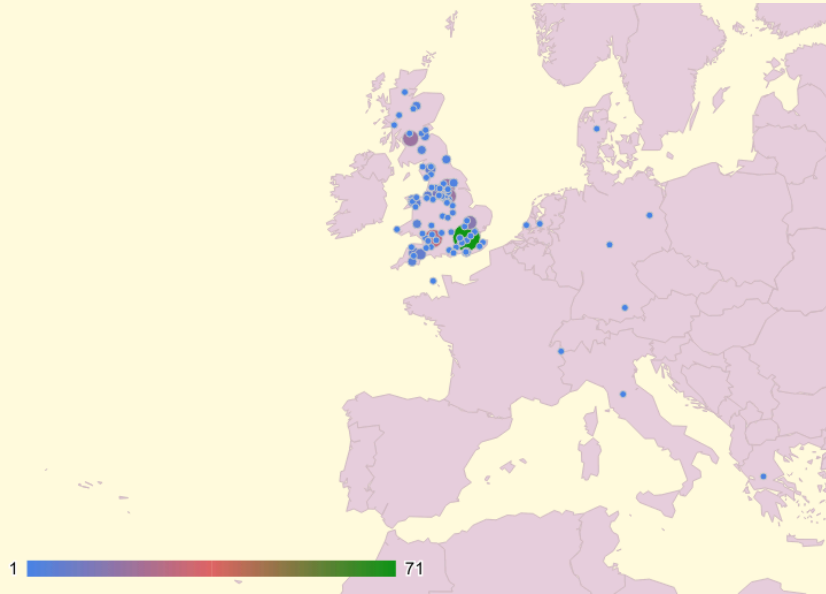
Nationality

We adopted the same format for nationalities present at ClimbOut 2025. To emphasise the breadth of identities represented rather than the frequency of each, all responses are displayed in the same font size.

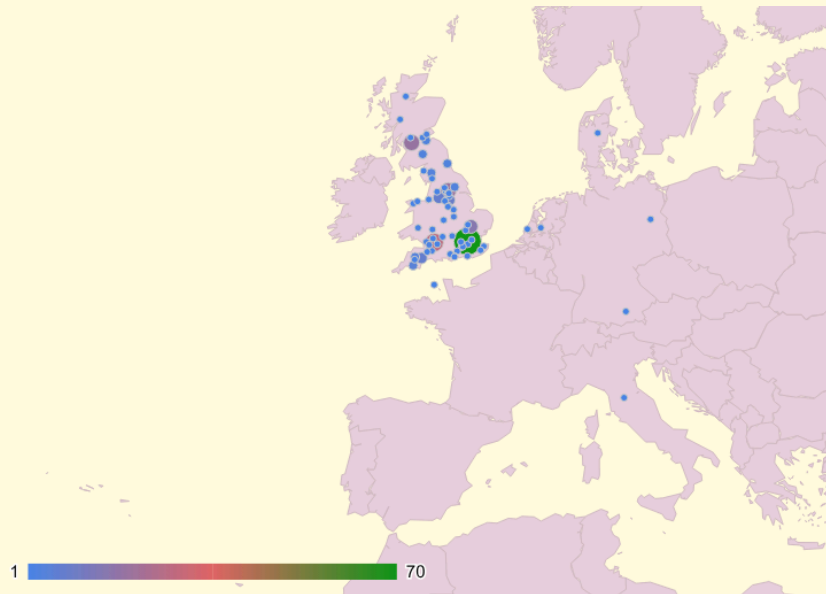


Location

All (362 responses): [Interactive plot](#)²



Attendee (277 responses): [Interactive plot](#)³

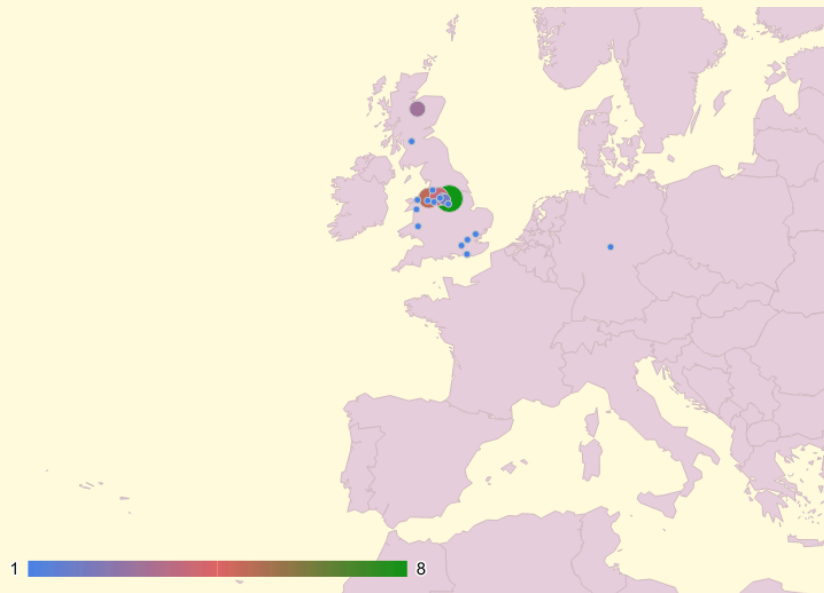


² Missing 1 respondent in New York, 1 respondent in South Africa

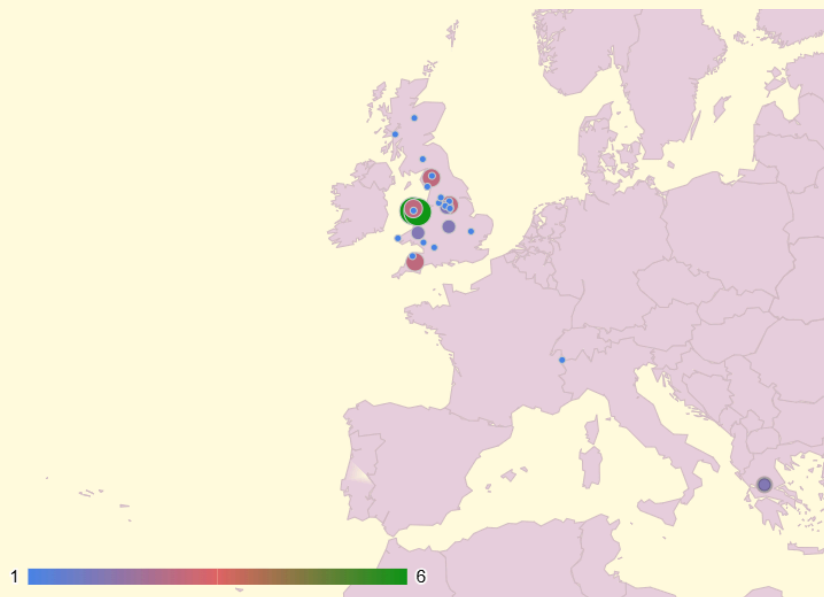
³ Missing 1 respondent in New York, 1 respondent in South Africa



Brand / Partner organisation rep / Speaker / Filmmaker / Guest (35 responses): [Interactive plot](#)



Instructor (50 responses): [Interactive plot](#)

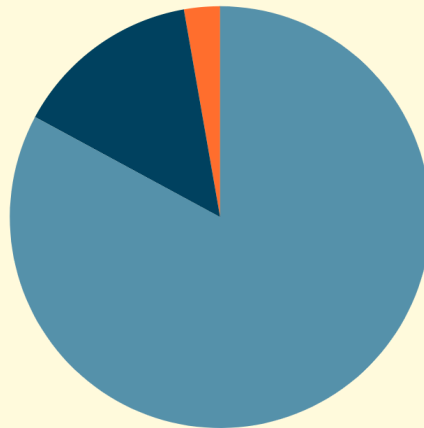


| How are you involved in the festival? | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|----------|--|------------|-----|
| Country | Attendee | Brand / Partner organisation rep / Speaker / Filmmaker / Guest | Instructor | All |
| Channel Islands | 1 | | | 1 |
| Denmark | 1 | | | 1 |
| France | | | 1 | 1 |
| Germany | 2 | 1 | | 3 |
| Greece | | | 2 | 2 |
| Italy | 1 | | | 1 |
| Netherlands | 2 | | | 2 |
| Scotland | 27 | 3 | 2 | 32 |
| South Africa | 1 | | | 1 |
| UK | 223 | 32 | 26 | 281 |
| USA | 1 | | | 1 |
| Wales | 7 | 3 | 18 | 28 |
| No answer | 11 | | 1 | 12 |
| All | 277 | 39 | 50 | 366 |



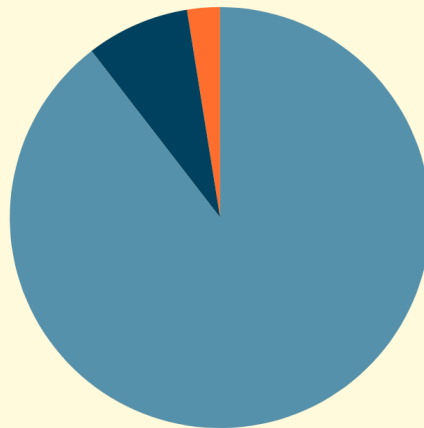
Marriage or civil partnership

Marriage or civil partnership: All



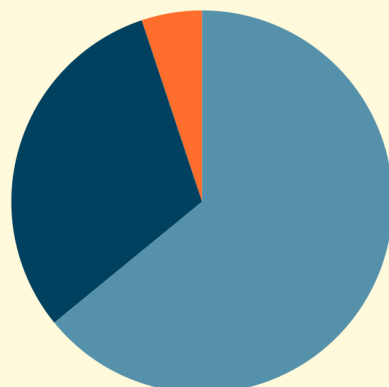
- No
- Yes
- Prefer not to say

Marriage or civil partnership: Attendee



- No
- Yes
- Prefer not to say

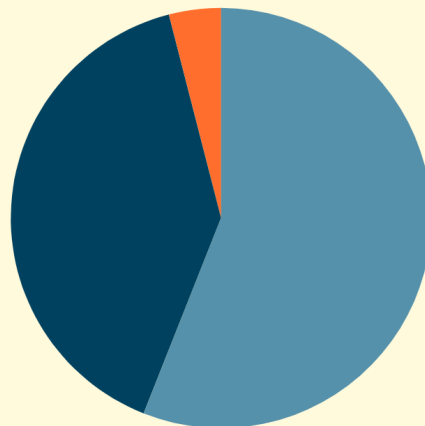
Marriage or civil partnership: Brand / Partner organisation rep / Speaker / Filmmaker / Guest



