

2012

TOP 100 EVENTS

in North America presented by
the American Bus Association

CAPITAL IN BLOOM

NATIONAL CHERRY BLOSSOM FESTIVAL
& CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION OF THE
GIFT OF CHERRY BLOSSOM TREES



Group Travel Connect

Use this online
searchable
directory to
research, request
quotes, and plan
trips to these
Top 100 Events.



PLYMOUTH
MASSACHUSETTS

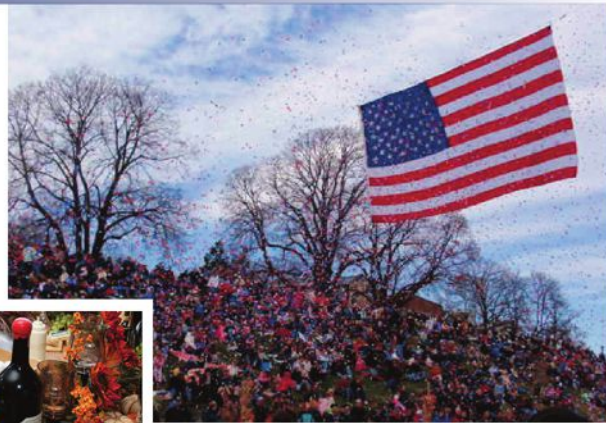
The Weekend Before Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving Celebration™

NOVEMBER 18TH, 19TH, 20TH, 2011
NOVEMBER 16TH, 17TH, 18TH, 2012

OUR MISSION is to educate the public while preserving our country's important history, starting with the Pilgrim legacy and Thanksgiving story while recognizing all those who have fought to protect the American way of life. Come Join this Thanksgiving celebration of excellence in Plymouth, America's Hometown, where Thanksgiving began. Three days of concerts honoring military sacrifice and a spectacular parade chronicling the Pilgrim legacy, spectators will leave with a sense of history and pride.

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.



SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

FRIDAY

- Taste of New England VIP reception
- PIDC Free Patriotic Concert

SATURDAY

- Opening Ceremonies-Waterfront Park
- Thanksgiving Parade-Main Street, Plymouth
- New England Food Festival-Waterfront Park
Soups, Chowders, Desserts and Party Foods from over 20 plus restaurants/live music
- Crafters Pavilion
- Kids Activity Tent-Waterfront Park
Live Entertainment, Workshops, Kids Crafts & Activities
- Wampanoag Educational Pavilion
- Senior Drum Corps Reunion – Memorial Hall

SUNDAY

- Harvest Market-Waterfront Park
 - Farmers Market
 - Food Demonstrations
 - Live Bluegrass
- Crafters Pavilion
- Kids Activity Tent-Waterfront Park
 - Live Entertainment
 - Workshops
 - Kids Crafts & Activities
- Wampanoag Educational Pavilion
- Plimoth Plantation-Waterfront Park
- Tour of the Mayflower II

Massachusetts
massvacation.com

massachusetts
Plymouth County USA
Convention & Visitors Bureau

For area information contact the Plymouth County Convention & Visitors Bureau at www.SeePlymouth.com

www.usathanksgiving.com

Cordage Park Circle, Suite 230 Plymouth, MA • 508-746-1818

2012

A supplement to *Destinations* magazine

TOP 100 EVENTS

in North America presented by
the American Bus Association

HONORING HISTORY

NIAGARA 1812 BICENTENNIAL



Contents



TOP 100 Events in North America presented by the American Bus Association

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Winning Events

TOP EVENTS

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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 select 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. Official State/Provincial Tourism Offices may submit seven nominations. ABA members may submit three nominations. There is no cost to nominate events for ABA members. Non-ABA members may submit one 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 to assist you in creating itineraries.

Plan Itineraries for Top 100 Using 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 Event destinations. For more information contact GroupConnect today at (866) 644-1664 or info@groupconnect.com.



