

Vermont State Fair 2026: Dates, Tickets & Rutland Travel Guide



The **Vermont State Fair 2026** takes place August 18-22 at the Vermont State Fairgrounds in Rutland. The five-day event brings together carnival rides, agricultural exhibits, livestock, live entertainment, fair food, competitions, and family activities.

For travelers, the fair is also an opportunity to explore Rutland and the surrounding Green Mountains. Visitors can combine their fair experience with scenic drives, outdoor recreation, historic attractions, local restaurants, and other Vermont destinations.

What Is the Vermont State Fair?

The Vermont State Fair is an annual celebration of Vermont agriculture, community traditions, entertainment, and family recreation.

The fairgrounds come alive with carnival attractions, livestock exhibits, agricultural displays, food vendors, competitions, and entertainment. Its location in Rutland also makes the event convenient for travelers exploring central Vermont.

The fair offers a more traditional New England state-fair atmosphere, making it a good choice for visitors interested in local agriculture and Vermont's rural heritage as well as classic fair entertainment.

Key Details of the Vermont State Fair 2026

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

- **Dates:** August 18-22, 2026
- **Venue:** Vermont State Fairgrounds, Rutland, Vermont
- **Tickets:** [Check Tickets](#)

How to Get to the Vermont State Fair

The Vermont State Fairgrounds are located in Rutland, making the event accessible by car from communities across Vermont and neighboring New England states.

By Car

Rutland is connected to major regional roads, making driving the most convenient option for many visitors. Travelers coming from Burlington, Montpelier, Albany, or other nearby cities can plan a road trip through Vermont.

From Burlington

Visitors traveling from Burlington can drive south through central Vermont toward Rutland.

From Albany

Rutland is also accessible from Albany, New York, making the fair a possible weekend destination for travelers from the Capital Region.

By Air

Rutland–Southern Vermont Regional Airport provides the closest commercial airport option. Travelers can also consider larger airports in Vermont and neighboring states depending on flight availability.

What to Expect at the Vermont State Fair 2026

The Vermont State Fair combines classic carnival entertainment with agriculture, livestock, food, competitions, and community traditions.

Carnival Rides and Midway Attractions

The midway is a major attraction for visitors of all ages. Families can enjoy kid-friendly rides and games, while thrill-seekers can choose from larger carnival attractions.

Evening visits can be particularly enjoyable when the midway lights up and the fair takes on a lively atmosphere.

Agriculture and Livestock Exhibits

Agriculture is an important part of the Vermont State Fair experience. Visitors can see livestock, agricultural displays, competitions, and exhibits that highlight Vermont's farming traditions.

These exhibits also give families an opportunity to learn more about where food comes from and how agriculture contributes to the state's economy and culture.

Live Entertainment

Entertainment is spread throughout the fairgrounds during the five-day event. Visitors should check the official 2026 schedule for concerts, performances, competitions, and special events.

If a particular performance is the main reason for your visit, plan your fair date around the published schedule.

Fair Food

Classic fair food is an important part of the experience. Visitors can expect carnival favorites such as burgers, fries, corn dogs, fried treats, funnel cakes, lemonade, ice cream, and other snacks.

Vermont's local food culture also makes the region interesting for travelers who want to explore restaurants and farm-to-table options outside the fairgrounds.

Family Activities

Families can enjoy rides, games, agricultural exhibits, animal displays, entertainment, competitions, and other activities throughout the fairgrounds.

Parents traveling with younger children may find that visiting earlier in the day provides a more comfortable pace.

Best Time to Visit the Vermont State Fair 2026

The best time to visit depends on your preferred atmosphere and activities.

Weekday Visits

Tuesday through Thursday can be a good choice for travelers who want more time to explore exhibits and attractions without the busiest weekend crowds.

Evening Visits

Evenings are ideal for visitors who enjoy carnival lights, entertainment, food, and a livelier fair atmosphere.

Morning Visits

Morning visits can work well for families with young children and travelers interested in agriculture and livestock exhibits.