- No
- Yes
- Prefer not to say



Marriage or civil partnership: Instructor



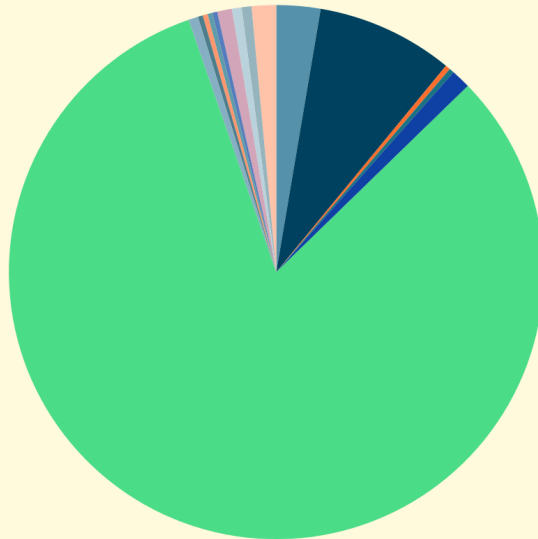
- No
- Yes
- Prefer not to say

| How are you involved in the festival? | | | | |
|---|----------|--|------------|-----|
| Are you in a marriage or civil partnership? | Attendee | Brand / Partner organisation rep / Speaker / Filmmaker / Guest | Instructor | All |
| No | 248 | 25 | 28 | 301 |
| Yes | 22 | 12 | 20 | 54 |
| Prefer not to say | 7 | 2 | 2 | 11 |
| All | 277 | 39 | 50 | 366 |



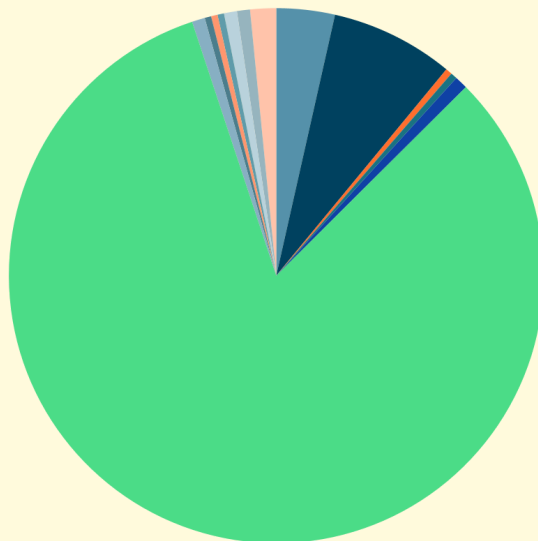
Religion or belief

What is your religion: All



- Buddhist
- Christian
- Hindu
- Jewish
- Muslim
- No religion
- Sikh
- Agnostic Atheist
- Anamist
- Atheist/Humanist
- Earth momma
- Humanist
- Norse Pagan
- Quaker
- Spiritual

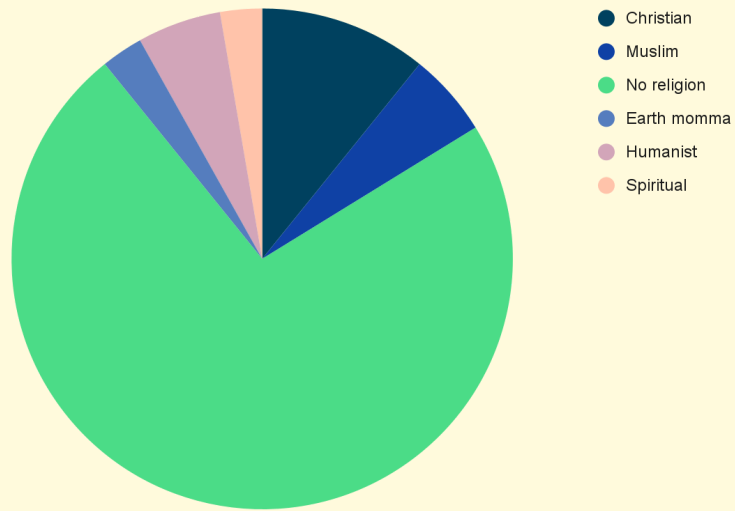
What is your religion: Attendee



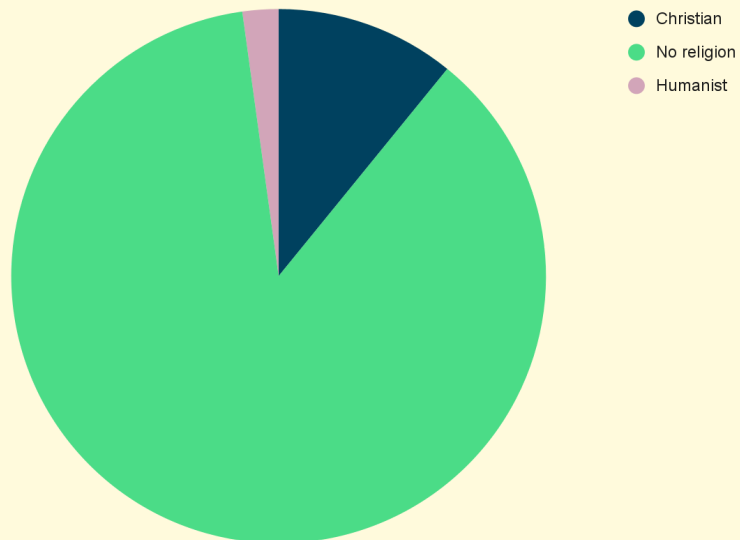
- Buddhist
- Christian
- Hindu
- Jewish
- Muslim
- No religion
- Sikh
- Agnostic Atheist
- Anamist
- Atheist/Humanist
- Norse Pagan
- Quaker
- Spiritual



What is your religion: Brand / Partner organisation rep /
Speaker / Filmmaker / Guest



What is your religion: Instructor

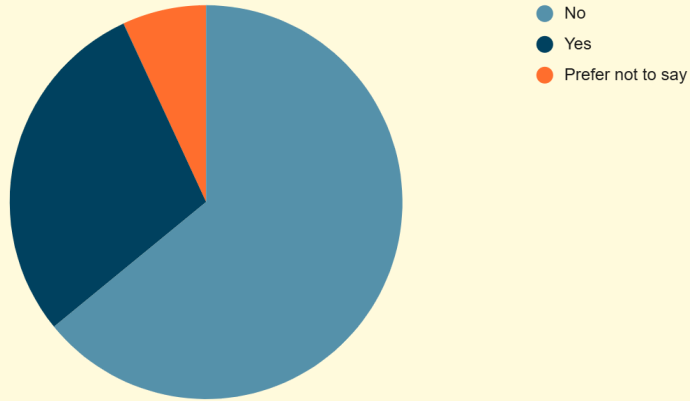


| What is your religion? | How are you involved in the festival? | | | | |
|------------------------|---------------------------------------|----------|--|------------|-----|
| | Please specify | Attendee | Brand / Partner organisation rep / Speaker / Filmmaker / Guest | Instructor | All |
| Buddhist | | 9 | | | 9 |
| Christian | | 19 | 4 | 5 | 28 |
| Hindu | | 1 | | | 1 |
| Jewish | | 1 | | | 1 |
| Muslim | | 2 | 2 | | 4 |
| No religion | | 210 | 27 | 40 | 277 |
| Sikh | | 2 | | | 2 |
| Other | Agnostic | | | | |
| | Atheist | 1 | | | 1 |
| | Anamist | 1 | | | 1 |
| | Atheist/Humanist | 1 | | | 1 |
| | Earth momma | | 1 | | 1 |
| | Humanist | | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| | Norse Pagan | 2 | | | 2 |
| | Quaker | 2 | | | 2 |
| | Spiritual | 4 | 1 | | 5 |
| | Prefer not to say | | 22 | 2 | 4 |
| All | | 277 | 39 | 50 | 366 |

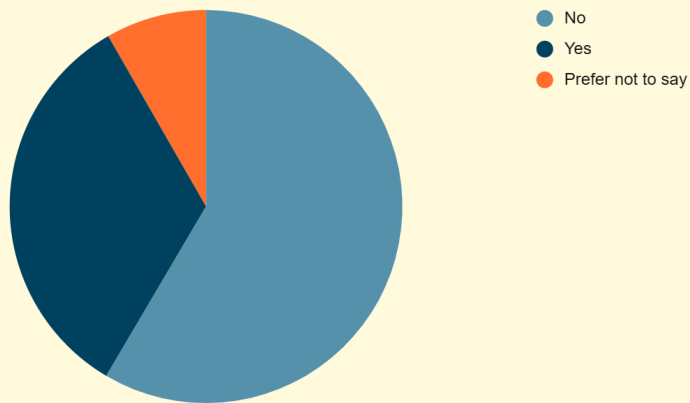


Physical or mental health illnesses lasting 12 months or more

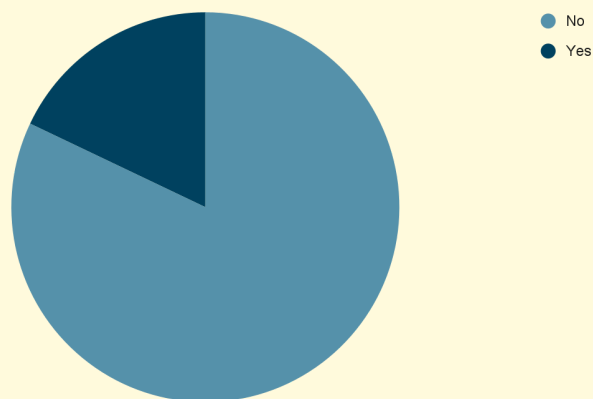
Physical or mental health conditions or illnesses lasting or expected to last 12 months or more: All



