

Wisconsin State Fair 2026: Dates, Tickets & West Allis Travel Guide



The **Wisconsin State Fair 2026** takes place August 6 - 16 at Wisconsin State Fair Park in West Allis, just outside Milwaukee. The 11-day event brings together carnival rides, live entertainment, agriculture, livestock, competitions, food vendors, family activities, and Wisconsin traditions.

For travelers, the fair is also a convenient reason to explore the Milwaukee area. Visitors can combine their fair trip with museums, breweries, family attractions, lakefront activities, and other things to do around southeastern Wisconsin.

What Is the Wisconsin State Fair?

The Wisconsin State Fair is one of the state's biggest annual events, combining agriculture and Wisconsin traditions with entertainment, rides, food, competitions, and family activities.

The 2026 fair features dozens of free entertainment stages, thousands of animals, rides and games, contests, vendors, and a wide range of culinary options.

Its location at Wisconsin State Fair Park in West Allis also puts visitors close to Milwaukee, making it easy to turn a fair visit into a longer Wisconsin vacation.

Key Details of the Wisconsin State Fair 2026

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

- **Dates:** August 6-16, 2026
- **Venue:** Wisconsin State Fair Park, 640 S. 84th Street, West Allis, Wisconsin 53214.
- **Tickets:** [Check Tickets](#)

How to Get to the Wisconsin State Fair

Wisconsin State Fair Park is located on the western side of Milwaukee County and is easily accessible from major highways and surrounding communities.

By Car

The fairgrounds are near the I-94 and I-41/US-45 interchange. Visitors approaching from different directions can use Interstate 94, I-41, or I-894 to reach the fairgrounds.

From Milwaukee

West Allis is immediately west of Milwaukee, making the fairgrounds a convenient drive from downtown Milwaukee and surrounding neighborhoods.

By Rideshare

Uber, Lyft, and taxis have a designated pickup and drop-off area near the T-Mobile Main Entrance E. Rideshare vehicles should enter through Gate 6 on S. 84th Street near the Pettit National Ice Center.

By Public Transportation and Shuttle

Visitors who want to avoid driving can use local transit options and available shuttle services. The fair also provides information about alternate transportation options for visitors who want to avoid traffic around State Fair Park.

By Bicycle

Free bicycle parking is available at two dedicated areas around the fairgrounds. Visitors should bring their own bike lock.

What to Expect at the Wisconsin State Fair 2026

The Wisconsin State Fair combines classic fair traditions with large-scale entertainment, agriculture, family activities, and one of the state's best-known food experiences.

Carnival Rides and SpinCity

SpinCity is the fair's main amusement area, offering rides and games for visitors looking for classic midway entertainment. The area includes attractions for children as well as larger rides for thrill-seekers.

Ride and amusement areas generally open from 11 AM or 10 AM depending on the attraction, with closing times varying by day and weather conditions.

Agriculture and Livestock

Agriculture remains an important part of the Wisconsin State Fair. Visitors can see thousands of animals and explore agriculture barns, competitions, demonstrations, and exhibits throughout the fairgrounds.

For travelers who want more than rides and food, the agriculture areas provide an opportunity to learn about Wisconsin's farming and livestock traditions.

Free Entertainment

One of the major advantages of the Wisconsin State Fair is the amount of entertainment included with general admission. The fair features dozens of free entertainment stages along with performances and activities throughout the grounds.

Live Music

The fair features live entertainment across multiple stages, including nationally touring performers at the Bank Five Nine Main Stage. Main Stage tickets include admission to the State Fair for the day of the performance.

Food and Wisconsin Fair Favorites

Food is one of the biggest reasons many visitors return to the Wisconsin State Fair. The grounds feature vendors serving classic fair food, regional favorites, desserts, snacks, and other Wisconsin-inspired treats.

The Original Cream Puffs are among the fair's most recognizable food traditions, and visitors can purchase cream puff vouchers in advance.

Family Activities

Families can choose from rides, games, educational exhibits, animal displays, entertainment stages, contests, and other activities throughout the fairgrounds.

The combination of indoor and outdoor attractions also gives families options when weather conditions change.

Wisconsin State Fair Parking

Parking is an important part of planning a visit because the fair attracts large crowds throughout its 11-day run. Onsite parking for the 2026 fair is listed at approximately **\$18-\$22 per vehicle**, depending on the parking option. Motorcycle parking is listed at \$13. Onsite purchases are credit-card only.

Parking is first-come, first-served. Visitors should allow additional time for traffic and parking, particularly during busy evenings and weekends. For travelers who prefer not to drive, rideshare, public transit, shuttles, and bicycle parking provide alternatives.

Best Time to Visit the Wisconsin State Fair 2026

The best time to visit depends on your priorities, but planning around the fair's operating hours can make the experience more comfortable.

Weekday Visits

Weekdays can be a good choice for visitors looking for a more relaxed experience and more time to explore exhibits, animals, food vendors, and attractions.

Evening Visits

Thursday through Saturday evenings are ideal for visitors who want to enjoy the fair after sunset. These days remain open until midnight, giving visitors more time for rides, food, and entertainment.

Morning Visits

Arriving early is useful for families and visitors who want to explore agriculture barns and exhibits before the busiest part of the day.

Plan Around Your Favorite Entertainment

If you are attending a particular concert or performance, check the official entertainment schedule before choosing your fair date.

Things to Do Near West Allis During the Fair

The Wisconsin State Fair is located close to Milwaukee, giving visitors plenty of opportunities to extend their trip beyond the fairgrounds.

