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Say Hello to Spring and Summer with Classic and Quirky Wisconsin Events

Travel Wisconsin lists can't-miss events from April through mid-September 2017

MADISON, Wis. (March 30, 2017) – Put away the snow blower, hide your parka and say good-bye to winter with a phenomenal list of Wisconsin events guaranteed to make your spring and summer bucket list.

This festival round-up features classic Wisconsin foodie events like the Phelps Maple Syrup Fest, cure your cocoa cravings at Burlington's ChocolateFest, or find cheesy happiness at the Ellsworth Cheese Curd Festival. Music lovers can enjoy the eclectic Eaux Claires Music and Arts Festival, Lancaster Brews and Blues or the 50th anniversary of Summerfest, "The World's Largest Music Festival."

This year, the state celebrates the 150th birthdays of two Wisconsin-natives: Frank Lloyd Wright and Laura Ingalls Wilder. Explore the private homes and public buildings designed by master architect Frank Lloyd Wright at the Wright and Like Tour in Milwaukee. Travel back to the time of author Laura Ingalls Wilder with a visit to Old World Wisconsin's The World of "Little House."

With such an impressive line-up of events, there's no shortage of fun in Wisconsin this season.

Please note that event changes may occur. We encourage the media to double-check dates and contact information before going to print or posting online.

Travelers looking for year-round Wisconsin getaway ideas, travel planning, events and free guides can discover their own fun by visiting TravelWisconsin.com on desktop, tablet or mobile devices. You can also choose to "Like" us at [Facebook.com/TravelWisconsin](https://www.facebook.com/TravelWisconsin) or follow along on Twitter at [Twitter.com/TravelWI](https://twitter.com/TravelWI) and Instagram at TravelWisconsin.

APRIL/MAY EVENTS (Pages 3-6)

Phelps Maple Syrup Fest – Phelps

Season of Blossoms – Door County

Midwest Horse Fair – Madison

Kohler Festival of Beer – Kohler

5th Annual Taylor County Maple Festival – Medford

Wisconsin Grilled Cheese Championship – Dodgeville

Plein Air MKE 2017 – Milwaukee

April 1, 2017

April 8-June 4, 2017

April 21-23, 2017

April 28-29, 2017

April 29, 2017

April 29, 2017

May 11-21, 2017

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| Bayfield in Bloom – Bayfield | May 12-June 11, 2017 |
| 20 th Annual Horicon Marsh Bird Festival – Horicon | May 12-15, 2017 |
| Motorsports Mayhem – Richland Center | May 13, 2017 |
| Chequamegon Bay Birding and Nature Festival – Ashland | May 18-20, 2017 |
| 35th Annual Morel Mushroom Festival – Muscoda | May 19-21, 2017 |
| White Deer Triathlon – Boulder Junction | May 20, 2017 |
| ChocolateFest – Burlington | May 26-29, 2017 |
| World's Largest Brat Fest – Madison | May 26-29, 2017 |
| Wisconsin Canoe Heritage Day – Spooner | May 27, 2017 |
| 35 th Annual Ho-Chunk Nation Pow-Wow – Black River Falls | May 27-29 and Sept. 2-4, 2017 |
| Lawn Mower Races – Fifield | May 28 and July 8, 2017 |
| Pewaukee Lake Water Ski Show – Pewaukee | May 29-Sept. 4, 2017 |

JUNE EVENTS (Pages 6-10)

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| Spring Art Tour – Mount Horeb, Verona, Mazomanie, Black Earth, Cross Plains, Blue Mounds | June 2-4, 2017 |
| Wright and Like Tour 2017 – Milwaukee | June 3, 2017 |
| Carp Fest – Two Rivers | June 3-4, 2017 |
| Outta Sight Kite Flight – Kenosha | June 3-4, 2017 |
| Wisconsin State Park's Free Fun Weekend – Statewide | June 3-4, 2017 |
| Sparta Butterfest – Sparta | June 8-11, 2017 |
| PrideFest – Milwaukee | June 9-11, 2017 |
| Walleye Weekend – Fond du Lac | June 9-11, 2017 |
| Beer, Bacon, Cheese – New Glarus | June 10, 2017 |
| IRONMAN 70.3 – Madison | June 11, 2017 |
| Northwoods Heritage Festival – Three Lakes | June 11, 2017 |
| 2017 U.S. Open Championship at Erin Hills – Hartford | June 12-18, 2017 |
| Eaux Claires Music and Arts Festival – Eau Claire | June 16-17, 2017 |
| The Energy Fair – Custer | June 16-18, 2017 |
| June Dairy Days – Gilman | June 16-18, 2017 |
| Polish Fest – Milwaukee | June 16-18, 2017 |
| Brews and Blues – Lancaster | June 17, 2017 |
| Budweiser Dairyland Super National Truck and Tractor Pull – Tomah | June 22-25, 2017 |
| Ellsworth Cheese Curd Festival – Ellsworth | June 23-24, 2017 |
| Greek Fest – West Allis | June 23-25, 2017 |
| Musky Festival – Hayward | June 23-25, 2017 |
| PGA Champions Tour: American Family Insurance Championship – Madison | June 23-25, 2017 |
| Uncork Summer – Ellison Bay | June 24, 2017 |
| Fete de Fleurs or "Flowering of the Vines" Festival – St. Croix | June 24-25, 2017 |
| Strawberry Festival – Cedarburg | June 24-25, 2017 |
| 50 th Annual Summerfest – Milwaukee | June 28-July 2 and July 4-9, 2017 |
| Red Cliff Pow-Wow – Red Cliff | June 30-July 2, 2017 |
| Onedia Pow-Wow – Oneida | June 30-July 2, 2017 |