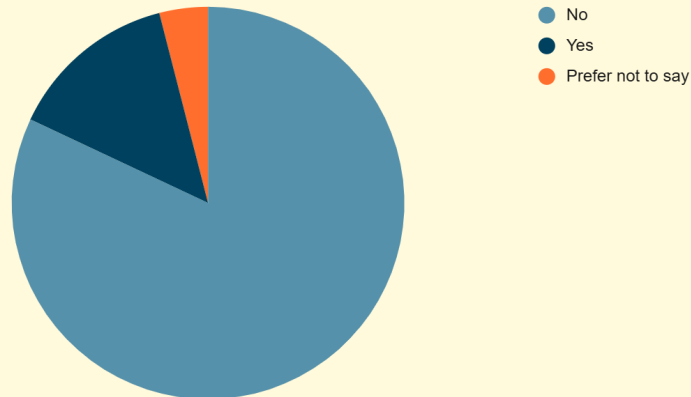
Physical or mental health conditions or illnesses lasting or expected to last 12 months or more: Attendee



Physical or mental health conditions or illnesses lasting or expected to last 12 months or more: Brand / Partner



Physical or mental health conditions or illnesses lasting or expected to last 12 months or more: Instructor



| Do you have any physical or mental health conditions or illnesses lasting or expected to last 12 months or more? | How are you involved in the festival? | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|------------|-----|
| | Attendee | Brand / Partner organisation rep / Speaker / Filmmaker / Guest | Instructor | All |
| No | 162 | 32 | 41 | 235 |
| Yes | 92 | 7 | 7 | 106 |
| Prefer not to say | 23 | | 2 | 25 |
| All | 277 | 39 | 50 | 366 |

| If 'Yes' you may specify here | How are you involved in the festival? | | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|--|------------|-----|
| | Attendee | Brand / Partner organisation rep / Speaker / Filmmaker / Guest | Instructor | All |
| ADHD | 2 | | | 2 |
| ADHD and autism | | | 1 | 1 |
| ADHD, eczema | 1 | | | 1 |
| Allergies, depression and anxiety, asthma | 1 | | | 1 |
| Anxiety | 2 | | | 2 |
| Anxiety (GAD) | 1 | | | 1 |
| Anxiety autistic | 1 | | | 1 |
| Anxiety, ADHD, Autism | 1 | | | 1 |



| | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|---|
| Anxiety, depression and insomnia | 1 | | | 1 |
| Anxiety, not sure this fits into the category. Just worth noting | | | 1 | 1 |
| Anxiety, OCD | 1 | | | 1 |
| Anxiety/depression | 1 | | | 1 |
| Atopic eczema, depression, ADHD | | | 1 | 1 |
| AuDHD | 1 | | | 1 |
| Autism and menopause | 1 | | | 1 |
| Autism, gender dysphoria | 1 | | | 1 |
| Autism, severe sight impairment | 1 | | | 1 |
| Bilateral Tendinitis | 1 | | | 1 |
| Bipolar | | | 1 | 1 |
| Bipolar and Lyme's disease based inflammation | | 1 | | 1 |
| Bipolar Disorder type 1 | | 1 | | 1 |
| Bipolar, anxiety, cptsd | 1 | | | 1 |
| BPD | 1 | | | 1 |
| CAMHS | 2 | | | 2 |
| Chronic migraine | 1 | | | 1 |
| Depression | 3 | | | 3 |
| Depression and anxiety | 1 | | | 1 |
| Depression anxiety | 1 | | | 1 |
| Depression, adhd | 1 | | | 1 |
| depression, anxiety, autism | 1 | | | 1 |
| Dyspraxia, Sjogren's disease(localised auto-immune) | 1 | | | 1 |

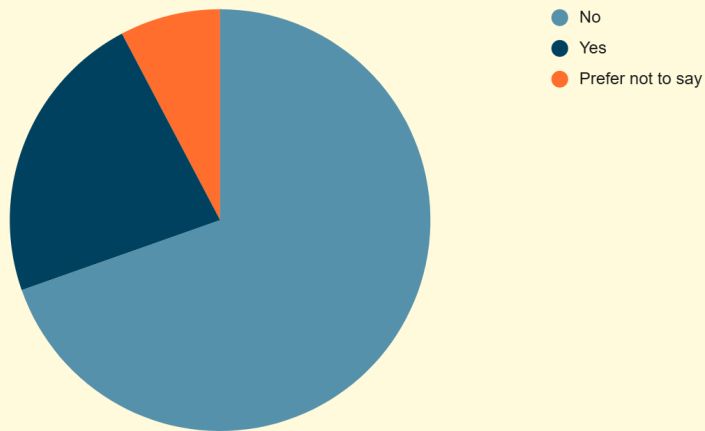


| | | | | |
|---|----|--|---|----|
| Eczema, ADHD, depression | | | 1 | 1 |
| Endometriosis, depression, adhd | 1 | | | 1 |
| Epilepsy and ADHD | 1 | | | 1 |
| Fibromyalgia, ADHD, ASD, HSD, POTS | 1 | | | 1 |
| Hard of hearing | 1 | | | 1 |
| hEDS, POTS | 1 | | | 1 |
| Hypothyroidism | 1 | | | 1 |
| IBS, CPTSD | 1 | | | 1 |
| just a bit traumatised and mentally ill init | 1 | | | 1 |
| Long COVID, autism, ADHD | 1 | | | 1 |
| Long term depression + anxiety | 1 | | | 1 |
| Mental Health | 2 | | | 2 |
| Migraine | 1 | | | 1 |
| Mild chronic fatigue | 1 | | | 1 |
| Neurosensory hearing loss | 1 | | | 1 |
| Permanent dizziness | 1 | | | 1 |
| Psoriasis | 1 | | | 1 |
| PTSD | 1 | | | 1 |
| Severe depression | 1 | | | 1 |
| Severe depression and anxiety, moderate adhd. | 1 | | | 1 |
| All | 50 | | 2 | 5 |
| | | | | 57 |

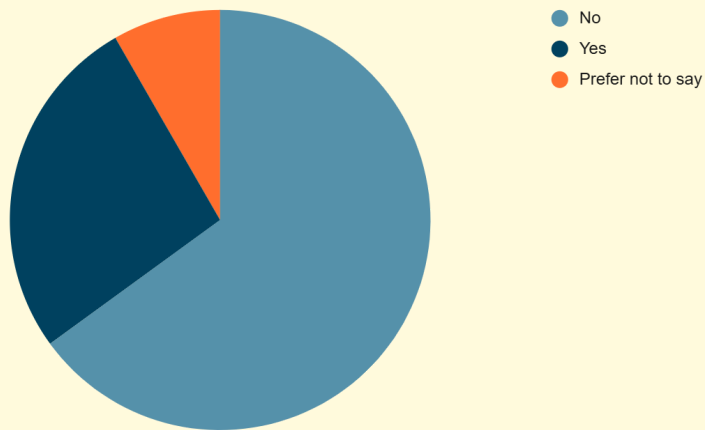


Disability

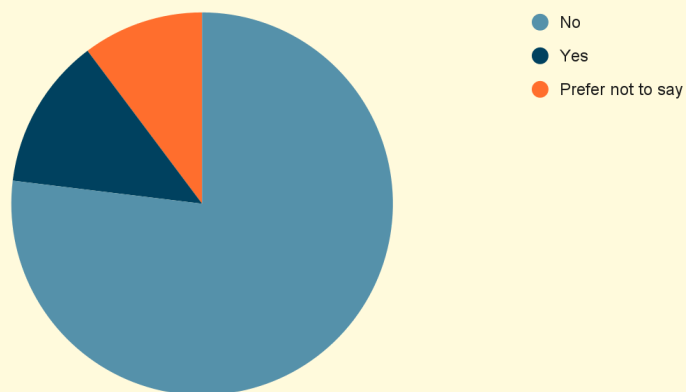
Do you consider yourself to have a disability: All



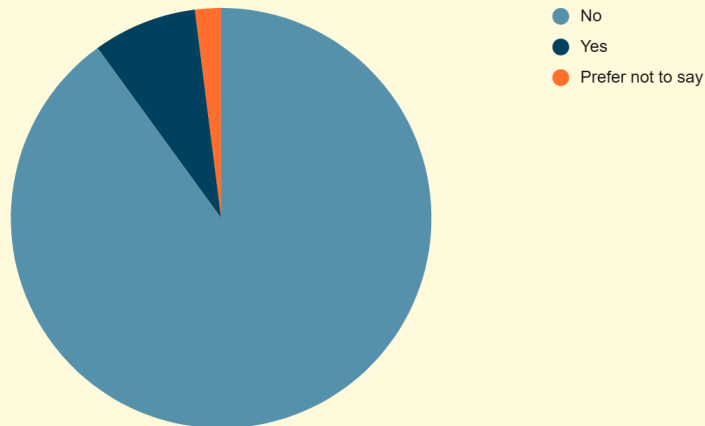
Do you consider yourself to have a disability: Attendee



Do you consider yourself to have a disability: Brand / Partner organisation rep / Speaker / Filmmaker / Guest