Explore Milwaukee

Downtown Milwaukee offers museums, restaurants, historic attractions, breweries, entertainment, and lakefront experiences.

Visit the Milwaukee County Zoo

The Milwaukee County Zoo is a family-friendly attraction located a short distance from State Fair Park and can be a good addition to a longer family trip.

Explore the Milwaukee Lakefront

Visitors can head toward Lake Michigan for waterfront walks, parks, beaches, and scenic views.

Visit the Harley-Davidson Museum

The Harley-Davidson Museum offers an in-depth look at the history and culture surrounding one of Wisconsin's most recognizable brands.

Explore Milwaukee's Food and Brewery Scene

Milwaukee is well known for its breweries, restaurants, cheese-based dishes, and German-influenced food traditions. A fair trip can easily be combined with a city food tour.

Take a Day Trip Around Southeastern Wisconsin

Travelers with additional time can explore nearby communities, lakefront towns, historic sites, and outdoor attractions across southeastern Wisconsin.

Travel Tips for Visiting the Wisconsin State Fair

These practical tips can help you make the most of your fair visit.

- **Buy admission tickets in advance:** Advance purchases can save time and may provide access to discounts.
 - **Plan parking before arriving:** Fair parking can become busy, particularly during evenings and weekends.
 - **Bring a credit or debit card:** Admission and onsite parking are cashless.
 - **Wear comfortable shoes:** The fairgrounds are large and require considerable walking.
 - **Arrive early:** Morning arrivals can make it easier to explore agriculture areas and popular attractions.
 - **Check the entertainment schedule:** Major performances can affect crowd levels and your ideal arrival time.
 - **Plan your food stops:** Popular food vendors can become busy during peak meal periods.
 - **Use rideshare if you want to avoid parking:** A designated rideshare area is available near the T-Mobile Main Entrance E.
 - **Check fair hours before leaving:** The fair closes at 10 PM Sunday-Wednesday and midnight Thursday-Saturday.
 - **Plan a Milwaukee itinerary:** The fair's location makes it easy to combine your visit with Milwaukee attractions.
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Is the Wisconsin State Fair Worth Visiting?

The Wisconsin State Fair is worth considering if you want a classic American state-fair experience with a strong Wisconsin identity.

The combination of agriculture, thousands of animals, carnival rides, free entertainment, live music, food vendors, competitions, and family activities gives visitors plenty to experience during a single day or a longer stay.

Its location is another advantage. Because State Fair Park is close to Milwaukee, travelers can combine the event with a city vacation rather than planning a trip around the fair alone.

Conclusion

The **Wisconsin State Fair 2026** takes place August 6-16 at Wisconsin State Fair Park in West Allis. With agriculture exhibits, thousands of animals, carnival rides, free entertainment, live music, family activities, competitions, and Wisconsin fair food, it offers a full-day experience for travelers of all ages. The fair's location near Milwaukee also makes it easy to add museums, restaurants, breweries, lakefront attractions, and family activities to your itinerary.

Planning your visit? Download our Wisconsin State Fair 2026 Guide for the key dates, ticket information, attractions, travel tips, and things to do around West Allis and Milwaukee.

Frequently Asked Questions

These answers cover common questions travelers may have when planning a visit to the Wisconsin State Fair 2026.

When is the Wisconsin State Fair 2026?

The Wisconsin State Fair 2026 takes place August 6-16, 2026, at Wisconsin State Fair Park in West Allis.

Where is the Wisconsin State Fair held?

The fair is held at Wisconsin State Fair Park, 640 S. 84th Street, West Allis, Wisconsin.

How much are Wisconsin State Fair tickets in 2026?

2026 admission is \$20 for adults 12 and older, \$15 for seniors and military/veterans with ID, \$13 for youth ages 6-11, and free for children 5 and under.

What time does the Wisconsin State Fair open?

The fair opens at **10 AM every day**. It closes at 10 PM Sunday through Wednesday and at midnight Thursday through Saturday.

Is parking available at the Wisconsin State Fair?

Yes. Onsite parking is available, with 2026 fair parking listed at approximately \$18-\$22 per vehicle. Parking is first-come, first-served.

Is the Wisconsin State Fair cashless?

Yes. Cash is not accepted for admission or onsite parking. Most vendors inside the fair may accept cash, but visitors should carry a credit or debit card for admission and parking.

What is the Wisconsin State Fair known for?

The Wisconsin State Fair is known for agriculture and livestock, carnival rides, live entertainment, family activities, competitions, and famous Wisconsin fair foods such as the Original Cream Puffs.

Are Wisconsin State Fair concerts included with admission?

Bank Five Nine Main Stage performances require separate tickets, but those tickets include fair admission for the day of the show. Other entertainment is available as part of the fair experience.

Is the Wisconsin State Fair family-friendly?

Yes. Families can enjoy rides, games, animal exhibits, agriculture displays, entertainment stages, contests, food vendors, and other activities throughout the fairgrounds.

Can I leave and re-enter the Wisconsin State Fair?

Yes. Visitors can leave and re-enter the same day if they receive a hand stamp before leaving. Re-entry hand stamps end two hours before the fair closes.

What should I do near the Wisconsin State Fair?

Visitors can explore Milwaukee, the Milwaukee County Zoo, the lakefront, museums, restaurants, breweries, and other attractions around southeastern Wisconsin.

What is the best time to visit the Wisconsin State Fair?

Weekdays and mornings can be useful for visitors seeking a more relaxed experience, while evenings are ideal for rides, food, and entertainment. Thursday through Saturday offers extended hours until midnight.