JULY EVENTS (Pages 10-13)

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| National Women's Music Festival – Middleton | July 6-9, 2017 |
| 35th Annual Bear River Pow-Wow – Lac du Flambeau | July 7-9, 2017 |

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| Wisconsin Maritime Museum's Subfest – Manitowoc | July 7-9, 2017 |
| Vatten Paddlar Canoe and Kayak Races – Barnes | July 8, 2017 |
| Art Fair on the Square – Madison | July 8-9, 2017 |
| Logging and Heritage Festival – Marinette | July 8-9, 2017 |
| Bastille Days – Milwaukee | July 13-16, 2017 |
| Honor the Earth Pow-Wow – Hayward | July 14-16, 2017 |
| Midsummer Festival of the Arts – Sheboygan | July 15-16, 2017 |
| Salmon-A-Rama – Racine | July 15-23, 2017 |
| Lumberjack World Championships – Hayward | July 20-22, 2017 |
| 40th Annual Festa Italiana – Milwaukee | July 21-23, 2017 |
| 5 th Annual Big Top Parade and Circus Celebration – Baraboo | July 22, 2017 |
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| German Fest – Milwaukee | July 28-30, 2017 |

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER EVENTS (Pages 13-14)

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| National Mustard Day – Middleton | Aug. 5, 2017 |
| U.S. Open Chainsaw Sculpture Championship – Eau Claire | Aug. 10-13, 2017 |
| Burger Fest – Seymour | Aug. 11-12, 2017 |
| Irish Fest – Milwaukee | Aug. 17-20, 2017 |
| Artstreet – Green Bay | Aug. 25-27, 2017 |
| Mexican Fiesta – Milwaukee | Aug. 25-27, 2017 |
| Wisconsin Cow Chip Throw – Prairie du Sac | Sept. 1-2, 2017 |
| Taste of Madison – Madison | Sept. 2-3, 2017 |
| Indian Summer Festival – Milwaukee | Sept. 8-10, 2017 |

APRIL/MAY EVENTS

Phelps Maple Syrup Fest – Phelps – April 1, 2017

Take a trip to Phelps, the maple syrup capital of Wisconsin, for Maple Syrup Fest. Hop on a narrated bus tour of local sugar bushes, or follow the fest map for a self-guided tour through Vilas County. The sugary fun continues with tree-tapping demonstrations and maple syrup and honey cooking classes. End the day with a Wisconsin-made treat at the Maple Café. 715-545-3800; www.phelpswi.us

Season of Blossoms – Door County – April 8-June 4, 2017

Spring has sprung with an array of vibrant blossoms peppered throughout Door County. Get a glimpse of these brightly-colored blooms with a nature hike, winery tour or by attending one of the area's many local festivals. Keep an eye out for the Door County USA daffodil, a gorgeous cream-colored double daffodil with an apricot colored center. 800-52-RELAX; www.doorcounty.com

Midwest Horse Fair – Madison – April 21-23, 2017

Saddle up for the largest three-day horse fair in America! This year features the “Epic Night of the Horse,” an equine variety show contest in search of the most talented horse acts. There's also the fair favorite rodeo competitions, promising thrilling, fast-paced fun. Don't miss event staples like the Grand March, Stallion Avenue and the return of the World Champion Blacksmiths. 920-623-5515; www.midwesthorsefair.com



*Kohler Festival of Beer
Photo Courtesy of Kohler Co.*

**Kohler Festival of Beer – Kohler –
April 28-29, 2017**

Raise a pint for a fest brimming with fun. Kick off the weekend with the “Hops for Shops” party and the 5K beer run with three beer stops throughout the race. Then sip a variety of beers from regional craft brewers. This fest also offers beer and food pairing sessions, mouthwatering food and even homebrewing classes.

855-444-2838; www.destinationkohler.com

5th Annual Taylor County Maple Festival – Medford – April 29, 2017

Dedicate one full day to all things maple! This deliciously sweet fest starts with a pancake breakfast complete with maple sausage. Save room for maple syrup tastings, maple syrup food stands and maple cooking demonstrations. Top off the day with a maple-flavored root beer float.