Do you consider yourself to have a disability: Instructor



| Do you consider yourself to have a disability? | How are you involved in the festival? | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|------------|-----|
| | Attendee | Brand / Partner organisation rep / Speaker / Filmmaker / Guest | Instructor | All |
| No | 180 | 30 | 45 | 255 |
| Yes | 74 | 5 | 4 | 83 |
| Prefer not to say | 23 | 4 | 1 | 28 |
| All | 277 | 39 | 50 | 366 |

| If 'Yes' you may provide more details about your disability here | How are you involved in the festival? | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|------------|-----|
| | Attendee | Brand / Partner organisation rep / Speaker / Filmmaker / Guest | Instructor | All |
| ADHD | 4 | | | 4 |
| ADHD & Autism | 1 | | | 1 |
| ADHD, autism | 1 | | | 1 |
| ADHD, Dyslexia | 1 | | | 1 |
| ADHD/autism | 1 | | | 1 |
| ADHD/hip problems | 1 | | | 1 |
| ASD | 1 | | | 1 |
| ASD, ADHD, CFS, fibromyalgia | 1 | | | 1 |
| Autism | 4 | | | 4 |

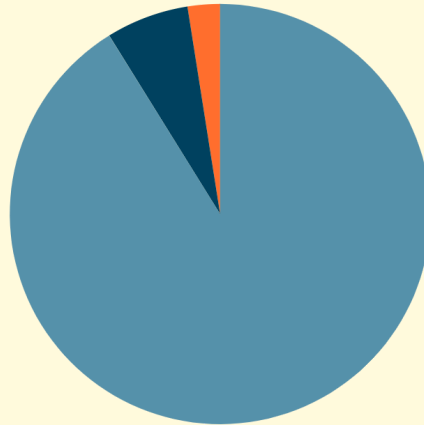


| | | | | |
|--|-----------|---|----------|-----------|
| Autism & ADHD | 1 | | | 1 |
| Autism, severe sight impairment | 1 | | | 1 |
| autistic | 1 | | | 1 |
| Autistic and with tinnitus | 1 | | | 1 |
| autistic, hEDS, POTS | 1 | | | 1 |
| Bipolar and Lyme's disease based inflammation | | 1 | | 1 |
| Bipolar, anxiety, C-PTSD, unable to work currently because of mental health disability | 1 | | | 1 |
| Colour Blindness, ADD | 1 | | | 1 |
| depression, anxiety, autism | 1 | | | 1 |
| Diagnosed dyslexia and dyslexia but likely other neurodiversity | 1 | | | 1 |
| Dissociative disorder | 1 | | | 1 |
| Dyslexia/bipolar | | | 1 | 1 |
| Dyspraxia | 1 | | | 1 |
| Epilepsy | 1 | | | 1 |
| Endometriosis, depression, adhd | 1 | | | 1 |
| Fibromyalgia, ADHD, ASD, HSD, POTS | 1 | | | 1 |
| Hard of hearing | 1 | | | 1 |
| Hearing loss | | 1 | | 1 |
| Mental Health | 2 | | | 2 |
| Neurodiversity | 1 | | | 1 |
| Permanent dizziness | 1 | | | 1 |
| Visually impaired (albinism, nystagmus, night blindness) | 1 | | | 1 |
| Grand Total | 35 | | 2 | 38 |



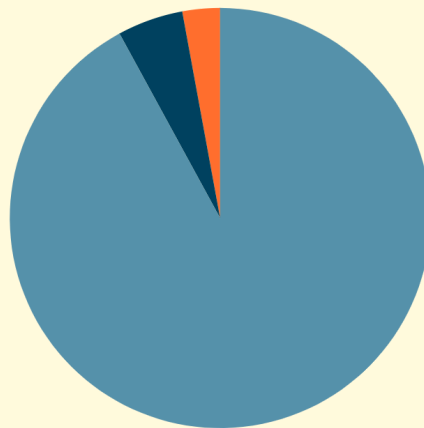
Caring responsibilities

Do you have caring responsibilities: All



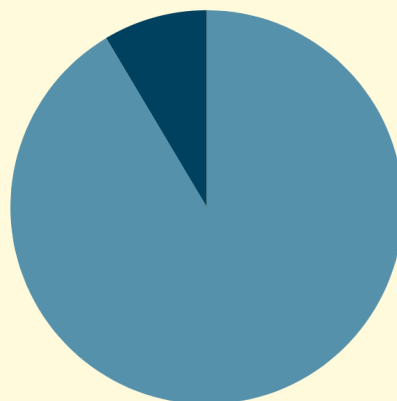
- No
- Yes
- Prefer not to say

Do you have caring responsibilities: Attendee



- No
- Yes
- Prefer not to say

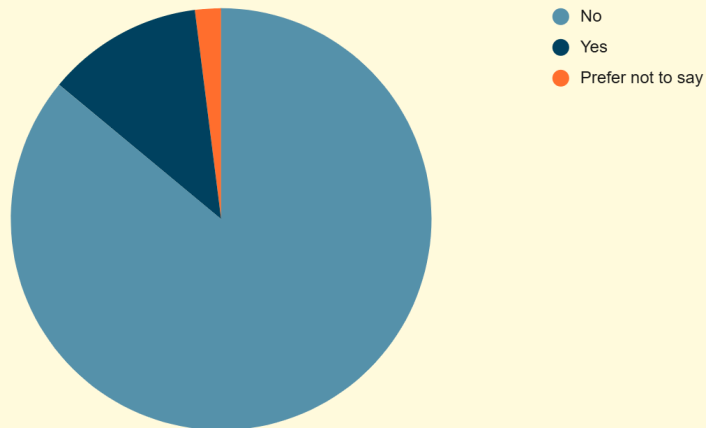
Do you have caring responsibilities: Brand / Partner organisation rep / Speaker / Filmmaker / Guest



- No
- Yes



Do you have caring responsibilities: Instructor



| Do you have caring responsibilities? | How are you involved in the festival? | | | |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|------------|-----|
| | Attendee | Brand / Partner organisation rep / Speaker / Filmmaker / Guest | Instructor | All |
| No | 255 | 32 | 43 | 330 |
| Yes | 14 | 3 | 6 | 23 |
| Prefer not to say | 8 | | 1 | 9 |
| All | 277 | 35 | 50 | 362 |



Appendix 2

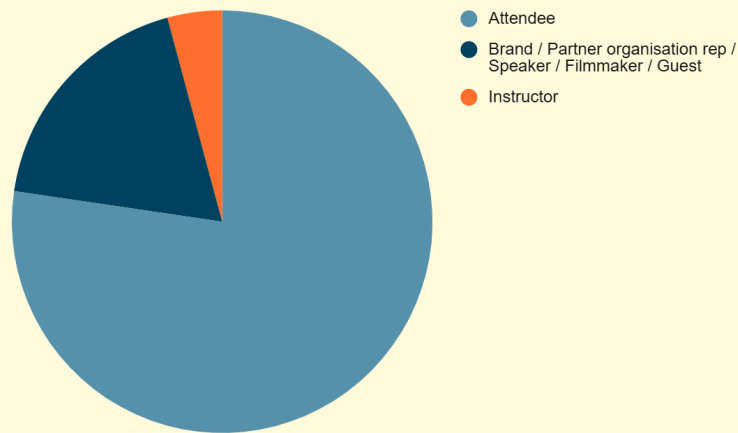
Feedback form comprehensive results

Total responses: 119

32.9% of all attendees had their say. This feedback is really valuable to us, we want to know how we can continue to improve the festival in future years.

How did you participate in the festival?

How did you participate in the Festival?

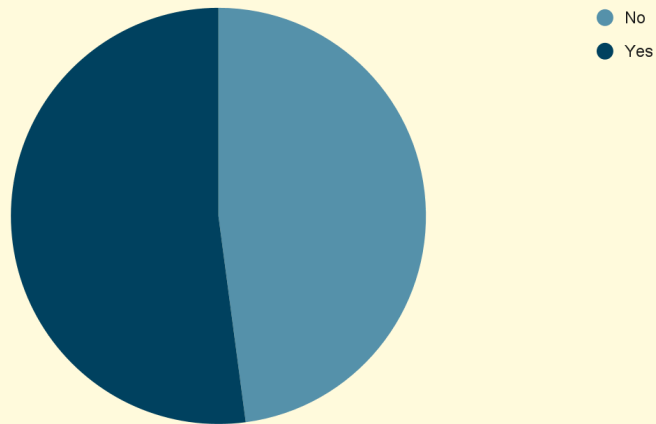


| How did you participate in the Festival? | | | |
|--|--|------------|-----|
| Attendee | Brand / Partner organisation rep / Speaker / Filmmaker / Guest | Instructor | All |
| 92 | 22 | 5 | 119 |



Have you attended ClimbOut previously?

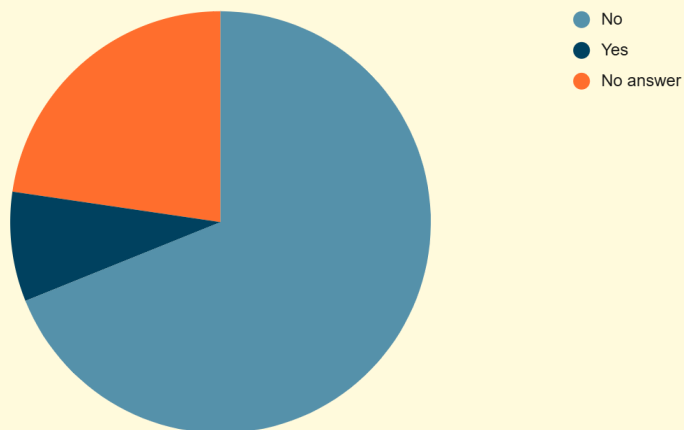
Have you attended ClimbOut previously: All



| Have you attended ClimbOut previously? | How did you participate in the Festival? | | | |
|--|--|--|------------|-----|
| | Attendee | Brand / Partner organisation rep / Speaker / Filmmaker / Guest | Instructor | All |
| No | 44 | 8 | 5 | 57 |
| Yes | 48 | 14 | | 62 |
| | 92 | 22 | 5 | 119 |

Were you also a volunteer?

