

Washington State Fair 2026: Dates, Concerts & Travel Guide



The **Washington State Fair 2026** returns to Puyallup from **September 4 through September 27, 2026**, bringing 20 days of rides, concerts, farm animals, fair food, competitions, agriculture, and family entertainment to the Pacific Northwest.

Often called “**The Puyallup Fair**,” the event is one of the largest and most popular state fairs in the United States. For generations, families from across Washington have gathered each September to enjoy favorite traditions, from warm Fisher Scones and carnival rides to livestock exhibits and blue-ribbon competitions.

The 2026 fair offers plenty for first-time visitors and returning families alike. You can explore Washington agriculture, meet farm animals, enjoy free entertainment, experience the busy midway, attend a major concert, or simply spend the day eating your way through the fairgrounds.

Whether you are visiting from Seattle, Tacoma, another part of Washington, or traveling from farther away, the **Washington State Fair 2026** is one of the Pacific Northwest's biggest annual events.

Washington State Fair 2026 Dates & Location

Here are the essential details for planning your visit.

Dates: September 4-27, 2026

Venue: Washington State Fair Event Center

Location: Puyallup, Washington

Tickets: Check Tickets

The fair runs across nearly four weeks, but it is **closed every Tuesday and also closed on September 9**.

This gives visitors **20 open fair days** to experience one of Washington's biggest annual traditions.

The fairgrounds are located in Puyallup, between Seattle and Tacoma, making the event easy to reach from much of western Washington.

What Is the Washington State Fair?

The Washington State Fair is an annual celebration of **Washington agriculture, food, animals, entertainment, creativity, and community traditions**.

The fair has been bringing communities together for more than a century and remains closely connected to the state's agricultural heritage.

Visitors can see cattle, horses, goats, sheep, poultry, rabbits, and other animals while learning about the farmers, ranchers, and young exhibitors behind Washington's agricultural industry.

At the same time, the fair has become a major entertainment destination.

Thrill rides, live concerts, family shows, food vendors, shopping, creative arts, and competitions all make the Washington State Fair much more than a traditional agricultural exhibition.

This combination is what makes **“Doin’ the Puyallup”** a beloved September tradition for many Washington families.

What to Expect at the Washington State Fair 2026

The Washington State Fairgrounds are large, with attractions spread across outdoor areas, barns, exhibit halls, entertainment stages, and the midway.

Washington Agriculture and Farm Exhibits

Agriculture remains one of the most important parts of the Washington State Fair.

The **Our Food, Our Farms, Our Washington** exhibit gives visitors an interactive look at the people, products, innovation, and science behind the state's agricultural industry.

The expanded 2026 experience places more emphasis on Washington's diverse agricultural industries, including a special focus on timber.

Visitors can learn more about how food is produced and discover the farmers, ranchers, producers, and technologies that help keep Washington growing.

For travelers interested in local culture, this is one of the best ways to understand an important part of the state beyond its cities and famous natural landscapes.

Meet the Animals

The animal barns are among the most popular attractions at the fair.

Visitors can see a wide variety of animals throughout the 20 open fair days, including:

- Dairy and beef cattle
- Goats
- Sheep

- Swine
- Horses
- Rabbits
- Poultry
- Llamas
- Dogs
- Pigeons and other birds

Different animal shows and competitions take place throughout the fair, so check the official schedule if you are interested in seeing a specific breed or event.

The animal areas are particularly popular with families and give children an opportunity to learn more about farm life and animal care.

The Cattle Birthing Exhibit

One of the most memorable agricultural experiences is the **Cattle Birthing Exhibit**.

Visitors can learn about animal care and cattle husbandry and may have the opportunity to see a calf born during their visit.

The exhibit is both educational and unique, offering an experience that you will not find at a typical carnival or city festival.

Creative Arts and Competitions

Competitions are a major part of the Washington State Fair tradition.

