

Top Travel Events & Festivals in the USA, February 2026



Explore the best of U.S. travel and tourism this February with vibrant festivals, iconic sports events, and unique cultural celebrations. Whether you are chasing the colorful parades of Mardi Gras, the thrill of the Daytona 500, or cozy winter carnivals, February offers something special for every traveler. From sun-soaked Florida fairs to snowy mountain festivities, this guide highlights the [*top US events and festivals*](#) that draw visitors nationwide. Plan your winter getaway around these must-see experiences that bring cities to life with history, fun, and community spirit.

The Top USA Events and Festivals in February 2026

Discover the top USA events and festivals happening in February 2026, from cultural celebrations to vibrant winter experiences:

Mardi Gras New Orleans

- **Dates:** February 17, 2026
- **Venue:** Downtown New Orleans, Louisiana
- **How to Reach:** Louis Armstrong New Orleans International Airport (MSY) is the main gateway; the city is easily navigated via streetcars and public transit.
- **Tickets:** [*Buy Tickets Online*](#)

Why Visit: Mardi Gras in New Orleans is the ultimate celebration of culture, music, and festivity. Expect dazzling parades, colorful floats, live jazz music, and lively street parties that captivate visitors worldwide. The unique blend of French, Spanish, and Creole heritage shines through in every aspect of the celebration.

Mardi Gras Galveston

- **Dates:** February 6 to 17, 2026
- **Venue:** Downtown Galveston, Texas
- **How to Reach:** Arrive via Houston's George Bush Intercontinental Airport (IAH) or William P. Hobby Airport (HOU), then a short drive to Galveston Island.
- **Tickets:** [*Buy Tickets Online*](#)

Why Visit: Galveston's Mardi Gras rivals New Orleans with its own parades, seafood festivals, and family-friendly events. This Gulf Coast celebration mixes Southern charm with lively entertainment, including concerts and masquerade balls, perfect for travelers seeking a festive but less crowded Mardi Gras experience.

Florida State Fair 2026

- **Dates:** February 5 to 16, 2026
- **Venue:** Florida State Fairgrounds, Tampa, Florida
- **How to Reach:** Tampa International Airport (TPA) is nearby, with ample parking and public transit options to the fairgrounds.
- **Tickets:** [*Buy Tickets Online*](#)

Why Visit: The Florida State Fair is a longstanding tradition packed with thrilling rides, livestock shows, live concerts, and a taste of Florida's diverse culture through food and exhibitions. Its spring timing makes it an ideal winter escape for families and fun-seekers.

Anchorage Fur Rendezvous

- **Dates:** February 26 to March 8, 2026
- **Venue:** Downtown Anchorage, Alaska
- **How to Reach:** Anchorage Ted Stevens International Airport (ANC) connects to most major U.S. hubs.
- **Tickets:** [*Buy Tickets Online*](#)

Why Visit: Known locally as "Rondy," this winter festival combines athletic competitions, sled dog races, and quirky events like the Running of the Reindeer. It is an authentic Alaskan experience that draws winter adventurers and culture enthusiasts alike.

Palm Springs Modernism Week

- **Dates:** February 12 to 22 2026
- **Venue:** Palm Springs, California
- **How to Reach:** Palm Springs International Airport (PSP) or Los Angeles International Airport (LAX), with convenient rental car and shuttle services.
- **Tickets:** [*Buy Tickets Online*](#)

Why Visit: Celebrate mid-century modern architecture, art, and design in the sunny California desert. Modernism Week hosts tours, lectures, film screenings, and exhibitions, attracting design enthusiasts and cultural travelers seeking a stylish winter retreat.

Daytona 500

- **Dates:** February 15, 2026
- **Venue:** Daytona International Speedway, Daytona Beach, Florida
- **How to Reach:** Daytona Beach International Airport (DAB) or Orlando International Airport (MCO) with shuttle or car rental options.
- **Tickets:** [Buy Tickets Online](#)

Why Visit: The Daytona 500 is the crown jewel of NASCAR, bringing massive crowds and intense racing action. Beyond the race, fans enjoy concerts, fan zones, and beachside attractions, making it a thrilling travel event for motorsport lovers.

San Antonio Stock Show and Rodeo

- **Dates:** See full [events details](#)
- **Venue:** Freeman Coliseum, San Antonio, Texas
- **How to Reach:** San Antonio International Airport (SAT) serves the city with local transportation options.
- **Tickets:** [Buy Tickets Online](#)

Why Visit: This long-running rodeo and livestock show features rodeo competitions, concerts, carnival rides, and agricultural exhibits. It is a genuine Texas experience that appeals to families and western culture fans alike.