Were you also a volunteer: All

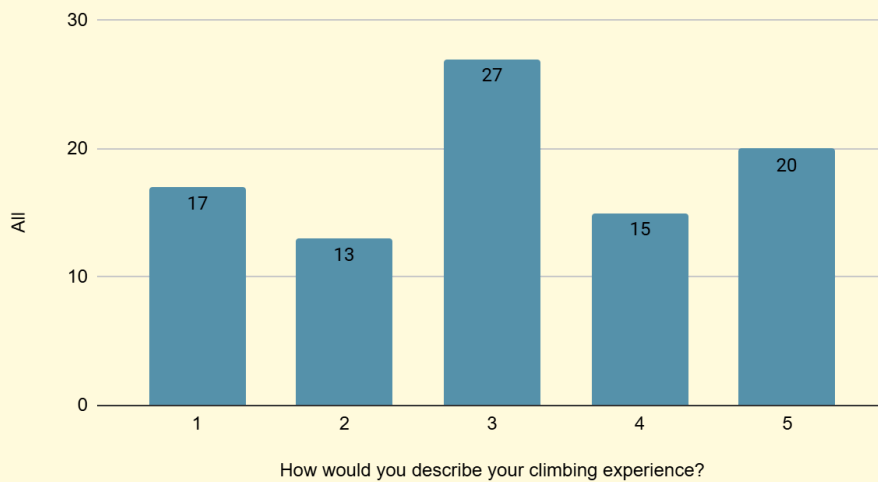


| How did you participate in the Festival? | | | | |
|--|----------|--|------------|-----|
| Were you also a volunteer? | Attendee | Brand / Partner organisation rep / Speaker / Filmmaker / Guest | Instructor | All |
| No | 82 | | | 82 |
| Yes | 10 | | | 10 |
| No answer | | 22 | 5 | 27 |
| All | 92 | 22 | 5 | 119 |

How would you describe your climbing experience?

From 1: "Beginner - I've never climbed outside before" to 5: "Confident - I climb regularly outside"

How would you describe your climbing experience: Attendee

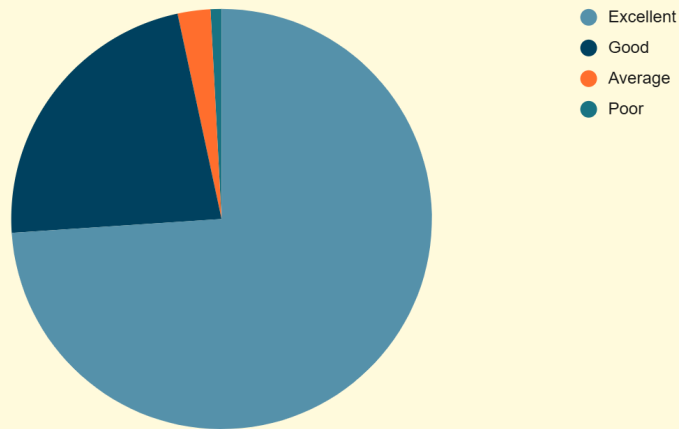


| How did you participate in the Festival? | | | | |
|--|----------|--|------------|-----|
| How would you describe your climbing experience? | Attendee | Brand / Partner organisation rep / Speaker / Filmmaker / Guest | Instructor | All |
| 1 | 17 | | | 17 |
| 2 | 13 | | | 13 |
| 3 | 27 | | | 27 |
| 4 | 15 | | | 15 |
| 5 | 20 | | | 20 |
| No answer | | 22 | 5 | 27 |
| All | 92 | 22 | 5 | 119 |



How would you rate the ClimbOut Festival?

How would you rate the ClimbOut Festival?: All

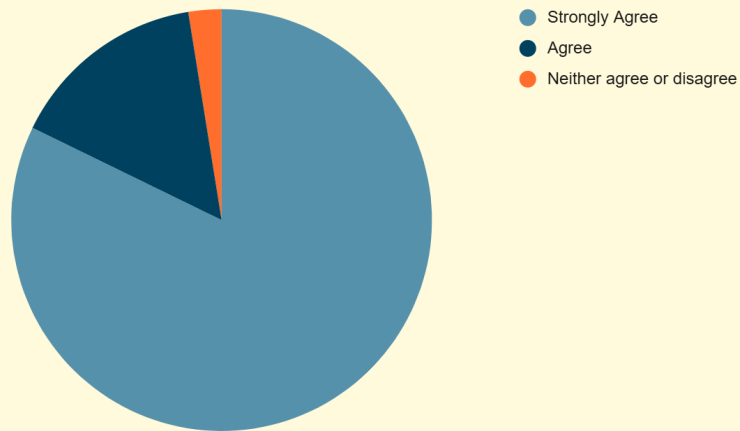


| How would you rate the ClimbOut Festival? | How did you participate in the Festival? | | | | |
|---|--|--|------------|-----|-----|
| | Attendee | Brand / Partner organisation rep / Speaker / Filmmaker / Guest | Instructor | All | |
| Excellent | 63 | 5 | 20 | 88 | |
| Good | 25 | | 2 | 27 | |
| Average | 3 | | | 3 | |
| Poor | 1 | | | 1 | |
| Terrible | | | | | |
| All | 92 | | 5 | 22 | 119 |



I enjoyed ClimbOut

I enjoyed ClimbOut: All



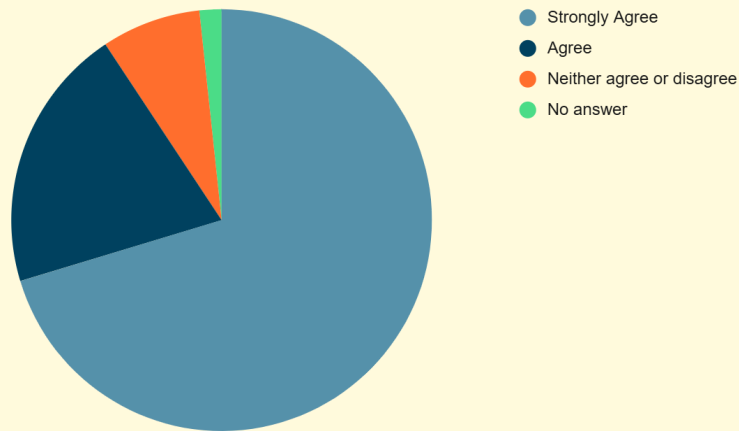
| I enjoyed ClimbOut | How did you participate in the Festival? | | | |
|---------------------------|--|--|------------|-----|
| | Attendee | Brand / Partner organisation rep / Speaker / Filmmaker / Guest | Instructor | All |
| Strongly Agree | 72 | 5 | 20 | 97 |
| Agree | 17 | | 1 | 18 |
| Neither agree or disagree | 3 | | | 3 |
| Disagree | | | | |
| Strongly Disagree | | | | |
| All | 92 | | 21 | 118 |

1 instructor entry has been censored for all Likert scale questions due to inconsistencies between ratings and free-form answers, indicating a potential misinterpretation of the Likert scale.



I valued the opportunity to meet other LGBTQ+ people

I valued the opportunity to meet other LGBTQ+ people: All



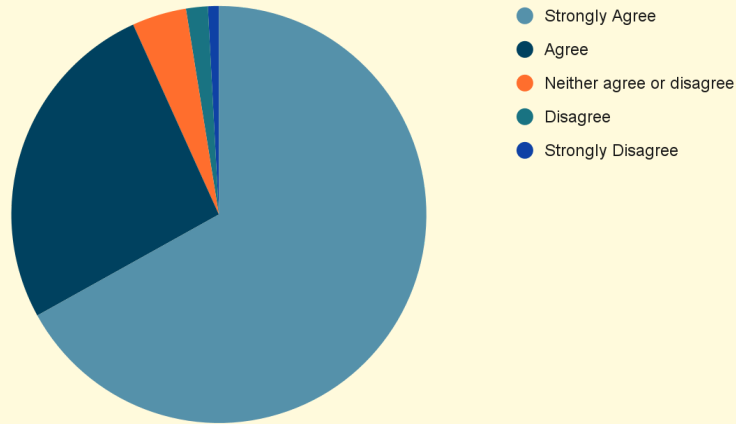
| I valued the opportunity to meet other LGBTQ+ people | How did you participate in the Festival? | | | |
|--|--|--|------------|-----|
| | Attendee | Brand / Partner organisation rep / Speaker / Filmmaker / Guest | Instructor | All |
| Strongly Agree | 68 | 4 | 11 | 83 |
| Agree | 18 | 1 | 5 | 24 |
| Neither agree or disagree | 4 | | 5 | 9 |
| Disagree | | | | |
| Strongly Disagree | | | | |
| No answer | 2 | | | 2 |
| All | 92 | 5 | 21 | 118 |

1 instructor entry has been censored for all Likert scale questions due to inconsistencies between ratings and free-form answers, indicating a potential misinterpretation of the Likert scale.



ClimbOut Festival met my expectations

ClimbOut Festival met my expectations: All



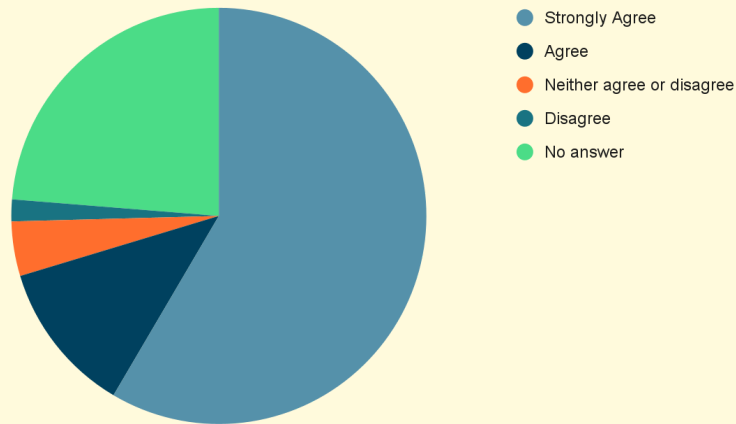
| ClimbOut Festival met my expectations | How did you participate in the Festival? | | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|--|------------|-----|
| | Attendee | Brand / Partner organisation rep / Speaker / Filmmaker / Guest | Instructor | All |
| Strongly Agree | 59 | 4 | 16 | 79 |
| Agree | 25 | 1 | 5 | 31 |
| Neither agree or disagree | 5 | | | 5 |
| Disagree | 2 | | | 2 |
| Strongly Disagree | 1 | | | 1 |
| All | 92 | 5 | 21 | 118 |

1 instructor entry has been censored for all Likert scale questions due to inconsistencies between ratings and free-form answers, indicating a potential misinterpretation of the Likert scale.