715-748-4729; www.taylorcountylionsmaplefest.org

Wisconsin Grilled Cheese Championship – Dodgeville – April 29, 2017

Taste some of the best grilled cheese Wisconsin has to offer as over 150 competitors create unique, mouthwatering sandwiches. Each entry is judged on presentation, taste and style with divisions for professionals, amateurs and kids. Save room for Wisconsin cheese, beer and wine tastings.

608-935-9200; www.grilledcheesewisconsin.com

Plein Air MKE 2017 – Milwaukee – May 11-21, 2017

Milwaukee’s historic East Side is the backdrop for this open-air painting event, featuring over 100 acclaimed artists who use the city’s iconic culture, architecture and natural landscapes as inspiration. Artists will be located along the Milwaukee Museum Mile which is made up of five museums: the Charles Allis Art Museum, the Jewish Museum Milwaukee, the North Point Lighthouse, the Villa Terrace Decorative Arts Museum and Saint John’s On the Lake.

414-278-8295; www.milwaukeeuseummile.org

Bayfield in Bloom – Bayfield – May 12-June 11, 2017

Color your spring with a stop in Bayfield for the blooming of over 50,000 daffodils, lupines and apple blossoms during the month-long Bayfield in Bloom. The Bayfield in Bloom Garden Expo on May 12 features local horticultural experts and the latest garden-themed products and gear. On June 3, the Garden Tour gives visitors a city-wide sneak peek of local public and private gardens.

715-779-3335; www.bayfield.org

20th Annual Horicon Marsh Bird Festival – Horicon – May 12-15, 2017

Get ready for a weekend birding adventure at the Horicon Marsh, one of the largest freshwater marshes in the U.S. Grab your binoculars for spectacular bird-spotting on the guided boat tour or during the day-long bird scavenger hunt. Bring the family and celebrate Mother’s Day with the “Mom and Me, Birding Together” beginners guide class.

920-485-4663; www.horiconmarshbirdfestival.com

Motorsports Mayhem – Richland Center – May 13, 2017

Rev your engines for adrenaline-pumping fun for the whole family at Motorsports Mayhem. Get your heart racing with the Twisted Metal Demo Derby with over 100 different cars. There's also event classics like the truck and tractor pull and ATV, dirt bike and snowmobile drags. Stick around for the kids pedal pull and helicopter rides throughout the day.

608-604-5068; www.hybridredneck.com

Chequamegon Bay Birding and Nature Festival – Ashland – May 18-20, 2017

Home to nearly 300 species of birds and unparalleled nature-watching opportunities, the Chequamegon Bay hosts the Birding and Nature Festival. Hop on a bike, kayak or boat cruise for tours of the bay during peak spring migration. With over 100 activities to choose from, take part in hands-on workshops or see keynote speaker Matt Reetz, the executive director of the Madison Audubon.

800-284-9484; www.birdandnaturefest.com

35th Annual Morel Mushroom Festival – Muscoda – May 19-21, 2017

Take the Lower Wisconsin River Road to Muscoda where in 1982 the town received the title of "Wisconsin's Morel Capital." Celebrate the 35th anniversary of this fungi fest where visitors can munch on fried mushrooms, try a mushroom brat or just buy some to take home. Grab a Morel Microbrew and stroll through the flea market and car show. Wrap up the weekend with the parade down Wisconsin Avenue.

608-739-3182; www.muscoda.com

White Deer Triathlon – Boulder Junction – May 20, 2017

This triathlon brings hundreds of visitors and more than 260 athletes to Boulder Junction for a unique competition. The race includes a 3K canoe/kayak/stand-up paddleboard course on Boulder Lake, a 22K bike ride and 6K run through forest trails and rustic roads. Bring your friends for the new three-person relay division. Celebrate crossing the finish line with a pub crawl after the race.

715-385-2400; www.whitedeetriathlon.com

ChocolateFest – Burlington – May 26-29, 2017

Take your sweet tooth on a chocolate extravaganza as 35,000 visitors come to Burlington to cure their cocoa cravings. Start the day at the Chocolate Tent for the chocolate carving competition, cooking contests and demos. Try a variety of chocolates, like Mexican chocolate bars, German chocolate and even Wisconsin-crafted chocolate. There's also a ton of live music, a family stage and carnival games.

262-763-6044; www.chocolatefest.com

World's Largest Brat Fest – Madison – May 26-29, 2017

Celebrate Memorial Day weekend with a whole lotta fun (and brats) at the World's Largest Brat Fest in downtown Madison. Take part in the Brat Fest Bun Run, Brat Fest Memorial Bike Ride or play a little "Bratneyball," the fest version of volleyball. Check out over 100 live bands,



*Chequamegon Bay Birding and Nature Festival
Photo Courtesy of Dave Melencon*

including George Clinton, Everclear and local band Madison County. Don't forget to pick up a brat, or two or three.

608-236-2031; www.bratfest.com

Wisconsin Canoe Heritage Day – Spooner – May 27, 2017

Paddle on over to the Wisconsin Canoe Heritage Museum for the canoe and wooden boat show, where exhibitors display all shapes, sizes and styles of canoes and boats. Get a tour of the museum, learn about the history and heritage of canoe building and see the unveiling of the museum's new 2017 exhibits.

