

Mississippi State Fair 2026: Dates, Tickets & Travel Guide



The **Mississippi State Fair 2026** returns to Jackson from **October 8 through October 18, 2026**. The annual fair brings together Mississippi agriculture, live entertainment, fair food, shopping, and family activities, making it one of the most awaited [*events in the United States*](#).

Located near downtown Jackson, the fairgrounds cover more than 105 acres and include livestock barns, an equine center, the Mississippi Coliseum, the Mississippi Trade Mart, and other facilities used throughout the fair.

Mississippi State Fair 2026 Dates & Location

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

- **Dates:** October 8-18, 2026

- **Venue:** Mississippi Fairgrounds
- **Address:** 1207 Mississippi St, Jackson, MS 39202
- **Tickets:** [Check Tickets](#)

The 2026 Mississippi State Fair runs for **11 days** in Jackson. The official fair website is currently promoting 2026 tickets and events.

What Is the Mississippi State Fair?

The Mississippi State Fair is an annual celebration of Mississippi agriculture, livestock, entertainment, food, and community traditions.

Agriculture remains an important part of the event, while the fair also offers a large midway, live entertainment, specialty events, shopping, food vendors, and activities for families.

The fairgrounds themselves include numerous livestock facilities, horse facilities, arenas, and exhibition spaces, reflecting the agricultural focus of the event.

What to Expect at the Mississippi State Fair 2026

The 2026 fair combines traditional agricultural exhibits with classic carnival entertainment and special events.

Agriculture and Livestock

Agriculture is one of the defining parts of the Mississippi State Fair. The fairgrounds include multiple livestock barns, judging areas, sales arenas, horse facilities, and riding arenas used for livestock competitions and equine events.

Visitors interested in Mississippi farming traditions can spend time exploring the agricultural and livestock areas alongside the fair's other attractions.

Carnival Rides and Midway

The midway provides the classic state fair experience with carnival rides, games, lights, and attractions.

Families can find rides suitable for younger visitors, while larger attractions appeal to thrill-seekers.

Ride wristbands and carnival pricing are separate from general fair admission, so check the official ticket information before planning your budget.

Live Entertainment

Live entertainment is a major part of the Mississippi State Fair. The Mississippi Coliseum provides an indoor venue for concerts and other large events, while other entertainment takes place throughout the fairgrounds.

The official 2026 site is already listing concert and event ticket information, so visitors should check the schedule before choosing their fair date.

Special Events

The fair also hosts special events and performances throughout its 11-day run. For example, the official Jackson events calendar currently lists **Flo Rida at the Mississippi State Fair on October 15, 2026**.

Because the entertainment lineup can change, check the official schedule for the latest performers, show times, and ticket requirements.

Fair Food

Food is an important part of the Mississippi State Fair experience. Visitors can expect classic carnival favorites, Southern-inspired dishes, snacks, desserts, drinks, and other fair foods from vendors throughout the grounds.

If food is one of your priorities, allow time to explore different vendor areas rather than stopping at the first stand you see.

Shopping and Vendors

The fair also includes indoor and outdoor vendors selling products, crafts, merchandise, food, services, and other goods.

The Mississippi Trade Mart provides a large exhibition space for vendors and exhibitors during fair-related activities.

Mississippi State Fair Hours

Daily operating hours can vary throughout the fair. Because individual attractions, livestock events, concerts, and entertainment can have different schedules, check the official daily schedule before visiting.

This is especially important if you are traveling to Jackson for a particular concert, livestock show, or special event.

Best Time to Visit the Mississippi State Fair

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

For a More Relaxed Visit

A weekday visit can be a good choice for travelers who want more time to explore the fairgrounds without the busiest weekend crowds.

For Families

Arriving earlier in the day gives families more time to explore agricultural exhibits, livestock areas, vendors, and attractions before spending time on the midway.

For Live Entertainment

Plan your visit around the official concert and event schedule if music is a major reason for your trip.

For the Full Fair Experience

Friday and weekend visits can provide a lively atmosphere with more people, entertainment, carnival activity, and food vendors.

Travel Tips for Attending the Mississippi State Fair

A little preparation can make your visit easier.