Icon Key

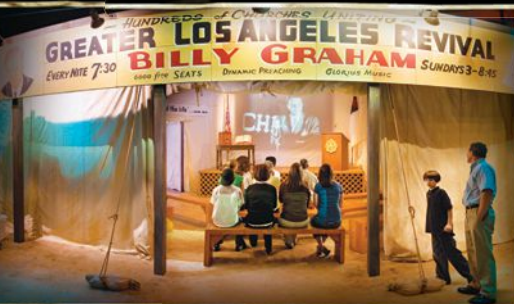
- Designated Motorcoach Parking
- Offers Group Incentives
- Anniversary Year
- Food




Christmas at the *Library*
 Voted a Top 100 Event
 in the U.S. by ABA



A DESTINATION THAT'S MORE ABOUT THE JOURNEY.



Bring your groups to the Billy Graham Library in Charlotte, and take them on the journey of a lifetime. Explore the compelling story of a North Carolina farm boy who became one of the most admired men in the world. Tour historical re-creations, state-of-the-art exhibits, film presentations, galleries of memorabilia, and the Graham family homeplace. Stroll through the prayer garden, browse unique gifts, or relax over lunch in our café. No matter who you bring, they'll discover an experience that is **TOTALLY INSPIRING.**

FREE	 The BILLY GRAHAM Library	MON - TO - SAT 9³⁰-5	704-401-3200
	BILLYGRAHAMLIBRARY.ORG		

Reservations are required for tour groups of 15 or more; call 704-401-3270 to book yours today. 4330 Westmont Drive (just off Billy Graham Parkway), Charlotte, NC 28217

  billygraham.org/Social



National Cherry Blossom Festival & Centennial Celebration of the Gift of Cherry Blossom Trees

Culture and nature play starring roles in Washington, DC's five-week milestone festival

The National Cherry Blossom Festival is one of the nation's most beautiful and engaging springtime celebrations. In 2012, the festival will celebrate the 100th anniversary of the gift of 3,000 cherry blossom trees from Tokyo to Washington, DC. To honor this momentous occasion, the festival is planning an unprecedented five-week tribute. New initiatives will include the "City in Bloom" welcoming campaign featuring buildings awash in pink, ground-breaking exhibitions, and a historical tree planting re-enactment. Creativity and innovation will permeate signature events, including a grand parade, Family Days presented with the National Building Museum, a Blossom Kite Festival, a fireworks show, Sakura Matsuri—a Japanese Street Festival, and much more.  



TOP EVENT
AMERICAN BUS ASSOCIATION


 **Washington, DC**
March 20 - April 27, 2012

NEARBY ATTRACTIONS:

- Jefferson Memorial
- National Mall
- Smithsonian

CONTACT:

Kirsten Poole
(202) 661-7567
kirsten@downtowndc.org
www.nationalcherryblossomfestival.org

 **Thorold, Ontario**
June 15 - 18, 2012





NEARBY ATTRACTIONS:

- Niagara Falls
- Niagara-on-the-Lake
- Fort Erie

CONTACT: Katie Farr
or Betsy Foster
(905) 984-3626
(905) 685-1308 ext. 3462
communications@
discover1812.com
www.discover1812.com

Niagara 1812 Bicentennial

Commemorate the 200th anniversary of the War of 1812

The Niagara region plays host to breathtaking panoramas, luscious landscape, delectable foods, and delicious, award-winning wines. In 2012, the whole world will be looking to its doorstep to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the War of 1812. Home to two major forts and numerous battles throughout the region, Niagara is uniquely a nation's focus, where the conflict that shaped Canada took place. The opening ceremonies will feature musical performances, a cannon-fire exchange between Fort George and Fort Niagara, and a candlelit walk/ceremony. Other events include a Declaration of War Dinner on June 16, in which guests will help re-create the dinner held the evening Sir Isaac Brock learned they were at war with their American neighbors. Join the world in commemoration, celebration, and a lasting legacy and watch history come alive in 2012. For more information on re-enactments and all other events, visit www.discover1812.com.    