715-635-2479; www.wisconsincanoeheritagemuseum.org

35th Annual Ho-Chunk Nation Pow-Wow – Black River Falls – May 27-29, September 2-4, 2017

Head to Black River Falls for this celebration of community and thanks as the Ho-Chunk Nation welcomes visitors to its 35th annual Memorial Day and Labor Day pow-wow weekends. Enjoy colorful displays of traditional dancing, drumming and hand-made crafts.

715-284-9343; www.ho-chunknation.com

Lawn Mower Races – Fifield – May 28, July 8, 2017

This event is the definition of quirky fun as expert mowers race as fast as they can around a dirt track with trophies given to the top competitors. Sponsored by the Fifield Fire Department, this event has grown so much it now has two summer dates.

715-661-2432

Pewaukee Lake Water Ski Show – Pewaukee – May 29-September 4, 2017

Make a splash this summer with a trip to the Pewaukee Lake Water Ski Show. Keep your eyes open for Batman, Robin, Wonder Woman and Superman (on skis!) for this year's theme "Pyramid of Justice," complete with highflying trick skiing and colorful costumes. The Fourth of July show promises music and fireworks at Lakefront Park in downtown Pewaukee.

www.plwsc.org 414-322-8713

JUNE EVENTS

Great Wisconsin Cheese Festival – Little Chute – June 2-4, 2017

It's cheese as far as the eye can see at the Great Wisconsin Cheese Festival. Kick-start national dairy month with the Cheddar Chase Run/Walk and the Big Cheese Parade. Fill up on cheesy treats at the various cheese tastings throughout the weekend. Be sure to check out the popular grilling competition and the hilarious cheese curd eating contest. Don't forget to grab a batch of deep-friend cheese curds before you leave.

920-423-3869; www.littlechutewi.org/cheesefest

Spring Art Tour – Mount Horeb, Verona, Mazomanie, Black Earth, Cross Plains, Blue Mounds – June 2-4, 2017

Explore the driftless area of South Central Wisconsin for a behind-the-scenes art tour. Local artists welcome visitors into their studios and galleries for a sneak peek at their artistic process and what inspires them. Get an up close look at woodworking, wheel-thrown pottery, jewelry and paintings of every kind in this intimate setting.

608-437-5914; www.springarttour.com

Wright and Like Tour 2017 – Milwaukee – June 3, 2017

What better way to celebrate Frank Lloyd Wright's 150th birthday than with the rare opportunity to tour the private homes and public buildings of this master architect and his contemporaries.

This guided tour includes the Albert B. Adelman House, the Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church and two houses on the West Burnham Street block of Milwaukee.
608-287-0339; www.wrightinwisconsin.org

Carp Fest – Two Rivers – June 3-4, 2017

It's good old-fashioned fishing fun at Carp Fest in Two Rivers, with world-class anglers competing for the title of Wisconsin State Carp Champion and for a spot on Team USA at the World Carp Championship.
920-973-0761; www.trba.info

Outta Sight Kite Flight – Kenosha – June 3-4, 2017

Soar to new heights at this kite festival held along the shorelines of Lake Michigan. Kicking off the fest each day is the grand launch of 500 colorful kites. America's Got Talent finalist Connor Doran is back this year with his breathtaking indoor kite flying skills. Be sure to catch the Chicago Fire Kite Team, the longest running competitive sport kite team in the U.S. Join in on the fun by bringing your own kite and get flying tips from the pros.
414-305-3145; www.giftofwings.com

4-Pack of Fun Weekend – Statewide – June 3-4, 2017

Make that family camping or fishing trip a reality during Free Fun Weekend, where all Wisconsin state parks offer free admission. Anglers can enjoy free fishing statewide without a trout stamp or license and attend one of the free fishing clinics held throughout the state. Hit one of Wisconsin's 42 breathtaking state trails for free hiking and ATV access.
888-936-7463; <http://dnr.wi.gov>

Sparta Butterfest – Sparta – June 8-11, 2017

Who better to host Butterfest than Sparta, Wisconsin's butter capital. It's all things butter and then some with butter-making demos, cow-milking contests and the Sparta Stampede Run/Walk. There's also the hugely popular Butterfest parade, featuring the newly-crowned Miss Sparta.
608-269-4123; www.spartabutterfest.com

PrideFest – Milwaukee – June 9-11, 2017

Celebrate diversity at one of the largest LGBT+ festivals in the nation with a dynamic line up of local and national music and entertainment acts, including Australian artist Betty Who. The fest wraps up with the Milwaukee Pride Parade.
414-272-3378; www.pridefest.com

Walleye Weekend – Fond du Lac – June 9-11, 2017

Each year Walleye Weekend reels in over 70,000 visitors for three days of fishing tournaments, music and fun. Check out all the angler action at the Mercury Marine National Walleye Tournament. Enjoy tons of family-friendly activities, live music and the exciting Pier Pups Canine Dock Jumping Competition.
920-923-6555; www.walleyeweekend.com

