

Massachusetts State Fair 2026: Dates, Tickets & Travel Guide



The Massachusetts State Fair 2026, commonly associated with The Big E (Eastern States Exposition), returns to West Springfield from September 18 through October 4, 2026. The 17-day event combines agriculture, livestock, carnival rides, live entertainment, food, shopping, cultural attractions, and New England traditions.

Held at the Eastern States Exposition fairgrounds, The Big E is one of the largest fairs in the United States and attracts visitors from across New England and beyond. It is also unique because the fair represents all six New England states through its famous Avenue of States.

Massachusetts State Fair 2026 Dates & Location

These are the essential details to know before planning your visit.

- **Dates:** September 18-October 4, 2026
- **Venue:** Eastern States Exposition Fairgrounds
- **Address:** 1305 Memorial Avenue, West Springfield, Massachusetts
- **Tickets:** [Check Tickets](#)

The Big E runs for **17 days** in 2026. The official ticket page lists one-day admission tickets valid on any day of the fair, along with a 17-day value pass.

Is There a Massachusetts State Fair?

Massachusetts does not operate an event officially titled the "Massachusetts State Fair" in the same way some states have a formally named state fair.

For travelers searching for the **Massachusetts State Fair**, the event they are generally looking for is **The Big E**, formally known as the **Eastern States Exposition**.

The Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources operates the Massachusetts State Exposition Building at The Big E, where Massachusetts agriculture, commerce, culture, and tourism are showcased during the fair.

This distinction is useful when searching for tickets, schedules, directions, and official event information.

What Is The Big E?

The Big E is an annual agricultural and cultural fair held in West Springfield, Massachusetts.

The event brings together the six New England states: Massachusetts, Connecticut, Maine, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont. Each state has its own

building along the **Avenue of States**, where visitors can learn about local products, culture, tourism, food, and traditions.

The fair also features agriculture, livestock, carnival rides, live music, food vendors, shopping, museums, parades, and educational attractions. The Eastern States Exposition describes The Big E as the largest event on the East Coast and the fourth-largest fair in North America.

What to Expect at the Massachusetts State Fair 2026

The Big E offers much more than a traditional carnival midway.

Avenue of States

The **Avenue of States** is one of the most distinctive attractions at The Big E.

Visitors can walk through buildings representing the six New England states and explore regional food, products, tourism information, exhibits, and cultural displays.

It is one of the best reasons to visit The Big E if you want to experience several New England destinations in one place.

Agriculture and Livestock

Agriculture remains an important part of the fair. Visitors can see livestock, agricultural exhibits, educational displays, horse events, and demonstrations that highlight the farming traditions of New England.

The Massachusetts State Exposition Building specifically showcases Massachusetts agriculture, commerce, culture, and tourism.

Carnival Rides

The North American Midway provides the classic fair experience with carnival rides, games, and attractions.

Families can choose from rides for younger children, while thrill-seekers can find larger rides and attractions.

Visitors should check current ride pricing separately from general admission when planning their budget.

The Big Parade

The **Big Parade** is one of the fair's signature traditions. The 2026 parade is scheduled throughout the fair and features marching bands, performers, floats, agricultural representatives, community organizations, and cultural groups.

The parade gives visitors a chance to see the fairgrounds come alive with music, costumes, and performances.

Live Music

Live entertainment is a major part of The Big E experience. The 2026 concert lineup includes performers such as Jessie Murph, Alice Cooper, Roger Daltrey, The Beach Boys, Brad Paisley, deadmau5, All Time Low, Ice Cube, Styx, and other artists scheduled throughout the fair.

Concert schedules can change, so check the official entertainment calendar before planning your visit around a specific performer.

Fair Food

Food is one of the biggest attractions at The Big E. Visitors can find classic fair favorites alongside New England specialties and regional dishes.

Some of the event's best-known food experiences include the famous **Big E Cream Puff** and the **Big E Baked Potato**, along with carnival favorites, seafood, barbecue, desserts, and international foods.

Storowton Village Museum

Visitors interested in history can explore **Storowton Village Museum**, an attraction within the fairgrounds featuring historic New England buildings and exhibits. It provides a quieter alternative to the midway and entertainment areas.

Farm-A-Rama

Farm-A-Rama provides an educational look at farming and agriculture. Families can learn about animals, crops, farming practices, and the role agriculture continues to play throughout New England.

Best Time to Visit The Big E

The best time to visit depends on what you want to experience.

For Smaller Crowds

Weekdays can be a good option for travelers who want more time to explore attractions without the largest weekend crowds.

For Families

Arriving earlier in the day gives families more time to visit Farm-A-Rama, livestock exhibits, the Avenue of States, museums, and family attractions before spending time on the midway.

