



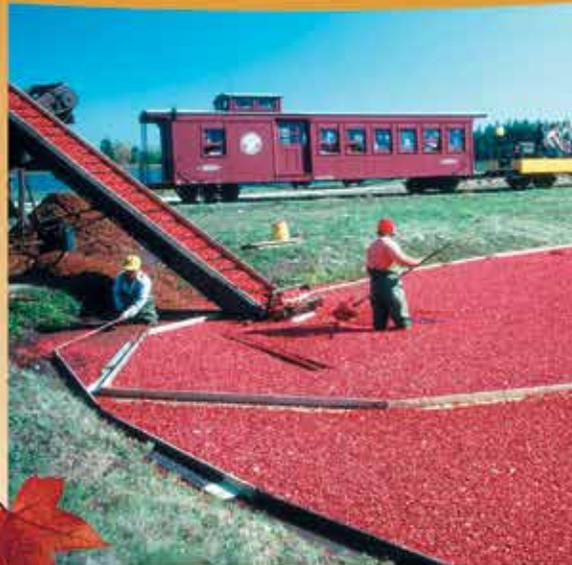
IN NORTH AMERICA PRESENTED BY THE AMERICAN BUS ASSOCIATION

A supplement to *Destinations* magazine



Destination Plymouth County

HISTORY IS JUST THE BEGINNING



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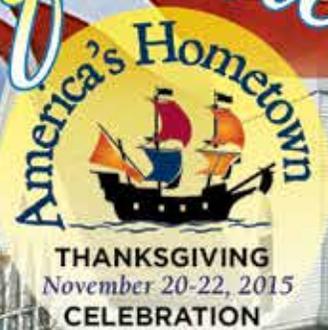
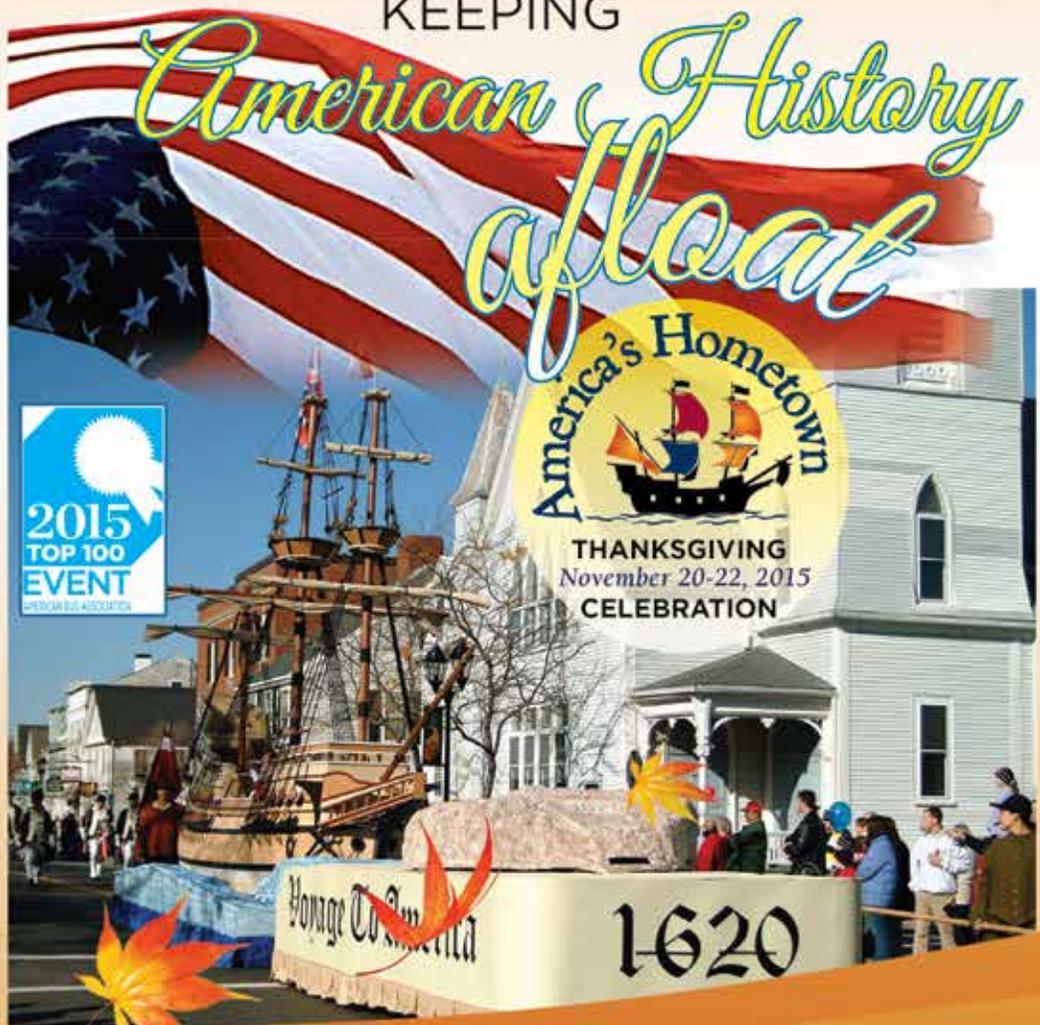
Whether Plymouth's Mayflower II, Fall River's USS Massachusetts or America's Hometown Thanksgiving Parade, south of Boston...

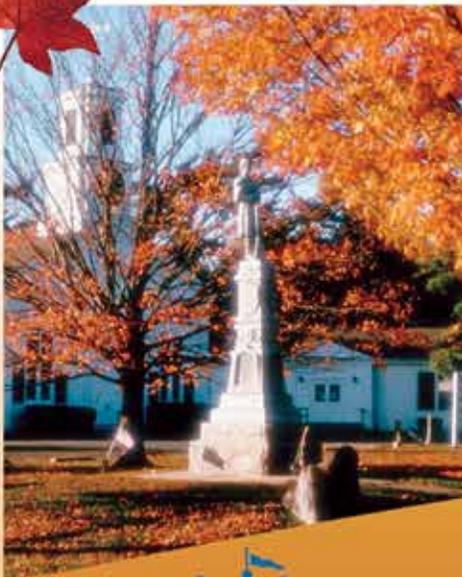
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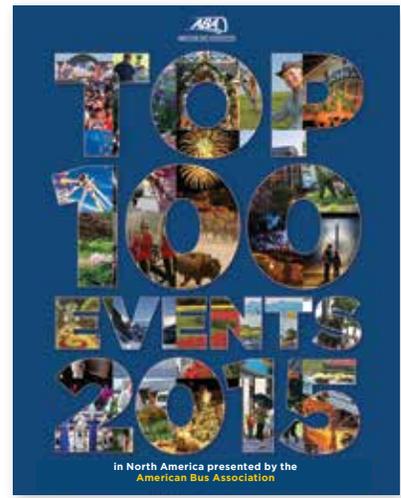
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General Information About the Top 100 Program

ABA's Top 100 Events in North America is an annual compendium of the best events for group travel in the United States and Canada. Each spring, a committee of ABA member motorcoach and tour operators selects the Top 100 Events for the subsequent year. Winners are chosen from hundreds of celebrations, festivals, fairs, commemorative events, and more that have been nominated by ABA members. From among the winners, ABA names the Number One Event for both the United States and Canada. All current ABA members of all membership categories may submit nominations for the Top 100 Events in North America. Nominations are solicited via e-mail from those eligible to nominate. The nomination process begins in February and ends in May. All ABA members may submit ten (10) nominations as part of their membership benefits. Non-ABA members may submit one (1) nomination for a nominal fee.



Annual Events

These events receive separate recognition because they have been consistently selected as a Top 100 Event in North America and they continually attract group and motorcoach business. These are the best of the best group events and offer broad appeal, including international audiences. The committee reviews and votes annually to elevate events to this prestigious status or to remove events that no longer meet this level of distinction. Once an event has acquired this status, they no longer have to be nominated with other annual Top 100 Event nominations. However, if the Top 100 Selection Committee decides to remove an event's AE status, that event will be reconsidered in the pool of all Top 100 Event nominations for that year. This status allows us to publish these annually recognized events, while also offering 100 other events for creating itineraries.

Events to Watch

Events to Watch were added in 2013 as a new part of the Top 100 Events in North America for Group Travel publication. A panel of ABA member bus and tour operators created this section in the publication to highlight events and festivals that were not selected as a Top 100 Event but were great examples of new motorcoach-friendly events or events that have recently become group-friendly, and show great potential to become future Top 100 events.

Information on How to Plan Itineraries for Top 100 Events on GroupConnect

GroupConnect is your online planning tool for Top 100 Events. From departure to return you can build itineraries utilizing ABA and OMCA travel industry members for all your tour components in one place. We make it easy to request and receive quotes and research

destinations for all Top 100 Events destinations. For more information contact GroupConnect today at 866-644-1664 or info@groupconnect.com.



Icon Key

- Anniversary Year
- Offers Group Incentives
- Designated Motorcoach Parking
- Food

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From November 22 to January 31, St. Augustine's Historic District illuminates with Nights of Lights – one of ABA's 2015 Top 100 Events in North America.

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Annual Buffalo Roundup and Arts Festival

The Old West in action

“As far as I’m concerned, it’s the single greatest experience you can have in the West,” said Western music star Michael Martin Murphy in the February 2013 special edition of *American Cowboy* magazine. More than 14,000 spectators attend the annual Buffalo Roundup and Arts Festival each year to experience true Old West action as Custer State Park’s herd of 1,300 bison is rounded up by cowboys on horseback. Special bus parking. Free admission, open seating. Featured on ABC’s *Born to Explore* in 2012. Stay the weekend and join in on the Volksmarch up Crazy Horse Memorial!    



 **Custer, S.D.**
Sept. 25-27, 2015

NEARBY ATTRACTIONS:

- Mt. Rushmore
- Crazy Horse Volksmarch
- Arts Festival

CONTACT:

Craig Gill
(605) 255-4772
(888) 875-0001
cgill@custerresorts.com
www.custerresorts.com

 **Ottawa-Gatineau,
Ontario**
May 8-18, 2015

NEARBY ATTRACTIONS:

- Museums
- Galleries
- Casinos

CONTACT:

The Canadian Tulip Festival Inc.
(613) 567-5757
(800) 668-8547
info@tulipfestival.ca
www.tulipfestival.ca

Canadian Tulip Festival

Flower power spectacular

In 1945, Princess Juliana of the Netherlands presented Ottawa with 100,000 tulip bulbs in appreciation of Canada's role in aiding her country during World War II. Since 1953, this symbol of international friendship and the beauty of spring is celebrated annually. Each May, Ottawa and Canada's Capital Region are ablaze with more than 1 million tulips. The nine-mile Tulip Route winds throughout Ottawa and Gatineau, highlighting major tulip beds and attractions, including three spectacular nights of fireworks, live music, and attractions for all ages. This Festival is the largest Tulip Festival in the world.    



OTTAWA TOURISM (BOTTOM)



The East

From Maine to Florida, the East Coast's most spectacular group-friendly events feature bright lights and mouthwatering delights.



Anniversary Year

Offers Group Incentives

Designated Motorcoach Parking

Food

Annual League of NH Craftsmen Fair

Concord, N.H.

TBD

CONTACT: Susie Lowe-Stockwell
(603) 224-3375
slowstoc@nhcrafts.org
www.nhcrafts.org/craftsmen-fair-overview.php

The Annual League of NH Craftsmen's Fair is the oldest continuously running fine craft fair in the country. It features the work of only League juried craftspeople, crafts demonstrations, workshops, exhibitions, and live performances. It is a family friendly event at the Mt. Sunapee Resort which offers an adventure park and chair lift rides during the Fair.



NEARBY ATTRACTIONS: The Fells National Historic Site, Newbury, Indian Museum, Warner

New England

30th Annual Citizens Bank Pops by the Sea

Centerville, Mass.

Aug. 9, 2015

CONTACT: Abigail Adams
(508) 362-0066
aadams@artsfoundation.org
www.artsfoundation.org/pops-by-the-sea

The Pops by the Sea concert, viewed by an enthusiastic annual audience of 15,000, is scheduled for Aug. 9, 2015, from 5 to 7 p.m. on the Hyannis Village Green, featuring the Boston Pops Esplanade Orchestra, conducted by Keith Lockhart. Many levels of seating are available and tickets can be purchased online at www.artsfoundation.org or by calling the Arts Foundation of Cape Cod at (508) 362-0066.

NEARBY ATTRACTIONS: JFK Hyannis Museum, Hy-Line Harbor Cruise, Whale Watching

49th Annual Bar Harbor Music Festival

Bar Harbor, Maine

June 28–July 26, 2015

CONTACT: Francis Fortier
(207) 288-5744
info@barharbormusicfestival.org
www.barharbormusicfestival.org

We are celebrating our 49th season in 2015 with 12 exciting performances June 28–July 26. The Festival is unrivaled in the variety of music we offer, ranging from opera to jazz. WGBH Classical New England in Boston recently selected us as “Maine’s Premier Music Festival.”

NEARBY ATTRACTIONS: Acadia National Park, LuLu Lobster Boat & Whale Watch, Bar Harbor



America's Hometown Thanksgiving Celebration

Plymouth, Mass.

Nov. 20–22, 2015

CONTACT: Sharon Liddell
(508) 746-1818
info@usathanksgiving.com
www.usathanksgiving.com

The weekend of festivities has become a beloved holiday occasion. For 20 years, hundreds of thousands of people from all walks of life have traveled to the historic Plymouth Massachusetts Harbor and Waterfront to experience a bounty of authentic Americana. The celebration of Thanksgiving becomes history-brought-to-life as Pilgrims, Native Americans, soldiers, patriots, and pioneers proudly climb out of the history books and onto the streets of Plymouth.

NEARBY ATTRACTIONS: Mayflower II, Plimoth Plantation, Lantern Tours

Hampton Beach Seafood Festival

Hampton, N.H.

Sept. 11–13, 2015

CONTACT: Ginni McNamara
(603) 926-8718
ginni@hamptonchamber.com
www.hamptonbeachseafoodfestival.com

At the 26th annual Seafood Festival, sample our world-famous seafood at New England's largest beach party! There are 60 restaurants, hundreds of merchants with sidewalk sales, arts and crafts vendors, and Radio Disney Kiddie Land: rides, games, face painting, entertainment, and more surprises! Plus, chef demonstrations by Pat Whitley, continuous entertainment on two stages, and spectacular fireworks on Saturday night and a sky diving extravaganza on Sunday.

NEARBY ATTRACTIONS: Art 'Round Town Gallery Walk, Rochester Fair Grounds, Windsor Fair

Kennebunkport Christmas Prelude

Kennebunk, Maine

Dec. 4-13, 2015

CONTACT: Sheila Matthews-Bull; Ashley Mills (207) 967-5457, (800) 337-4862 sheila@rhumblinerestort.com; info@alissons.com www.christmasprelude.com

This two-weekend event includes four tree lightings, one of them being our famous Lobster Trap Tree; a fife and drum duo; a hat parade; a pooch parade; and much more. We offer a fantastic fireworks display that begins our Prelude Finale weekend. The Historic Inns of the Kennebunks open their establishments during the Walk to Bethlehem. Let's not forget Santa arriving in a lobster boat. 🍷 🍷

NEARBY ATTRACTIONS: Seashore Trolley Museum, Victorian Mansion, Kittery & Freeport Outlet Shopping

Maine Lobster Festival

Rockland, Maine

July 29-Aug. 2, 2015

CONTACT: Cynthia Powell; Shannon Kinney (207) 596-0376, (800) LOB-CLAW cynthiap@diviaruba.com www.mainelobsterfestival.com

What do you get when you mix nine tents, the world's largest lobster cooker, a sea goddess, a parade, entertainment, fine art, craftspeople and vendors, U.S. ship tours, free shuttle service, a cooking contest, road races, kids' events, more than 20,000 pounds of lobster, plus more than 1,000 volunteers and a group of dedicated directors? The Maine Lobster Festival! Five days of fun and feasting on the fabulous coast of Rockland, Maine! 🍷 🍷

NEARBY ATTRACTIONS: Owls Head Transportation, Wine Tasting & Winery, Fransworth Museum / Downtown Rockland

NH Highland Games & Festival

Concord, N.H.

Sept. 18-20, 2015

CONTACT: Lois Meredith (603) 229-1975, (800) 358-7268 lois@nhscot.org www.nhscot.org

The New Hampshire Highland Games & Festival is the largest Scottish Festival in the Northeast featuring Scottish Heavy Athletics, highland dance, piping and drumming, fiddle, harp, sheep dog trials, seminars, multiple music venues, and Scottish food and goods. Whisky and beer tastings, the tartan dinner, a great youth program, and more fill three days of family fun!

🍷 🍷 🍷 🍷

NEARBY ATTRACTIONS: Loon Mountain Resort, Whale's Tale & Alpine Adventures, Polar Caves

Newport Flower Show

Newport, R.I.

June 19-21, 2015

CONTACT: Dan Fryer (401) 847-1000 dfryer@newportmansions.org www.newportmansions.org

The 20th annual Newport Flower Show takes place at Rosecliff from June 19-21, 2015. Floral designs, horticulture exhibits, garden displays, and more will grace the rooms and grounds of the Gilded Age mansion. Throughout the weekend, there will be a series of informative lectures and workshops by floral and horticulture experts. Unique and exclusive shopping opportunities abound in the Oceanside Boutiques and Gardeners' Marketplace.

🍷 🍷 🍷

NEARBY ATTRACTIONS: Green Animals Topiary Garden, The Elms, The Breakers



Kennebunkport Christmas Prelude

Salem Haunted Happenings

Salem, Mass.

Oct. 1-31, 2015

CONTACT: Kate Fox
(978) 741-3252, (877) 725-3662
kfox@salem.org
www.hauntedhappenings.org

The 34th annual Salem Haunted Happenings celebrates Halloween and fall in New England with a variety of programs, events, and attractions for all ages. Highlights include the Grand Parade, Salem Open Market artisan booths, Festival of the Dead's series of parties and events, Spirits of the Gables dramatic programming at the House of the Seven Gables, and the Haunted Biz Baz Street Fair. For complete information, visit HauntedHappenings.org.



NEARBY ATTRACTIONS: Salem Witch Museum, The House of the Seven Gables, Witch Dungeon Museum

Scallop Fest

Buzzards Bay, Mass.

Sept. 25-27, 2015

CONTACT: Regina Fitzpatrick
(508) 759-6000
member@capecodcanalchamber.org
www.scallopfest.org

New Location: Cape Cod Fairgrounds, 1220 Nathan Ellis Highway (Rte 151), East Falmouth. Enjoy New England's largest Scallop Festival. A family event with great entertainment, Juried Arts & Craft Show with distinctive gifts, a midway of rides and games, and new exhibits for the fall. Famous fried scallop and herb-roasted chicken dinners, plus a food court offering hamburgers, hot dogs, lobster rolls, chowder, salads, raw bar, strawberry shortcake, beer, wine, and more.