Beer, Bacon, Cheese – New Glarus – June 10, 2017

This Wisconsin trifecta is sure to tempt your taste buds. Stroll through the streets of New Glarus for samples of craft beer from local breweries as well as specialty meats and artisan cheeses with some of the greatest flavors known to man.
800-527-6838; www.swisstown.com

IRONMAN 70.3 – Madison – June 11, 2017

Home to the IRONMAN Wisconsin for more than 15 years, Madison is one of several destinations to unveil a new half-distance triathlon. The race begins at Olin Park as athletes swim 1.2 miles then bike 56 miles along the rolling hills of Dane County. It wraps up with a 13.1-mile run along the shores of Lake Monona.

www.ironman.com 608-255-2537

Northwoods Heritage Fest – Three Lakes – June 11, 2017

Pay tribute to the diversity of Wisconsin heritage with this fest focusing on family traditions and food. From pierogi to spaetzle, come hungry for a huge variety of German, Italian and Polish dishes. Quench your thirst and check out live entertainment at the International Wine and Beer Garden. Bring the family for the Parade of Flags ceremony and wear your heritage colors.

715-546-3344; www.threelakes.com

2017 U.S. Open Championship at Erin Hills – Hartford – June 12-18, 2017

For the first time, the U.S. Open Championship will be contested in Wisconsin as top players vie for the title of this elite international golf event. Erin Hills is only the sixth public access course to host this championship. More than 35,000 visitors are expected to attend each day.

www.usga.org 866-772-4769

Eaux Claires Music and Arts Festival – Eau Claire – June 16-17, 2017

This music and arts fest has grown rapidly since its inception three years ago by Wisconsin-native and Bon Iver frontman Justin Vernon. This year offers yet another impressive musical line-up with Paul Simon, Chance the Rapper and Wilco. There's also a spotlight on fine arts with interactive art installations and sculptures throughout the festival's sprawling 60 acres.

www.eauxclaires.com 617-371-7767



*Eaux Claires Music and Arts Festival
Photo Courtesy of Eaux Claires Music and Arts Festival*

The Energy Fair – Custer – June 16-18, 2017

Presented by the Midwest Renewable Energy Association, this fair is the nation's longest running renewable energy event. Be one of more than 13,000 attendees to learn about clean energy and sustainability through workshops, exhibitors and inspirational keynote speakers. This year Wisconsin-native and Tesla Motors co-founder JB Straubel will discuss advancements in clean energy technology.

715-592-6595; www.theenergyfair.org

June Dairy Days – Gilman – June 16-18, 2017

Head to Taylor County for a whole lot of family fun at June Dairy Days in downtown Gilman. Start the day with a delicious June Dairy breakfast then browse hand-made crafts at the Market on the River. Take part in the traditional one-mile fun run or the softball tournament. Don't miss the crowning of Miss Gilman on Saturday night.

715-447-8650; www.gilmanwi.com/junedairydays

Polish Fest – Milwaukee – June 16-18, 2017

It's not called America's largest Polish festival for nothing! The Sukiennice Marketplace offers a variety of Polish gifts and goodies for sale, and the cultural village features Polish cooking classes, folk artwork displays and a petting zoo. From sausage to pierogis, try the traditional (and delicious) flavors of Poland at this fest.

414-529-2140; www.polishfest.org

Brews and Blues – Lancaster – June 17, 2017

Enjoy the perfect combination of music and beer at the Brews and Blues festival in Lancaster, right off U.S. Highway 61, also known as the "Blues Highway." New this year, try samples from not only local breweries but wineries and distilleries as well. Dance the night away on the Schreiner Memorial Library lawn to the sounds of blues artists like the Madison trio Aaron Williams and the HooDoo.

608-723-2820; www.brewsandblueswi.com

Budweiser Dairyland Super National Truck & Tractor Pull – Tomah – June 22-25, 2017

It's rip, roarin' fun at this competition featuring some of the largest, high-octane truck and tractors you've ever seen! Check out one of the six seriously entertaining shows on one of two pull tracks. New to the lineup this year: the Light Pro Stock pull. Don't forget to stop by the flea market, arts and crafts show and the commercial vendor exhibits.

608-372-2081; www.tomahtractorpull.com



Ellsworth Cheese Curd Festival – Ellsworth – June 23-24, 2017

Head to the "Cheese Curd Capital of Wisconsin" for deep fried cheese curds, cheese curd-influenced dishes, the hilarious cheese curd eating contest and the new cinnamon and sugar fried cheese curds. Work off all that cheese with the Cheese Curd 10K and 5K Run or stay later for a new addition to the fest: the beer, wine and cider tasting.

715-273-6442; www.ellsworthchamber.com

Greek Fest – West Allis – June 23-25, 2017

Opa! Come celebrate the best of Greece with a weekend full of Greek-style fun. Munch on a wide variety of authentic foods, like Greek chicken, baklava and the crowd-pleasing gyros. Shop for imported gifts at the Greek Market or take a break and see live Greek music and dancing.