Climbout Festival was good value for money

Climbout Festival was good value for money: All



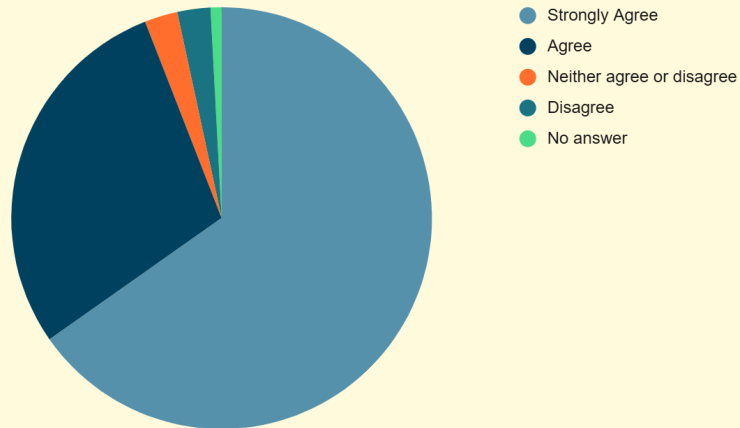
| Climbout Festival was good value for money | How did you participate in the Festival? | | | | |
|--|--|--|------------|-----|-----|
| | Attendee | Brand / Partner organisation rep / Speaker / Filmmaker / Guest | Instructor | All | |
| Strongly Agree | 69 | | | 69 | |
| Agree | 14 | | | 14 | |
| Neither agree or disagree | 5 | | | 5 | |
| Disagree | 2 | | | 2 | |
| Strongly Disagree | | | | | |
| No answer | 2 | 5 | 21 | 28 | |
| All | 92 | | 5 | 21 | 118 |

1 instructor entry has been censored for all Likert scale questions due to inconsistencies between ratings and free-form answers, indicating a potential misinterpretation of the Likert scale.



I liked the venue

I liked the venue: All



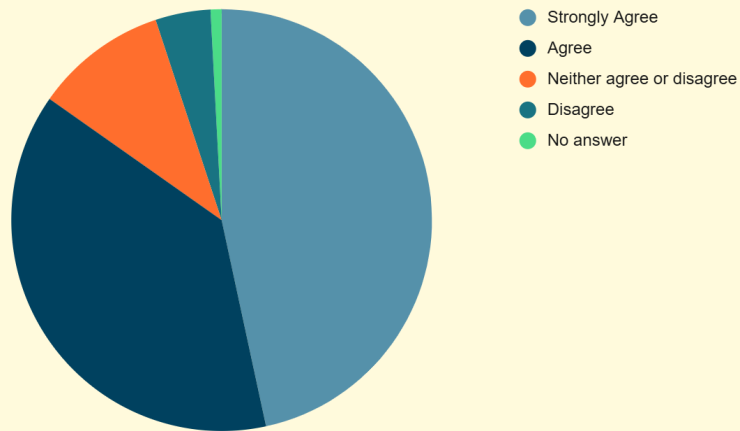
| I liked the venue | How did you participate in the Festival? | | | |
|---------------------------|--|--|------------|-----|
| | Attendee | Brand / Partner organisation rep / Speaker / Filmmaker / Guest | Instructor | All |
| Strongly Agree | 58 | 3 | 16 | 77 |
| Agree | 27 | 2 | 5 | 34 |
| Neither agree or disagree | 3 | | | 3 |
| Disagree | 3 | | | 3 |
| Strongly Disagree | | | | |
| No answer | 1 | | | 1 |
| All | 92 | 5 | 21 | 118 |

1 instructor entry has been censored for all Likert scale questions due to inconsistencies between ratings and free-form answers, indicating a potential misinterpretation of the Likert scale.



I liked the food

I liked the food: All



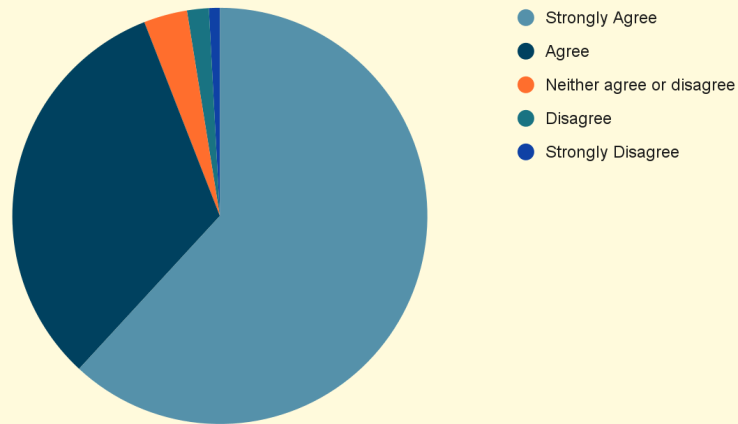
| I liked the food | How did you participate in the Festival? | | | |
|---------------------------|--|--|------------|-----|
| | Attendee | Brand / Partner organisation rep / Speaker / Filmmaker / Guest | Instructor | All |
| Strongly Agree | 43 | 3 | 9 | 55 |
| Agree | 35 | 2 | 8 | 45 |
| Neither agree or disagree | 8 | | 4 | 12 |
| Disagree | 5 | | | 5 |
| Strongly Disagree | | | | |
| No answer | 1 | | | 1 |
| All | 92 | 5 | 21 | 118 |

1 instructor entry has been censored for all Likert scale questions due to inconsistencies between ratings and free-form answers, indicating a potential misinterpretation of the Likert scale.



I felt included at the Festival

I felt included at the Festival: All



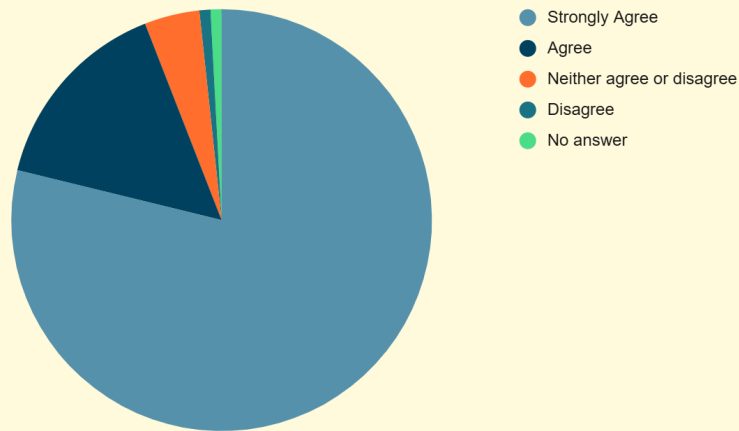
| I felt included at the Festival | How did you participate in the Festival? | | | |
|---------------------------------|--|--|------------|-----|
| | Attendee | Brand / Partner organisation rep / Speaker / Filmmaker / Guest | Instructor | All |
| Strongly Agree | 53 | 4 | 16 | 73 |
| Agree | 32 | 1 | 5 | 38 |
| Neither agree or disagree | 4 | | | 4 |
| Disagree | 2 | | | 2 |
| Strongly Disagree | 1 | | | 1 |
| All | 92 | | 5 | 21 |

1 instructor entry has been censored for all Likert scale questions due to inconsistencies between ratings and free-form answers, indicating a potential misinterpretation of the Likert scale.



I want to attend the festival next year

I want to attend the Festival next year: All



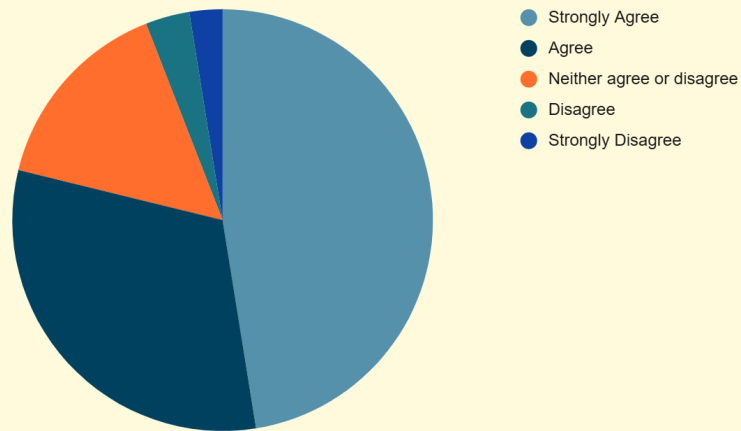
| I want to attend the Festival next year | How did you participate in the Festival? | | | |
|---|--|--|------------|-----|
| | Attendee | Brand / Partner organisation rep / Speaker / Filmmaker / Guest | Instructor | All |
| Strongly Agree | 70 | 5 | 18 | 93 |
| Agree | 15 | | 3 | 18 |
| Neither agree or disagree | 5 | | | 5 |
| Disagree | 1 | | | 1 |
| Strongly Disagree | | | | |
| No answer | 1 | | | 1 |
| All | 92 | | 5 | 21 |
| | | | | 118 |

1 instructor entry has been censored for all Likert scale questions due to inconsistencies between ratings and free-form answers, indicating a potential misinterpretation of the Likert scale.