NEARBY ATTRACTIONS: Hy-Line Cruises, JFK Hyannis Museum, Heritage Museum & Gardens

Strolling of the Heifers

East Dummerston, Vt.

June 5-7, 2015

CONTACT: Orly Munzing
(802) 258-7070
orly@strollingoftheheifers.com
www.strollingoftheheifers.com

Brattleboro's agriculturally themed Strolling of the Heifers weekend begins on Friday with a downtown block party featuring music, food, and fun. On Saturday, at the Strolling of the Heifers Parade, watch farm animals, heifer calves led by future farmers, bands, tractors, floats, clowns, and much more parade down Main Street. Then enjoy the all-day Slow Living Expo showcasing family farms. The weekend ends with the Famous Farmers Breakfast and Farm Tours, or groups can experience the Tour de Heifer Cycling Tours.

NEARBY ATTRACTIONS: Grafton Village Cheese, Southern Vermont Natural History Museum, Putney Winery

Vermont Maple Festival

St. Albans, Vt.

April 24-26, 2015

CONTACT: Jo-Anne Rock;
Betty Ann Lockhart
(802) 524-5800; (802) 425-2783
info@vtmaplefestival.org;
perceptivt@aol.com
www.vtmaplefestival.org

You can find "all things maple" at the Vermont Maple Festival in St. Albans including traditional maple treats, sugar-on-snow, maple creemees, maple cotton candy, maple cream doughnuts, maple candies, pancake breakfasts, a maple dinner, maple syrup tasting, sugarhouse visits, and maple cooking demonstrations! There are also antiques, crafts, and specialty food shows and free Main Street stage entertainment. It's all staffed by friendly, knowledgeable volunteers.

NEARBY ATTRACTIONS: Jay Peak Resort, Ben & Jerry's Ice Cream Factory, Boyden Valley Winery



Strolling of the Heifers

Vermont's Wine and Harvest Festival

Wilmington, Vt.

Sept. 18-20, 2015

CONTACT: Michele Mazur
(802) 464-8092
michele@visitvermont.com
www.thevermontfestival.com

The Vermont Wine and Harvest Festival is set in the backdrop of our world-renowned Vermont fall foliage. You'll discover and enjoy meeting Vermont vintners, small specialty food producers, chefs, painters, publishers, cheesemakers, potters, jewelers, photographers, and farmers.

NEARBY ATTRACTIONS: Honora Winery, Mt. Snow Lift Rides



GlassFest



Anniversary Commemoration of the Battle of Gettysburg

Gettysburg, Pa.
July 1-6, 2015

CONTACT: Caitlin Hartzel
(717) 338-3062

caitlin@destinationgettysburg.com
www.gettysburgreenactment.com

Commemorate the anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg with events including special ranger walks, the Sacred Trust Talks, and book signings held at the Museum and Visitor Center. Living history encampments and the full 152nd Gettysburg anniversary battle reenactment bring history to life. Experience period music and a variety of food and camp life as you stroll through both Union and Confederate camps. Visitors will also enjoy shopping in the 1860s sutler village. ♿️🚫

NEARBY ATTRACTIONS: Eisenhower Historic Site, Gettysburg Historic Train Station, Seminary Ridge Museum

GlassFest

Corning, N.Y.
May 21-24, 2015

CONTACT: Coleen Fabrizi
(607) 937-6292
coleen@gafferdistrict.com
www.glassfest.org

GlassFest is a four-day celebration of glass and the fire arts in “America’s Crystal City,” Corning, N.Y. The festival features live outdoor glassmaking demonstrations, world-class museums and galleries, music from a number of nationally known acts and entertainers, an outdoor art show featuring glass, pottery, ceramics, metal, and a variety of fine arts from across the country, and a breathtaking fireworks display. Visitors can enjoy beautiful Historic Market Street and special shopping and dining promotions. Admission is free! ♿️🚫

NEARBY ATTRACTIONS: Corning Museum of Glass, Rockwell Museum, Finger Lakes Region

The Great Jack O’Lantern Blaze

Croton-on-Hudson, N.Y.
Oct. 3-Nov. 8, 2015 (tentative)

CONTACT: Louise O’Rourke
(914) 366-6911
lorourke@hudsonvalley.org
www.hudsonvalley.org

See more than 5,000 individually hand-carved, illuminated jack o’ lanterns in this walk-through experience. Meander through a historic riverside landscape and discover a breathtaking display—all made of jack o’ lanterns! Plus, making its debut at this year’s Blaze and featuring more than 20 new works from professional artists, the Museum of Pumpkin Art will be the first ever exhibition space devoted to sculptural works inspired by (but not made from) pumpkins. ♿️🚫

NEARBY ATTRACTIONS: Kykuit, the Rockefeller Estate tours, Washington Irving’s Sunnyside Home Tours, Horseman’s Hollow at Philipsburg Manor

Koziar’s Christmas Village

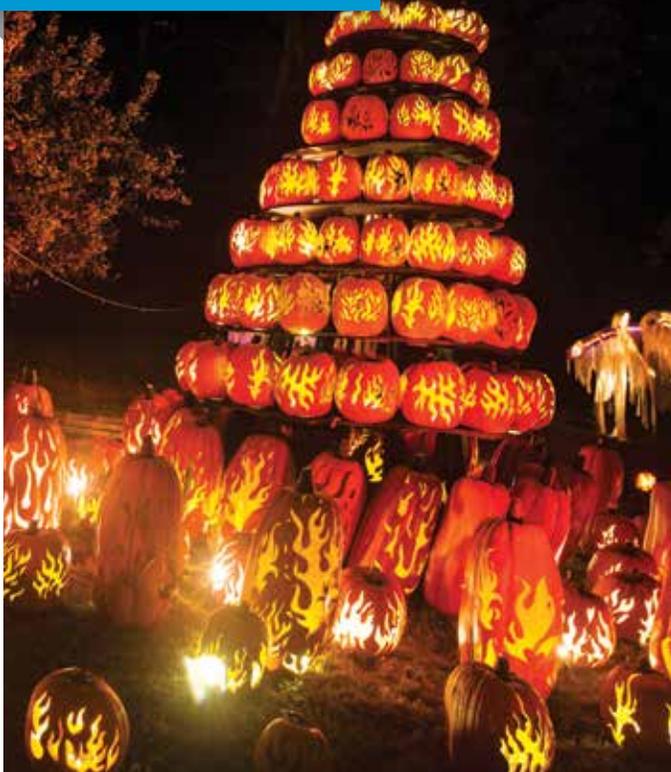
Bernville, Pa.
Nov. 7, 2015-Jan. 3, 2016

CONTACT: Sonia Koziar
(610) 488-1138, (610) 488-1110
soniakoziar@yahoo.com
www.koziarschristmasvillage.com

With indoor and outdoor displays, shops, trains, gift barns, refreshments, and Santa, it’s truly like “Walking in a Winter Wonderland” at Koziar’s Christmas Village. Christmas Village received the Award of Excellence from the Pennsylvania Travel Council as one of the top Ten Travel Attractions in Pennsylvania. Celebrating its 68th anniversary, Koziar’s Christmas Village has received many awards including Best Outdoor Christmas Display in the World by *Display World Magazine*. ♿️🚫

NEARBY ATTRACTIONS: VF Outlet Shopping, Mid-Atlantic Air Museum, Roadside America

The Great Jack O'Lantern Blaze



Kutztown Folk Festival

Kutztown, Pa.

June 27-July 5, 2015

CONTACT: Steve Sharadin
(610) 683-1537, (888) 674-6136
sharadin@kutztownfestival.com
www.kutztownfestival.com

At the Kutztown Folk Festival, a visitor experiences more music, more entertainment, more fun, and far less work than they would in a Pennsylvania Dutch household. But the purpose of the festival is still fulfilled, as evidenced by the continued participation of the local Pennsylvania Dutch community, as well as many of the foremost experts and scholars of this fascinating microcosm of America. This unusual nine-day festival had been featured twice in *National Geographic* and has been called "one of the most unique festivals on the East Coast" by *The Washington Post*, with good reason.

NEARBY ATTRACTIONS: Crystal Cave, Main Street Kutztown



A Longwood Christmas

Kennett Square, Pa.

Nov. 26, 2015-Jan. 10, 2016

CONTACT: Marnie Conley
(610) 388-5439
mconley@longwoodgardens.org
www.longwoodgardens.org

A half-million twinkling lights, thousands of poinsettias, and magnificently decorated trees herald the arrival of A Longwood Christmas. Festive performances share the sounds of the season, and illuminated fountains dance to music.

NEARBY ATTRACTIONS: Brandywine River Museum, Winterthur Museum, Garden, and Library, Herr's Snack Factory Tour

Ford's 150: Remembering the Lincoln Assassination

April 2015 will mark 150 years since the assassination of Abraham Lincoln. *Ford's 150* honors the life and legacy of our 16th President. Programming includes:

The Widow Lincoln | Jan. 23-Feb. 22, 2015

By James Still; Directed by Stephen Rayne

A riveting world-premiere drama exploring the tenacity, fragility and grief of Mary Todd Lincoln.

Freedom's Song: Abraham Lincoln and the Civil War | March 13-May 20, 2015

By Frank Wildhorn, Gregory Boyd and Jack Murphy; Music by Frank Wildhorn; Directed by Jeff Calhoun; Adapted by Richard Helleesen and Mark Ramont

An epic concert-style musical inspired by Lincoln's words and the people of the Civil War.

Special Exhibition | March 23-May 25, 2015

A hallmark exhibition reuniting – for the first time since April 1865 – an extraordinary collection of artifacts that resided in Ford's Theatre and on Lincoln's person the night of the assassination.

The Lincoln Vigil | April 14-15, 2015

An around-the-clock event marking the 150th anniversary of Abraham Lincoln's assassination.



www.fords.org/groups

Tickets: (800) 899-2367

Background image © Maxwell MacKenzie. Lincoln photo courtesy of Ford's Theatre National Historic Site.

150

Middletown Olde-Tyme Peach Festival

Middletown, Del.
Aug. 15, 2015

CONTACT: Brian Rickards
(302) 218-4708
mhistoricalsociety@gmail.com
www.middletownpeachfestival.com

A peachy-keen festival reflecting Delaware’s agricultural heritage, this fun-filled, rain-or-shine event attracts 30,000 parade and peach lovers, car and craft buffs, and carnival seekers. Other activities include historic exhibits and reenactments, local artisans and crafters, a classic car show, bands, dance groups, martial arts demonstrations, food, a peach pie contest, games, rides, children’s activities, and, of course, plenty of peaches. Offering free admission and ample bus parking, this event is a ripe pick! (T) (B) (X)

NEARBY ATTRACTIONS: Middletown Historic Museum, Historic Odessa, Ft. Delaware on Pea Patch Island

National Independence Day Celebration

Washington, D.C.
July 4, 2015

CONTACT: Morgan Maravich
(800) 422-8644
morgan.maravich@destinationdc.com
www.washington.org

The Nation’s Capital celebrates the Fourth of July with a birthday party that starts with a parade of more than 100 marching units. In the afternoon, the National Mall is the place to be, with concerts at historic sites featuring local and military music groups. After sunset, the National Symphony Orchestra, along with guest stars and soloists, perform patriotic songs that set the stage for the grand finale—the spectacular fireworks display over the Washington Monument grounds. (T) (B) (X)

NEARBY ATTRACTIONS: National Mall & Museums, Washington Monument, White House

Passport DC

Washington, D.C.
May 1-31, 2015

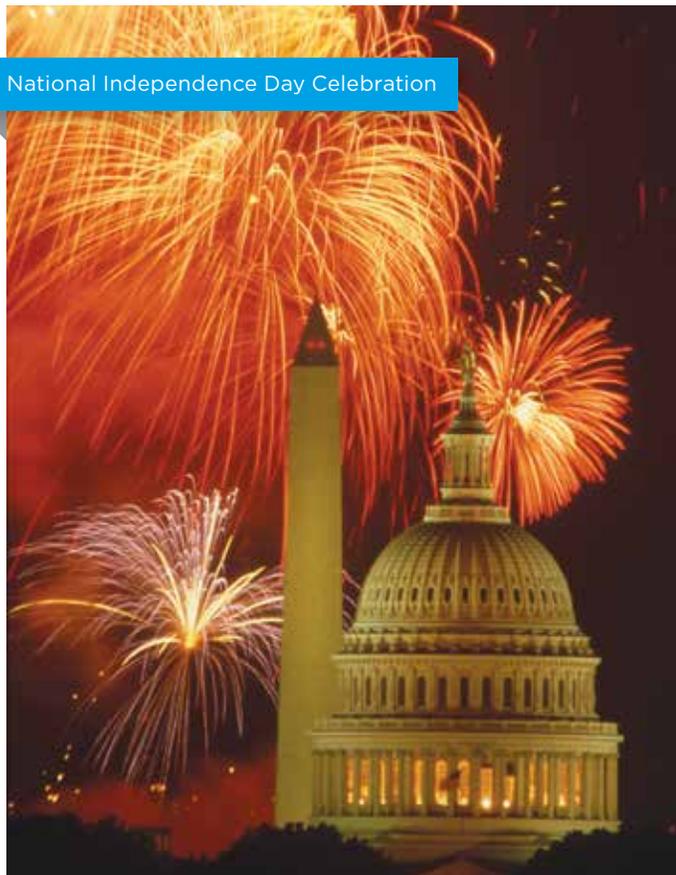
CONTACT: Michelle Cragle
(202) 661-7581
mcragle@culturaltourismdc.org
www.passportdc.org; www.culturaltourismdc.org

Visitors have the opportunity to travel around the world without ever leaving the city with tours of more than 70 embassies and hundreds of other international cultural activities that include street festivals, performances, and exhibitions. (X)

NEARBY ATTRACTIONS: National Mall, Washington Monument, White House



Whoopie Pie Festival at Hershey Farm Restaurant and Inn



National Independence Day Celebration

Sea Witch Halloween & Fiddler’s Festival

Rehoboth Beach, Del.
Oct. 23-25, 2015

CONTACT: Carol Everhart
(302) 227-2233
carol@beach-fun.com
www.beach-fun.com

Enjoy the 26th annual Sea Witch Halloween & Fiddler’s Festival. Beginning Friday, there’s the Tyke Bike race on the Boardwalk, movie in Grove Park, and a Dewey Beach bonfire. Watch thousands of costumed participants, bands, and decorated cars at Saturday’s parade. Take part in dozens of activities such as the Sea Witch Hunt, artisan shopping, Mummies performance, and horse shows on the beach! Don’t miss live entertainment including top acts. (T) (X)

NEARBY ATTRACTIONS: Rehoboth Beach & Historic Boardwalk, Rehoboth Tanger Outlet Centers & Downtown Tax-free Shopping, Cape May-Lewes Ferry

Whoopie Pie Festival at Hershey Farm Restaurant and Inn

Ronks (Strasburg), Pa.
Sept. 5, 2015

CONTACT: Sherry Wertz
(717) 687-8635, (800) 822-7866
groupsales@hersheyfarm.com
www.hersheyfarm.com

It’s the most delicious day in Lancaster County! The annual Whoopie Pie Festival features more than 100 different Whoopie Pie flavors and is held at the Hershey Farm Restaurant & Inn, located in the heart of the Pennsylvania Dutch Country. Whoopie pie activities include treasure hunt, race, slingshot, eating contest, checkers, and more. It’s been a favorite Lancaster County confection for years, and now the Whoopie Pie isn’t just for eating anymore! (T) (B) (X)

NEARBY ATTRACTIONS: American Music Theatre, Rockvale Outlet, Strasburg Railroad

East Central

2015 Tennessee Civil War Sesquicentennial Commemoration + Blue & Gray Reunion & Jubilee

Knoxville, Tenn.

April 30–May 3, 2015

CONTACT: Calvin Chappelle; Stephanie Henry (865) 522-8661; (865) 215-8824 mabryhazehouse@gmail.com; eths@easttnhistory.org www.knoxcivilwar.org

This once-in-a-lifetime event remembers the Union and Confederate soldiers, African American men of the 1st U.S. Colored Heavy Artillery, and others who played a role in the Civil War. Activities include tours of historic homes and battlefields, a parade, music, and a Civil War Exposition. (190) (X)

NEARBY ATTRACTIONS: Museum of East Tennessee History, Hogg Ground Park (Ft. Higley), Historic Homes of Knoxville

Bristol Rhythm & Roots Reunion

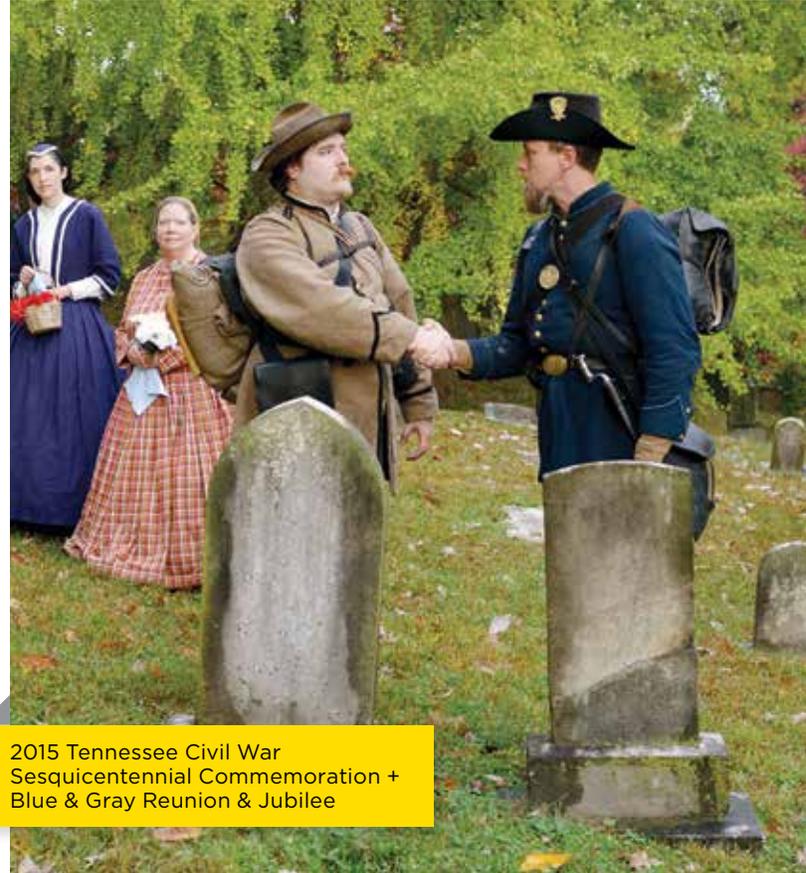
Bristol, Va.