414-461-9400; www.annunciationwi.org

*Ellsworth Cheese Curd Festival
Photo Courtesy of Ellsworth
Chamber of Commerce*

Musky Festival – Hayward – June 23-25, 2017

Visit Wisconsin's Northwoods for this community-driven fishing tradition. Hayward's largest festival starts off with the Musky Run/Walk or the Minnow Run for children under 12-years-old. Take part in the catch and release fishing contest, sidewalk sales and live music. Wrap up the weekend with the grand parade featuring the Musky Festival Queen.

715-634-8662; www.muskyfest.com

PGA Champions Tour: American Family Insurance Championship – Madison – June 23-25, 2017

Last year's inaugural event brought out more than 56,000 golf fans. This year ups the ante with the debut of event host and Wisconsin-native Steve Stricker. It also features an 81-player field competing for a \$2 million purse. All proceeds will go to the Steve Stricker American Family Insurance Foundation and American Family Hospital.

www.strickerfoundation.org

Uncork Summer – Ellison Bay – June 24, 2017

Start the summer off with the best food, wine and entertainment Door County has to offer at the Wickman House restaurant's Uncorked Summer. Enjoy a night of jazz and swing music from local musicians paired with specialty farm-to-table dishes from area restaurants. Sample wine, beer and cider or try a Wickman House signature cocktail.

920-854-4450; www.uncorksummer.com

Fete de Fleurs or "Flowering of the Vines" Festival – St. Croix – June 24-25, 2017

No need for a passport to experience this French-inspired festival held at the Chateau St. Croix Winery & Vineyard. Celebrate the start of summer with tasty treats from a variety of food trucks. Or pack a picnic and enjoy your food on the lawn of this 60-acre vineyard. Afterwards, take a tour of the European-style estate, check out craft vendors, and, as always, enjoy delicious Chateau wine.

715-483-2556; www.chateaustcroix.com

Strawberry Festival – Cedarburg – June 24-25, 2017

Celebrate this berry in all its forms with the Strawberry Festival in Cedarburg, drawing more than 100,000 people every year. Munch on fest favorites like strawberry brats, strawberry shortcake, chocolate-covered strawberries and Cedar Creek Winery's Strawberry Blush wine. Don't miss over 250 local and Midwestern artists at the "Arts on the Avenue" as well as the berry delicious strawberry pancake breakfast on Sunday.

262-377-3891; www.cedarburgfestivals.org

50th Annual Summerfest – Milwaukee – June 28-July 2 and July 4-9, 2017

"The World's Largest Music Festival" turns 50 this year with a musical line-up that's bigger and better than ever. This year welcomes over 1,000 musical acts, including Luke Bryan, the Zac Brown Band and Tom Petty & the Heartbreakers on their own 40th anniversary tour.

414-273-2680; www.summerfest.com

Red Cliff Pow-Wow – Red Cliff – June 30-July 2, 2017

Enjoy breathtaking views of Lake Superior and the Apostle Islands at this annual pow-wow. Experience the traditional Chippewa customs and hospitality with lively dancing, drumming and a variety of Native American vendors.

715-779-3700; www.redcliff-nsn.gov

Oneida Pow-Wow – Oneida – June 30-July 2, 2017

The Oneida tribe's annual Fourth of July weekend pow-wow boasts an impressive grand entry of more than 400 dancers. Experience the Native American art, traditions and culture with hand-made crafts and authentic foods.

920-713-0608; www.exploreoneida.com

JULY EVENTS

National Women's Music Festival – Middleton – July 6-9, 2017

Explore diversity, culture and women's empowerment through workshops, live music, theater performances, a writer's series and so much more at the National Women's Music Festival. Festival highlights this year include a musical telling of the life of Olympian Babe Didrikson, comedian Suzanne Westenhoefer and the string trio HEAR in NOW.
317-395-3809; www.wiaonline.org

35th Annual Bear River Pow-Wow – Lac du Flambeau – July 7-9, 2017

Celebrate the beauty and rich heritage of all Native American tribal nations at the Bear River Pow-Wow, offering food, hand-made crafts, traditional dancing and four grand entries.
715-588-3333

Wisconsin Maritime Museum's Subfest – Manitowoc – July 7-9, 2017

Subfest celebrates three years of all things submarine at the Wisconsin Maritime Museum. Located along the Manitowoc River, this fest features self-guided submarine tours, a Venetian boat parade, water ski shows and fireworks. Kids can enjoy hands-on fun at the remote control submarine pond.
866-724-2356; www.wisconsinmaritime.org

Vatten Paddlar Canoe and Kayak Races – Barnes – July 8, 2017

Paddle northwestern Wisconsin's beautiful chain of lakes in this friendly competition between canoe and kayak enthusiasts. Competitors can choose from the 5-mile course around Middle Eau Claire Lake or the 10-mile race from Robinson Lake to Mooney Bay.
715-795-2782; www.vattenpaddlar.com