The East

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



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

of Charlotte's most beautiful light displays, heart-warming sounds of caroling and festive music, and story time for children of all ages. Enjoy holiday goodies in the dairy bar, exclusive library ornaments and holiday shopping in Ruth's Attic bookstore, and tours of the Journey of Faith at the Billy Graham Library. Admission is free. This has become a holiday tradition for thousands.

NEARBY ATTRACTIONS: *Narroway Theatre Christmas Productions, Daniel Stowe Botanical Gardens, Carolina Christmas at the Charlotte Motor Speedway*

Southeast

75th Anniversary Season of the Lost Colony Outdoor Drama Manteo, NC

June - August, 2012
CONTACT: Shannon Manno
(252) 473-2127
shannon@thelostcolony.org
www.thelostcolony.org

More than 400 years ago, 17 men, women, and children sailed from Plymouth, England in an attempt to settle on Roanoke Island. They vanished just two years later. The only clue left behind was the word "CROATOAN" carved in a post. The Lost Colony is their story. Come see epic battles and Indian dances. Experience the sorrow and heartbreak of tragedy and loss. Witness the pageantry of the Queen and her court and celebrate the birth of Virginia Dare. There is music, laughter, romance, and dance. Written by Pulitzer-prize winning playwright Paul Green, *The Lost Colony* is performed summer nights by a company of more than 100 actors, dancers, and technicians. The Lost Colony is an Outer Banks tradition and cultural and national treasure.



NEARBY ATTRACTIONS: *Elizabethan Gardens, Roanoke Island Festival Park, Wright Brothers National Memorial*

Beach Ball Drop Panama City Beach, Fla. December 31, 2012 - January 1, 2013

CONTACT: Felicia Cook
(850) 236-9974
fcook@simon.com
www.visitpanamacitybeach.com

Ring in the New Year with white sand beaches, family and friends, and live entertainment—and all for free. Just as New York City has its Times Square Crystal Ball, Panama City Beach embraces its seaside roots on New

Year's Eve with the Annual Beach Ball Drop. The night is filled with a plethora of activities, including headliner entertainment, street performers, and prize drawings. When the clock strikes midnight, an 800-pound glowing beach ball descends from the sky and culminates with a spectacular fireworks display over the Gulf of Mexico.



NEARBY ATTRACTIONS: *Gulf World Marine Park, Lady Anderson Dinner Cruise, St. Andrews State Park*

Billy Graham Library: Christmas at the Library Charlotte, NC December 1 - 23, 2012

CONTACT: Diane Wise
(704) 401-3270
dwise@bgea.org
www.billygrahamlibrary.org

Experience Christmas at the Library featuring a live nativity that offers a glimpse into the awe of that first Christmas night, horse-drawn carriage rides through one

Creche Festival Moncks Corner, SC November 14 - December 3, 2012

CONTACT: Guerric Heckel
(843) 761-8509
guerric@mepkinabbey.org
www.mepkinabbey.org

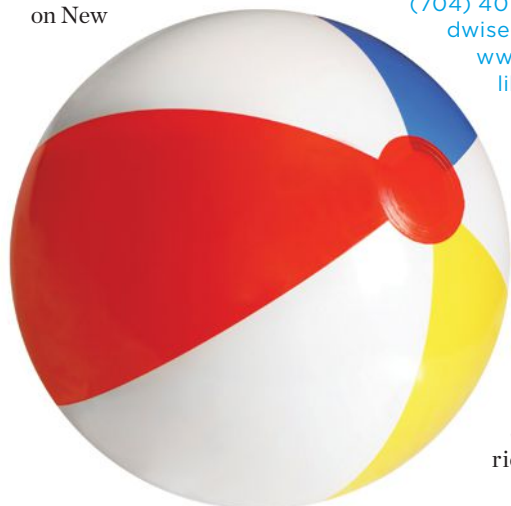
Every year around Thanksgiving, the monks at Mepkin Abbey in Moncks Corner open their library and grounds for the public to view part of their collections of more than 700 nativity sets from around the world. The 2012 festival, which is free to the public, will be November 14-20 and November 25-27 for groups under 10, and November 28-December 3 for groups larger than 10. Reservations are required.