Sept. 18–20, 2015

CONTACT: Tracey Childress (423) 573-1927 tchildress@birthplaceofcountrymusic.org www.birthplaceofcountrymusic.org

Walk the line between two states! The Bristol Rhythm & Roots Reunion is an infectious, three-day music experience. State Street in Historic Downtown Bristol, Tenn./Va. boasts 20 stages and more than 100 artists. Bristol is home to the Bristol Sessions—the first recordings of The Carter Family. Explore Bristol's authentic music history through the interactive, state-of-the-art Birthplace of Country Music Museum. (15) (T) (C) (X)

NEARBY ATTRACTIONS: Bristol Motor Speedway & Dragway, Birthplace of Country Music Museum, Stickley Farms



2015 Tennessee Civil War Sesquicentennial Commemoration + Blue & Gray Reunion & Jubilee

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Kentucky
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Busch Gardens Christmas Town

Williamsburg, Va.

Nov. 20–Dec. 31, 2015

CONTACT: Candace Masengale (757) 253-3361, (800) 343-7946 candace.masengale@buschgardens.com www.buschgardens.com

Bask in the glow of more than seven million lights as you stroll through the world’s most beautiful theme park surrounded by hundreds of buildings and trees draped in holiday sparkle. It’s your group’s chance to start a holiday tradition and be part of one of the most spectacular Christmas celebrations in the country. ♿ ♻

NEARBY ATTRACTIONS: Colonial Williamsburg, Jamestown Settlement, Yorktown Settlement

Christmas at the Galt House Hotel

Louisville, Ky.

Nov. 14, 2015–Jan. 1, 2016

CONTACT: Kelly Gream (502) 589-5200 elf@galthotel.com www.christmasatthegalthouse.com

Celebrating its fifth anniversary, Christmas at the Galt House Hotel undergoes a complete transformation that promises to delight all the senses. Guests are invited to experience a unique Christmas Village, be transported back to a Victorian-era English village, and be entertained by two-time Grammy Award winner Pam Tillis. All new KaLightscope luminaries tell the story of *A Christmas Carol*. Other returning favorites include the Snow Fairy Princess and her castle and Dancing Bellmen.

♿ ♻ ♻ ♻
NEARBY ATTRACTIONS: Derby Dinner Playhouse, Louisville Bat Museum & Factory, Evan Williams Bourbon Experience

Christmas in Williamsburg

Williamsburg, Va.

Nov. 20–Dec. 31, 2015

CONTACT: Vivian Bunting (757) 229-6511, (800) 368-6511 bunting@visitwilliamsburg.com www.christmasinwilliamsburg.com

Christmas in Williamsburg begins just before Thanksgiving and extends through First Night. The entire community comes together with holiday décor, special programs, and events. Many events are free and suitable for all audiences. Attractions, museums, and theme parks offer group rates and have complimentary policies which varies by venue. Parking is complimentary in most locations. For more information visit www.ChristmasInWilliamsburg.com. ♿ ♻ ♻

NEARBY ATTRACTIONS: Busch Gardens, Colonial Williamsburg, Jamestown Settlement

Hinton Railroad Days

Hinton, W. Va.

Oct. 17–18, 2015 and Oct. 24–25, 2015

CONTACT: Dorothy Jean Boley (304) 466-6100 hintonrailroadmuseum@frontier.com www.hintonwva.com/railroaddays

Hinton Railroad Days is held annually for two weekends in October. The streets are filled with craft and food vendors. Vendors are selling unusual crafts, and the food is delicious. The festival coincides with the New River Train Excursions. The New River Train arrives each afternoon of the festival. Each year is different. Come on out and see what this year will bring! ♿ ♻ ♻

NEARBY ATTRACTIONS: New River Train Excursions, Sandstone Falls, Pipestem State Park



Christmas in Williamsburg

Kentucky Bourbon Festival, Inc.

Bardstown, Ky.

Sept. 15-20, 2015

CONTACT: Linda Harrison
(502) 348-3623, (800) 638-4877
info@kybourbonfestival.com
www.kybourbonfestival.com

The Kentucky Bourbon Festival is a six-day Festival dedicated to the legendary spirit of Kentucky. Distillers from across the state of Kentucky will come together to share their Bourbon in a variety of events. The 2015 Festival will be the 24th annual Kentucky Bourbon Festival in historic Bardstown, Kentucky, the Bourbon Capital of the World. There is fun—and activities for all ages. ☒

NEARBY ATTRACTIONS: Getz Whiskey Museum, Kentucky Bourbon Trail, My Old Kentucky Home

National Cornbread Festival

South Pittsburg, Tenn.

April 25-26, 2015

CONTACT: Megan Ferrell
(423) 837-0022
meganferrellncf@yahoo.com
www.nationalcornbread.com

This Southern cuisine festival honors Cornbread with the National Cornbread Cook-Off. Enjoy juried arts and crafts, music, exhibits, cornbread, carnival, entertainment, food, cook-offs, a children's corner, a car show (Saturday night). Tour the Lodge foundry to see how Lodge Cast Iron is made. Visit by bus the residential historic district. Participate in the 5K walk-fun run. Come see what's cookin' in South Pittsburg, Tenn. ☒ ☒

NEARBY ATTRACTIONS: Lodge Cast Iron Foundry Tour, Russell Cave National Monument, Children's Holocaust Memorial, South Pittsburg Heritage Museum



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Rivers and Spires Festival

Clarksville, Tenn.
April 16-18, 2015

CONTACT: Frances Manzitto
(931) 245-4345
frances@clarksville.tn.us
www.riversandspires.com

For three days each April, Rivers & Spires Festival transforms Historic Downtown Clarksville into an entertainment paradise. Live music and art and interactive displays line the 10 block radius and delight more than 40,000 people each year. Whether your interest is arts, sports, cars, military, music, or family activities you'll find what you desire at Rivers and Spires. The best part about the entire event is it is free! No admission, gate fees, or concert tickets required. Just a fun time with your closest friends and family. (T) (X)

NEARBY ATTRACTIONS: Beachhaven Winery, Ft. Defiance, Customs House Museum

Winter Festival of Lights

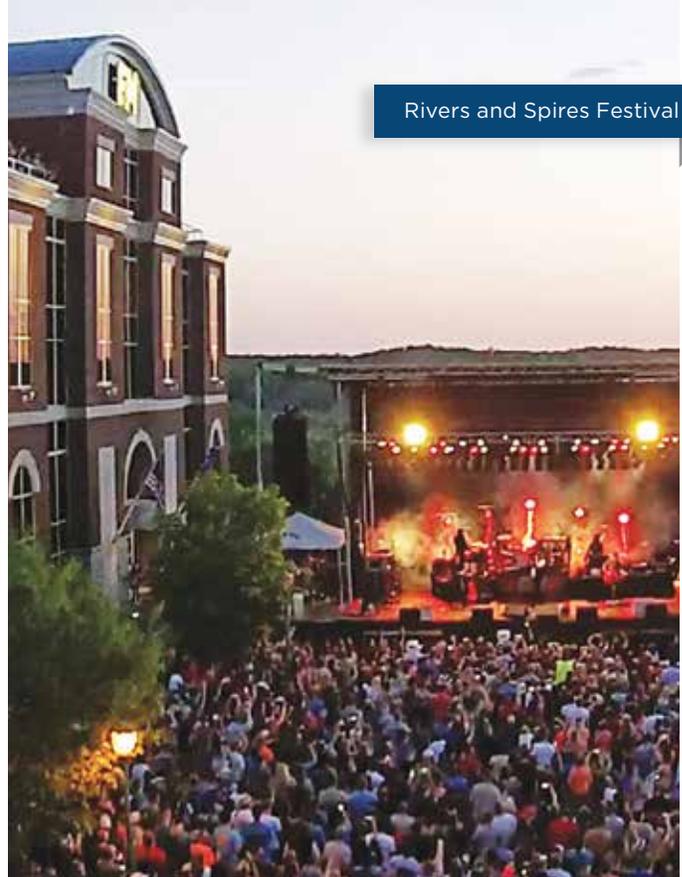
Wheeling, W.Va.
Nov. 13, 2015-Jan. 3, 2016

CONTACT: David Flatley
(304) 243-4000, (800) 624-6988
dfatley@oglebay-resort.com
www.oglebay-resort.com

The Winter Festival of Lights delights visitors of all ages. This annual light show is one of the nation's largest, covering more than 300 acres over a six-mile drive through the resort. Listed as one of the 10 Best Christmas Light Displays in the U.S. by AOL Travel, the show was named as a Top 100 event by EventCrazy.com and was recently listed as one of the top 200 events in the country by Discover America. The festival was also featured on Travel Channel's *Extreme Christmas Celebrations*.

(S) (T) (W) (X)

NEARBY ATTRACTIONS: Wheeling Island Hotel Casino, Cabela's, Capitol Theatre



Rivers and Spires Festival

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For planning assistance, contact Danielle Roman, CTIS at 866-946-3386 or visit DiscoverCorning.com

Southeast

29th Annual NC Seafood Festival

Morehead City, N.C.

Oct. 2-4, 2015

CONTACT: Stephanie McIntyre (252) 726-6273
fun@ncseafoodfestival.org
www.ncseafoodfestival.org

The 29th annual NC Seafood Festival takes place on the Waterfront in Morehead City, N.C. Visitors enjoy multiple stages of entertainment, vendors selling fresh seafood, arts and craft vendors, amusement rides, a Boat & Outdoor Show, sporting events, children's area, and, of course, the celebration of our local seafood highlighted by the Cooking with the Chefs Tent. Admission is free. Come hungry and enjoy the Crystal Coast at its best! 🗺️ 🗻

NEARBY ATTRACTIONS: Beach, Cape Lookout Lighthouse, Ft. Macon State Park

Dickens Christmas Show & Festivals

Myrtle Beach, S.C.

Nov. 12-15, 2015

CONTACT: Myra Starnes (843) 448-9483
info@dickenschristmasshow.com
www.dickenschristmasshow.com

Attracting 15,000 visitors annually from all over the U.S. and Canada, this Victorian-themed gift and craft show is the crown jewel event of the holiday season. Taking its inspiration from Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*, its Victorian theme is the cornerstone of events including Punch & Judy Shows, Holiday Teas and Tours, as well as the Festivals of Trees and Tables. Even Santa pays a very special visit. It's the perfect opportunity to create a unique holiday shopping experience at an economical price. 🗺️ 🗻

NEARBY ATTRACTIONS: Holiday Teas & Tours, Local Holiday Theater Shows, Shadrack's Light Show

International Cherry Blossom Festival

Macon, Ga.

March 19-April 4, 2015

CONTACT: Jake Ferro (478) 330-7050
jferro@cherryblossom.com
www.cherryblossom.com

Macon Georgia's International Cherry Blossom Festival has attracted people to Macon from all over the world since 1982. Each year, more than 350,000 Yoshino cherry trees bloom. Central City Park, the hub of the Festival, features live music, fair food, rides, and vendors. Other events include concerts, parades, shows, and shopping. Every year, more events are added to the pre- and post-festival activities spanning nearly a month of pink fun.

🗺️ 🗻

NEARBY ATTRACTIONS: Georgia Sports Hall of Fame, Ocmulgee National Monument, The Big House: Allman Brothers Band Museum

Myrtle Beach Holiday FantaSea

Myrtle Beach, S.C.

Nov. 3-17, 2015

CONTACT: Sandy Haines (843) 916-7248
sandyhaines@visitmyrtlebeach.com
www.coastalnetworkcooperative.com/holiday-fantasea.html

The annual Myrtle Beach Holiday FantaSea serves as a thank you to our groups for booking at least one night in the Myrtle Beach area. It has become a wonderful value-added attraction for tour operators. The event is held on two days (9:30-11:30 am) over two weeks during the holiday season. It showcases award-winning entertainment, spectacular giveaways, a grand prize shopping spree and a ton of Southern Hospitality; all at no cost. 🗺️ 🗻

NEARBY ATTRACTIONS: The Carolina Opry, Brookgreen Gardens, Shadrack's Light Display

Christmas at the Library

Charlotte, N.C.

Dec. 1-23, 2015

CONTACT: Sonya Johnson (704) 401-3200
ssjohnson@bgea.org
www.billygrahamlibrary.org

Christmas at the Library features a live Nativity; horse-drawn carriage rides through one of Charlotte's most beautiful light displays; and the heartwarming sounds of caroling and festive music, as well as story time for children of all ages. Enjoy holiday goodies in the Dairy Bar, exclusive Library ornaments and holiday shopping in Ruth's Attic, and the self-guided Journey of Faith Library tour. A special Christmas Dinner with all the trimmings is offered on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday nights. 🗺️ 🗻

NEARBY ATTRACTIONS: McAdenville — Christmastown, USA, Nascar Hall of Fame, Daniel Stowe Botanical Garden



Nights of Lights

St Augustine, Fla.

Nov. 22, 2014–Jan. 31, 2015

CONTACT: Kathy Catron
kcatron@floridashistoriccoast.com
www.nightsoflights.com

Nearly three million tiny white lights glow along the ancient streets and historic buildings of the nation’s oldest city when the 21st annual Nights of Lights celebration sparkles to life at 6:30 p.m. Nov. 22 in St. Augustine’s Plaza de la Constitucion. The event kicks off with holiday music, the lighting of the city’s Christmas tree, and an exciting countdown to the lighting of one of the world’s greatest holiday light displays, which continues through the month of January.



NEARBY ATTRACTIONS: Castillo de San Marcos, Colonial Quarter, Fountain of Youth

Parade of Lights

Savannah, Ga.

Nov. 28, 2015

CONTACT: Deborah Bouchea
(912) 629-2637, (800) 786-6404
dbouchea@savannahriverboat.com

www.savannahriverboat.com

Kick off the Holiday Season (always the Saturday after Thanksgiving) at this annual event. See every boat up close as we lead this festive procession of colorfully lit and decorated privately owned vessels parading both ways on the River. Includes heavy hors d’oeuvres, house entertainment, drink specials, and Santa Claus. Choose our festive party cruise or dance on our dinner entertainment cruise. ☒

NEARBY ATTRACTIONS: Holiday Trolley Tour, Dickens Walking Tour, Light Festival

SC Festival of Flowers

Greenwood, S.C.

June 25–27, 2015

CONTACT: Ellesor Holder
(864) 223-8411
ellesor@greenwoodsscchamber.org

www.scfestivalofflowers.org

June 25–27, 2015 will prove to be most entertaining for all ages. Enjoy a full schedule of activities the whole family can enjoy. View the works of top artists and craftsmen at the Arts & Crafts Show. Dance to live bluegrass music or enjoy a nice leisure-day strolling through one of our beautiful gardens on tour. Plus, see our now famous “Signature” Topiary Display with more than 40 living sculptures in Uptown Greenwood. Join us in Greenwood, S.C., for a blooming good time! 📍 🗺️ ☒

NEARBY ATTRACTIONS: Ninety Six National Historic Site, Emerald Goat Farms, Dr. Benjamin E. Mays Historic Preservation Site

Sumter Iris Festival

Sumter, S.C.

May 22–24, 2015

CONTACT: Lynn Kennedy
(803) 436-2640, (800) 688-4748
events@sumter-sc.com
www.irisfestival.org

Every Memorial Day Weekend the Swan Lake Iris Gardens form the backdrop for three days of flowers, food and family fun. The Sumter Iris Festival is South Carolina’s oldest continuous festival and named one of the Top 20 Events in the Southeast by the Southeast Tourism Society. Swan Lake is a public garden and home to gorgeous Japanese iris beds and the only location with all eight known species of swan. The annual festival makes a great bus trip for groups, especially gardeners, music fans, nature lovers, arts & craft lovers and car buffs! 🗺️ 🗺️ ☒

NEARBY ATTRACTIONS: Sumter Opera House, Sumter County Museum, Sumter County Cultural Center



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The East

Annual Events



Colonial Williamsburg Grand Illumination

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Asheville, N.C.
Nov. 6, 2015–Jan. 3, 2016
(tentative)

CONTACT: Group Sales/
Leslie Brewer
(866) 851-4661
groupsales@biltmore.com
www.biltmore.com

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34th Annual Boston Harborfest 2015

Boston, Mass.
TBD
CONTACT: Fiona Campbell
(617) 227-1528
festival@bostonharborfest.com
www.bostonharborfest.com

The 34th annual Boston Harborfest is a five-day Fourth of July festival that showcases the colonial and maritime heritage of the cradle of the American Revolution: the historic city of Boston. The award-winning festival strives to honor and remember the past, celebrate the present, and educate the future with reenactments, concerts, and historical tours. Each day is packed with events that will be fun for the whole family.

60th Kentucky Derby Festival & 141st Kentucky Derby

Louisville, Ky.
April 16–May 2, 2015
CONTACT: Dineene Bradley
(800) 626-5646
dbradley@gotolouisville.com
www.kentuckyderby.com;
www.gotolouisville.com

The Kentucky Derby Festival is a whirlwind of 70 events starting with Thunder Over Louisville, the opening ceremonies of the two-week festival. With an estimated average attendance of half a million people, it is the largest annual event in the region, the largest annual pyrotechnics display in North America, and one of the top five air shows in the country. Other highlights include a half and full marathon and live bed racing! The event that started it all, the Pegasus Parade marches down Broadway the Thursday before the Derby.

The Big E

West Springfield, Mass.
Sept. 18–Oct. 4, 2015
CONTACT: Gillian Palmer
(800) 334-2443
groupsales@thebige.com
www.thebige.com

One million plus guests enjoy top-name entertainment, Big E cream puffs, Mardi Gras Parade, Circus Spectacular, Horse Show, the Avenue of States, Storowton Village Museum and competitions. Located at the crossroads of New England on 175 acres in West Springfield, The Big E attracts groups from across the country and beyond. More than 800 motorcoaches visit The Big E each year.

Colonial Williamsburg Grand Illumination

Williamsburg, Va.
Dec. 6, 2015
CONTACT: Charles Efird
(757) 220-7462, (888) 293-5627
cefird@cwf.org
www.colonialwilliamsburg.com

Colonial Williamsburg's Christmas season officially begins with Grand Illumination, a spectacular evening where candles twinkle in the windows of historic area homes and buildings, fatwood crackles in street-side cressets, and the heavens explode with fireworks. Enjoy music, holiday events, hot chocolate and apple cider, and many more festive activities on the streets of Colonial Williamsburg. Entering its 80th year, Grand Illumination is sure to inspire many holiday traditions to come.

“A Country Christmas” at Gaylord Opryland Resort

Nashville, Tenn.

Nov. 20, 2015–Jan. 3, 2016

CONTACT: Tina Abellanosa
(615) 458-2821

tabellanosa@gaylordhotels.com
www.christmasatgaylordopryland.com

There’s no better place for the holidays than Nashville’s iconic Gaylord Opryland Resort with its two million twinkling lights, stunning decorations, and exceptional entertainment. There are more than a dozen shows and attractions, including larger-than-life nativity displays, Christmas dinner shows, and ICE!—astounding colorful sculptures hand-carved from two million pounds of ice. The resort’s nine acres of indoor gardens and waterfalls are transformed into a fanciful world of towering Christmas trees, oversized wreaths, and ornate details that provide breathtaking views.

CMA Music Festival

Nashville, Tenn.