Visitors can explore displays featuring:

- Fine art
- Photography
- Quilts
- Crafts
- Culinary creations
- Baked goods
- Preserves

- Flowers
- Crops
- Agricultural exhibits

The fair also features impressive giant produce and traditional Grange displays representing communities from around Washington.

These exhibits offer a quieter experience away from the busy midway and are well worth exploring.

The K9 Kings Flying Dog Show

New for 2026, the **K9 Kings Flying Dog Show** brings high-energy canine entertainment to the fairgrounds.

The show features talented rescue dogs performing athletic tricks, obedience demonstrations, aerial jumps, and interactive routines.

It is a particularly good choice for families and dog lovers.

Check the daily entertainment schedule before your visit so you can plan around showtimes.

Free Entertainment

The Washington State Fair offers a large amount of entertainment included with fair admission.

Visitors can enjoy live performances and entertainment stages throughout the fairgrounds, including music and specialty acts.

The Fair Park area features tribute bands and other performers, while strolling entertainers and additional shows add to the atmosphere across the grounds.

If you are planning a full day at the fair, take time to stop and enjoy some of the free entertainment between rides, food stops, and exhibits.

The Midway and Carnival Rides

The midway is one of the most exciting parts of the Washington State Fair.

Visitors can find thrilling rides, classic carnival attractions, games, and family rides.

Younger children can enjoy attractions in **SillyVille**, while older children, teenagers, and adults can experience larger thrill rides.

The midway becomes especially memorable after dark, when the lights come on and the carnival atmosphere reaches its peak.

If rides are one of your priorities, consider setting aside several hours for the midway rather than trying to fit everything into one short visit.

Fair Games

Classic carnival games are another part of the experience.

Challenge your family or friends, try to win a prize, and enjoy the familiar sights and sounds of the midway.

For many visitors, the games are just as much a part of the tradition as the rides and food.

The People Mover

The fairgrounds cover a large area, and walking all day can become tiring.

The **People Mover** provides a convenient way to rest your feet while continuing to travel around the grounds.

It operates on selected days and can be particularly useful for families, older visitors, and anyone planning to spend a full day at the fair.

Some People Mover vehicles are also ADA accessible.

Washington State Fair Food 2026

Food is one of the biggest reasons many people look forward to the Washington State Fair every year.

The fair offers classic carnival food, regional favorites, and once-a-year treats that have become part of family traditions.

Fisher Scones

No Washington State Fair food experience is complete without mentioning the famous **Fisher Scone**.

For many visitors, a warm scone with raspberry jam is one of the first things they eat after arriving at the fair.

It has become one of the most recognizable foods associated with “Doin' the Puyallup.”

Classic Fair Favorites

Visitors can also expect to find popular options such as:

- Corn dogs
- Onion burgers
- Barbecue
- Elephant ears
- Kettle corn
- Burgers
- Fried foods
- Desserts
- Lemonade
- Ice cream

Food vendors regularly introduce new creations, giving returning visitors something different to try each year.

Fair Value Menu

Visitors looking to save money can explore the **Fair Value Menu** on weekdays.

Participating vendors offer selected food deals, making weekday visits a good choice for travelers planning to sample multiple items.

One of the best strategies is to walk around before ordering. With so many options, you may discover something you did not know you wanted to try.

Columbia Bank Concert Series 2026

Live music is one of the biggest attractions at the Washington State Fair.

The **Columbia Bank Concert Series** brings nationally known performers to the fairgrounds throughout September.

The 2026 lineup includes artists such as:

- Boy George and Culture Club
- “Weird Al” Yankovic
- Little Big Town
- The Wailers and other reggae artists
- Bailey Zimmerman
- Jon Batiste
- Ice Cube
- Lauren Daigle
- HARDY
- Trey Songz and Tyga
- Chicago
- Twisted Sister featuring Sebastian Bach

The concert schedule also includes special performances such as **Fiestas Patrias**.