NEARBY ATTRACTIONS: *Cypress Gardens, Downtown Charleston, Boone Hall Plantation*

Edison & Ford Holiday Nights Ft. Myers, Fla. December 1 - 31, 2012

CONTACT: Lisa Sbuttoni
(239) 334-7419
info@edisonfordwinterestates.org
www.edisonfordwinterestates.org

Edison & Ford Holiday Nights is a 36-year holiday tradition



in southwest Florida. The Estates' nine historical buildings and almost 20 acres of gardens are decorated with lights and traditional decorations of the Edison and Ford era. Edison's Lab and Museum is open and events include nightly live entertainment. 📞 📧

NEARBY ATTRACTIONS:
Broadway Palm Dinner Theatre, Barbara B. Mann Performing Arts Center, Holidays on the River with City of Ft. Myers

Fantasy In Lights
Pine Mountain, Ga.
November 16 - December 30, 2012

CONTACT: John McKinney
(706) 663-5135
jmckinney@callawaygardens.com
www.callawaygardens.com

Fantasy In Lights, a custom outdoor light and sound show, provides holiday magic for millions of people. Guests travel by motorcoach, car, or trolley through 10 scenes with music and animation creating a holiday wonderland. Two scenes are brought to life by a narrator as guests stand and watch. Nearby, the Christmas Village is the place for drinks, Christmas shopping, and Santa visits. Fantasy In Lights, with more than eight million lights, is the brightest light show in the South.



NEARBY ATTRACTIONS:
Hills & Dales Estate and Ferrell Gardens, FDR's Little White House, National Infantry Museum

First Flush Festival
Wadmalaw Island, SC
May 20, 2012

CONTACT: Bryn Riley
(843) 559-0383
briley@rcbigelow.com
www.charlestonteaplantation.com

Where can visitors experience more than 7,000 cups of American Classic iced tea being served, national and local musicians wowing crowds, goods and

wears of talented Charlestonian artists on display and for sale, taste the delicious cuisine of the lowcountry and more? At America's only tea plantation, of course. You won't want to miss the First Flush Festival in 2012. Your group is guaranteed to have a great time.



NEARBY ATTRACTIONS:
Irvine House Vineyards, Angel Oak Tree, City of Charleston Tour

Holiday Festival of Lights
Charleston, SC
November 9 - December 31, 2012

CONTACT: Sarah Reynolds
(843) 795-4FUN
sreynolds@ccprc.com
www.holidayfestivaloflights.com

Celebrate a low-country tradition at Charleston's most beloved nighttime holiday event—the Holiday Festival of Lights at James Island County Park. With more than two million shimmering lights, this three-mile driving tour brings more light displays year after year, with more than 700 shining displays for the 2010 season. The Festival of Lights was ranked on the 2006 AmericasBest.com Top 10 list. Admission: \$12/vehicle for 1-15 guests, \$25/vehicle for 16-30 guests, and \$100/vehicle for 31 or more guests. Fees are subject to change. 📞 📧

NEARBY ATTRACTIONS:
Charleston Tea Plantation, Irving House Winery, Historic Charleston

International Cherry Blossom Festival
Macon, Ga.
March 16 - 25, 2012

CONTACT: Stacy Campbell
(478) 751-7429
scampbell@cherryblossom.com
www.cherryblossom.com

Every March, Macon hosts the "pinkest party on Earth" as more than 300,000 Yoshino



Annual Events

Boston Harborfest 2012

Boston, Mass.
June 28 - July 4, 2012
CONTACT: Susan Park
(617) 227-1886
festival@bostonharborfest.com
www.bostonharborfest.com

The 31st Boston Harborfest is a seven-day 4th 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 illuminate the future with re-enactments, concerts, and historical tours. The week includes the Boston Chowderfest, the July 4th Boston Pops Concert and fireworks, and in 2012 will feature the OpSail Tall Ships visit in honor of the Bicentennial of the War of 1812.