June 11–14, 2015

CONTACT: Chris Harrington
(615) 244-2840
festtickets@cmaworld.com
www.cmafest.com

Created for the fans in 1972, CMA Music Festival brings it all together—artists, music, autographs, pictures, activities, and more—all for country music fans, the most devoted fans in the world! Thousands of passionate country music fans will enjoy multiple music stages filled with new artists, superstars, legends and more. It’s your chance to discover music, and make a connection with stars and fellow fans. And remember proceeds from the Festival support music education in Metro Nashville Public Schools and other programs through the CMA Foundation’s Keep the Music Playing program.

Daytona 500

Daytona Beach, Fla.

Feb. 22, 2015

CONTACT: Brandon R. Little
(386) 681-5514
blittle@daytonainternational.com
www.daytonainternational.com

It’s called “The Great American Race” but it’s the race the entire world bears witness to. Because no race has the guaranteed power to elevate careers and change lives, generation after generation, like the Daytona 500 does. Many greats have captured the Harley J. Earl Trophy over the years such as Dale Earnhardt, Jeff Gordon, and most recently Dale Earnhardt Jr. It doesn’t matter if it’s from the driver’s seat or a grandstand seat—being a part of the Daytona 500 is the thrill of a lifetime.

Macy’s Thanksgiving Day Parade

New York, N.Y.

Nov. 27, 2015

CONTACT: Kristin Esposito
(646) 429-7432
kristin.esposito@macys.com
www.nycgo.com

This annual tradition often signals the beginning of the Christmas holiday season. The Tom Turkey float leads the parade of more than 200 different elements, with Santa Claus in his sleigh as the grand finale. In between are giant balloons, marching bands, and floats. Performers and marchers include celebrities, clowns, and costumed characters. On Thanksgiving Eve, visitors can watch the parade’s signature giant character and novelty balloons come to life as they are inflated with helium.

“A Country Christmas” at Gaylord Opryland Resort



MummersFest & Fancy Brigade Finale: Philadelphia Mummers Parade

Philadelphia, Pa.
Jan. 1, 2015

CONTACT: Jim Julia
(302) 893-4937
james.julia@exeloncorp.com;
tourgroups@fancybrigade.com
www.fancybrigade.com

While the Mummers Parade has been held in Philadelphia on New Year's Day since 1901, the Philadelphia Mummers Brigade Association decided in 1997 to move its show indoors. No weather concerns means a guaranteed event and reserved comfortable seating. Refreshments and restrooms are available as well as family friendly events at MummersFest. Our venue, the Pennsylvania Convention Center in historic Downtown Philadelphia, offers the best place to see the Philadelphia Mummers. Come and see the most dynamic division in the Mummers Parade.

National Cherry Blossom Festival

Washington, D.C.
March 20-April 12, 2015

CONTACT: Diana Mayhew
(202) 661-7596
diana@downtowndc.org;
danielle@downtowndc.org
www.nationalcherryblossomfestival.org

The nation's greatest springtime celebration, the National Cherry Blossom Festival includes spectacular events featuring diverse and creative programming promoting traditional and contemporary arts and culture, natural beauty, and community spirit. Each year, the Festival commemorates the anniversary of the gift of the cherry blossom trees and the enduring friendship between the U. S. and Japan. Events are primarily free and open to the public, and more than 1.5 million people each year take part in this annual rite of spring.

PHS Philadelphia Flower Show

Philadelphia, Pa.
Feb. 28-March 8, 2015

CONTACT: Nick Pytel
(215) 988-8814
npytel@pennhort.org
www.theflowershow.com

The magic of the movies will move from silver screen to living color when the world's great floral and garden designers gather at the 2015 Philadelphia Flower Show for the ultimate "reel to real" experience. From the poppy fields of Oz to the jungles of *Avatar*, guests will be treated to the endless possibilities sprouting from these Technicolor creations. The nation's largest flower show will celebrate all that is great about the movies—Hollywood, Bollywood, and the Blockbusters of 2015—with Flower Show displays and special attractions that provide an exciting, glamorous, and inspirational experience for all ages.

Pigeon Forge Winterfest

Pigeon Forge, Tenn.
Nov. 10, 2015-Feb. 28, 2016

CONTACT: Joy McNealy
(865) 453-8574
jmcnealy@mypigeonforge.com
www.mypigeonforge.com/events_winterfest.aspx

Our festival features more than five million lights on display throughout the city. Our Trolley Tour of Lights, an event trademark, allows you to enjoy our holiday lights with guides for a tour you'll never forget. Wilderness Wildlife Week in January is the ultimate Smoky Mountain experience; it's a series of activities designed to connect visitors with the great outdoors. Get close to nature with more than 50 guided walks/hikes, lectures, seminars, and hands-on workshops. Forget the winter doldrums—let Winterfest embrace your holidays with our multiple events and themed celebration!



Virginia International Tattoo and Arts Festival

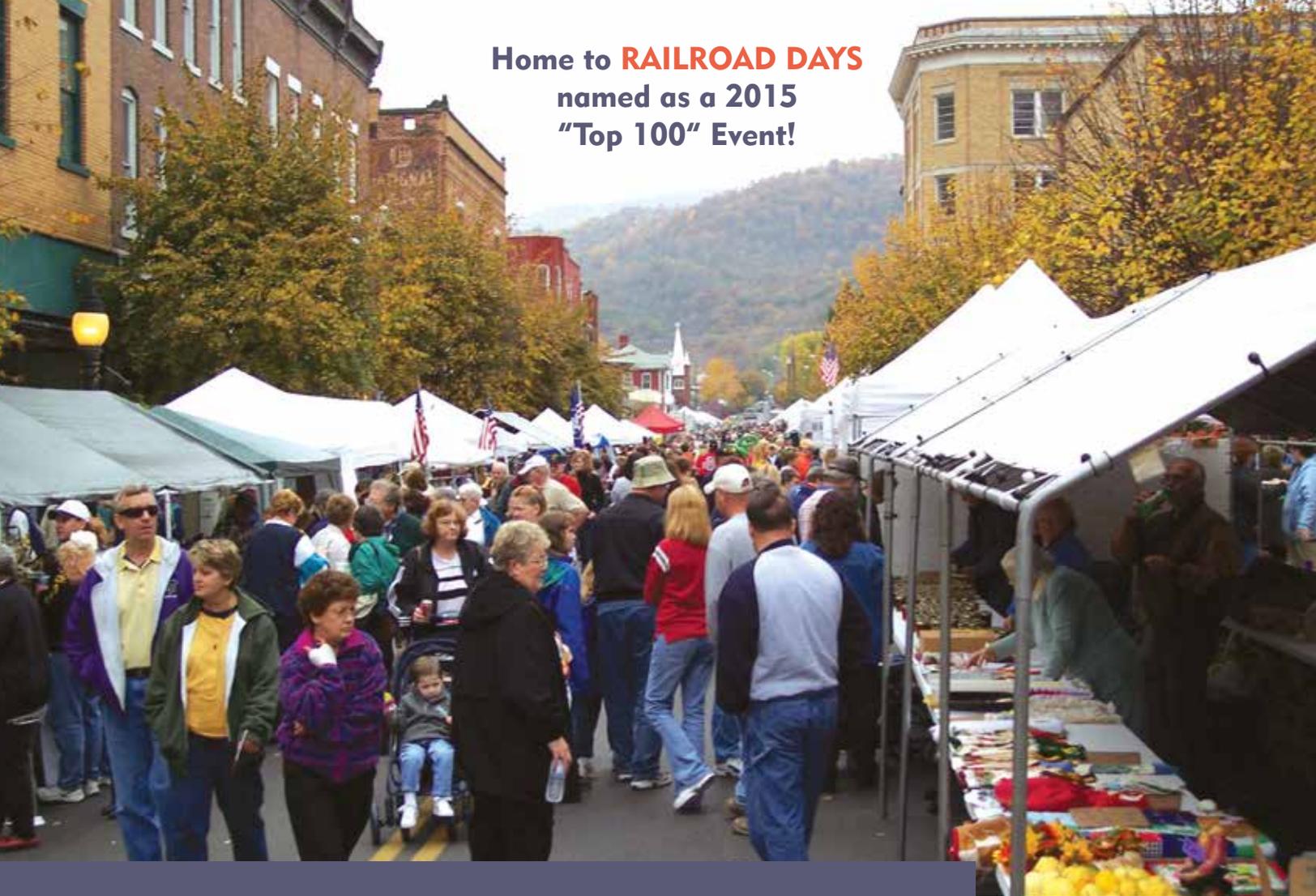
Virginia International Tattoo and Arts Festival

Norfolk, Va.
April 23-26, 2015

CONTACT: Dianna Starkey
(757) 282-2819
dstarkey@vafest.org
www.vafest.org

Every year the Virginia International Tattoo captures the imagination and ignites the soul of a worldwide audience with an incomparable and emotional spectacle of Music and Might. The term "tattoo" refers to a Scottish military last call, when pipes and drums called troops back to post for an evening ceremony. Considered the most patriotic of the world's great tattoos, the Virginia International Tattoo is a Scottish tradition with an American soul! The Tattoo features more than 800 military and civilian performers from eight nations.

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Celebrate railroad history and natural beauty at our Railroad Days Festival. Experience the great outdoors while rafting or ziplining in the New River Gorge. Research area coal mining history on the Coal Heritage Trail. Explore gristmills and taste award-winning salsa along the Midland Trail Scenic Highway. Spend a day sampling wineries, antique shops and art galleries located throughout the region. We have it all and it is all closer than you think in Southern West Virginia.

It's about time your group discovered Southern West Virginia.



Central

Whether it's reveling in history and culture or celebrating the holidays in style, plenty of incredible events await in the heart of the United States.



- Anniversary Year
- Offers Group Incentives
- Designated Motorcoach Parking
- Food

History Comes Alive Springfield, Ill.

June 1-Aug. 31, 2015

CONTACT: Sarah Watson;

Gina Gemmerling

(217) 782-6817, (217) 789-2360

swatson@lflhc.org

www.visit-springfieldillinois.com
/history-comes-alive.aspx

History lives in Springfield. Throughout the summer, many sites and attractions in historic Springfield will be brimming with free live performances and fun activities that will transport you back in time—to the Springfield Abraham Lincoln knew and loved. From storytelling and interaction with costumed interpreters to visits with Mr. Lincoln, himself, this is a trip to the past you won't want to miss!



NEARBY ATTRACTIONS: Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum, Lincoln Home National Historic Site, Lincoln's Tomb

Great Lakes

53rd Annual Arts & Crafts Festival

Nappanee, Ind.

Aug. 6-9, 2015

CONTACT: Jenni Wysong
(574) 773-4188, (800) 800-4942
jenniwyson@amishacres.com
www.amishacres.com/arts_crafts_festival/arts_crafts_festival_2014.php

More than 300 vendors will set up around the historic farm's pond during this four-day event. Wagon rides, marionette and magic shows, a Threshers Dinner in the century-old barn restaurant, and guided tours intertwine the festival's and farm's attractions. Free entertainment on four stages and festive food concoctions bring a distinctive flavor to the annual event.

NEARBY ATTRACTIONS: The Round Barn Theatre, Amish Acres Historic Farm and Heritage Resort, Quilt Garden Tour

ArtPrize

Grand Rapids, Mich.

Sept. 22-Oct. 11, 2015

CONTACT: Mary Manier
(616) 233-3554
mmanier@experiencegr.com

ArtPrize is a radically open, independently organized international art competition, and a 501c3 non-profit. For 19 days, three square miles of downtown Grand Rapids become an open playing field where anyone can find a voice in the conversation about what is art and why it matters. Art from around the world pops up in every inch of downtown, and it's all free. ArtPrize is a great event for the untraditional group market. CNN Featured ArtPrize as Michigan's must-see destination in 2014 and *Time* magazine named it one of the Five Festive Events You Won't Want to Miss in 2013.

NEARBY ATTRACTIONS: Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park, Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum, Grand Rapids Art Museum

Dublin Irish Festival

Dublin, Ohio

July 31-Aug. 2, 2015

CONTACT: Katie Rich
(614) 792-7666, (800) 245-8387
krich@irishisanattitude.com
www.dublinirishfestival.org

Irish attitude is all you need to experience the Dublin Irish Festival in Dublin, Ohio. For 27 years, the first weekend in August has been reserved for what is now the world's second largest Irish celebration. With seven stages, 65 acts and more than 535 performers, there is something for everyone. In addition to world-class entertainment, guests will enjoy food, dance, cultural activities, Irish storytelling, a 10th century Irish Village, traditional Irish sporting events and so much more! Gates open at 4 p.m. on Friday at Coffman Park.

NEARBY ATTRACTIONS: Columbus Zoo & Aquarium, Ohio Amish Country, US Air Force Museum

Meet Jungle Jack Hanna

Columbus, Ohio

June 19, 2015 and
Sept. 18-19, 2015

CONTACT: Marceline Dyer, CTIS
(614) 222-6146, (800) 354-2657
mdyer@experiencecolumbus.com
www.experiencecolumbus.com/meetjack

In the ultimate animal-lover's experience, Columbus Zoo and Aquarium hosts the opportunity to meet Jungle Jack Hanna June 19 and Sept. 18 and 19. Groups staying the night in a Columbus hotel have the chance to meet the director emeritus—also affectionately known as "America's favorite zookeeper"—and enjoy a private animal show from him before exploring the zoo voted No. 1 in America by *USA Travel Guide*.

NEARBY ATTRACTIONS: The Wilds, Franklin Park Conservatory, Ohio History Center

History Comes Alive



National Cherry Festival

Traverse City, Mich.

July 4-11, 2015

CONTACT: Mandy DePuy
(231) 947-4230, (800) 968-3380
mandy@cherryfestival.org
www.cherryfestival.org

Remember the sights, sounds and smells of a summer celebration in your hometown when you were a kid? Happy days return to Traverse City's beautiful Lake Michigan shores each summer with more than 100 events, including free air shows over the bay, colorful parades, wine and culinary galas, music shows, sporting events, marching bands, rides, pie-eating contests, classic car show, arts and craft fair, orchard tours, and loads of luscious cherries prepared every way you can imagine.   

NEARBY ATTRACTIONS: Sleeping Bear Dunes, Winery, Brewery & Distillery Tours, Lighthouses

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Quilt Gardens Along the Heritage Trail

Elkhart, Ind.

May 30–Oct. 1, 2015

CONTACT: Sonya Nash
(574) 262-8161, (800) 517-9657
sonya@amishcountry.org
www.quiltgardens.com

More than a million vibrant blooms. Plus, gigantic gardens, hand-painted super-sized murals, and welcoming communities. Travel a 90-mile scenic Heritage Trail through the Amish Country of Northern Indiana passing farms, dining in homes, touring shops, businesses, and small towns. See one quilt garden or see all 20. Master gardener and quilter step-on guides are available. Free customized itinerary planning offered by the CVB. 📍 🗺️ 📞

NEARBY ATTRACTIONS: Shipshewana Flea Market, Amish Acres Historic Farm, Dinner & Theatre, Das Dutchman Essenhaus Inn, Restaurant and Theatre

Shipshewana Quilt Festival

Shipshewana, Ind.

June 24–27, 2015

CONTACT: JoDee Hooley
(260) 768-4008, (866) 243-9434
groups@shipshewanaquiltfest.com
www.shipshewanaquiltfest.com

The Shipshewana Quilt Festival, held annually in the heart of Indiana's Amish Country, is the region's largest event of its kind featuring lectures by nationally known speakers, a Quilt & Vendor Show, Backroads Shop Hop, educational activities, and more! Groups attending also have the opportunity to view the beautiful Barn Quilt Trail and Quilt Gardens Tour throughout the county and neighboring towns. Additionally, each year a different special exhibit is displayed in Hostetler's Hudson Auto Museum. 📍 🗺️ 📞

NEARBY ATTRACTIONS: Shipshewana Flea Market, Blue Gate Theater, Hostetler's Hudson Auto Museum

The Heartland

Big Iron Farm Show

West Fargo, N.D.

Sept. 9–11, 2015

CONTACT: Bryan Schulz
(701) 282-2200, (800) 456-6408
bryan@redriversvalleyfair.com
www.bigironfarmshow.com

The Big Iron Farm Show in West Fargo, N.D., is held in September, which includes fall colors, beautiful sunny days, and gentle breezes at night. Groups are invited to attend the top-rated seminars conducted by agricultural and technology professionals. Visit the 800-plus vendors, be first to see the farm equipment demonstrations, and stroll through the arts and crafts sections. There is always more to explore at www.fargomoorhead.org. 📍 🗺️ 📞

NEARBY ATTRACTIONS: Fargo Air Museum, Bonazaville USA, Roger Maris Baseball Museum

Branson Veterans Homecoming Week

Branson, Mo.

Nov. 5–11, 2015

CONTACT: Lenni Neimeyer
(417) 243-2105, (877) BRANSON
lneimeyer@bransoncvb.com
www.explorebranson.com/veterans

Every day of the year, Branson honors our veterans, but Nov. 5–11 each year, Branson hosts Veterans Homecoming, the largest veterans celebration in the nation. During this week, which concludes with a Veterans Day parade in historic downtown Branson, thousands of veterans, active-duty military personnel and their families attend more than 40 special events honoring their service and sacrifice. 📍 🗺️ 📞

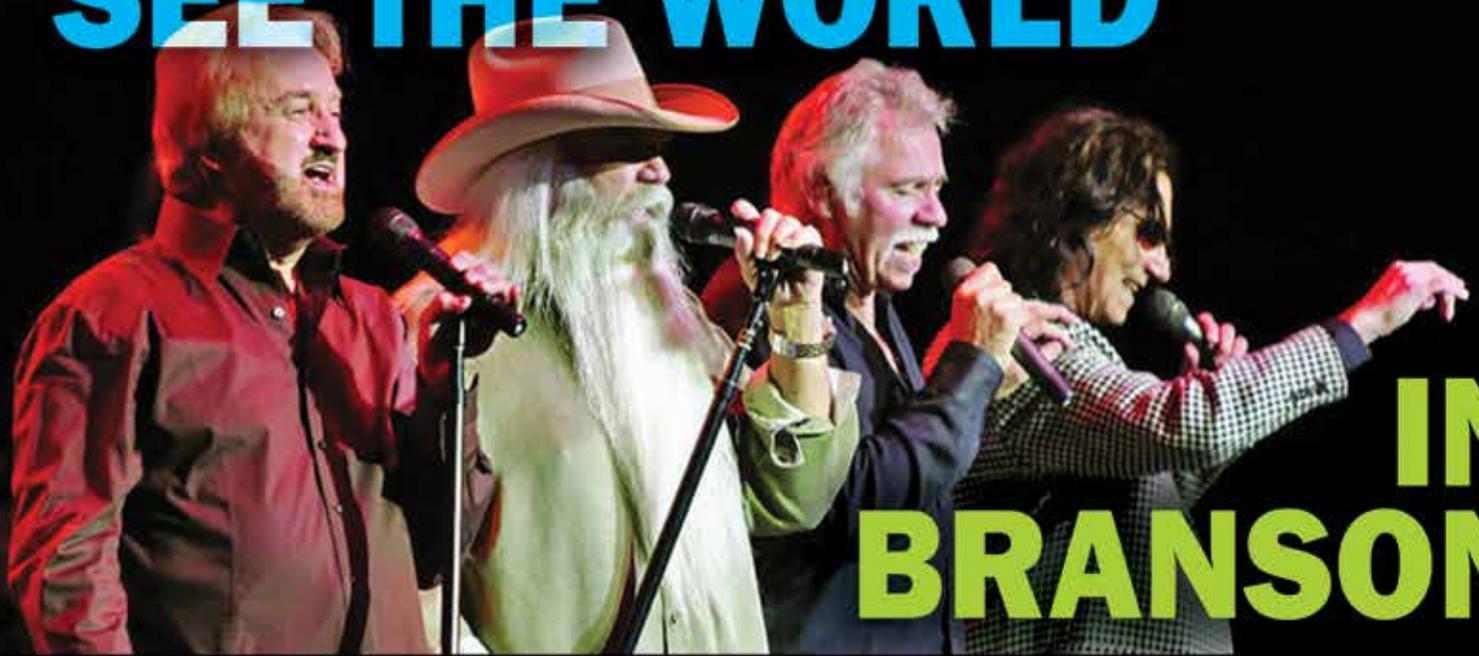
NEARBY ATTRACTIONS: Veterans Memorial Museum, Special Live Shows, Special Performance on Showboat Branson Belle



Branson Veterans Homecoming Week



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www.bransontravelplanning.com





Norsk Høstfest Scandinavian Festival

Dodge City Days

Dodge City, Kan.