Concerts are a major part of the fair experience, so check the official schedule before planning your visit.

Puyallup Rodeo and Dancin’ in the Dirt

The fair also celebrates Western and rodeo traditions.

The **Puyallup Rodeo**, including the Wild Card Round of the PRCA Cinch Playoff Series, returns during the fair.

Special **Dancin' in the Dirt** concerts also provide additional entertainment for rodeo and country music fans.

These events can be a great reason to plan your fair visit around a particular weekend or performance.

Best Time to Visit the Washington State Fair

The best time depends on the type of experience you want.

For a More Relaxed Experience

Weekday mornings are generally a good choice for visitors who want to explore exhibits and animal barns with fewer crowds.

This is also a good time to see agricultural displays, creative arts, and other attractions at a slower pace.

For Families

The opening Labor Day weekend is particularly attractive for families because special family promotions are available.

However, families with younger children may also prefer weekday mornings when the fairgrounds can feel more relaxed.

Starting early gives you more time for animals, exhibits, rides, food, and entertainment.

For Food Lovers

Weekdays can be a good choice for visitors looking for food deals through the Fair Value Menu.

Arrive hungry and give yourself plenty of time to explore the food options.

For Concerts

Plan your visit around your favorite performer.

Major concert nights can bring larger crowds, so allow extra time to arrive and find your way around the fairgrounds.

For the Full Fair Atmosphere

Evenings and weekends offer the most energetic experience.

The midway lights come on, entertainment is underway, and the fairgrounds are filled with visitors enjoying food, rides, and live music.

If you want the classic fair atmosphere, staying until after dark is highly recommended.

Washington State Fair 2026 Hours

Fair hours vary by day.

During the **Labor Day opening weekend**, the fair opens earlier on Saturday, Sunday, and Monday, while Friday has a later opening time.

After Labor Day, weekday and weekend hours also vary.

The fair is closed every Tuesday and is also closed on **September 9, 2026**.

Because specific exhibits, rides, and attractions may operate on different schedules, check the official Washington State Fair website before your visit for current hours.

Travel Tips for Attending the Washington State Fair

A little planning can make your visit much easier.

- **Wear comfortable shoes:** The fairgrounds are large and involve plenty of walking.
- **Check the daily schedule:** Animal events, concerts, shows, and competitions vary by date.

- **Arrive early on weekends:** Popular days can become busy.
- **Plan your concert or rodeo in advance:** Use your main event as the starting point for your itinerary.
- **Visit the animal barns earlier:** Animals may be more active and crowds can be lighter.
- **Bring layers:** September weather in western Washington can change throughout the day.
- **Come hungry:** Fair food is an important part of the experience.
- **Stay after dark:** The illuminated midway offers one of the best fair atmospheres.
- **Explore beyond the rides:** Agriculture, animals, creative arts, and exhibits are some of the fair's most distinctive attractions.
- **Check transportation and parking information before traveling:** Traffic arrangements can vary during the event.
- **Use the official map:** It can save time on a fairgrounds this large.

Getting to the Washington State Fair

The Washington State Fair takes place at the **Washington State Fair Event Center in Puyallup, Washington.**

The fairgrounds are conveniently located between Seattle and Tacoma and are accessible from major highways serving western Washington.

Visitors traveling from outside the region can fly into **Seattle-Tacoma International Airport** and continue to Puyallup by rental car, public transportation, or other transportation services.

Puyallup is also accessible by regional rail and bus connections, making the fair possible to visit without driving from some parts of the Puget Sound area.

Parking and Transportation

Parking and transportation information should be checked before your visit, especially on busy weekends and major concert nights.

The Washington State Fair provides visitor information covering parking, transportation, maps, accessibility, and other travel essentials.

Arriving early is one of the best ways to avoid some of the busiest periods.

Visitors staying in Seattle, Tacoma, or nearby communities may also want to consider public transportation or rideshare options.