For Concerts

Choose your visit based on the official 2026 concert schedule if live music is a priority.

Several major performances are scheduled throughout the fair, including Jessie Murph on opening day and Alice Cooper on September 19.

For the Full Fair Experience

A weekend visit allows you to experience more of the midway, entertainment, food, shopping, parades, and agricultural attractions.

Travel Tips for Visiting the Massachusetts State Fair

Use these tips to make your Big E trip easier.

- **Buy tickets in advance:** Check the official website for current admission prices and promotions.
 - **Plan your day:** The fairgrounds are large, so identify your must-see attractions before arriving.
 - **Wear comfortable shoes:** Expect plenty of walking.
 - **Arrive early:** This gives you more time for agriculture exhibits and popular attractions.
 - **Check the concert schedule:** Some performances can affect crowd levels.
 - **Allow time for the Avenue of States:** It is one of the fair's most distinctive attractions.
 - **Try regional food:** Explore beyond traditional carnival food to discover New England specialties.
 - **Plan for changing September weather:** Bring layers and check the forecast before leaving.
 - **Consider a weekday visit:** Weekdays can provide a more relaxed experience.
 - **Use the official fair map:** The grounds are extensive, so a map can help you navigate between attractions.
 - **Plan your parking:** The fairgrounds have multiple entrances and parking areas, so check current parking information before traveling.
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Things to Do Near the Massachusetts State Fair

A trip to The Big E can easily become a Western Massachusetts getaway.

Explore Springfield

Springfield is located just minutes from the fairgrounds and offers museums, restaurants, parks, and family attractions.

Visit the Springfield Museums

The Springfield Museums complex includes several museums covering art, science, history, and regional culture.

See the Amazing World of Dr. Seuss Museum

Families can visit the **Amazing World of Dr. Seuss Museum**, which celebrates the Springfield-born children's author and his famous characters.

Visit the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame

Basketball fans can visit the **Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame** along the Connecticut River in Springfield.

Explore Western Massachusetts

Travelers with extra time can explore the Pioneer Valley, Connecticut River Valley, historic towns, scenic drives, hiking trails, and cultural attractions throughout Western Massachusetts.

Where to Stay for the Massachusetts State Fair

West Springfield and Springfield are the most convenient areas for visitors attending The Big E.

Staying near the fairgrounds can reduce driving time and make it easier to return to the fair after taking a break.

Travelers can also consider hotels in nearby communities such as Chicopee, Holyoke, or East Longmeadow depending on availability and their wider itinerary.

Because The Big E attracts a large number of visitors, booking accommodation early is a good idea for popular weekends.

Is the Massachusetts State Fair Worth Visiting?

If you are searching for a traditional **Massachusetts State Fair**, The Big E is one of the strongest choices in the state.

Its biggest advantage is the variety of experiences available in one location. Visitors can explore six New England state buildings, agricultural exhibits, livestock, carnival rides, live concerts, parades, museums, shopping, and some of the region's most recognizable fair foods.

The fair is also easy to combine with a Western Massachusetts trip, making it a good option for travelers who want more than a single-day event.

Conclusion

The **Massachusetts State Fair 2026**, commonly searched for as the Massachusetts State Fair but officially known as **The Big E**, takes place from **September 18 through October 4, 2026**, in West Springfield.

With agriculture, livestock, carnival rides, live music, the Avenue of States, the Big Parade, regional food, museums, and attractions, The Big E offers a distinctly New England fair experience.

Frequently Asked Questions

When is the Massachusetts State Fair 2026?

The event commonly referred to as the Massachusetts State Fair takes place at **The Big E from September 18 through October 4, 2026**, in West Springfield, Massachusetts.

Where is the Massachusetts State Fair held?

The Big E is held at the **Eastern States Exposition fairgrounds at 1305 Memorial Avenue, West Springfield, Massachusetts.**

Is The Big E the Massachusetts State Fair?

The Big E is not officially named the Massachusetts State Fair. It is the **Eastern States Exposition**, a major agricultural fair in Massachusetts that features all six New England states. Massachusetts state sources identify it as the region's largest agricultural fair.

How much are tickets to The Big E 2026?

The official 2026 ticket page lists advance-discount one-day admission at **\$17.50 for adults and \$11.50 for children ages 6–12**, while children age 5 and under are free. A 17-day adult value pass is listed at \$71.50.

What is The Big E known for?

The Big E is known for the **Avenue of States, agriculture and livestock, carnival rides, live concerts, the Big Parade, fair food, shopping, Storowton Village Museum, and Farm-A-Rama.**

What can I do near The Big E?

Visitors can explore **Springfield, the Springfield Museums, the Amazing World of Dr. Seuss Museum, the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame, and other attractions throughout Western Massachusetts.**