July 24–Aug. 2, 2015

CONTACT: Dan Schenkein
(620) 227-3119
dcdays@dodgechamber.com
www.dodgecitydays.com

Feel Dodge City’s history come to life during the annual Dodge City Days! This 10-day celebration hosts more than 50 events including the award-winning PRCA Hall of Fame Dodge City Rodeo. They call it the “Greatest Show on Dirt,” and it’s hard to argue. Other event highlights include a classic car show, a carnival, an arts and crafts show, professional barbecue contest, a Western parade, and the crowning of Miss Rodeo Kansas. The festival kicks off on July 24, 2015, with the Boot Hill Bull Fry and Bash. Saddle up and enjoy the ride!

NEARBY ATTRACTIONS: Boot Hill Museum, Boot Hill Casino, Santa Fe Depot & Depot Theater Company

NEBRASKALAND DAYS

North Platte, Neb.

June 17–28, 2015

CONTACT: David Fudge
(308) 532-7939, (800) 313-5606
dfudge@nebraskalanddays.com
www.nebraskalanddays.com

Now in its 51st year, Nebraska’s official state celebration takes place in North Platte each June. A consolidated schedule assures that not a day during the 11 day celebration goes by without non-stop entertainment for your group. Enjoy the historic Buffalo Bill Rodeo in the town where Buffalo Bill invented the sport. Combine that with top-name concert entertainment, music, food, art and history events, and parades and North Platte’s great lodging and dining, and you’ve got a recipe for success.



NEARBY ATTRACTIONS: Golden Spike Tower, Buffalo Bill Ranch, Lincoln County Historical Museum

Norsk Høstfest Scandinavian Festival

Minot, N.D.

Sept. 29–Oct. 3, 2015

CONTACT: Pamela Alme Davy
(701) 852-2368
pamdavy@minot.com
www.hostfest.com

The Norsk Høstfest welcomes international and national groups and provides you the opportunity to create new memories and friendships with the people you meet. More than 200 internationally recognized artisans, craftsmen, and chefs participate each year. Here, you will find fine quality and exquisitely Nordic cuisine, clothing, art, jewelry, and much more! The Great Hall of the Vikings and seven Håll stages offer top entertainment in country, comedic, and contemporary music and variety acts.

NEARBY ATTRACTIONS: Scandinavian Heritage Park, Dakota Territory Air Museum, Pointe of View Winery

See The World In Branson Music Fest

Branson, Mo.

April 22–23, 2015

CONTACT: Toyea Youngblood
(417) 348-1434, (800) 339-2216
bransongrouptours@yahoo.com
www.seetheworldinbranson.com

Branson’s largest springtime event, the festival offers a sampling of more than 20 different Branson entertainers during two days of matinee performances. Located on the festival grounds is a marketplace tent that features the Savor the Flavors of Branson cooking demonstrations and Branson’s Celebrity Chef Cookoff. Entertainers are on hand for autograph and photo opportunities, along with prize drawings, and giveaways and games for visitors to enjoy.



NEARBY ATTRACTIONS: Clay Cooper Theater, Branson, Oak Ridge Boys Theater

The South

20th Anniversary of Galaxy of Lights

Montgomery, Ala.

Nov. 24–Dec. 31, 2015

CONTACT: Rosemary Judkins
(334) 242-4493
rosemary.judkins@tourism.alabama.gov
www.alabama.travel

The Galaxy of Lights is the largest holiday light display in the state. More than 170 different scenes make up the galaxy displays. Galaxy is a mile-and-a-half-long drive-through tour that features larger than life displays including scenes from the holidays, beautiful botanicals, and animals. ♿️🚗🚫

NEARBY ATTRACTIONS: Huntsville Space & Rocket Center, Constitution Village, Burritt on the Mountain

50th Anniversary of Selma to Montgomery March—Annual Bridge Crossing Jubilee in Selma

Montgomery, Ala.

March 5–8, 2015

CONTACT: Rosemary Judkins
(334) 242-4493
rosemary.judkins@tourism.alabama.gov
www.alabama.travel

The Bridge Crossing Jubilee is an annual event organized by the National Voting Rights Museum & Institute with the Wallace Community College Selma, 21st Century Youth Leadership Movement, the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, and the City of Selma. It commemorates the triumph of the Civil Rights Movement and the entire African American community against segregation. ♿️🚗🚫

NEARBY ATTRACTIONS: National Voting Rights Museum, Browns Baptist Church, Old Depot Museum

Carnival on the Coast—Mardi Gras Season

Biloxi, Miss.

Jan. 31–Feb. 17, 2015

CONTACT: Group Sales
(228) 432-8806
info@gulfcoastcarnivalassociation.com
www.gulfcoastcarnivalassociation.com

Carnival on the Coast is an exciting season. Decorated floats crowded with Krewe members throw beads, stuffed animals, doubloons, and other treasures to eager bystanders. On the Mississippi Gulf Coast, there are 23+ parades; from state line to state line, every town celebrates for several weeks before Fat Tuesday or Mardi Gras Day. The Mardi Gras Season attracts more than 450,000 people annually and continues to grow in popularity. ♿️🚗🚫

NEARBY ATTRACTIONS: Mardi Gras Museum in the Rue Magnolia Arts District, Downtown Ocean Springs, Ohr-O'Keefe Museum of Art

Mardi Gras on Bayou Lafourche

Raceland, La.

Feb. 15–16, 2015

CONTACT: Peggy Benoit
(985) 537-5800
peggy@visitlafourche.com
www.visitlafourche.com

Your group is invited to the “Greatest Free Show on the Bayou”! Mardi Gras on Bayou Lafourche includes exciting parades and a colorful tableau. Along with a Cajun Music Jam Session and King Cake, your clients will be able to take part in traditional Carnival celebrations. Only 40 miles SW of New Orleans and 20 miles from the beautiful antebellum plantations of the Great River Road. Experience Mardi Gras without the large crowds. We’re real Cajun—real close! ♿️🚗🚫

NEARBY ATTRACTIONS: Distillery Tours, Swamp Tours, Cajun Cultural Attractions

The Greatest Free Show on the Bayou!



Over 15 Parades, Tableaus, Carnival Balls and many other Mardi Gras Celebrations in a family-friendly atmosphere. Enjoy authentic Louisiana cuisine, swamp tours, sugarcane plantations and many other Cajun cultural attractions only 40 miles SW of New Orleans. Accommodations available for any style or budget.



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info@visitlafourche.com • www.visitlafourche.com
facebook.com/VisitBayouLafourche





W. C. Handy Music Festival

Mudbug Madness

Shreveport, La.

May 21-24, 2015

CONTACT: Melanie Bacon
(318) 226-5641
mbacon@downtownshreveport.com
www.mudbugmadness.com

Recognized as one of the Southeast Tourism Society’s Top 20 events, the Mudbug Madness Festival is a sure bet for group tours looking for a special experience. This Memorial Day weekend event in downtown Shreveport at Festival Plaza celebrates Louisiana’s Cajun heritage. Honoring the beloved crawfish, the festival features mouth-watering Cajun/Creole food, renowned Cajun/zydeco/blues artists, raucous crawfish eating contests, a children’s area, and crafts. (T) (X)

NEARBY ATTRACTIONS: Outlets at the Louisiana Boardwalk, Great Raft Brewing, Casinos

National Shrimp Festival

Gulf Shores, Ala.

Oct. 8-11, 2015

CONTACT: Ann von Eberstein
(251) 968-6091
info@mygulfcoastchamber.com
www.nationalshrimpfestival.com

The National Shrimp Festival is one of the nation’s premier outdoor festivals featuring live entertainment, more than 300 vendors, fine art, arts and crafts, a retail marketplace, and wonderful fresh-from-the-Gulf Coast seafood, especially shrimp. (X)

NEARBY ATTRACTIONS: Annual Mullet Toss, Hangout Music Festival, Annual Balloon Festival



New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival

New Orleans, La.

April 24-May 3, 2015

CONTACT: Mandy DeLong
(504) 410-4100
mandy@nojazzfest.com
www.nojazzfest.com

The New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival, aka Jazz Fest, is a 10-day cultural feast when thousands of musicians, cooks, and craftspeople welcome 400,000 visitors each year. The Louisiana Heritage Fair showcases unforgettable music on multiple stages, delicious Louisiana cuisine in two large food areas, and crafts artisans from the region and around the world demonstrating and selling their work. (X)

NEARBY ATTRACTIONS: Mardi Gras World, WWII Museum, Audubon Institute

W. C. Handy Music Festival

Florence, Ala.

July 17-26, 2015

CONTACT: Nancy Gonce
(256) 766-9719, (256) 766-7642
ngonce@bellsouth.net
www.w.c.handymusicfestival.org

Hosted by the Music Preservation Society, Inc. annually since 1982, the W. C. Handy Music Festival celebrates the musical heritage of Alabama native son, W. C. Handy, “The Father of the Blues,” and of “The Muscle Shoals Sound.” The lineup includes concerts, exhibits, educational programs, parades, a street strut, athletic events, theater, as well as music along the Tennessee River and other locations featuring Muscle Shoals artists and songwriters and jazz, R&B, gospel, contemporary, soul, and blues artists. (T) (X)

NEARBY ATTRACTIONS: W. C. Handy Home and Museum, Alabama Music Hall of Fame, Ivy Green—Helen Keller Birthplace Home



Ed Hall

Oprah loves Selma! Your groups will, too!

To honor the 50th anniversary of the historic Selma to Montgomery March, Oprah Winfrey has produced the movie “Selma” that stars David Oyelowo (“The Butler”) as the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. Oprah stayed here while all Alabama scenes were filmed, including her scenes as voting-rights activist Annie Lee Cooper, who famously slugged Selma’s racist sheriff. See the motion picture when it opens nationwide on Jan. 9, 2015, then make the journey to the real Selma.

Oprah and David each received the “Sacred Ground” certificate for crossing the Edmund Pettus Bridge. Repeat history when your groups walk across the bridge during your pilgrimage. Each of your participants will receive the same “Sacred Ground” certificate if you book with Alabama Tourism Department Sales Manager Rosemary Judkins in 2015 and 2016 .

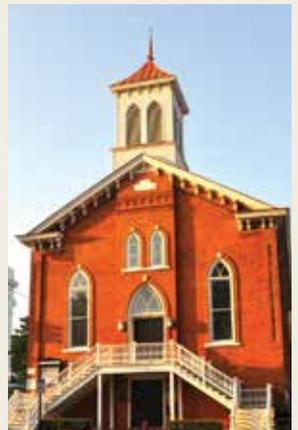
Tour the historic Brown Chapel AME Church where the marches began. Stay at the historic St. James Hotel, a block from the bridge, where many of the film crew and cast stayed. Visit the National Park Service’s free interpretive center on U.S. Highway 80. In Montgomery, tour Dr. King’s Dexter Avenue Baptist Church. Visit the parsonage that is filled with King’s personal items and furniture.

Most importantly, feel what Rev. King meant when he spoke the words, “Thank God Almighty, we are free at last!”



To learn how your group can experience this legacy, contact Rosemary Judkins at rosemary.judkins@tourism.alabama.gov or 334-242-4493.

Sweet Home
Alabama
.org



Rev. King's church



Selma hotel

Central Annual Events



Indy 500 Celebration

Ozark Mountain Christmas

Branson, Mo.
Nov. 1, 2015–Dec. 31, 2015

CONTACT: Lynn Berry
(877) BRANSON
lberry@bransoncvb.com
www.explorebranson.com

Just like the ending of a fantastic show, this nationally acclaimed holiday destination, with its broad mix of world-class entertainment and Christmas spirit, creates a grand finale for the year. See the Branson Area Festival of Lights and lots of Christmas shows! Silver Dollar City, the award-winning 1880s theme park, has their Old Time Christmas. The legacy continues with the Andy Williams Christmas Show featuring the Osmonds and the Lennon Sisters. Sight & Sound Theatre's production of The Miracle of Christmas will warm the hearts and bless the souls of everyone that sees it. Branson—it's your show!

Holland Tulip Time Festival

Holland, Mich.
May 2–9, 2015

CONTACT: Susan Zalniz
(616) 396-4221 ext. 107
groupsales@tuliptime.com
www.tuliptime.com

The Tulip Time Festival in Holland, Mich., celebrating its 86th year, invites everyone to join the dance as we welcome spring. You won't want to miss our premier parades, performances by more than a thousand costumed dancers, floats, and special surprises. In addition to all this, enjoy a wide selection of superb local and world class national entertainment, which has previously included Kenny Rogers and Bill Cosby. Stroll through our Dutch marketplace, or shop our award winning Downtown Holland. All this while enjoying the stars of the show: our millions of tulips.

Indy 500 Celebration

Indianapolis, Ind.
May 2–24, 2015

CONTACT: Lisa Wallace
(317) 262-8260
lwallace@visitindy.com
www.500festival.com

The Indy 500 Celebration features a three-week/four-week-end event schedule that provides an opening week of busy daily track activity, two pressure-packed days of qualifications and a traditional Race Week format that includes a parade and all of the pageantry of "The Greatest Spectacle in Racing." There will be 12 days of on-track action during the month of May at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway, kicking off with the country's largest half marathon, the 500 Festival Mini Marathon on Saturday, May 2. The month will culminate with the world's largest single-day sporting event, the Indianapolis 500 taking place on May 24, 2015.

Mardi Gras

New Orleans, La.
Feb. 17, 2015

CONTACT: Lisa Holland
(800) 748-8695
lholland@neworleanscvb.com
www.neworleanscvb.com

Although New Orleans is known for many things, including jazz, Creole and Cajun cooking, and the French Quarter, Mardi Gras eclipses all as New Orleans' most famous centerpiece. Fat Tuesday this year will be Feb. 17, but the festivities begin weeks in advance. A time of revelry, fraternity, festivity, and unabashed indulgence, Mardi Gras reflects New Orleanians' rich heritage, unleashes the joyous soul of the city and invites everyone to join in the fun. The festival embraces the city's social and cultural variety, from the Mardi Gras Indians to the Zulu parade and the Endymion ball, and brings everyone together in the spirit of revelry.

St. Paul Winter Carnival

St. Paul, Minn.
Jan. 22–Feb. 1, 2015

CONTACT: Michael Hernandez
(651) 265-4906
mhernandez@visitsaintpaul.com
www.winter-carnival.com

The St. Paul Winter Carnival is an 11-day winter festival that fosters a sense of community, pride, belonging and connectedness by celebrating St. Paul's unique history and emerging heritage. The carnival welcomes more than 400,000 people to St. Paul and creates \$3.5 to \$5 million in economic activity. The St. Paul Festival & Heritage Foundation maintains an ongoing administration. This year-round management provides the volunteer support, programming continuity, and fiscal administration necessary to assure the continued growth and success of the St. Paul Winter Carnival.

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE INDIANAPOLIS MOTOR SPEEDWAY.

Celebrating ARTPRIZE®

ArtPrize – the world’s richest, most radical art competition – has been named one of ABA’s Top 100 Events for 2015. Bring your group to see more than 1,500 works of art covering every inch of downtown Grand Rapids. Visitor votes determine the \$200,000 prize winner!



September 22 – October 11, 2015
September 21 – October 9, 2016



Find tour ideas, visit
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Or contact:
Mary L. Manier, CTP/CTIS
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The West

With events ranging from hot-air balloon festivals to quilt shows, there's something for everyone in the West.



- Anniversary Year
- Offers Group Incentives
- Designated Motorcoach Parking
- Food

Gathering of Nations Native American Powwow

Albuquerque, N.M.

April 24-25, 2015

CONTACT: Derek Mathews

(505) 836-2810

tsunami@gonmail.com

www.gatheringofnations.com



The Gathering of Nations Powwow is North America's largest Native American competition and powwow. The event celebrates Native American pageantry and culture with more than 500 tribes represented from across the U.S. and Canada. Attracting more than 3,000 participants from all over the world, the powwow features aisles of shopping at the Indian Trader's Market and native foods and music. Also featured during the powwow is the crowning of Miss Indian World.

NEARBY ATTRACTIONS: Indian Pueblo Cultural Center, Native American Owned Casinos, Acoma Pueblo

The Rockies

Donkey Derby Days

Cripple Creek, Colo.

June 27-28, 2015

CONTACT: Pat Martin

(719) 689-3461

pmartin@cripple-creek.co.us

www.visitcripplecreek.com



Donkey Derby Days celebrates its 84th anniversary. People from all over the world descend on our mountain town, drawn by a chance to watch a race inspired by the town's resident free-roaming donkey herd. They're thought to be descendants of the original donkeys from the town's 1900s gold rush. Families can watch or participate in the donkey races. This two-day event includes heritage competitions, live entertainment, children's activities, vendors, and much more. This is a free event!

NEARBY ATTRACTIONS: Garden of the Gods, Air Force Academy, Pikes Peak Cog Railroad

The Southwest

Albuquerque American Indian Art Festival

Albuquerque, N.M.

Oct. 3-4, 2015

CONTACT: Tazbah McCullah

(505) 724-3519

tmccullah@indianpueblo.com

www.indianpueblo.com



Hear Native drums as you enter into the Albuquerque American Indian Art Festival at the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center. At the outdoor plaza, there's a marketplace filled with tribal artists from across the country, selling hand-made items. Dancers perform tribal dances every hour. Groups can also enjoy a wide selection of Native and American cuisine at the award-winning Pueblo Harvest Café.