Things to Do Near the Washington State Fair

The fair's location makes it easy to turn your visit into a longer Pacific Northwest trip.

Explore Downtown Puyallup

Downtown Puyallup offers local restaurants, shops, historic buildings, and a more relaxed small-city atmosphere.

It is a good place to explore before or after a day at the fair.

Visit Tacoma

Tacoma is a short drive from Puyallup and offers museums, waterfront attractions, restaurants, and cultural experiences.

Popular attractions include the Museum of Glass and the Tacoma waterfront.

Explore Mount Rainier National Park

Travelers with more time can continue toward **Mount Rainier National Park**, one of Washington's most famous outdoor destinations.

The park offers scenic drives, hiking, waterfalls, forests, and unforgettable views of Mount Rainier.

Visit Seattle

Seattle is within reach for visitors who want to combine the fair with a major city break.

You can explore Pike Place Market, the Space Needle, waterfront attractions, museums, and the city's restaurants and neighborhoods.

Explore the Puget Sound Region

The Puyallup location also provides a convenient starting point for exploring other communities around Puget Sound.

Visitors can combine the fair with scenic drives, waterfront destinations, local food, and outdoor activities.

Where to Stay for the Washington State Fair

Puyallup and the surrounding area offer accommodation options for fair visitors.

Staying in **Puyallup** is the most convenient choice for easy access to the fairgrounds.

Visitors looking for more hotels, restaurants, and city attractions may consider staying in **Tacoma**.

Seattle can work well for travelers combining the fair with a larger Pacific Northwest vacation, although travel time to the fairgrounds will be longer.

Because the Washington State Fair is a major regional event, booking accommodation early is recommended, particularly for Labor Day weekend and major concert nights.

Is the Washington State Fair Worth Visiting?

The **Washington State Fair 2026** is absolutely worth visiting for travelers looking for one of the Pacific Northwest's biggest annual events.

It offers a complete state fair experience, but its strong connection to Washington agriculture and local traditions gives it a distinctive identity.

You can spend the morning meeting farm animals and exploring agricultural exhibits, enjoy a Fisher Scone for lunch, walk through creative arts displays, ride

the midway after dark, and finish the evening with live entertainment or a major concert.

The fair is especially appealing to families, food lovers, concert fans, and travelers who want to experience a major Washington tradition.

For anyone visiting western Washington in September, “Doin' the Puyallup” is one of the region's most memorable seasonal experiences.

Conclusion

The **Washington State Fair 2026** takes place from **September 4 through September 27, 2026**, at the Washington State Fair Event Center in Puyallup.

From the famous Fisher Scones and carnival rides to livestock, agricultural exhibits, creative competitions, rodeo events, free entertainment, and major concerts, the fair offers enough to fill an entire day or encourage multiple visits.

Before traveling, check the official Washington State Fair website for the latest **tickets, daily schedules, concerts, attractions, parking information, and visitor updates.**

Frequently Asked Questions

When is the Washington State Fair 2026?

The **Washington State Fair 2026** takes place from **September 4 through September 27, 2026**. The fair is closed on Tuesdays and also closed on **September 9**.

Where is the Washington State Fair held?

The fair is held at the **Washington State Fair Event Center in Puyallup, Washington.**

How long does the Washington State Fair last?

The 2026 event spans nearly four weeks and includes **20 open fair days** between September 4 and September 27.

What is the Washington State Fair known for?

The fair is known for **Fisher Scones, carnival rides, farm animals, Washington agriculture, live concerts, creative competitions, fair food, rodeo events, and family traditions.**

Is the Washington State Fair family-friendly?

Yes. Families can enjoy animal exhibits, agricultural activities, SillyVille rides, family entertainment, carnival attractions, food vendors, and interactive exhibits.

What can I do near the Washington State Fair?

Visitors can explore **Puyallup, Tacoma, Seattle, the Puget Sound region, and Mount Rainier National Park** while visiting the fair.