



Superfans from far and wide travel to see Jedward

Their love for Jedward knows no bounds – and superfans will be travelling for thousands of miles to see the X Factor stars perform at a holiday park.

Fans from as far afield as Australia and Germany are to make the trip to Bunn Leisure Holiday Park in Selsey, West Sussex, to see the perky Irish pop stars perform on Saturday, September 28.



Bunn Leisure's Operations director Mike Caven said: "It seems Jedward really are a global phenomenon. So far we've had bookings from France, Australia, Norway, Finland and Australia and we're still getting enquiries from all over the place for the few places that we have available. We're looking forward to welcoming them all to Bunn Leisure for what should be a 'Jepic' weekend."

Devoted Patricia Washbrook will be travelling more than 10,000 miles, all the way from "Down Under" to see the duo – real names John and Edward Grimes – at the venue.

Patricia, who moved to Adelaide from Bolton 15 years ago, will be spending around £3,000 on flights, accommodation and tickets on her mission to see Jedward at each date of their six-date UK mini tour.

She will be staying at West Sands Holiday Village, located within Bunn Leisure and enjoying all the family fun it has to offer before the fun-loving pair's concert.

Patricia, 40, first became fascinated with Jedward when she saw them on the X Factor while visiting family.

She has met the twins several times – and was filmed with the duo on Australian TV's Mornings programme on Channel 9.

She said: “Because I’d been in Australia I didn’t even realise what the X Factor was. But I saw them, and thought they were treated very unfairly by the press and I think my maternal instincts kicked in.

“They have got magnetic personalities. When you meet them and know about them they have got such charisma.

“They have got such loyal fans because of how they treat them. You couldn’t ask for two nicer boys.”

Meanwhile, Jedward fan Nina Wulf will be making the trip from Germany as part of her mission to see the twins on every date of their UK tour.

Nina, 36, who lives near Cologne, first saw Jedward when they were contestants on the Eurovision Song Contest in 2011.



Nina said: “I was mesmerised by their positive energy on stage and I went to see them in concert in Germany two weeks after Eurovision.”

Nina met the twins at the Comet Awards, held by German music TV channel VIVA Germany.

She said: “I was standing in line and before I knew it they were out and talking to the fans. I had no idea they were so nice and lovely.”

Also in the crowd will be dedicated UK-based superfans Julie Atkin and Laura Morris, who have been to more than 150 performances since the twins first appeared on the X Factor in 2009.

Laura, 30, of Canford Heath, Poole, can claim to be one of Jedward’s longest-serving fans – she met them at their very first X Factor audition.



Laura had gone to the talent show’s auditions “for a laugh” and was behind the Irish duo as they queued up to impress the judges.

Although Laura’s own efforts didn’t get her through the audition process, she remained friendly with John and Edward and returned to the live shows week after week to support the pair.

She then began to follow them round the country as they performed on the X Factor tour, at personal appearances and on their own tour.

She met Julie, 53, on a Jedward internet forum and after they saw each other at the twins' gigs, they began to travel to see the pop duo together.

Remembering how her Jedward obsession began, Laura, 30, said: "Right from the auditions the film crew kept focusing on Jedward and following them. I got chatting to them and it just spiralled from there. I can actually say I knew them before they were famous!



"They are so lovely. They don't treat you like fans – they treat you like friends.

"The best thing is the road trips when we follow them around. We'll go to the gig and then go back to the hotel, have a takeaway and watch Jedward concert videos. We'll be on Twitter and the boys will be on there and everyone will be talking about the show.

"Every show is different – people say why do you want to see the same show 21 times? But each time it's different – they are so unpredictable. The atmosphere is always good and it's not like a normal concert.

"It's all so hectic but we have been to a lot of places. My family think I'm a bit of a nutter, a bit crazy. But I think it's no different to people who are mad about rugby or football who follow their team around."

Laura takes on temporary jobs so she can fit her work around Jedward's touring dates. And she's single so she doesn't have to worry about what her partner thinks.

"People always ask me if I have time for a boyfriend but I'm single by choice," she said. "It's not my focus at the moment – I'm not ready to settle down.

"It's not because of Jedward – it's just that I'm having so much fun with my friends. Maybe things will be different in a year or two. If Jedward ever stopped touring I'd be devastated – but at least I'd have four years of memories."

Julie, of Hanworthy, Poole, who is divorced with two grown-up sons, estimates she has spent up to £30,000 on following the twins.

After seeing Jedward at Bunn Leisure, she and Laura will follow the boys on their UK tour – including a gig the next day at Ferneham Hall in nearby Fareham.

The pair are planning to travel to Australia later this year to take in the whole of Jedward’s tour down under.

And they’ve already booked tickets for 20 panto performances in Dublin this Christmas, when John and Edward will star in Beauty and the Beast at the Irish capital’s Olympia Theatre.

Julie, 53, who has just become a grandmother for the first time, said: “Every concert is different. They are great fun and they are lovely lads, really lovely to their fans.

“We’re really happy to be seeing them at Bunn Leisure, really excited about it. We’re staying there for the night and then the next day we’re off to see them again. We can’t wait.”

Flyers to advertise the gig have been designed by 21-year-old fan Briony Howe, from Guildford, Surrey.

Briony has seen Jedward perform around 10 times and has travelled up and down the country to meet them at personal appearances. She handed John and Edward and their mother Susanna 100 of her flyers when she recently met them at Heathrow Airport. The boys then gave some out at the airport and at BBC Radio 1 the following day.



Briony said: “When they are on stage there’s such a good atmosphere. They are full of energy – it’s like they’re doing a three-hour workout. It’s just a really nice feeling and the energy they give out bounces off into the audience.”

Jedward’s show is part of Bunn Leisure’s fantastic entertainment programme for this season, which has included Billy Ocean and Ben E King.



The twins shot to fame when they appeared on the X-Factor in 2009 and the Dublin duo quickly became stars with their single Under Pressure (Ice Ice Baby) reaching number two in the UK charts. The brothers have also represented Ireland twice in the Eurovision Song Contest and made it to the final of Celebrity Big Brother.

Bunn Leisure, is one of just six dates on Jedward's UK September Tour and for just £31 a night you can pitch your tent on Friday and Saturday to enjoy their performance for free. Or to make a weekend of it, stay with family or friends in a holiday home with breaks starting at just £46 per person (based on four people sharing a two bedroom standard caravan).

Book now to see Jedward perform live. Log on to www.bunnleisure.co.uk or call the booking line on 01243 606080.

Picture captions:

1 Patricia Washbrook with Jedward on Australia's Channel 9 news programme Mornings

2 Nina Wulf pictured with John during Jedward's Victory Tour in Dusseldorf, Germany

3 Laura Morris (left) and Julie Atkin on a flight with Jedward

4 Laura Morris (left) and Julie Atkin with Jedward on ITV's This Morning

5 Briony Howe larks around with Jedward and, underneath, with the tour poster she designed. The hedge she stands in front of was cut by a nearby resident and has been nicknamed "Hedgeward" by locals in anticipation of Jedward's visit

Ends



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