Art Fair on the Square – Madison – July 8-9, 2017

It's an outdoor art spectacular as 200,000 visitors head to Madison's Capitol Square for a celebration of art in all forms. This event is one of the largest and most popular juried art fairs in the Midwest and features more than 500 local and national artists. Browse sculptures, jewelry, handmade clothing, prints and paintings. Be sure to check out one of the many live musicians around the square.
608-257-0158; www.mmoca.org

Logging and Heritage Festival – Marinette – July 8-9, 2017

Learn about Marinette's rich lumbering history with a weekend packed with outdoor fun. Check out the high-energy action of the popular Great Lakes Timber Show, live music and craft vendors. Bring the family and end the weekend with a parade and fireworks.
715-732-4333; www.marinetteloggandheritagefestival.com

Bastille Days – Milwaukee – July 13-16, 2017

Say "bonjour" to one of the nation's largest French-themed celebrations! Feel the Parisian spirit with tasty French and Cajun cuisine, roaming buskers and a 43-foot replica of the Eiffel Tower. Check out the international marketplace or stay for the live music, featuring the eclectic New Orleans style of Milwaukee's own Extra Crispy Brass Band. Don't miss the Storm the Bastille Run/Walk with 5,000 people running or walking through the streets of downtown Milwaukee.
414-271-1416; www.bastilledaysfestival.com

Honor the Earth Pow-wow – Hayward – July 14-16, 2017

The Lac Courte Oreilles and Ojibwe tribes host this annual celebration, considered the largest pow-wow in North America. Drawing nearly 10,000 visitors from around the world, this event

honors Mother Earth and includes native dancing, drumming, traditional games and tasty Native American foods.

715-634-8934; www.haywardareachamber.com

Midsummer Festival of the Arts – Sheboygan – July 15-16, 2017

Just four blocks from Lake Michigan, this juried festival selects 135 artists to showcase their one-of-a-kind artwork outside the John Michael Kohler Arts Center. Browse artists' booths, enjoy live entertainment and hands-on art activities. There's also plenty of food trucks so bring the whole family and make it a day.

920-458-6144; www.jmkac.org

Salmon-A-Rama – Racine – July 15-23, 2017

Pro anglers, get ready for one of the largest and most popular fishing competitions in the Great Lakes! This nine-day event features contest divisions, including offshore, onshore, youth and perch divisions. See if you can beat last year's grand prize of a 30-pound brown trout.

800-272-2463; www.salmon-a-rama.com

Lumberjack World Championships – Hayward – July 20-22, 2017

See the world's best lumberjacks test their strength, skill and agility at the Lumberjack World Championships, showcasing log rolling, chopping and pull-climbing with more than \$50,000 in prize money on the line. This high-energy event is sure to excite with over 12,000 visitors coming to Hayward for all the action.

715-634-2484 ; www.lumberjackworldchampionships.com

40th Annual Festa Italiana – Milwaukee – July 21-23, 2017

This is the country's largest Italian-American festival with more than 100,000 visitors heading to Milwaukee's lakefront for a weekend of Italian culture and tradition. Enjoy authentic foods, wine tastings, cooking demos and the hilarious cannoli-eating contest. Don't miss the Italian flag-throwers, fireworks and traditional mass on Sunday morning.

414-223-2808; www.festaitaliana.com



*Festa Italiana
Photo Courtesy of Tom Hemman /
Italian Community Center*

5th Annual Big Top Parade & Circus Celebration – Baraboo – July 22, 2017

Ladies and gentlemen, boys and girls, celebrate the Circus City and the home of the Ringling Bros. with this impressive two-day event. The parade has over 75 fun, wacky circus-themed entries, including this year's grand marshals: the former artists and employees of the Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus.

608-356-8333; www.bigtopparade.com

The World of "Little House" – Eagle – July 22-30, 2017

Mark the 150th birthday of Wisconsin-native and author Laura Ingalls Wilder with a trip back to the 1860s. Dress as your favorite Little House character and take part in activities like attending class in a one-room school or the Ingalls family scavenger hunt. Get the unique chance to meet "Laura" and learn about her life out on the prairie.

262-594-6301; www.oldworldwisconsin.org

EAA AirVenture – Oshkosh – July 24-30, 2017

It's "The World's Greatest Aviation Celebration" at AirVenture in Oshkosh, bringing together over 50,000 spectators to honor the past, present and future of flight. This event offers daily air shows, workshops and seminars, including industry vendors and over 10,000 airplanes. This year celebrates the 50th anniversary of the Apollo program. This is the largest gathering of Apollo astronauts at EAA since 1994, and they will discuss the unforgettable and challenging moments of flying to the moon.

920-426-4800; www.airventure.org

German Fest – Milwaukee – July 28-30, 2017

Don your favorite lederhosen and say "prost" to the nation's largest German festival. This fest serves more than 10,000 pounds of sauerkraut and brats to stretch the length of eight Empire State Buildings. Stay for traditional German beer, entertainment and a cultural village. This year, German Fest hosts The Stihl Timbersports Series, featuring top national lumberjack athletes as they compete for the title of "America's Best Lumberjack."