Christmas at Biltmore®

Asheville, NC
November 2, 2012 - January 1, 2013

CONTACT: Leslie Brewer
(828) 225-1413
groupsales@biltmore.com
www.biltmore.com

Be inspired by Biltmore's grand holiday celebration during Christmas at Biltmore®. Miles of ribbon and lights, sparkling ornaments, fragrant evergreen swags, and dozens of traditional Christmas trees decorate Biltmore House and the entire estate during the holiday season. A Candlelight Christmas Evening experience will be the highlight of your journey. Imagine the wonder of America's largest home® after dark, illuminated by sparkling candles and flickering firelight with musicians and choirs entertaining our guests in the Winter Garden. Admission tickets for day or evening reservations include access to Biltmore House & Gardens, and Antler Hill Village & Winery.

cherry trees bloom in all their glory. And for 10 days, festival-lovers are treated to one of the most extravagant displays of springtime color in the nation as they visit the town referred to by Congressional Records as the Cherry Blossom Capital of the World. 🍷 🚗 🚫

NEARBY ATTRACTIONS:
Historic Homes Tours, Ocmulgee National Monument, Cherry Blossom Riding Trail Tour

Seabreeze Jazz Festival Santa Rosa Beach, Fla.

April 18 - 22, 2012

CONTACT: Mark Carter
(850) 267-3279
info@seabreezejazzfestival.com
www.seabreezejazzfestival.com

The sounds of contemporary jazz from top performers beck-

on jazz fans to Panama City Beach. The event, named “Top 10 Jazz Festival in the USA” by *JazzIZ Magazine* and recently nominated as “Best Jazz Festival” at the Oasis Smooth Jazz Awards, combines the top national smooth jazz artists with a full weekend of fun, sun, great beaches, and good times. The event attracts fans from the United States, Canada, and Europe for what many call “The Ultimate Weekend” in one non-stop performance-packed weekend of music.

🍷 🚗 🚫

NEARBY ATTRACTIONS:
Lady Anderson Dinner Cruise, St. Andrews State Park, Gulf World Marine Park

This Man Called Jesus Lexington, SC

November 30 - December 16, 2012

CONTACT: Joan Bedenbaugh
(803) 359-1556

joanandmikeb@windstream.net
www.thismancalledjesus.org

This Man Called Jesus is a Christmas drama that draws thousands each year. 34,117 attended in 2010 during 16 performances over three fabulous weekends. Presented by a costumed cast of more than 400 with live animals, music, drama, sound effects, and lighting—this is a must-see Christmas holiday event. This two-hour production brings to life the story of Jesus, beginning with his birth and continues with his ministry, miracles, trial, death, and resurrection. Arrive early as seating is on a first-come, first-served basis.

🍷 🚗

NEARBY ATTRACTIONS:
Lake Murray, EdVenture Children’s Museum, Holiday Open House at the Lake Murray Country Visitor’s Center

Mid-Atlantic

150th Commemoration of the Maryland Campaign

Frederick and Hagerstown, Md. September 8 - 22, 2012

CONTACT: Betsy DeVore or Becky Bickerton
(301) 791-3246
betsyd@marylandmemories.org
bbickerton@fredco-md.net
www.marylandcampaign150.org

The 150th Commemoration of the Maryland Campaign is a grand commemoration of the Battles of South Mountain and Antietam. It is a combined effort of several national parks, South Mountain State Battlefield, the Heart of the Civil War Heritage Area, the National Museum of Civil War Medicine, local historical sites, societies, preservation





Kentucky Derby Festival & Kentucky Derby.

groups, and tourism bureaus, and municipalities in Washington and Frederick counties. Throughout the week commemorative church services, lectures, a Civil War Ball, and other events will take place between South Mountain and Antietam. 📍 📞 📧

NEARBY ATTRACTIONS:
Washington County Museum of Fine Arts, National Museum of Civil War Medicine, Union Mills Homestead

Apple Scrapple Festival
Bridgeville, Del.
October 12 - 13, 2012

CONTACT: Merritt Burke
 (302) 337-7135
merrittburke@hotmail.com
www.applescrapple.com