NEARBY ATTRACTIONS: Acoma "Sky City" Pueblo, Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta, National Hispanic Cultural Center

Christmas Capital of Texas

Grapevine, Texas

Nov. 20, 2015-Jan. 3, 2016

CONTACT: Heather Boehm

(817) 410-3185, (800) 457-6338

hboehm@grapevinetexasusa.com

www.grapevinetexasusa.com

/christmas-capital-of-texas



See Grapevine as the city becomes blanketed with millions of lights, decorations, animated characters, and more! Festivities include ICE! at the Gaylord Texan Resort; Christmas on Main; North Pole Express; and the largest lighted Christmas parade in North Texas. There are also holiday musical performances, the Grapevine Opry's Christmas Spectacular, family Christmas movies, Murder Mystery Dinner Theater, and Lone Star Christmas at the Gaylord Texan Resort.

NEARBY ATTRACTIONS: ICE! at the Gaylord Texan Resort, Live Christmas Musicals & Entertainment, Parade of Lights

Havasu Balloon Festival & Fair

Lake Havasu City, Ariz.

Jan. 16-18, 2015

CONTACT: Ida Jones

(928) 453-3444, (800) 242-8278

ida@golakehavasus.com

www.havasuballoonfest.com



The Havasu Balloon Festival and Fair hosts more than 65 hot air balloons, launching from an island in the middle of the lake. Chat with pilots preparing for a morning or midafternoon flight, taking them over Lake Havasu. See them "splash and dash" as they dip in the lake and float over the London Bridge. On Sat. and Sun. morning, be close to the balloons during staging on the "Island Fantasy" field. At night, tethered balloons prepare for the evening glow, resembling Chinese lanterns. Be awed from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. daily.

NEARBY ATTRACTIONS: London Bridge, Topcock Gorge Boat Tour, Lake Havasu Museum

La Fiesta de los Vaqueros Tucson Rodeo

Tucson, Ariz.

Feb. 21–March 1, 2015

CONTACT: Gary Williams
(520) 741-2233, (800) 964-5662
info@tucsonrodeo.com
www.tucsonrodeo.com

The Tucson Rodeo, the first major outdoor event on the PRCAs schedule, gives visitors an opportunity to see real-life cowboys and cowgirls display their ability in the only sport in the world developed from work skills. The Tucson Rodeo Parade is billed as the world's longest non-motorized parade. This two-hour spectacle features Western-themed floats and buggies, historic horse-drawn coaches, festive Mexican folk dancers, marching bands, and outfitted riders. 🚗 🚙 🚘

NEARBY ATTRACTIONS: Tucson Rodeo Museum, Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum, Pima Air & Space Museum

MAIN ST. Ft. Worth Arts Festival

Ft. Worth, Texas

April 9–12, 2015

CONTACT: Jay Downie
(817) 336-2787
festivalinfo@dfwi.org
www.mainstreetartsfest.org

The MAIN ST. Ft. Worth Arts Festival celebrates its 30th year in Downtown Ft. Worth, showcasing a juried art fair, live music from local, regional, and national talent, local cuisine, family-friendly activities, and much more. The crown jewel of Texas events, MAIN ST. is one of the finest arts festivals in the U.S., as referenced in both the Art Fair Sourcebook and The Harris List, and is the winner of the IFEA's Grand Pinnacle Award for three of the past five years. 🎨 🎵 🍷

NEARBY ATTRACTIONS: Ft. Worth Stockyards, Ft. Worth Cultural District with Museums, Sundance Square Events, Downtown Ft. Worth

SalsaFest!

Las Cruces, N.M.

Aug. 29–30, 2015

CONTACT: Carrie La Tour
(575) 525-1955
director@dlcp.org
www.downtownlascruces.org

Spice up your tour with SalsaFest! a signature of Las Cruces, N.M. SalsaFest! serves up some of the most creative samples. Join nearly 10,000 locals who attend to sample sauces made from scratch by professional and amateur teams. SalsaFest! also features salsa music, the Best-Dressed Chihuahua contest, an excellent assortment of food and Mexican beers, crafts, and people watching. When things heat up, grab a shady seat, sip a cold beverage or slurp a snow cone, relax and enjoy the view. 🎵 🍷 🚗

NEARBY ATTRACTIONS: White Sands National Monument, Historic Mesilla, New Mexico Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum

The West

Best in the West Nugget Rib Cook-Off

Sparks, Nev.

Sept. 2–7, 2015

CONTACT: Lisa Jansen
(775) 356-3428
lisa_jansen@janugget.com
www.nuggettribcookoff.com

Chow down at the Best in the West Nugget Rib Cook-Off, held annually over Labor Day weekend in downtown Sparks, Nev. It's a culinary, music, craft, and family-friendly extravaganza guaranteed to send summer out in style. Hosted by JA Nugget, more than 500,000 people devour 233,000 pounds of ribs cooked by the world's best rib cooks vying for prize money. For more information, visit www.nuggettribcookoff.com or www.janugget.com. 🚗

NEARBY ATTRACTIONS: Beautiful Lake Tahoe, Historic Virginia City, Downtown Reno

Dungeness Crab and Seafood Festival

Port Angeles, Wash.

Oct. 9–11, 2015

CONTACT: Scott Nagel
(360) 452-6300
info@crabfestival.org
www.crabfestival.org

Taste the bounty of the Olympic coast at the 13th annual Dungeness Crab and Seafood Festival, Oct. 9–11, 2015, in Port Angeles, Wash. "Crabfest" is the annual celebration of our region's diverse bounty—the seafood, agriculture and maritime traditions, and the breathtaking coastal environment that is home to the Dungeness crab. This amazing food Festival takes place downtown at the City Pier, overlooking the beautiful Strait of Juan de Fuca and Victoria, B.C. Hours: Fri., 4–10 p.m.; Sat., 10 a.m.–10 p.m., Sun., 10 a.m.–5 p.m. 🎣 🍷 🚗

NEARBY ATTRACTIONS: Victoria, B.C., Olympic National Park, Port Townsend

Havasu Balloon Festival & Fair



Fairbanks Summer Arts Festival

Fairbanks, Alaska
July 12-26, 2015

CONTACT: Terese Kaptur
(907) 474-8869
festival@alaska.net
www.fsaf.org

At the Fairbanks Summer Arts Festival in Alaska, there are artistic and cultural experiences offered throughout a two-week long, mid-summer period, including more than 80 mini-workshops in music, visual arts, dance, writing, theater, and healing and culinary arts, plus 100 performances held at locations all over town. There are also free lunchtime concerts and full evening performances. Think of it as “a summer camp for adults” where participants can stay for one concert or the full two-week festival.

NEARBY ATTRACTIONS: University of Alaska Museum of the North, Fountainhead Antique Auto Museum, Riverboat Discovery

Sisters Quilt Show “The World’s Largest Outdoor Quilt Show”

Sisters, Ore.
July 11-12, 2015

CONTACT: Jeanette Pilak
(541) 549-0989
jeanette@soqs.org
www.sistersoutdoorquiltshow.org

Sisters Outdoor Quilt Show is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to educate and inspire about the art of quilting. The World’s Largest Outdoor Quilt Show, celebrating its 40th anniversary, is free and features 1,300 quilts from all over the world displayed on buildings, fences, railings, and porches throughout our 1890s Western-themed town. Quilts and quilters attend from across the U.S., England, Europe, Australia, New Zealand, and South Africa.

NEARBY ATTRACTIONS: High Desert Museum, Sunriver Resort, Long Hollow Ranch

Southwest Arts Festival

Indio, Calif.
Jan. 23-25, 2015

CONTACT: Joshua Bonner
(760) 347-0676
swaf@indiochamber.org
www.southwestartsfest.com

Welcome to the 29th annual Southwest Arts Festival. With a unique blend of culture and art, the festival is one of the oldest and largest in the region playing host to more than 280 artists. Featuring highly acclaimed work in the fields of traditional, contemporary, and abstract art, the festival is located in the beautiful Empire Polo Club, a Coachella Valley landmark that is home to the world-renowned Coachella Music and Arts Festival and other national sporting events and festivals.

NEARBY ATTRACTIONS: HITS Horse Jumping Show, Coachella Valley History Museum, Palm Springs Art Museum



Tulip Fest

Woodburn, Ore.
March 25-May 5, 2015

CONTACT: Barb Iverson
(503) 634-2243
office@woodenshoe.com
www.woodenshoe.com

Our favorite time of year is when the tulips bloom! There is nothing like the colors of our tulip fields in the spring. Every year the varieties are arranged differently in a new pattern of color as we rotate our tulip fields to a new location. Enjoy more than 40 acres of Tulips. Only 45 minutes from Portland and 30 minutes from Salem.

NEARBY ATTRACTIONS: Oregon Garden, Woodburn Company Stores, Oregon Wine Country

Road to California Quilters Conference & Showcase

Ontario, Calif.
Jan. 22-25, 2015

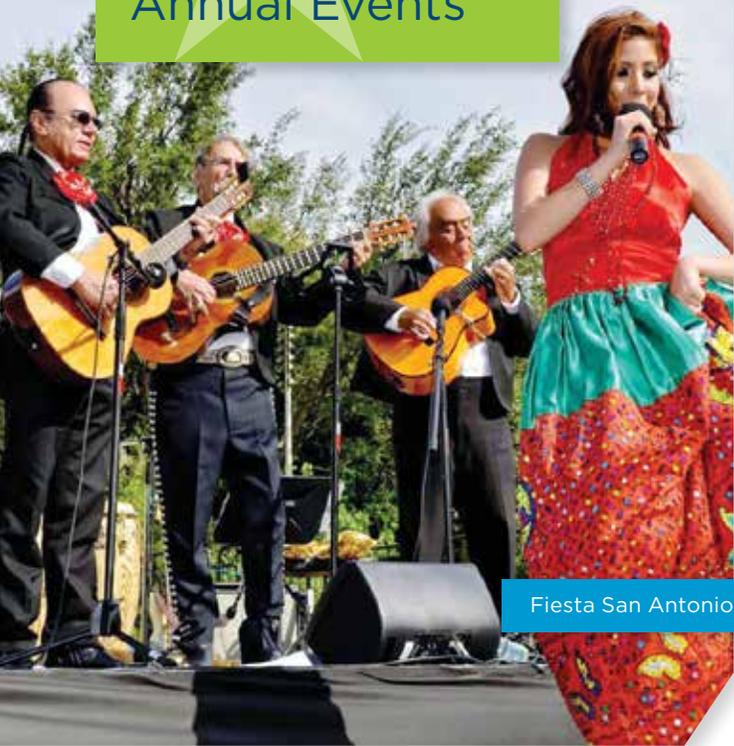
CONTACT: Lisa Grove
(909) 937-3000, (800) 455-5755
lgrove@ontariocvb.org
www.road2ca.com

Road to California Quilters Conference & Showcase draws tens of thousands of people annually to the Ontario Convention Center. Vendors, exhibits, contests, lectures, workshops, demonstrations, and classes by some of the nation’s top quilters highlight the event. More than 1,000 quilts are on display. New this year will be the 20th Anniversary Road to California Fabric designed especially for Road by Alexander Henry.

NEARBY ATTRACTIONS: Shopping at Ontario Mills, Victoria Gardens, Dining and Entertainment, Historic Graber Olive House



The West Annual Events



Fiesta San Antonio

Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta

Albuquerque, N.M.

Oct. 3-11, 2015

CONTACT: Linda Ryan
(800) 733-9918
trade@itsatrip.org
www.itsatrip.org;
www.balloonfiesta.com

For nine days in October, the New Mexico skies are painted as hundreds of balloons lift off from Albuquerque's Balloon Fiesta Park. For ballooning fans worldwide, the Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta is a pilgrimage. There is something for everyone to enjoy ... whimsical special shapes filled with equal parts hot air and wonder, and Balloon Glows that create a magical night landscape for spectators to wander. No matter who you are, the Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta will leave you awestruck and wanting more.

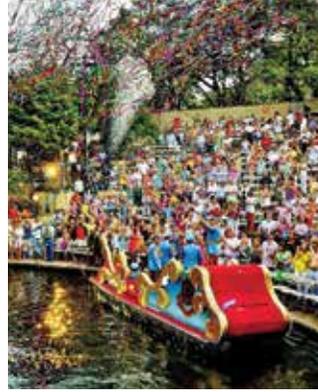
Cheyenne Frontier Days

Cheyenne, Wyo.

July 17-26, 2015

CONTACT: Nicole Gamst
(307) 778-7200
nicole@cfdrodeo.com
www.cfdrodeo.com

Since 1897, Cheyenne has celebrated its Old West roots with this eye-popping festival. Central to this Western celebration is the world's largest outdoor rodeo. Complementing the daily rodeo action are behind-the-chutes tours, trick riding, and a wild-horse race. A Native American Village, an Old West town, a chuck wagon cook-off, pancake breakfasts, and an art show carry through the frontier theme. Rounding out the program are a carnival midway, an air show, top-name entertainment, professional bull riding shows, and several parades that include antique carriages and automobiles.



Pasadena Tournament of Roses

Pasadena, Calif.

Jan. 1, 2015

CONTACT: Jeff Allen
(626) 449-4100
jallen@tournamentofroses.com
www.tournamentofroses.com

The Pasadena Tournament of Roses is a volunteer organization that annually hosts the Rose Parade®, CFP Semi-Final at the Rose Bowl Game®, and various associated events. The 126th Rose Parade, themed Inspiring Stories, will take place Thursday, Jan. 1, 2015, at 8 a.m. (PST) featuring majestic floral floats, equestrian units, and marching bands. Following the Rose Parade, the Tournament will host the CFP (College Football Playoff) Semi-Final at the 101st Rose Bowl Game that will kick off at 2:10 p.m. and feature an exciting matchup between two of the top four collegiate football teams in the nation.

Fiesta San Antonio

San Antonio, Texas

April 16-26, 2015

CONTACT: Shannon Houghtaling
(210) 227-5191
shannon@fiesta-sa.org
www.fiesta-sa.org

Fiesta San Antonio celebrates the Alamo City's diverse history and culture with more than 100 events over 11 days. Fiesta includes parades, parties, coronations, fashion shows, athletic events, art exhibits, and much more. Fiesta is the party with a purpose because every official event is produced by a local nonprofit that uses the proceeds from its event to fund programs year-round in the community.

Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race

Anchorage, Alaska (start) and

Willow, Alaska (restart)

March 7, 2015

CONTACT: (907) 376-5155
www.iditarod.com

You can't compare it to any other competitive event in the world! It's a race through approximately 1,000 miles of the roughest, most beautiful terrain Mother Nature has to offer. She throws jagged mountain ranges, frozen rivers, dense forests, desolate tundra, and miles of windswept coast at the mushers and their dog teams. Add to that temperatures far below zero, winds that can cause a complete loss of visibility, the hazards of overflow, long hours of darkness, and treacherous climbs and side hills, and you have the Iditarod. A race extraordinary, a race only possible in Alaska.

Portland Rose Festival

Portland, Ore.

May 22-June 7, 2015

CONTACT: Carol Ross
(503) 227-2681
carolr@rosefestival.org
www.rosefestival.org

The Portland Rose Festival has been making memories since 1907 and is finding contemporary ways to connect with the community and visitors alike. More than two million annual visitors enjoy the world-class events for which the festival is famous. Portland's Official Festival features the Grand Floral Parade as its centerpiece on June 6, 2015.



FIESTA: SAN ANTONIO COMMISSION/JONATHAN ALONZO PHOTOGRAPHY.

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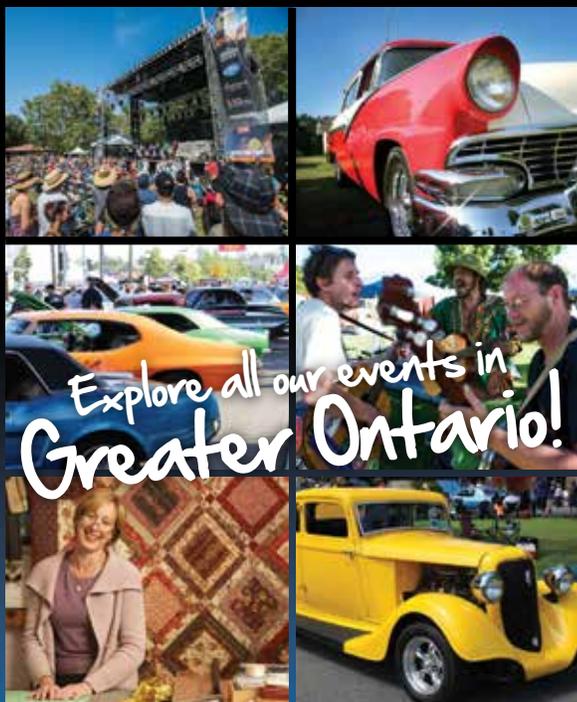
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G R E A T E R O N T A R I O C A L I F O R N I A



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Enjoy grammy award-winning artists such as The Del McCoury band and Rhonda Vincent perform Father's Day Weekend at the beautiful Cucamonga-Guasti Regional Park. Come enjoy this three-day bluegrass music festival at its finest with events and vendors all throughout the weekend. Great family fun for the past 38 years, come make this year even better!

ROUTE 66 CRUISIN' REUNION® - THIRD WEEKEND OF SEPT.

See amazing hot rods, muscle cars, customs and classic vehicles as they park & cruise historic Euclid Avenue in downtown Ontario, CA. This amazing three-day event is free to the public! Come on down and see what the buzz is about! There will be fun for the whole family with food, vendors, kid zone and two stages of free entertainment!

ROAD TO CALIFORNIA - JAN. 22-25, 2015

Experience the art, culture and creativity of quilting at its best at the Road to California Quilters Conference and Showcase.

For more information visit: discoverontariocalifornia.org/events



2000 E. Convention Center Way | Ontario, California 91764
 909.937.3000 | 800.455.5755 | info@ontariocvb.org

Canada

From cultural celebrations to great music, Canada's top events bring out the beauty and the arts of a vast nation.