414-464-9444; www.germanfest.com

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER EVENTS

Wisconsin State Fair – West Allis – August 3-13, 2017

It isn't summer without a trip to the Wisconsin State Fair. Experience agricultural life with a trip through the numerous animal barns. Hop on a ride in the amusement park and game area. Try new fair foods like deep-fried maple bacon cookie dough, Caribbean crepes or the classic Wisconsin cream puff. Thirty stages offer tons of live music, and this year includes John Mellencamp, Kip Moore and the Pentatonix.

414-266-7000; www.wistatefair.com

Menominee Nation Contest Pow-Wow – Keshena – August 4-6, 2017

Embrace the Native American spirit with this eclectic pow-wow, featuring singing and dancing competitions, delicious traditional cuisine and a collection of handmade beadwork and apparel.

715-524-2139

Cranes of the World Festival – Baraboo – August 5, 2017

Walk through 100 acres of prairie at Baraboo's International Crane Foundation, the only place in the world where you can see 15 different crane species. This opportunity is paired with guided hikes and tours and live animal presentations.

608-356-9462; www.savingcranes.org

National Mustard Day – Middleton – August 5, 2017

All mustard magic happens in Middleton on National Mustard Day. This event has steadily grown since 2010, and last year was the biggest attendance ever. Bring the family for plenty of music, entertainment, hot dogs and lots of mustard samples.

608-831-2222; www.mustardmuseum.com

U.S. Open Chainsaw Sculpture Championship – Eau Claire – August 10-13, 2017

Watch as the world's best chainsaw carvers create intricately detailed works of art out of wooden logs. These skilled artists sculpt stunning artwork before your eyes with prizes going to the best artwork in a variety of categories. On Sunday, get a chance to bid on your favorite sculpture.

715-835-6200; www.uschainsawchamps.com

Burger Fest – Seymour – August 11-12, 2017

Head to Seymour to celebrate the birth of the hamburger in 1885. Check out the hamburger eating contest, the popular ketchup slide and the giant 70-pound cheeseburger. End the day with the nighttime hot air balloon ascension over the city with colorful glowing balloons.

920-833-6688; www.homeofthehamburger.org

Irish Fest – Milwaukee – August 17-20, 2017

The luck of the Irish is in Milwaukee for the world's largest celebration of Celtic music and culture. This four-day fest features a bevy of fun with an Irish Soda Bread baking contest, and the Celtic Kitchen, featuring a modern take on traditional Irish food. There's also the cultural village and more than 100 entertainers, including emerging international artists. Save room for lots of traditional fare like bridies, bangers and mash and an Irish twist on the Wisconsin cream puff.

414-476-3378; www.irishfest.com

Artstreet – Green Bay – August 25-27, 2017

Let your inner artist come alive at Green Bay's Artstreet. Stroll through downtown for a dynamic collection of original artwork by over 200 local and national artists. Three stages offer live music, dance, theater and literary performances. Kids can get their hands messy with children's art activities. Be sure to swing by the specialty food tents for deliciously tempting treats.

920-435-5220; www.mosaicartsinc.org/artstreet

Mexican Fiesta – Milwaukee – August 25-27, 2017

It's three days of Mexican fun, food and culture at Milwaukee's lakefront. Enjoy international dancing and music at the Cultural Pavilion or stroll through the marketplace for handmade crafts and yummy food. Save room for the Mexican bread "pan de feria," baked by authentic Mexican bakers.

414-383-7066; www.mexicanfiesta.org

Wisconsin Cow Chip Throw – Prairie du Sac – Sept. 1-2, 2017

It doesn't get much quirkier than the Wisconsin State Cow Chip Throw, with more than 50,000 people visiting Prairie du Sac to watch contestants throw flattened cow chips (or dried cow patties) as far as they can. The current record is 248-feet! Stay for the fun run/walk, arts and crafts fair and the hilarious Tournament of Chips Parade.

608-643-4317, www.wiscowchip.com



Taste of Madison – Madison – September 2-3, 2017

This Labor Day weekend Madison's Capitol Square will be taken over by 80 restaurants, 3 entertainment stages and 26 beverage stands for a huge end of the summer celebration. Over 250,000 visitors come to this event annually to sample food from Madison's top local restaurants while enjoying the best free concert experience the city offers.

608-276-9797; www.tasteofmadison.com

Taste of Madison

Photo Courtesy of Focal Flame Photograph

Indian Summer Festival – Milwaukee – September 8-10, 2017

Milwaukee's lakefront is home to North America's largest American Indian festival. This year's theme, "Language is Culture," celebrates the diverse languages that make up this festival. Come for the popular competition pow-wow with impressive grand entry dancers, and stay for lacrosse demonstrations, the Native American marketplace, contemporary music and lots of traditional foods.

414-604-1000; www.indiansummer.org

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