The Apple Scrapple Festival began as a community event to showcase Bridgeville and to provide service organizations and school groups a source for fundraising. Two of the larger businesses in town are T.S. Smith & Sons, the local apple orchard, and Ralph & Paul Adams Inc., the manufacturer of scrapple—hence, apples and scrapple. The festival has grown from its inception in 1992, hosting approximately 25,000 to 30,000 visitors each year. All

festival areas have free admission and free parking. 📍 📞 📧

NEARBY ATTRACTIONS:
Nassau Valley Vineyards, Tanger Outlets, Historic Lewes Maritime Tours

Applefest®
Franklin, Pa.
October 5 - 7, 2012

CONTACT: Lynn Cochran
 (814) 432-5823
lynn@franklinareachamber.org
www.franklinapplefest.com

The best three days of the year begin the first Friday in October. The first Applefest® consisted of an apple pie baking contest and a collection of a few local vendors. It was pulled together on very short notice by the chamber's long range planning committee and scheduled to coincide with the Franklin High School Homecoming. Since its humble beginnings as a pie baking contest in 1983, Applefest® has grown into a three-day affair offering non-stop free entertainment, more than 300 artisans and crafters and drawing crowds of more than 100,000 visitors. 📍 📞 📧

NEARBY ATTRACTIONS:
DeBence Antique Music World, Oil Creek & Titusville Railroad, Drake Well Park & Museum



Annual Events

CMA Music Festival

Nashville, Tenn.
June 7 - 10, 2012

CONTACT: Chris Harrington
 (615) 770-7814
www.cmafest.com

The CMA Music Festival is Nashville's signature music event, consisting of four days and more than 100 hours of live music, autograph signings by country music's biggest names and up-and-comers, and celebrity events. Throughout a rich 40-year history, the festival has never lost sight of its roots, or its reason for existing: the unique and special bond between the stars and the fans.

Daytona 500
Daytona Beach, Fla.
February 26, 2012

CONTACT: Shannon Nydam
 (386) 681-5052
snydam@daytonainternational.com
www.daytonainternational.com

Daytona International Speedway is home to the Daytona 500, "The Great American Race," NASCAR's most prestigious race and season opener to the NASCAR Sprint Cup Series. Held every February, many NASCAR greats have captured the Harley J. Earl trophy, such as Dale Earnhardt. Whether you are an avid race fan or a rookie to the sport, the Daytona 500 is the place to be for nonstop action and memories that will last a lifetime.

Kentucky Derby Festival & Kentucky Derby

Louisville, Ky.

April 21 - May 5, 2012

CONTACT: Dineene Bradley

(502) 560-1495
dbradley@goto.com
louisville.com

www.kentuckyderby.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 year 2012 marks the 57th anniversary.

Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade

New York, NY
November 22, 2012

CONTACT: Ray Zagorski
 (212) 484-1237
rzagorski@nycgo.com
www.nycgo.com

This annual tradition 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. On Thanksgiving Eve, visitors can watch the parade's signature giant character and novelty balloons come to life as they are inflated with helium.



The Sea Witch Halloween & Fiddler's Festival in Rehoboth Beach, Del.

Finger Lakes Wine Festival Watkins Glen, NY July 13 - 15, 2012

CONTACT: Mike Evranian
(607) 535-2486
mevranian@theglen.com
www.flwinefest.com

The Finger Lakes Wine Festival is the largest collection of New York state wines anywhere—with more than 90 different wineries pouring more than 600 varieties of wine. Whether you're a serious wine connoisseur or a casual taster, there's much to discover at our biggest event ever. There is also a Brewers' Garden, offering beer lovers even more opportunities to explore the brewers' art. Sample culinary delights during the free cook-

ing classes and demonstrations, shop for the local arts, crafts, and jewelry, and enjoy live music on several stages, all while enjoying award-winning New York wines. 📍 📞 📧

NEARBY ATTRACTIONS:
Seneca Lake Wineries,
Watkins Glen State Park,
Corning Museum of Glass

Gaylord National's ICE! National Harbor, Md. November 16, 2012 - January 6, 2013

CONTACT: Megan Potts
(301) 965-4000
mpotts@gaylordhotels.com
www.christmasonthepotomac.com