Tucson Gem and Mineral Show

- **Dates:** February 12 to 15, 2026
- **Venue:** Various locations, Tucson, Arizona

- **How to Reach:** Tucson International Airport (TUS) is nearby; rental cars and shuttles available.
- **Tickets:** *Tickets are available at the Tucson Convention Center*

Why Visit: The world's largest gem and mineral show attracts collectors, tourists, and science enthusiasts. With hundreds of exhibitors and educational events, it is a fascinating destination for unique souvenirs and discoveries.

Saranac Lake Winter Carnival

- **Dates:** February 6 to 15, 2026
- **Venue:** Saranac Lake, New York
- **How to Reach:** Adirondack Regional Airport (SLK) or Syracuse Hancock International Airport (SYR) with ground transportation.
- **Tickets:** [Tickets Details](#)

Why Visit: Famous for its ice palace, winter parades, and fun-filled events, this century-old carnival attracts winter sports enthusiasts and families looking for classic snowtime fun in the Adirondacks.

Whitefish Winter Carnival

- **Dates:** February 6 to 8, 2026
- **Venue:** Whitefish, Montana
- **How to Reach:** Glacier Park International Airport (FCA) serves Whitefish, with shuttle services to town.
- **Tickets:** [Get details on official website](#)

Why Visit: Known for its lively torchlight parade, ski races, and community celebrations, this festival brings the mountain town alive with winter spirit and outdoor adventure.

Tucson Rodeo

- **Dates:** Feb 21/22 & Feb 26 to Mar 1
- **Venue:** Tucson, Arizona
- **How to Reach:** Tucson International Airport (TUS) is the nearest airport with ground transport available.
- **Tickets:** [*Buy Tickets Online*](#)

Why Visit: One of the largest rodeos in the country, featuring traditional rodeo events, parades, and Western heritage showcases. It is a draw for fans of cowboy culture and family entertainment.

Disney Princess Half Marathon Weekend

- **Dates:** February 26 to March 2, 2026
- **Venue:** Walt Disney World Resort, Orlando, Florida
- **How to Reach:** Orlando International Airport (MCO) with shuttle and ride-share options to Disney resorts.
- **Tickets:** [*Buy Tickets Online*](#)

Why Visit: This popular runDisney event combines fitness, family fun, and Disney magic. Participants and spectators enjoy themed races, character meet-and-greets, and a festive atmosphere perfect for visitors of all ages.

San Diego Museum Month

- **Dates:** February 1 to 28, 2026
- **Venue:** Various museums, San Diego, California
- **How to Reach:** San Diego International Airport (SAN) with public transit and rental cars available.
- **Tickets:** [*Get Admission Details Here*](#)

Why Visit: This month-long event offers discounted admission to dozens of museums citywide, encouraging cultural exploration and family-friendly activities across San Diego's vibrant art and history scene.

Bottom Line

February 2026 is packed with a diverse lineup of events and festivals perfect for every type of traveler. From cultural parades and food festivals to thrilling sports and winter celebrations, the USA offers vibrant experiences to warm your winter months. Start planning now to secure tickets and accommodations for these popular events.

Download our FREE February 2026 Events & Festivals Guide to have all dates, venues, and insider travel tips at your fingertips!

Frequently Asked Questions

Which February event is best for families?

Disney Princess Half Marathon Weekend and the San Antonio Stock Show and Rodeo offer many family-friendly activities and entertainment options.

When is Mardi Gras in 2026?

Mardi Gras culminates on Fat Tuesday, which falls in early February 2026 (exact date depends on the lunar calendar).

Are these events suitable for solo travelers?

Absolutely! Many events like Palm Springs Modernism Week and the South Beach Wine and Food Festival attract solo travelers with vibrant social atmospheres.

How early should I book accommodations for these events?

Popular events like Mardi Gras and the Daytona 500 book out fast. It's recommended to secure lodging at least 3-6 months in advance.

Are there events suitable for winter sports lovers?

Yes. The Steamboat Winter Carnival, Anchorage Fur Rendezvous, and Whitefish Winter Carnival offer exciting winter activities.

Can I attend more than one event during February?

With proper planning, yes! Many events are spaced out, so travelers can enjoy multiple experiences across different states.