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- Offers Group Incentives
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- Food

Craven Country Jamboree

Regina, Saskatchewan

July 9-12, 2015

CONTACT: Kim Blevins
(306) 757-0007, (866) 388-0007
info@cravencountryjamboree.com
www.cravencountryjamboree.com

The Craven Country Jamboree is called the World's Greatest Country Music Festival for good reason. For four days in July, thousands visit from every corner of the globe to enjoy prairie charm and the biggest and best artists in country music. Besides the amazing musical talent, fans can participate in many other activities and enjoy fabulous food and merchandise vendors in an Old West setting. With its storied history, amazing talent, and friendly appeal, the Craven Country Jamboree is one of the best events in Canada. ☒

NEARBY ATTRACTIONS: Area Golf Courses, Area Lakes, Antiques and Shopping

29th Saskatoon Festival of Trees

Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

Nov. 22-28, 2015

CONTACT: Cheyenne Steffen
(306) 221-2079
communications@festival-of-trees.com

www.festival-of-trees.com

Enjoy the 2015 Saskatoon Festival of Trees at the Western Development Museum. Beautifully decorated and themed Christmas trees, wreaths, and garlands, aromatic gingerbread house displays, and live entertainment throughout the festival thrill visitors of all ages. The festival is open from 9 a.m.–9 p.m. daily. Special events are held each evening; please see the website for details. Funds raised support projects at Saskatoon City Hospital. ☒ ☒

NEARBY ATTRACTIONS: Enchanted Forest Holiday Light Show, Wanuskewin Heritage Park, Saskatoon Farmers' Market

Craven Country Jamboree



GlobalFest

Calgary, Alberta

Aug. 20–29, 2015

CONTACT: Ken Goosen
(403) 569-9679
contactus@globalfest.ca
www.globalfest.ca

Known as Calgary’s second largest annual festival, GlobalFest attracts more than 100,000 visitors from around the world. GlobalFest is the umbrella organization for the OneWorld and Trico Homes International Fireworks Festivals. The OneWorld Festival presents diversity through music and dance, food and drink, and arts and crafts. It boasts a Tipi Village, cultural pavilions, ethnic food, performance stages, a night market, and a children’s village. The Trico Homes International Fireworks Festival will present five nights of pyromusical beauty. ☒

NEARBY ATTRACTIONS: Calgary Zoo, Heritage Park, Royal Tyrrell Museum of Palaeontology



Lake Louise Fall Festival

Just For Laughs Montreal Comedy Festival Presented by Videotron in Association with Loto-Quebec

Montréal, Québec

July 1–31, 2015

CONTACT: Group Sales
(514) 845-3155
tourism@hahaha.com
www.hahaha.com

Something funny is going on in Montréal. The world’s largest comedy festival features more than 2,000 shows, international artists performing in both English and French, and the biggest names in comedy, as well as the brightest up-and-coming talent. The festival’s magic transforms the streets into a giant open-air theater with more than 1,200 free performances spread through the month of July.

NEARBY ATTRACTIONS: Olympic Park of Montréal/Montréal Tower, Québec’s Casinos

Kamloopa Powwow

Kamloops, British Columbia

July 31–Aug. 2, 2015

CONTACT: Delyla Daniels
(250) 828-9828
powwow@kib.ca
www.tkemlups.ca

The Kamloopa Powwow is one of the largest celebrations of First Nations’ culture and heritage in Western Canada! The Powwow is a spectacular expression of the Secwepemc people’s heritage and is a vibrant display of storytelling, song, and dance in traditional regalia. The Kamloopa Powwow represents many years of stories and events from previous years packed into three exciting days at the Secwepemc Powwow Grounds located two minutes from the city center, alongside the South Thompson River in Kamloops. ☒

NEARBY ATTRACTIONS: BC Wildlife Park, Secwepemc Museum, Tranquille Farm Fresh

Lake Louise Fall Festival

Banff, Alberta

Sept. 4–Oct. 4, 2015

CONTACT: Julia Freeman
(403) 762-0270
jfreeman@banfflakelouise.com
www.banfflakelouise.com/fallfestival

At the Lake Louise Fall Festival, majestic peaks and sparkling blue water offer the perfect backdrop for outdoor exploration and world-class accommodations. Take advantage of the best autumn has to offer: comfortable temperatures, seasonally inspired menus, and forests lit up with golden larches. Spice up your festival experience with a variety of events—from special programs and activities to hiking challenges and photography workshops—or take in the mountain life at a slower pace. ☒ ☒ ☒

NEARBY ATTRACTIONS: Glacier Skywalk, Glacier Adventure, Lake Louise Gondola

New Brunswick Highland Games Festival

Fredericton, New Brunswick

July 24–26, 2015

CONTACT: Melissa Morton
(888) 368-4444
highlandgames@nb.aibn.com
www.highlandgames.ca

The New Brunswick Highland Games Festival is a Celtic infusion of music, bagpipes, highland dance, Scottish foods, whiskies, and crafts, and more. The event features Highland Games (piping and drumming, highland dancing, and traditional athletics) and the Scottish Festival (entertainment, clans, and workshops). The festival takes place on the grounds of a National Historic Site, Government House, overlooking the St. John River, national heritage river. ☒ ☒ ☒

NEARBY ATTRACTIONS: Government House, Beaverbrook Art Gallery, Kings Landing Historical Settlement

Niagara Icewine Festival

St. Catharines, Ontario
Jan. 9-25, 2015

CONTACT: Kimberly Hundertmark
(905) 688-0212
kimberlyh@niagarawinefestival.com
www.niagarawinefestival.com
/page/icewine_home

Niagara is pleased to invite everyone to raise a glass of one of Canada's most cherished products, Ontario Icewine. People from far and wide will make the Niagara Region their winter getaway this year to participate in a number of amazing wine and culinary events. This Festival is a uniquely Canadian winter experience for all. From Gala evening toasts to chestnut roasts, ornate ice bars, and winery tours, the Festival offers plenty for every taste. ♿ ☒

NEARBY ATTRACTIONS: Winery Tours & Tastings, Niagara Falls, Theatres

RCMP Sunset Retreat Ceremonies 2015

Regina, Saskatchewan
July 1-Aug. 11, 2015

CONTACT: Erin Odishaw
(306) 780-5900
depot_communications@rcmp-grc.gc.ca
www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/depot/visitors-visiteurs/sunset-crepuscule-eng

The RCMP Academy, "Depot" Division, is pleased to present the Sunset-Retreat Ceremonies. This colorful event lasts approximately 45 minutes and includes a troop drill display performed by cadets dressed in the famous scarlet tunic, military music, the lowering of the Canadian flag, and the March Past. You are also invited to meet our mounted riders, horses, and Safety Bear following the ceremony. ♿

NEARBY ATTRACTIONS: RCMP Heritage Centre, Government House, Wascana Centre Attractions

SnowDays

Banff, Alberta
Jan. 9-Feb. 8, 2015

CONTACT: Diana Gould
(403) 762-0270
dgould@banfflakelouise.com
www.banfflakelouise.com/snowdays

Banff National Park knows how to do winter best! SnowDays is a month-long festival with events that celebrate Banff's historic love for winter. Enjoy world-class ice carving in Lake Louise at the Ice Magic Festival, watch thrill seekers tackle an ice climbing wall at the MEC Ice Climbing Festival, or witness top-level curling at The Travelers All-Star Curling Skins Game. Weekend events can be paired with ongoing activities such as skating, skiing, snowshoeing, dog sledding, or Geocaching, just to mention a few! ♿ ☒

NEARBY ATTRACTIONS: Banff Gondola, Banff Upper Hot Springs, Cave & Basin National Historic Site

Trails, Tales & Tunes Festival

Norris Point, Newfoundland/Labrador

May 15-24, 2015

CONTACT: Shirley Montague
(709) 458-3604
info@trailstales.com
www.trailstales.com

This unique 10-day celebration of arts, heritage, culture, and community offers something for everyone. The intimate venues bring performers, community, and visitors together like family. A mix of daily outdoor activities, uplifting entertainment, and delectable culinary offerings makes the Trails Tales & Tunes Festival one of a kind. ♿ ☒

NEARBY ATTRACTIONS: Gros Morne National Park, L'Anse aux Meadows National Historic Site, Red Bay National Historic Site



Ontario Power Generation Winter Festival of Lights

Niagara Falls, Ontario
Nov. 15, 2014-Jan. 12, 2015

CONTACT: Dino Fazio
(905) 374-1616, (800) 563-2557
dino@wfol.com
www.wfol.com

Enjoy the Ontario Power Generation Winter Festival of Lights, Canada's foremost illumination festival. Niagara Falls is transformed into a palette of breathtaking color with millions of holiday lights and animated displays including the world's largest Canadian-American Flag. Located within the Niagara Parks Winter Wonderland and adjacent tourist districts, the Festival attracts more than 1.5 million visitors and hundreds of motor coaches annually. ♿ ☒

NEARBY ATTRACTIONS: Niagara Parks Wonder Pass, Niagara Falls Tourism Booking Engine, Greg Frewin Theatre

RCMP Sunset Retreat Ceremonies 2015





Calgary Stampede

Calgary, Alberta

July 3–12, 2015

CONTACT: Lindsay Jardine
(403) 261-0366
ljardine@calgarystampede.com
www.calgarystampede.com

The Calgary Stampede is called “The Greatest Outdoor Show on Earth” for good reason. For 10 days every July we welcome the world to a spectacular celebration of western hospitality. Stampede Park, located in downtown Calgary, is the world’s greatest gathering of cowboy culture. Each year, more than 1.2 million visitors from around the world come to Calgary to experience the heart-stopping action of the world’s roughest and richest rodeo, featuring bull riding, barrel racing, and more. The GMC Rangeland Derby is the world’s top Chuckwagon Races. And every night is capped off with the Grandstand Show and fireworks finale that lights up the sky.

Festival du Voyageur

Winnipeg, Manitoba

Feb. 13–22, 2015

CONTACT: Irina Ivanov Bissonnette
(204) 237-7692
iiivanov@heho.ca
www.festivalvoyageur.mb.ca

The Festival du Voyageur is held in Saint-Boniface, Winnipeg’s French Quarter, in the month of February. The largest winter festival in Western Canada has evolved into a 10-day province-wide celebration of sights, sounds, snow, culture, history and spirit. It is a celebration of the fur traders who established the Red River Colony and the joie de vivre of the ever growing French Canadian community in Western Canada. The spirit and culture of the Voyageur are present in the vibrant community that comes together to celebrate with numerous historical, educational and entertaining activities.

Festival International de Jazz de Montréal

Montréal, Québec

June 26–July 5, 2015

CONTACT: Normand Paquette
(514) 525-7732
normand.paquette@equipe
spectra.ca
www.montrealjazzfest.com

The gigantic summer music celebration features 11 days of nonstop entertainment, from noon to midnight, right in the heart of downtown Montréal. Several city blocks are closed to traffic, creating a festive and secure spot with cafes and bistros, an art gallery, street performers, and a musical park for children. It’s the summer celebration par excellence for people of all ages and origins, a cultural breath of fresh air, and a place to discover music from such diverse genres as jazz, blues, Latin-jazz, Brazilian, Cuban, African, reggae, contemporary, and electronica.

Folklorama—The Largest Multicultural Festival of Its Kind in the World

Winnipeg, Manitoba

Aug. 2–15, 2015

CONTACT: Murray Greenfield
(800) 665-0234
greenfieldm@folklorama.ca
www.folklorama.ca

The Folklorama festival is an annual 14-day celebration of more than 40 global cultures. Partnering with several cultural communities who host pavilions throughout Winnipeg, Folklorama attracts more than 400,000 visitors every year, who experience first-hand a wide variety of rich and vibrant cultures through authentic song, dance, food, drink, and cultural displays. Group tours can experience Folklorama in style with air-conditioned transportation, reserved seating, and a progressive cultural meal through a variety of VIP group tour options.

Québec Winter Carnival

Québec City, Québec
Jan. 30–Feb. 15, 2015

CONTACT: Patrick Lemaire
(866) 4CARNAVAL
patrick.lemaire@carnaval.qc.ca
www.carnaval.qc.ca;
www.quebecregion.com

For its 61th anniversary, the Québec Winter Carnival features amazing new activities and reinvented classics that will dazzle everyone! The city will vibrate with family activities, nightlife fun, and extreme sports competitions. Canada's premier winter event promises a festive atmosphere with bustling commercial streets and a ton of new activities. This is a time of real celebration for families, young adults, and winter lovers who will be thrilled with the urban, sports, and outdoor experiences made available to them.

Royal Nova Scotia International Tattoo

Halifax, Nova Scotia
June 1–8, 2015 (tentative)

CONTACT: Meng Zhao
(902) 420-4620
mzhao@nstatattoo.ca
www.nstatattoo.ca

A different show every year, the Royal Nova Scotia International Tattoo is a national treasure featuring more than 2,000 world-class performers. In this two-and-a-half hour show, prepare to be amazed by everything from traditional pipes and drums to intense acrobatics. The Tattoo strikes a unique balance featuring military and civilian bands, historic reenactments, dancers, choirs, military displays and competitions, and drama and comedy.

Stratford Festival

Stratford, Ontario
April–November

CONTACT: Stratford Festival
(800) 567-1600
groups@stratfordfestival.ca
www.stratfordfestival.ca

Besides works by Shakespeare and other classical dramatists, North America's largest repertory theater festival presents spectacular productions of Broadway-style musicals and contemporary plays, including world premieres. The season generally features a dozen titles on the playbill each year. On most days two different shows can be seen at each of the festival's four theaters, thus giving patrons plenty to choose from, even on a short visit. Other events include music concerts, discussions, and lectures. Visitors can also take tours of backstage areas, the extensive costume warehouse, and the Shakespearean gardens.

Québec Winter Carnival



Stratford Festival

ERIN SAMUELL/COURTESY OF THE STRATFORD FESTIVAL; COURTESY OF CARNAVAL DE QUÉBEC/QUÉBEC WINTER CARNIVAL.

Events to Watch

Keep an eye on these new motorcoach-friendly events that show great potential to be included in future Top 100 listings.

-  Anniversary Year
-  Offers Group Incentives
-  Designated Motorcoach Parking
-  Food



National Buffalo Garden Festival

Buffalo, N.Y.

June 19–Aug. 1, 2015

CONTACT: Jim Charlier
(716) 884-3274
jim@jcharlier.com

www.nationalgardenfestival.com

The National Garden Festival is the largest garden tourism event in the nation! Visit a selection of the region's residential gardens, meet the gardeners, and enjoy boutique shopping. Highlights include several motorcoach tours: Wine & Flowers, Lakeside Cottages and Estates, Passionate Plant Collectors' Gardens, and Great Architecture and Gardens. Other features include a Garden Art Sale, Open Gardens, and Garden Walk Buffalo—America's Largest Garden Tour. Private garden tours can also be arranged. 

NEARBY ATTRACTIONS: Frank Lloyd Wright's Darwin Martin House, Grand Lady Lunch/Dinner Cruise, Buffalo Botanical Gardens

Corvallis Fall Festival

Corvallis, Ore.

Sept. 26–27, 2015

CONTACT: Christine Hackenbruck
(541) 752-9655
director@corvallisfallfestival.com;
td@leaddiscoveryusa.com
www.corvallisfallfestival.org

The fall is a beautiful time of year to visit the Willamette Valley! Set in Corvallis, which borders the Willamette River with stunning views, the event draws over 30,000 attendees. There are more than 160 artisans, food carts, wine and spirits tastings, and live music. Corvallis is a group friendly city with a vibrant downtown area with many shops and restaurants along the riverfront.  

NEARBY ATTRACTIONS: Wineries, Distilleries, Farm to Table

4th Annual World Champion Squirrel Cookoff and Bacon Bowl

Bentonville, Ark.

Sept. 1, 2015

CONTACT: Joe Wilson
(479) 270-4005
squirrelcookoff@squirrelcookoff.com
www.squirrelcookoff.com

The World Championship Squirrel Cookoff and Bacon Bowl are two cooking competitions stationed side-by-side. Chefs from across the nation travel in to craft dishes using either squirrel or bacon. Winners of the Squirrel Cookoff gain enormous bragging rights, and the winners of the Bacon Bowl move on to compete in the national competition in New Orleans.



NEARBY ATTRACTIONS: Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art, 21c Museum/Hotel, Walmart Museum

Bridging the Blues

Greenville, Miss.

Sept. 25–Oct. 11, 2015

CONTACT: Wesley Smith
(662) 334-2711, (800) 467-3582
info@bridgingtheblues.com
www.bridgingtheblues.com

Bridging the Blues (BTB), a series of blues events taking place over several consecutive weeks, aims to maximize the opportunities for visitors to discover the richness of the blues tradition in the Mississippi Delta region. Sponsored by organizations in three states—Mississippi, Arkansas, and Tennessee—BTB serves as an umbrella organization to promote a wide variety of blues-related activities. Festivals included in this event are the Mighty Mississippi Music Festival in Greenville, Miss., and the King Biscuit Blues Festival in Helena, Ark.   

NEARBY ATTRACTIONS: B. B. King Museum, Delta Blues Museum, Beale Street

Great Northwest Oktoberfest

Whitefish, Mont.

Sept. 25–27, 2015 & Oct. 2–4, 2015

CONTACT: Kevin Gartland
(406) 862-3501
visit@whitefishchamber.org
www.whitefishoktoberfest.com

Located in beautiful Whitefish, Mont., Great Northwest Oktoberfest provides authentic German beer, food, music, dancing and fun—with Montana-style fare! The Great Northwest Oktoberfest takes place under the "Oktoberfest Bigtop." Take part in the stein-holding, log-sawing, and keg-hurling contests; dance to great oom-pah, polka, and Western swing music; savor authentic German food; and enjoy beers from Warsteiner German Brewery and our own Great Northern Brewing Company.   

NEARBY ATTRACTIONS: Glacier National Park, Flathead Lake, Whitefish Mountain Resort

Niagara New Vintage Festival—Tailgate Party

St. Catharines, Ontario

June 20, 2015

CONTACT: Kimberly Hundertmark
(905) 688-0212
kimberlyh@niagarawinefestival.com

www.niagarawinefestival.com/page/newvintage_home

Travel the wine route and savor the tastes of the season over two weekends in June. Join the annual Tailgate Party in celebration of summer and the longest days of the year. More than 35 Niagara wineries will uncork their seasonal best alongside top local chefs preparing farm-to-table favorites in the Grower of the Year's own vineyard. Welcome summer with award-winning wines, Winery Tours and Tastings, delicious foods, live entertainment, and great friends.  