Every holiday season, visitors can experience a winter

wonderland unlike anything they've ever seen when Gaylord National presents ICE! The Washington, DC region's coldest attraction will warm visitors' hearts as they explore an indoor wonderland created entirely of two million pounds of ice. Hand-sculpted by a team of international artisans, ICE! is housed inside a massive building kept at nine degrees Fahrenheit. As visitors walk through, they can marvel at 10 different holiday scenes featuring incredible detail and vivid colors. Best of all, kids of all sizes can ride down thrilling, two-story ice slides made of crystal-clear ice. 📍 📞 📧

NEARBY ATTRACTIONS:
Monuments of DC, Old Town Alexandria, Mt. Vernon

Gettysburg Civil War Battle Re-enactment Gettysburg, Pa. July 6 - 8, 2012

CONTACT: Joanne Sease
(717) 338-1525
gac3@comcast.net
www.gettysburgreenactment.com

Held on a private farmland, the only Gettysburg Battle re-enactment held to commemorate the 1863 Civil War Battle brings history to life. Visitors experience live mortar fire demonstrations, multiple battles each day, expansive living history village, and all-day activities. Experience camp life as you stroll through both the Union and Confederate camps where life is as it was in 1863. Visitors will also enjoy shopping in the 1860s "sutler" village. The event offers a variety of food and beverages. 📍 📞 📧

NEARBY ATTRACTIONS:
Gettysburg National Military Park, Eisenhower National Historic Site, GNMP Museum & Visitor Center

Overly's Country Christmas Greensburg, Pa. November 16, 2012 -

January 1, 2013

CONTACT: Stephanie Tomasic
(724) 423-1400
info@overlys.com
www.overlys.com

Celebrate the season in an old-fashioned way at Overly's Country Christmas, a non-profit committed to creating holiday memories. Our drive-through light display and walk-around Christmas Village are filled with an array of traditions and treats. Sing carols around the bonfire, revel in the model train display or ride a horse-drawn sleigh. Top off the evening with hot chocolate and a snack from one of the many outdoor eateries. Be sure to visit the General Store for unique holiday gifts. No matter what you choose you'll enjoy your experience at this illuminated winter wonderland in Pennsylvania's Laurel Highlands. 📍 📞 📧

NEARBY ATTRACTIONS:
Ramada Inn Ligonier,
The Palace Theatre,
Compass Inn Museum

Sea Witch Halloween & Fiddler's Festival Rehoboth Beach, Del. October 26 - 28, 2012

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

Mummies of all ages are invited to wrap up and join the fun, which begins on Friday with the choo choo express and family movie in Grove Park. On Saturday watch the popular costume parade followed by spooktacular activities including: hayrides, beach games, broom tossing contest, trick or treating with the merchants, and much more. On Sunday, watch out for the four-legged monsters parading down the boardwalk in the costumed dog parade. 📍 📞 📧

NEARBY ATTRACTIONS:
Tanger Outlets, Nassau Valley Vineyards, Indian River Life Saving Station Museum



Annual Events

Star-Spangled Spectacular 2012 - A Festival of Naval Vessels and Tall Ships

Baltimore, Md. June 13 - 19, 2012

CONTACT: Kate Marks
(410) 767-6974
kmarks@choosemaryland.org
www.starspangled200.org

An international parade of ships will sail into Baltimore's Inner Harbor to launch the U.S. Bicentennial commemoration of the War of 1812. The Navy/OpSail event will consist of up to 40 grey hulls and tall ships from U.S., British, Canadian, and other navies of the world. This will mark the 200th anniversary of the declaration of war against Great Britain and kick off the Navy's and Maryland's bicentennial. It was here, in 1814 during the Battle of Baltimore, that Francis Scott Key penned the words to the Star-Spangled Banner.