- **Check the official 2026 ticket information:** Do not rely on previous years' admission prices.
 - **Check the event schedule:** Concerts, livestock events, and special attractions vary by day.
 - **Wear comfortable shoes:** The fairgrounds cover a large area.
 - **Arrive early:** This gives you more time to explore agriculture and livestock exhibits.
 - **Plan for warm weather:** October in Jackson can still bring warm afternoons.
 - **Stay hydrated:** Carry water where permitted and take breaks during warmer parts of the day.
 - **Bring a light layer:** October evenings can be more comfortable than afternoons.
 - **Plan your parking:** Official fairgrounds parking is available on approved fairgrounds property, with current policies subject to change.
 - **Check the bag policy:** The fair's published security rules have included restrictions on bag size and clear-bag requirements, so check the current policy before arriving.
 - **Leave pets at home:** The fair's published policy does not allow pets, except for permitted service animals.
 - **Check minor policies:** Fair security rules can include special requirements for guests under 18 during certain hours.
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Parking at the Mississippi State Fair

The Mississippi State Fair is held at the Mississippi Fairgrounds in central Jackson.

The official fair FAQ states that parking is available **free of charge on approved Mississippi State Fairgrounds property**, although parking rules and availability can change.

Visitors should follow signs and directions from parking attendants and avoid restricted areas.

Things to Do Near the Mississippi State Fair

The fairgrounds are close to downtown Jackson, making it easy to combine a fair visit with other Mississippi attractions.

Explore Downtown Jackson

Jackson offers museums, restaurants, historic sites, cultural attractions, and local shops.

The Mississippi Fairgrounds are integrated into the city, making downtown attractions convenient additions to a fair weekend.

Visit the Mississippi Civil Rights Museum

The **Mississippi Civil Rights Museum** is one of Jackson's most important cultural attractions and provides visitors with a deeper understanding of the state's civil rights history.

Explore the Mississippi Museum of Art

Art lovers can visit the **Mississippi Museum of Art** in downtown Jackson, which features exhibitions and collections focused on Mississippi and broader American art.

Visit the Mississippi State Capitol

The **Mississippi State Capitol** is another notable Jackson landmark and can be included in a downtown sightseeing itinerary.

Explore Jackson's Food Scene

Visitors can use a fair trip as an opportunity to experience Jackson's Southern food scene, including barbecue, soul food, Mississippi seafood, and other regional dishes.

Where to Stay for the Mississippi State Fair

Jackson is the most convenient base for visitors attending the Mississippi State Fair.

Staying near downtown keeps you close to the fairgrounds as well as museums, restaurants, and other attractions.

Travelers can also consider hotels in nearby areas depending on their itinerary and transportation plans.

If you are visiting during a busy fair weekend or planning around a major concert, booking your accommodation early is a good idea.

Is the Mississippi State Fair Worth Visiting?

The **Mississippi State Fair 2026** is a good choice for travelers who enjoy traditional American state fairs with a strong Southern and agricultural identity.

The event combines livestock and agriculture with carnival rides, live entertainment, fair food, shopping, and special events.

Its location in Jackson is another advantage. You can visit the fair during the day and explore Mississippi's capital city, museums, restaurants, and cultural attractions during the rest of your trip.

Conclusion

The **Mississippi State Fair 2026** takes place from **October 8 through October 18, 2026**, at the Mississippi Fairgrounds in Jackson.

From livestock and agricultural exhibits to carnival rides, fair food, concerts, shopping, and special events, the fair offers plenty of experience over its 11-day run.

Frequently Asked Questions

When is the Mississippi State Fair 2026?

The **Mississippi State Fair 2026** takes place from **October 8 through October 18, 2026**, in Jackson, Mississippi.

Where is the Mississippi State Fair held?

The fair is held at the **Mississippi Fairgrounds at 1207 Mississippi St, Jackson, MS 39202**.

How long does the Mississippi State Fair last?

The 2026 Mississippi State Fair runs for **11 days**, from October 8 through October 18.

What is the Mississippi State Fair known for?

The fair is known for **agriculture, livestock shows, carnival rides, live entertainment, fair food, shopping, competitions, and family activities**. The fairgrounds include extensive livestock and equine facilities.

Is the Mississippi State Fair family-friendly?

Yes. Families can enjoy carnival rides, agricultural exhibits, livestock, entertainment, food, shopping, and other attractions. Visitors should check the current minor-admission and security policies before attending.

What can I do near the Mississippi State Fair?

Visitors can explore **downtown Jackson, the Mississippi Civil Rights Museum, Mississippi Museum of Art, Mississippi State Capitol, local restaurants, and other cultural attractions** during their fair trip.