Information about the festival was clearly communicated

Information about the festival was clearly communicated: All



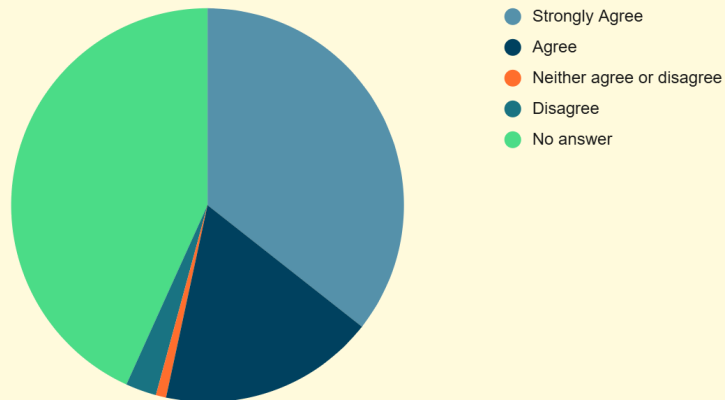
| Information about the festival was clearly communicated | How did you participate in the Festival? | | | |
|---|--|--|------------|-----|
| | Attendee | Brand / Partner organisation rep / Speaker / Filmmaker / Guest | Instructor | All |
| Strongly Agree | 41 | 1 | 14 | 56 |
| Agree | 29 | 3 | 5 | 37 |
| Neither agree or disagree | 16 | 1 | 1 | 18 |
| Disagree | 3 | | 1 | 4 |
| Strongly Disagree | 3 | | | 3 |
| All | 92 | 5 | 21 | 118 |

1 instructor entry has been censored for all Likert scale questions due to inconsistencies between ratings and free-form answers, indicating a potential misinterpretation of the Likert scale.



(If applicable) The course I attended helped me improve my climbing skills

The course I attended helped me improve my climbing skills:
All

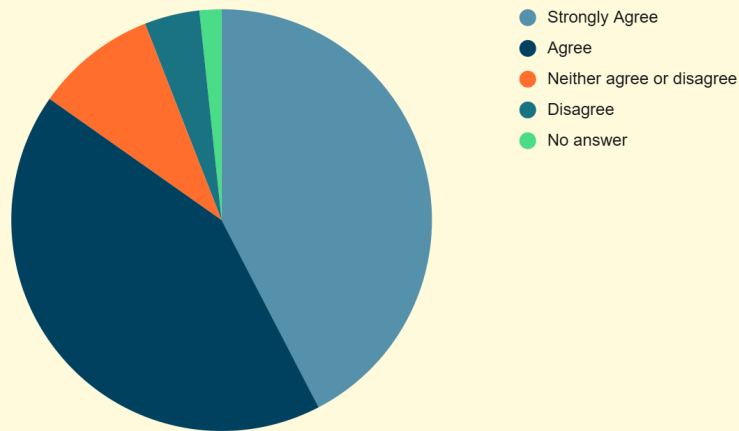


| The course I attended helped me improve my climbing skills | How did you participate in the Festival? | | | |
|--|--|--|------------|-----|
| | Attendee | Brand / Partner organisation rep / Speaker / Filmmaker / Guest | Instructor | All |
| Strongly Agree | 42 | | | 42 |
| Agree | 21 | | | 21 |
| Neither agree or disagree | 1 | | | 1 |
| Disagree | 3 | | | 3 |
| Strongly Disagree | | | | |
| No answer | 25 | 5 | 21 | 51 |
| Grand Total | 92 | 5 | 21 | 118 |



The social programme was interesting/enjoyable

The social programme was interesting/enjoyable: All



| The social programme was interesting/enjoyable | How did you participate in the Festival? | | | |
|--|--|--|------------|------------|
| | Attendee | Brand / Partner organisation rep / Speaker / Filmmaker / Guest | Instructor | All |
| Strongly Agree | 36 | 2 | 12 | 50 |
| Agree | 40 | 2 | 8 | 50 |
| Neither agree or disagree | 9 | 1 | 1 | 11 |
| Disagree | 5 | | | 5 |
| Strongly Disagree | | | | |
| No answer | 2 | | | 2 |
| Grand Total | 92 | 5 | 21 | 118 |

1 instructor entry has been censored for all Likert scale questions due to inconsistencies between ratings and free-form answers, indicating a potential misinterpretation of the Likert scale.



If you have attended ClimbOut previously, how did this year's festival compare?

Overall Impression

- Overwhelmingly positive: The majority said this year was better, even better, or the best yet.
- Consistent vibes: Many felt it had the same great atmosphere and inclusivity as previous years.

Organisation & Logistics

- Improved organisation: Multiple mentions of things being smoother, slicker, clearer, and better managed.
- Communication upgrades: Use of Oak as a central hub was appreciated, though some found it buggy.
- Transport: The London coach and station/crag shuttles were valued, though not always smooth (late arrivals, logistics issues).
- Facilities: Extra toilets/showers were appreciated, though some facilities were out of order or lacking soap.

Social & Community Feel

- Social calendar praised: Ceilidh was repeatedly highlighted as a favourite. Added workshops and varied activities (cyanotype, meditation, acroyoga) were valued.
- Music/party atmosphere mixed feedback: Some missed more music/DJ sets and wanted a livelier party vibe, while others liked quieter evenings.
- Community scale: Still felt friendly, but some noted that as it grows, it's harder to know everyone. A few worried about losing the "small community" feel if it gets much bigger.

Diversity & Inclusion

- Positive growth: Several noted more diversity (especially more BPOC and queer representation), which was celebrated.
- Concerns raised: A couple of attendees, particularly PoC, reported experiencing microaggressions and said it felt less of a safe space than previous years. Suggestions included stronger safeguarding, zero-tolerance policies on discrimination, and more proactive inclusion.
-

Courses & Activities

- Range appreciated: Climbing and non-climbing options valued, with less hectic scheduling than last year.
- Courses: Later start times for some courses were appreciated to avoid exhaustion. Some missed yoga/recovery sessions.
- Talks/films: Seen as less extensive than previous years.

Food & Amenities

- Mixed reviews: Some enjoyed new food/drink options (pizza van, coffee van), but others found the provided Saturday meal too small, lacking protein, and with a very long queue.



Were your access needs and/or adjustments met?

Overall

- Many respondents said yes, their needs were met or they had none.
- Several praised quiet camping, traffic light badges, bursaries, financial support, and shuttle options.
- However, there were multiple responses which raised barriers with physical access, information provision, safeguarding, and inclusion.

Positive Feedback

- Quiet spaces & quiet camping were highly valued.
- Social badges (red/yellow/green) were repeatedly praised as helpful for managing interactions.
- Financial accessibility: bursaries, concession tickets, Alpkit tent borrow option, and rental gear made attendance possible for people otherwise excluded.
- Volunteers & staff were described as helpful, understanding, and supportive.
- Accessibility partners (Anyone Can) were appreciated for making climbing more inclusive.
- Extra ramps and matting over grass helped with wheelchair/mobility access. Although one response mentioned the ramp was too steep for their wheelchair.

Challenges & Barriers

- Physical accessibility
 - Steep ramp to main stage area.
 - Broken height-adjustable sink in Woodlands lodge (still an issue from last year).
 - Some rooms advertised as “accessible” were not (heavy doors, lack of accessible kitchens, no red cords).
 - Ceilidh dance could be made more accessible for wheelchair users and people with limited mobility.
- Information & Planning
 - Lack of advance information on site layout, accommodations, accessibility features, and quiet areas.
 - Stressful booking process.
 - Requests for optional site tours to help navigate.
- Social Accessibility
 - Some spaces (shared kitchens, noisy socials) overwhelming for neurodivergent or anxious participants.
 - Lack of quiet dorms.
 - Reports of microaggressions and lack of visible safeguarding against racism.
- Facilities
 - Too few toilets in camping areas, long queues.
 - Sinks in portable toilets sometimes without water (difficult for menstruation management).
 - Food queues challenging for people with invisible disabilities (request for priority queue).

Areas of Improvement

- Provide detailed, specific access info ahead of time (room layouts, ramps, facilities, red cords, kitchens).



- Assign a designated Access Coordinator as a point of contact before and during the festival.
- Push Thornbridge to update facilities to improve venue accessibility (ramps, doors, bathrooms).
- Increase visibility of safeguarding & anti-discrimination policies, highlighting the existing processes and the support team available.
- Add a priority meal queue option for those with hidden disabilities.
- Continue to develop the offer of structured non-climbing activities (walks, yoga, crafts, mindfulness).
- Provide optional site tours during welcome.

In response to feedback we particularly developed the social programme this year. What did you think about it?

Overall Impressions

- Widely positive – many said it was “so good,” “excellent,” or “fantastic.”
- The ceilidh was a highlight: fun, joyful, unifying, and memorable.
- The variety of activities compared to last year (workshops, mindfulness, talks, games, ceilidh, food events) was noticed and appreciated.
- The programme helped many people meet others beyond their climbing courses.

Highlights

- Ceilidh:
 - Repeatedly praised as amazing, chaotic fun, brilliant at bringing people together, a highlight of the weekend.
 - Loved the band and caller; many want it to return next year.
- Workshops & Activities:
 - Cyanotype and mindfulness noted as creative, calming, and inclusive.
 - Acroyoga and competitions added fun and energy.
- Talks:
 - Valued by many, especially the panel on intersectionality and climbing stories.
 - Some preferred fewer/shorter talks; others missed the bigger-name talks from previous years.
- Alternative Socials:
 - Board games and campfire offered quieter ways to connect.
 - Badges (social traffic lights) supported safe interaction.

Challenges Raised

- Accessibility & Inclusion
 - Ceilidh too crowded, hard to hear caller, inaccessible for wheelchair users or those needing slower pacing.
 - Some activities (ceilidh, acroyoga) lacked adjustments for disabled participants.
 - Not enough lower-energy/quiet options running alongside high-energy ones.
- Space & Weather
 - Dance floor and covered areas too small; poor weather forced cramped gatherings.
 - Calls for a marquee/big gazebo and sheltered seating.



