

Michigan State Fair 2026: Dates, Tickets & Travel Guide



The **Michigan State Fair 2026** returns to Novi over Labor Day weekend from **September 3 through September 7, 2026**. The fair combines Michigan agriculture and livestock with carnival rides, live entertainment, fair food, competitions, monster truck shows, and family attractions.

Held at the **Vibe Credit Union Showplace**, the modern Michigan State Fair continues the tradition of the original Michigan State Fair while operating as a privately produced event. The current fair was relaunched in Novi in 2013 after the original state-run fair was discontinued in Detroit in 2009.

What Is the Michigan State Fair?

The Michigan State Fair is an annual celebration of Michigan agriculture, livestock, business, entertainment, and family traditions.

The current fair is privately produced by Michigan State Fair, LLC. It was created to preserve the traditions of the historic Michigan State Fair while supporting Michigan agriculture, small businesses, local products, and family entertainment.

The original Michigan State Fair began in **1849** and eventually moved to the historic fairgrounds at Woodward Avenue and Eight Mile Road in Detroit. The original event was discontinued in 2009. The modern Michigan State Fair returned as a private event in Novi in 2013.

Michigan State Fair 2026 Dates & Location

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

- **Dates:** September 3-7, 2026
- **Venue:** Vibe Credit Union Showplace
- **Address:** 46100 Grand River Avenue, Novi, Michigan
- **Tickets:** [Check Tickets](#)

The fair takes place during **Labor Day weekend**, making it a convenient option for a long-weekend trip in southeast Michigan.

The fairgrounds are located between Novi Road and Beck Road and can be reached from I-96 using the Novi or Beck Road exits.

What to Expect at the Michigan State Fair 2026

The 2026 fair offers a mix of traditional state-fair attractions and larger entertainment experiences.

Agriculture and Livestock

Agriculture remains one of the most important parts of the Michigan State Fair. Visitors can explore agricultural exhibits, livestock shows, home arts displays, contests, and other activities highlighting Michigan's farming traditions.

The fair's admission includes access to agriculture, livestock, and home arts shows, making these areas a good choice for visitors who want to experience the educational side of the fair.

Carnival Rides and Midway

The carnival midway brings classic fair entertainment to Novi. Visitors can enjoy rides, games, and attractions provided by **Arnold Amusements**, including options for children and larger rides for thrill-seekers.

Carnival rides are included with the Ultimate Admission but are not included with basic fair admission. Individual ride tickets may also be available.

Full Throttle Monster Truck Shows

The **Full Throttle Monster Truck Shows** are one of the major attractions at the 2026 Michigan State Fair.

Visitors who purchase Ultimate Admission receive access to the monster truck shows along with unlimited carnival rides.

If motorsports are a priority, check the daily schedule before visiting because show times can vary.

Demolition Derby

The fair also features a **Demolition Derby** as a special event. The 2026 ticket information lists the Saturday-only Demolition Derby at **6 PM**, with an additional \$15 charge when added to Fair Admission or Ultimate Admission.

This makes Saturday a particularly interesting day for visitors looking for high-energy entertainment.

Live Music and Entertainment

Live entertainment is another part of the Michigan State Fair experience. The Entertainment Pavilion features a Main Stage with music along with a Community & Cultural Stage. The fair also lists comedy, specialty performances, and other entertainment throughout the grounds.

The exact entertainment schedule can change, so check the official schedule before planning your visit around a particular performer.

Family Attractions

Families can find several attractions beyond the midway. The 2026 admission information includes access to attractions such as the **Rock-N-Roll K-9's Dog Show, Sea Lions Show, Steamers Acrobatic Show, Racing Pigs, LEGO Display, and Lachance Comedy Magic Show.**

These attractions provide alternatives for visitors who want a break from carnival rides.

Home Arts and Competitions

The fair also celebrates Michigan's community traditions through home arts and competitions.

Visitors can explore displays and contests connected to agriculture, cooking, crafts, and other skills. Contest Central is included with regular fair admission.

Fair Food

Fair food is an important part of the Michigan State Fair experience. Visitors can expect classic carnival favorites, snacks, desserts, drinks, and other fair foods throughout the grounds.

The fair's 2026 admission information specifically includes fair food as part of the overall fair experience, although food purchases are separate from admission.

Michigan State Fair Hours

The 2026 fair runs from Thursday, September 3 through Monday, September 7. Daily hours can vary, so visitors should check the official schedule before traveling.

The fair's vendor information currently lists:

- **Thursday, September 3:** 11 AM-8 PM
- **Friday, September 4:** 11 AM-8 PM
- **Saturday, September 5:** Check official schedule
- **Sunday, September 6:** Check official schedule
- **Monday, September 7:** Check official schedule

Because individual attractions and entertainment may have different operating times, it is best to check the daily schedule for the specific day you plan to visit.

Best Time to Visit the Michigan State Fair

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

For a More Relaxed Visit

Thursday can be a good option for travelers who want to experience the fair earlier in the Labor Day weekend.

For Families

Arriving earlier in the day gives families more time to explore livestock, agriculture, home arts, specialty shows, and the midway.

For Motorsports Fans

Saturday is particularly attractive for visitors interested in the **Demolition Derby** and other high-energy attractions.