Friday and Saturday

The final two days of the fair can have a particularly energetic atmosphere, with more visitors and major entertainment taking place.

Things to Do Near Rutland During the Fair

Rutland makes a convenient base for exploring central Vermont beyond the fairgrounds.

Explore Downtown Rutland

Downtown Rutland offers restaurants, cafes, local shops, galleries, historic buildings, and community attractions.

Explore the Green Mountains

The Green Mountains surround the region and provide opportunities for hiking, scenic drives, photography, and outdoor recreation.

Visit Killington

Killington is a popular four-season destination located near Rutland. During summer, visitors can enjoy hiking, mountain activities, scenic views, and outdoor recreation.

Visit Nearby State Parks

Central Vermont has several state parks and outdoor areas where visitors can enjoy hiking, swimming, picnicking, and nature.

Take a Scenic Vermont Drive

A road trip through central Vermont is an excellent way to experience covered bridges, mountain scenery, small towns, forests, and rural landscapes.

Explore Vermont's Local Food Scene

Travelers can extend their fair trip with Vermont cheese, maple products, farm-to-table restaurants, craft beverages, and locally produced foods.

Travel Tips for Visiting the Vermont State Fair

These practical tips can help you plan a smoother visit.

- **Check the official schedule before arriving:** Entertainment and special events can vary by day.
- **Buy tickets in advance when available:** Advance purchases can save time at the entrance.
- **Wear comfortable shoes:** Expect plenty of walking around the fairgrounds.
- **Arrive early:** Morning arrivals are useful for families and visitors interested in agricultural exhibits.
- **Plan your parking:** Traffic can increase around the fairgrounds during busy periods.
- **Bring sun protection:** August afternoons can be warm.
- **Prepare for changing weather:** Vermont weather can change quickly, so a light layer or rain jacket can be useful.
- **Stay hydrated:** Bring water or plan regular stops at beverage vendors.
- **Book accommodations early:** Rutland and nearby destinations can become busy during major summer events.
- **Extend your trip:** Add Green Mountain attractions, scenic drives, hiking, or nearby towns to create a longer Vermont vacation.

Is the Vermont State Fair Worth Visiting?

The **Vermont State Fair** is worth considering for travelers who enjoy traditional state fairs and want to experience Vermont's agricultural heritage alongside carnival entertainment and family activities.

The five-day event offers a manageable alternative to some of the country's much larger state fairs. Visitors can explore agriculture, livestock, food, entertainment, rides, and community traditions without needing several days to cover the entire fair.

Its Rutland location is another advantage. Travelers can combine the fair with a Vermont getaway featuring mountains, outdoor recreation, scenic drives, historic towns, and local food.

Conclusion

The Vermont State Fair 2026 takes place August 18-22 at the Vermont State Fairgrounds in Rutland. The event combines agriculture, livestock, carnival rides, entertainment, fair food, competitions, and family activities in a traditional Vermont setting.

If you are traveling to the fair from outside Rutland, consider adding extra time to explore the Green Mountains and central Vermont. A visit to the fair can easily become part of a broader summer Vermont itinerary.

Frequently Asked Questions

When is the Vermont State Fair 2026?

The **Vermont State Fair 2026** takes place from **August 18-22, 2026**, in Rutland, Vermont.

Where is the Vermont State Fair held?

The fair is held at the **Vermont State Fairgrounds in Rutland, Vermont**.

How long does the Vermont State Fair last?

The 2026 Vermont State Fair runs for **five days**, from August 18 through August 22.

What is the Vermont State Fair known for?

The fair is known for **agriculture, livestock, carnival rides, live entertainment, fair food, competitions, and family activities**.

Is the Vermont State Fair family-friendly?

Yes. Families can enjoy carnival rides, games, livestock exhibits, agricultural activities, food vendors, entertainment, and other attractions.

What can I do near the Vermont State Fair?

Visitors can explore downtown Rutland, the Green Mountains, Killington, nearby state parks, scenic drives, hiking trails, and Vermont's local food scene.