- Programme Balance
 - Some missed the depth and number of talks compared to previous years.
 - Schedule clashes and back-to-back talks made attendance tricky.
 - Evenings sometimes felt flat after 10pm; some wanted a stronger “party” vibe.
- Logistics
 - Late coach arrivals meant some missed Friday socials.
- Atmosphere & Options
 - Split views on alcohol: some wanted a bar for a more celebratory feel, others valued its absence.
 - Requests for more communal meals and structured community meetups (e.g., PoC, disabled, trans climbers).

Suggestions for Next Year

- Keep the ceilidh – but ensure more space, better sound, and accessible adaptations.
- Offer parallel options: high-energy (ceilidh/party) alongside low-energy (mindfulness, board games, campfire).
- Expand sheltered social spaces: marquee, tables, chairs, gazebos.
- Facilitate community meetups (e.g., PoC, disabled, trans) with clear signposting.
- Improve logistics: clearer pre-event info, structured community booth, better access for late arrivals.
- Consider the food & drink variety: extra vendor(s).

What was the best thing about ClimbOut?

Community & Inclusivity

- This was by far the strongest theme.
- “The people” (mentioned dozens of times).
- Feeling safe, welcome, and able to be authentic.
- A unique queer space in climbing – many said it was the first time they’d felt fully at ease in the outdoors.
- Representation mattered: people appreciated POC attendees, diverse instructors, and the focus on inclusivity.
- Connections were meaningful – people met new friends, reconnected with old ones, and some said they’ve now got queer climbing partners for the future.

The Climbing

- Courses and outdoor instruction were hugely valued.
- Instructors were praised as patient, supportive, and encouraging.
- Opportunities to learn new skills or climb outdoors for the first time in a safe environment.
- Both beginners and experienced climbers felt included.

The Social Highlights

- The ceilidh was repeatedly named as a standout highlight – joyful, chaotic, inclusive, and bonding.
- The balance of workshops, talks, and fun socials created a “buzzing atmosphere.”



- People loved creative and mindful sessions as a complement to climbing.

The Vibe & Setting

- The atmosphere was described as “magical,” “genuine,” and “joyful.”
- Many appreciated the site facilities (showers, toilets, quiet camping).
- The festival felt like a celebration of queer joy as much as climbing.

Standout Quotes

The sheer unbridled joy and the welcoming, accommodating community.

Being able to be myself while climbing – I felt much less othered at ClimbOut.

The Gaylith surrounded by climbing queers!

There were too many beautiful moments to list. The overarching theme was the welcoming, inclusive and joyful atmosphere. It felt magical.

If you could change one thing about ClimbOut, what would it be?

Key Themes from Attendees

- Social & Atmosphere
 - More party/music/bar options, including live music or DJ.
 - Better ceilidh accessibility (larger dance floor, better caller audio).
 - More icebreakers/social mixers on Friday, especially since late coaches meant many missed the first night.
 - More late-night options for those who wanted to keep socialising.
 - Dedicated trans/POC/family meetups and spaces for community connection.
- Food & Catering
 - Repeatedly: larger portions for the Saturday communal meal
 - More food vendors beyond pizza and paella.
 - Shorter queuing times.
 - Turn the Saturday meal into a true community event, with more opportunities for connection beyond simply eating together.
- Site & Facilities
 - Showers/toilets unreliable (cold water, blockages, lack of paper).
 - Need more sheltered outdoor space (gazebos, marquees, teepees) for both rain and sun.
 - Lighting on paths at night suggested.
 - Some said the site itself felt limiting, but acknowledged venue options are few.
- Transport & Logistics
 - London coach timing and delays
 - Long, unsafe walk to the coach pick-up point.
- Communication & Tech
 - Oak app: praised by some, but others found it buggy, confusing, or inaccessible.



- Reliance on Instagram excluded those not using it – requests for a fully updated website/blog alternative.
- Lack of clarity in course meeting points and group splits.
- Programming
 - Some wanted more talks/workshops (fewer than last year).
 - Desire for family- and teen-specific programming
 - Ideas for non-climbing day activities: walks, cycling, creative socials.
 - Requests for Monday programme (light climbing or closing reflections).
- Inclusion & Accessibility
 - Some POC attendees noticed self-segregation and asked for stronger integration efforts.
 - Suggestions for accessibility to be central:
 - Wheelchair-friendly kitchen setups.
 - Pre-session accessibility discussions with activity leaders.
 - Some felt the festival still catered more to able-bodied, white attendees.
 - Suggestions for non-verbal socials (e.g. colouring sessions).

Instructor-Specific Feedback

- Freedom for instructors: more choice in crag selection to suit different mobility/fitness needs.
- First morning chaos: instructor/participant meeting points unclear – pre-set signage or field markers suggested.
- Shuttle logistics: requests for dedicated shuttle support for instructors.
- Communication gaps: some instructors didn't use the Oak app, which created inconsistency.

Overall, the biggest recurring asks were:

- More food & vendors
- Better comms (ditch/fix Oak, less reliance on Insta)
- More shelter & reliable facilities
- Expanded social options (party and low-energy)
- Stronger accessibility & inclusion baked in from the start



If you attended/delivered a course or workshop, do you have any feedback?

What Worked Well

- Instructors praised – Many people described instructors as knowledgeable, patient, adaptable, inclusive, confidence-inspiring, and kind.
- Safe & supportive teaching – Courses were run at the pace of the group, with flexibility for different needs and energy levels.
- Small groups – Low ratios of instructor to participant were highly valued.
- Impact – People left courses feeling more confident, empowered, and ready to climb outdoors independently.

Challenges & Concerns

- Inclusion and accessibility
 - Requests for more training/support around fatigue, chronic pain, and adaptive climbing.
 - Misgendering occurred in some courses, including consistent use of incorrect pronouns.
 - Some people felt that the feedback they received whilst climbing was overwhelming, they suggested conversations around feedback timing.
- Organisation
 - Finding groups on Day 1 was confusing; people liked it when instructors made signs.
 - Some felt “relaxed” or “intro” sessions weren’t aligned with their abilities/expectations.
 - Weather relocation decisions sometimes left participants feeling they missed out compared to other groups.

Instructor feedback

Positive points

- Most instructors felt communication was good overall.
- Emails and WhatsApp groups were helpful for timely updates and quick responses.
- Oak platform generally worked for sharing information and connecting with participants, though some noted it occasionally crashed.
- Clear information about schedules, participants, and logistics was appreciated by several instructors.
- Some instructors valued having the ability to tailor courses once they had participant info.

Challenges / Areas for Improvement

- Oak platform limitations: Some instructors found it clunky for arranging detailed pre-event discussions or adjustments for participants with specific needs.
- Late or inconsistent communication: Some instructors, especially trainees, reported receiving their course info late or missing messages.
- Need for pre-event participant info: Several instructors wanted earlier access to attendee info to tailor courses and adjust for skill levels or special requirements.
- Improving FAQs & standard info: Consolidating frequently asked questions into a single resource could reduce last-minute queries and save time.



- Flexibility in communication: Some instructors felt restricted by Oak and would prefer the option to communicate directly with participants (e.g., phone or email) while still respecting privacy.

Instructor support

Positive Feedback

- Many instructors felt well-supported throughout.
- Resources emailed in advance were considered very helpful.
- Remuneration and involvement opportunities were appreciated.

Further support suggestions

- Direct communication with participants
 - Several instructors wanted to speak to participants ahead of time to tailor sessions, manage expectations, and accommodate special needs.
- Accessibility training & guidance
 - Opportunity for a pre-event session or workshop on working with participants with physical or other access needs.
- Learning from experienced instructors would help build broader skills across the outdoor instructor community.
- Venue familiarity & logistics
 - Pairing local instructors with those less familiar with the crags would improve confidence and efficiency.
 - Clearer meeting points and guidance on the first morning could reduce chaos.
 - Easier transport options to and from crags were suggested.
- Instructor networking & development
 - Opportunities to meet other instructors, especially newer ones, to share skills, support, and mentorship.
- Use ClimbOut as a platform for development of new instructors, not just teaching participants.

We hope ClimbOut has a positive impact on the people who attend. If this is the case for you we'd love to hear your story.

Key Themes

- Inclusivity and Safe Space
 - Attendees and instructors consistently highlighted ClimbOut as a space where they could be fully themselves, free from judgment or outside pressures.
 - The festival fosters an environment where queer, trans, and neurodivergent climbers can connect with like-minded people and feel a sense of belonging.
- Community and Friendship
 - Many respondents emphasised the community bonds created at ClimbOut, including long-lasting friendships, mentorships, and connections across geographic locations.



- Families and young people especially valued the opportunity to be part of a supportive, multi-generational community.
- Skill Development and Confidence
 - ClimbOut provides access to outdoor climbing, workshops, and training that participants might not otherwise have.
 - Attendees frequently cited gaining confidence, outdoor climbing skills, and motivation to continue climbing independently.
- Positive Emotional and Personal Impact
 - The event has been described as life-affirming, magical, and restorative, helping participants overcome fears, reclaim joy in climbing, and reconnect with themselves.
 - For instructors, ClimbOut offered a chance to teach in a supportive environment, recharge, and reaffirm faith in inclusive practices in the climbing industry.
- Accessibility
 - ClimbOut is valued for making climbing accessible, both physically (through inclusive instruction) and socially (through a welcoming environment).



Appendix 3

People involved

ClimbOut Team

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Char Harrison
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El Temple
Eleanor Ngai

Ife Akinroyeje
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Photo credit: Roxanna Barry



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Dave MacIntyre

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Harriet MacMillan
Harrison Durban
Ian Cooper
Jay Jackson
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Kathryn James (AMI)
Katrina Kramer
Kirsty Pallas
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Marcus Twine

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Monica Reeves
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Pete Marshall
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Si Hick
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Tom Kirby (AMI)
Tori Taylor-Roberts
Vicky Binks



Photo credit: Roxanna Barry



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Photo credit: Roxanna Barry (left, centre), Yazan Abbas (right)