For the Full Labor Day Weekend Experience

The holiday weekend brings the full combination of carnival rides, entertainment, food, agriculture, livestock, and special events.

Travel Tips for Attending the Michigan State Fair

A little planning can make your visit easier.

- **Buy tickets in advance:** Check the official ticket page for current prices.
 - **Choose the right ticket:** Basic admission does not include carnival rides or monster truck shows.
 - **Consider Ultimate Admission:** It can be useful if you plan to spend significant time on the midway.
 - **Check the daily schedule:** Entertainment, competitions, and specialty attractions can vary.
 - **Arrive early:** This gives you more time to explore agriculture and livestock exhibits.
 - **Wear comfortable shoes:** Expect plenty of walking.
 - **Plan around the Demolition Derby:** The Saturday evening event requires an additional ticket.
 - **Check the weather:** Early September in Michigan can bring warm afternoons and cooler evenings.
 - **Bring a light layer:** Evening temperatures can be cooler than during the afternoon.
 - **Allow time for parking:** Parking is available at no charge on a first-come, first-served basis.
 - **Plan transportation:** The fairgrounds are conveniently located near I-96.
 - **Check the minor policy:** The current ticket policy states that unaccompanied minors under 18 are not permitted to enter the fair.
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Parking at the Michigan State Fair

Parking is available at the Vibe Credit Union Showplace. The official Michigan State Fair parking information states that enhanced parking options are available on a **first-come, first-served basis at no charge**.

Parking attendants direct visitors to available spaces when entering the parking area. Visitors should follow posted parking rules and avoid restricted areas, fire lanes, marked exits, and other prohibited parking locations.

Things to Do Near the Michigan State Fair

Novi is well positioned for exploring southeast Michigan beyond the fairgrounds.

Explore Downtown Novi

Downtown Novi and the surrounding area offer restaurants, shopping, parks, and family-friendly attractions. It is an easy way to add local dining and shopping to a Michigan State Fair trip.

Visit Twelve Oaks Mall

Twelve Oaks Mall is one of the area's major shopping destinations and provides an indoor option if the weather is hot or rainy.

Explore Detroit

Visitors with additional time can drive to Detroit to explore museums, sports venues, historic neighborhoods, restaurants, and waterfront attractions.

Visit the Henry Ford

The **Henry Ford** in nearby Dearborn is one of Michigan's major cultural attractions, featuring American history, innovation, transportation, and historic collections.

Explore Greenfield Village

Located next to The Henry Ford, **Greenfield Village** offers historic buildings, demonstrations, and outdoor experiences that can complement a Michigan travel itinerary.

Where to Stay for the Michigan State Fair

Novi is the most convenient place to stay for visitors attending the fair. The area offers hotels near the Vibe Credit Union Showplace, along with restaurants and shopping.

Travelers can also consider accommodations in nearby communities such as **Northville, Farmington Hills, Livonia, or Plymouth** depending on their itinerary.

If you are visiting during Labor Day weekend, booking your hotel early is recommended because the holiday can increase demand across southeast Michigan.

Is the Michigan State Fair Worth Visiting?

The **Michigan State Fair 2026** is a good choice for travelers who want a traditional state fair experience combined with modern entertainment.

Agriculture and livestock remain central to the event, while the carnival midway, monster truck shows, demolition derby, live entertainment, specialty performances, food, and shopping give visitors plenty of reasons to spend a full day at the fair.

The Novi location also makes the fair easy to combine with other southeast Michigan attractions, including Detroit, Dearborn, and the surrounding communities.

Conclusion

The **Michigan State Fair 2026** takes place from **September 3 through September 7** at the Vibe Credit Union Showplace in Novi, Michigan.

The Labor Day weekend event combines Michigan agriculture and livestock with carnival rides, live entertainment, specialty shows, fair food, competitions, monster trucks, and a demolition derby.

For the best experience, check the official schedule and ticket information before your visit, especially if you want to attend a specific show or special event.

Frequently Asked Questions

When is the Michigan State Fair 2026?

The **Michigan State Fair 2026** takes place from **September 3 through September 7, 2026**, over Labor Day weekend in Novi, Michigan.

Where is the Michigan State Fair held?

The fair is held at the **Vibe Credit Union Showplace at 46100 Grand River Avenue in Novi, Michigan**.

How much are Michigan State Fair tickets?

The official 2026 ticket page currently lists **Fair Admission at \$11** and **Ultimate Admission at \$43**. Ultimate Admission includes fair entry, unlimited carnival rides, and access to the Full Throttle Monster Truck Shows.

What is included with Michigan State Fair admission?

Basic Fair Admission includes access to agriculture, livestock, home arts, vendor shopping, Contest Central, entertainment, specialty shows, and fair food areas. Carnival rides and the Full Throttle Monster Truck Shows require Ultimate Admission or separate arrangements.

Is the Michigan State Fair family-friendly?

Yes. Families can enjoy carnival rides, livestock exhibits, agricultural activities, specialty shows, entertainment, racing pigs, a LEGO display, dog shows, and other attractions. Visitors under 18 must follow the fair's current minor admission policy.

What can I do near the Michigan State Fair?

Visitors can explore **Novi, Twelve Oaks Mall, Detroit, The Henry Ford, Greenfield Village, restaurants, shopping areas, and other attractions throughout southeast Michigan.**