NEARBY ATTRACTIONS: Winery tours and tastings, Shaw Festival, Niagara Falls

2015 Top 100 Events, Annual Events, Events to Watch

★ No. 1 Event in the United States ★ No. 1 Event in Canada ★ Top 100 Event ★ Annual Event ★ Event to Watch

- ★ **Ontario Power Generation Winter Festival of Lights**
Niagara Falls, Ontario
11/15/2014-1/12/2015
- ★ **Nights of Lights**
St Augustine, Fla.
11/22/2014-1/31/2015
- ★ **MummersFest & Fancy Brigade Finale: Philadelphia's Mummers Parade**
Philadelphia, Pa.
1/1/2015
- ★ **Pasadena Tournament of Roses**
Pasadena, Calif.
1/1/2015
- ★ **Niagara Icewine Festival**
St. Catharines, Ontario
1/9/2015-1/25/2015
- ★ **SnowDays**
Banff, Alberta
1/9/2015-2/8/2015
- ★ **Havasu Balloon Festival & Fair**
Lake Havasu City, Ariz.
1/16/2015-1/18/2015
- ★ **Road to California Quilters Conference & Showcase**
Ontario, Calif.
1/22/2015-1/25/2015
- ★ **St. Paul Winter Carnival**
St. Paul, Minn.
1/22/2015-2/1/2015
- ★ **Southwest Arts Festival**
Indio, Calif.
1/23/2015-1/25/2015
- ★ **Ford's 150: Remembering the Lincoln Assassination**
Washington, D.C.
1/23/2015-5/25/2015
- ★ **Québec Winter Carnival**
Québec City, Québec
1/30/2015-2/15/2015
- ★ **Carnival on the Coast - Mardi Gras Season**
Biloxi, Miss.
1/31/2015-2/17/2015
- ★ **Festival du Voyageur**
Winnipeg, Manitoba
2/13/2015-2/22/2015
- ★ **Mardi Gras on Bayou Lafourche**
Raceland, La.
2/15/2015-2/16/2015
- ★ **Mardi Gras**
New Orleans, La.
2/17/2015
- ★ **La Fiesta de los Vaqueros Tucson Rodeo**
Tucson, Ariz.
2/21/2015-3/1/2015
- ★ **Daytona 500**
Daytona Beach, Fla.
2/22/2015
- ★ **PHS Philadelphia Flower Show**
Philadelphia, Pa.
2/28/2015-3/8/2015
- ★ **50th Anniversary of Selma to Montgomery March - Annual Bridge Crossing Jubilee in Selma**
Montgomery, Ala.
3/5/2015-3/8/2015
- ★ **Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race**
Anchorage, Alaska
3/7/2015
- ★ **International Cherry Blossom Festival**
Macon, Ga.
3/19/2015-4/4/2015
- ★ **National Cherry Blossom Festival**
Washington D.C.
3/20/2015-4/12/2015
- ★ **Tulip Fest**
Woodburn, Ore.
3/25/2015-5/5/2015
- ★ **Stratford Festival**
Stratford, Ontario
4/1/2015-11/30/2015
- ★ **MAIN ST. Ft. Worth Arts Festival**
Ft. Worth, Texas
4/9/2015-4/12/2015
- ★ **Rivers and Spires Festival**
Clarksville, Tenn.
4/16/2015-4/18/2015
- ★ **Fiesta San Antonio**
San Antonio, Texas
4/16/2015-4/26/2015
- ★ **60th Kentucky Derby Festival & 141st Kentucky Derby**
Louisville, Ky.
4/16/2015-5/2/2015
- ★ **See The World In Branson Music Fest**
Branson, Mo.
4/22/2015-4/23/2015
- ★ **Virginia International Tattoo and Arts Festival**
Norfolk, Va.
4/23/2015-4/26/2015
- ★ **Gathering of Nations Native American Powwow**
Albuquerque, N.M.
4/24/2015-4/25/2015
- ★ **Vermont Maple Festival**
St Albans, Vt.
4/24/2015-4/26/2015
- ★ **New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival**
New Orleans, La.
4/24/2015-5/3/2015
- ★ **National Cornbread Festival**
South Pittsburg, Tenn.
4/25/2015-4/26/2015
- ★ **2015 Tennessee Civil War Sesquicentennial Commemoration + Blue & Gray Reunion & Jubilee**
Knoxville, Tenn.
4/30/2015-5/3/2015
- ★ **Passport DC**
Washington, D.C.
5/1/2015-5/31/2015
- ★ **Holland Tulip Time Festival**
Holland, Mich.
5/2/2015-5/9/2015
- ★ **Indy 500 Celebration**
Indianapolis, Ind.
5/2/2015-5/24/2015
- ★ **Canadian Tulip Festival**
Ottawa-Gatineau, Ontario
5/8/2015-5/18/2015
- ★ **Trails, Tales & Tunes Festival**
Norris Point, Newfoundland/
Labrador
5/15/2015-5/24/2015
- ★ **GlassFest**
Corning, N.Y.
5/21/2015-5/24/2015
- ★ **Mudbug Madness**
Shreveport, La.
5/21/2015-5/24/2015
- ★ **Sumter Iris Festival**
Sumter, S.C.
5/22/2015-5/24/2015

- ✦ **Portland Rose Festival**
Portland, Ore.
5/22/2015–6/7/2015
- ✦ **Quilt Gardens along the Heritage Trail**
Elkhart, Ind.
5/30/2015–10/1/2015
- ✦ **Royal Nova Scotia International Tattoo**
Halifax, Nova Scotia
6/1/2015–6/8/2015 (tentative)
- ✦ **History Comes Alive**
Springfield, Ill.
6/1/2015–8/31/2015
- ✦ **Strolling of the Heifers**
East Dummerston, Vt.
6/5/2015–6/7/2015
- ✦ **CMA Music Festival**
Nashville, Tenn.
6/11/2015–6/14/2015
- ✦ **NEBRASKAland DAYS**
North Platte, Neb.
6/17/2015–6/28/2015
- ✦ **Newport Flower Show**
Newport, R.I.
6/19/2015–6/21/2015
- ✦ **National Buffalo Garden Festival**
Buffalo, N.Y.
6/19/2015–8/1/2015
- ✦ **Meet Jungle Jack Hanna**
Columbus, Ohio
6/19/2015 & 9/18/2015–9/19/2015
- ✦ **Niagara New Vintage Festival—Tailgate Party**
St. Catharines, Ontario
6/20/2015
- ✦ **Windjammer Days Festival**
Boothbay Harbor, Maine
6/21/2015–6/27/2015
- ✦ **Shipshewana Quilt Festival**
Shipshewana, Ind.
6/24/2015–6/27/2015
- ✦ **SC Festival of Flowers**
Greenwood, S.C.
6/25/2015–6/27/2015
- ✦ **Festival International de Jazz de Montréal**
Montréal, Québec
6/26/2015–7/5/2015
- ✦ **Donkey Derby Days**
Cripple Creek, Colo.
6/27/2015–6/28/2015
- ✦ **Kutztown Folk Festival**
Kutztown, Pa.
6/27/2015–7/5/2015
- ✦ **49th Annual Bar Harbor Music Festival**
Bar Harbor, Maine
6/28/2015–7/26/2015
- ✦ **Anniversary Commemoration of the Battle of Gettysburg**
Gettysburg, Pa.
7/1/2015–7/6/2015
- ✦ **Just For Laughs Montréal Comedy Festival presented by Videotron in association with Loto-Québec**
Montréal, Québec
7/1/2015–7/31/2015
- ✦ **RCMP Sunset Retreat Ceremonies 2015**
Regina, Saskatchewan
7/1/2015–8/11/2015
- ✦ **Calgary Stampede**
Calgary, Alberta
7/3/2015–7/12/2015
- ✦ **National Independence Day Celebration**
Washington, D.C.
7/4/2015
- ✦ **National Cherry Festival**
Traverse City, Mich.
7/4/2015–7/11/2015
- ✦ **Craven Country Jamboree**
Regina, Saskatchewan
7/9/2015–7/12/2015
- ✦ **Finger Lakes Wine Festival**
Watkins Glen, N.Y.
7/10/2015–7/12/2015
- ✦ **Sisters Quilt Show “The World’s Largest Outdoor Quilt Show”**
Sisters, Ore.
7/11/2015–7/12/2015
- ✦ **Fairbanks Summer Arts Festival**
Fairbanks, Alaska
7/12/2015–7/26/2015
- ✦ **Cheyenne Frontier Days**
Cheyenne, Wyo.
7/17/2015–7/26/2015
- ✦ **W. C. Handy Music Festival**
Florence, Ala.
7/17/2015–7/26/2015
- ✦ **New Brunswick Highland Games Festival**
Fredericton, New Brunswick
7/24/2015–7/26/2015
- ✦ **Dodge City Days**
Dodge City, Kan.
7/24/2015–8/2/2015
- ✦ **Maine Lobster Festival**
Rockland, Maine
7/29/2015–8/2/2015
- ✦ **Dublin Irish Festival**
Dublin, Ohio
7/31/2015–8/2/2015
- ✦ **Kamloopa Powwow**
Kamloops, British Columbia
7/31/2015–8/2/2015
- ✦ **Folklorama**
Winnipeg, Manitoba
8/2/2015–8/15/2015
- ✦ **53rd Annual Arts & Crafts Festival**
Nappanee, Ind.
8/6/2015–8/9/2015
- ✦ **30th Annual Citizens Bank Pops by the Sea**
Centerville, Mass.
8/9/2015
- ✦ **Middletown Olde-Tyme Peach Festival**
Middletown, Del.
8/15/2015
- ✦ **GlobalFest**
Calgary, Alberta
8/20/2015–8/29/2015
- ✦ **Salsafest!**
Las Cruces, N.M.
8/29/2015–8/30/2015
- ✦ **4th Annual World Champion Squirrel Cookoff and Bacon Bowl**
Bentonville, Ark.
9/1/2015
- ✦ **Best in the West Nugget Rib Cook-Off**
Sparks, Nev.
9/2/2015–9/7/2015
- ✦ **Lake Louise Fall Festival**
Banff, Alberta
9/4/2015–10/4/2015
- ✦ **Whoopie Pie Festival at Hershey Farm Restaurant and Inn**
Ronks (Strasburg), Pa.
9/5/2015
- ✦ **Big Iron Farm Show**
West Fargo, N.D.
9/9/2015–9/11/2015
- ✦ **Hampton Beach Seafood Festival**
Hampton, N.H.
9/11/2015–9/13/2015

- ✦ **Kentucky Bourbon Festival, Inc.**
Bardstown, Ky.
9/15/2015–9/20/2015
- ✦ **Bristol Rhythm & Roots Reunion**
Bristol, Va.
9/18/2015–9/20/2015
- ✦ **NH Highland Games & Festival**
Concord, N.H.
9/18/2015–9/20/2015
- ✦ **Vermont's Wine and Harvest Festival**
Wilmington, Vt.
9/18/2015–9/20/2015
- ✦ **The Big E**
West Springfield, Mass.
9/18/2015–10/4/2015
- ✦ **ArtPrize**
Grand Rapids, Mich.
9/22/2015–10/11/2015
- ✦ **Annual Buffalo Roundup and Arts Festival**
Custer, S.D.
9/25/2015–9/27/2015
- ✦ **Scallop Fest**
Buzzards Bay, Mass.
9/25/2015–9/27/2015
- ✦ **Great Northwest Oktoberfest**
Whitefish, Mont.
9/25/2015–9/27/2015 &
10/2/2015–10/4/2015
- ✦ **Bridging the Blues**
Greenville, Miss.
9/25/2015–10/11/2015
- ✦ **Corvallis Fall Festival**
Corvallis, Ore.
9/26/2015–9/27/2015
- ✦ **Norsk Høstfest Scandinavian Festival**
Minot, N.D.
9/29/2015–10/3/2015
- ✦ **Salem Haunted Happenings**
Salem, Mass.
10/1/2015–10/31/2015
- ✦ **29th Annual NC Seafood Festival**
Morehead City, N.C.
10/2/2015–10/4/2015
- ✦ **Albuquerque American Indian Art Festival**
Albuquerque, N.M.
10/3/2015–10/4/2015
- ✦ **Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta**
Albuquerque, N.M.
10/3/2015–10/11/2015
- ✦ **51st Annual National Apple Harvest Festival**
Gettysburg, Pa.
10/3/2015–10/11/2015
- ✦ **The Great Jack O'Lantern Blaze**
Croton-on-Hudson, N.Y.
10/3/2015–11/8/2015 (tentative)
- ✦ **National Shrimp Festival**
Gulf Shores, Ala.
10/8/2015–10/11/2015
- ✦ **Apple-Scrapple Festival**
Bridgeville, Del.
10/9/2015–10/10/2015
- ✦ **Dungeness Crab and Seafood Festival**
Port Angeles, Wash.
10/9/2015–10/11/2015
- ✦ **Hinton Railroad Days**
Hinton, W. Va.
10/17/2015–10/18/2015 and
10/24/2015–10/25/2015
- ✦ **Sea Witch Halloween & Fiddler's Festival**
Rehoboth Beach, Del.
10/23/2015–10/25/2015
- ✦ **Ozark Mountain Christmas**
Branson, Mo.
11/1/2015–12/31/2015
- ✦ **Myrtle Beach Holiday FantaSea**
Myrtle Beach, S.C.
11/3/2015–11/17/2015
- ✦ **Branson Veterans Homecoming Week**
Branson, Mo.
11/5/2015–11/11/2015
- ✦ **Christmas at Biltmore**
Asheville, N.C.
11/6/2015–1/3/2016 (tentative)
- ✦ **Koziar's Christmas Village**
Bernville, Pa.
11/7/2015–1/3/2016
- ✦ **Pigeon Forge Winterfest**
Pigeon Forge, Tenn.
11/10/2015–2/28/2016
- ✦ **Dickens Christmas Show & Festivals**
Myrtle Beach, S.C.
11/12/2015–11/15/2015
- ✦ **Winter Festival of Lights**
Wheeling, W. Va.
11/13/2015–01/03/2016
- ✦ **Christmas at the Galt House Hotel**
Louisville, Ky.
11/14/2015–1/1/2016
- ✦ **America's Hometown Thanksgiving Celebration**
Plymouth, Mass.
11/20/2015–11/22/2015
- ✦ **Busch Gardens Christmas Town**
Williamsburg, Va.
11/20/2015–12/31/2015
- ✦ **Christmas in Williamsburg**
Williamsburg, Va.
11/20/2015–12/31/2015
- ✦ **"A Country Christmas" at Gaylord Opryland Resort**
Nashville, Tenn.
11/20/2015–1/3/2016
- ✦ **Christmas Capital of Texas**
Grapevine, Texas
11/20/2015–1/3/2016
- ✦ **29th Saskatoon Festival of Trees**
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan
11/22/2015–11/28/2015
- ✦ **20th Anniversary of Galaxy of Lights**
Montgomery, Ala.
11/24/2015–12/31/2015
- ✦ **A Longwood Christmas**
Kennett Square, Pa.
11/26/2015–1/10/2016
- ✦ **Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade**
New York, N.Y.
11/27/2015
- ✦ **Parade of Lights**
Savannah, Ga.
11/28/2015
- ✦ **Christmas at the Library**
Charlotte, N.C.
12/1/2015–12/23/2015
- ✦ **Kennebunkport Christmas Prelude**
Kennebunk, Maine
12/4/2015–12/13/2015
- ✦ **Colonial Williamsburg Grand Illumination**
Williamsburg, Va.
12/6/2015
- ✦ **34th Annual Boston Harborfest 2015**
Boston, Mass.
TBD
- ✦ **Annual League of NH Craftsmen Fair**
Concord, N.H.
TBD

Selection Committee

Committee Meeting Sponsors

ABA would like to thank Visit Indy for their hospitality in hosting the 2015 Top 100 Selection Committee Meeting and FAM. Additionally, we would like to thank the following partners:

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American Bus Association



The American Bus Association is the North American trade organization representing the intercity bus industry. Its members include bus companies that offer tours, charters, and scheduled service; travel members representing virtually every segment of the travel and tourism industry; and associate members who supply the industry with goods and services.

The Group Travel Family



In partnership with ABA, The Group Travel Family promotes ABA's Top 100 Events. These promotions result in leads for the winning members and events, which are distributed to the nominating member and the winning event/festival contacts.

TOP 100 SELECTION COMMITTEE

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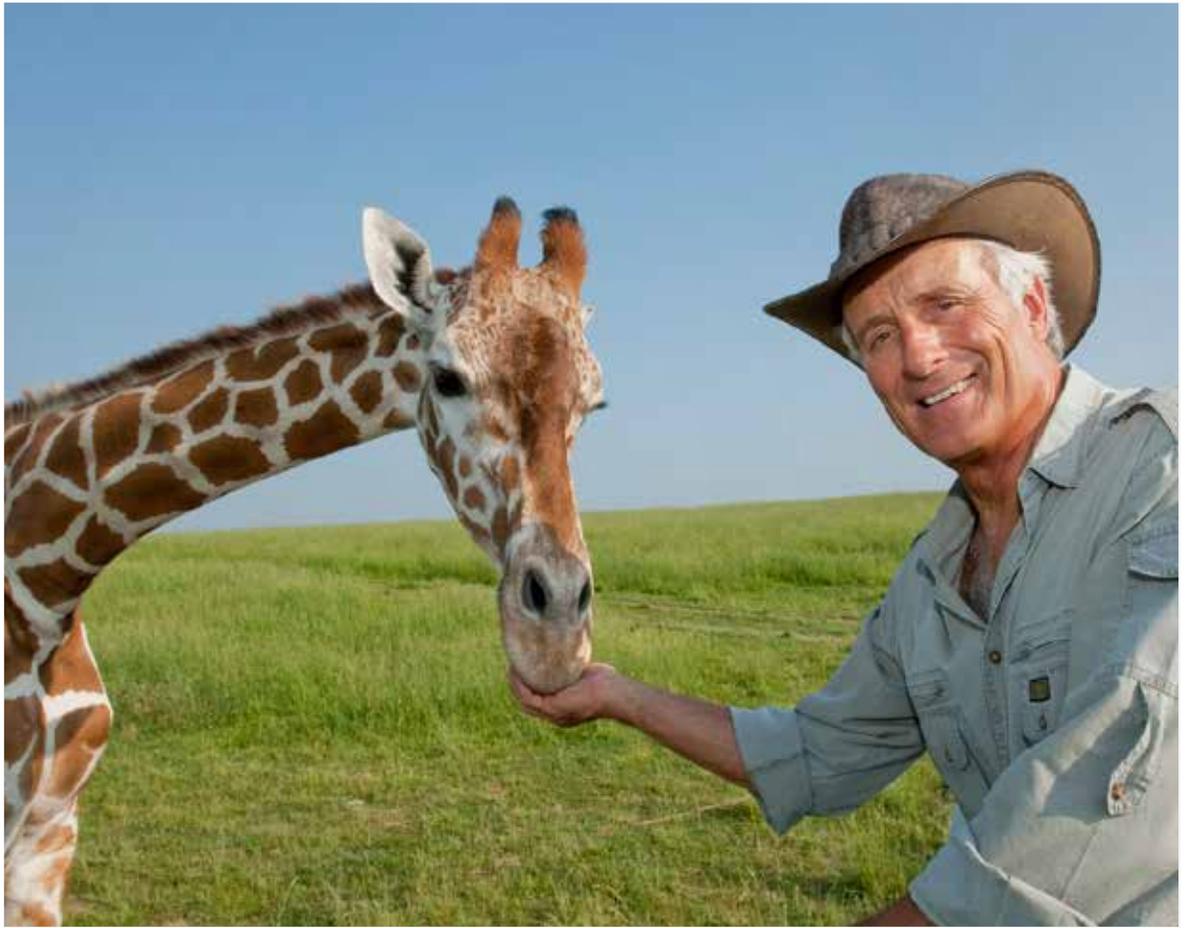
Mary Young
Capitol Bus Lines Inc.

The 2015 Top 100 Selection Committee met in June in Indianapolis, Ind., for the judging and selection of the events published for 2015 from hundreds of nominations.





How many stripes does a zebra have?



WHAT'S JACK HANNA LIKE IN HIS NATURAL HABITAT?

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Just how fast can a cheetah really run?



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A group of five people are on an airboat on a river. The boat is moving through a narrow waterway with lush green vegetation on the banks. The people are wearing yellow earplugs and are smiling and looking towards the front of the boat. In the background, a map overlay shows the Gulf Coast region of the United States, with labels for Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and Georgia. The map also shows major cities like Jackson, Biloxi, and Tallahassee.

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on activity.**

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