NEARBY ATTRACTIONS:
Ft. McHenry National Monument & Historic Shrine, Narrated Cruise Tours, Inner Harbor Attractions

War of 1812 Bicentennial-Battle of Plattsburgh Commemoration Weekend

Plattsburgh, NY September 7 - 9, 2012

CONTACT: Kristy Kennedy
(518) 563-1000
groups@goadirondock.com
www.champlain1812.com

Step back in time and witness first-hand the Battle of Plattsburgh, where your group can watch live battle reenactments on land and water, re-live history touring authentic military encampments, experience life as it was almost 200 years ago, attend memorial ceremonies and historical tributes, listen to historic lectures and costumed story tellers, enjoy

15+ musical acts, watch an old-fashioned parade, dance at the Macomb Ball featuring English Country Dancing, tour the Kent-Delord House Museum (a former British headquarters), visit the recreated Israel Green Tavern, and delight in traditional fireworks displays.

NEARBY ATTRACTIONS:
Ft. Ticonderoga, Babbie Rural & Farm Learning Museum, Heart's Delight Farm Heritage Exhibit

World Championship Punkin Chunkin

Nassau, Del. November 2 - 4, 2012

CONTACT: Frank Shade
(302) 542-5582
punkassoc@gmail.com

1punkinchunker@gmail.com
www.punkinchunkin.com

The World Famous Punkin Chunkin is a thrilling three-day pumpkin hurling event. Since 1986, Sussex County, Del. has been home to the annual Punkin Chunkin—an outdoor celebration where high-tech engineers and average Joe's transport their enormous, homemade contraptions with one goal: hurling a 10-pound pumpkin as far as possible to win the coveted title.

NEARBY ATTRACTIONS:
Dogfish Head Brewery Tour, Historic Lewes Maritime Trail, Nassau Valley Vineyards Winery

MummersFest & Fancy Brigade Finale Philadelphia Mummers Parade

Philadelphia, Pa. January 1, 2012

CONTACT: Jim Julia
(302) 893-4937
james.julia@exelon.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 their show indoors, which means no weather concerns and reserved comfortable seating. The Pennsylvania Convention Center in historic Downtown Philadelphia offers the best place to see the Philadelphia Mummers. Come and see why the Fancy Brigade Division is called "Philadelphia's Best Kept Secret."

National Independence Day Celebration

Washington, DC July 4, 2012

CONTACT: George Cooley
(800) 422-8644
george.cooley@destinationdc.com
www.destinationdc.com

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, performs patriotic songs that set the stage for the grand finale—the fireworks display over the Washington Monument.



National Independence Day Celebration in Washington, DC.



Colonial Williamsburg's Grand Illumination.

East Central

150th Anniversary of the Battle of Shiloh Pickwick Dam and Shiloh, Tenn.

March 30 – April 7, 2012

CONTACT: Patricia Gray
(615) 741-9004
patricia.gray@tn.gov
www.tnvacation.com/civil-war

A week-long Tennessee Civil War Sesquicentennial Signature Event commemorates the 150th anniversary of the Battle of Shiloh. Activities begin with a re-enactment featuring 100 cannons and 6,000+ soldiers. Programs on April 4 and 5 at Pickwick Landing State Park include living history demonstrations, musical performances, and scholarly presentations. On April 6, the National Park Service hosts tours and premieres a Shiloh movie, filmed on

the battlefield. On April 7, the observance culminates with a Grand Illumination of the battlefield: 23,746 luminaries, one for each American soldier killed, wounded, or missing.



NEARBY ATTRACTIONS:
Casey Jones Village in Jackson, Tenn., Parker's Crossroads Battlefield, Pickwick Landing State Park

Colonial Williamsburg's Grand Illumination Williamsburg, Va. December 2, 2012

CONTACT: Avil Wallace-Greene
(757) 565-8387
awallace2@cwf.org
www.colonialwilliamsburg.com

Colonial Williamsburg heralds the Christmas season with candles, fireworks, and music during the Grand Illumination that begins at 4:45 p.m. on outdoor

stages throughout the Historic Area. Colonial Williamsburg's Fifes and Drums provide 18th century music as costumed performers present holiday entertainment that were found in Williamsburg two centuries ago. At 5:45 p.m. the Fifes and Drums signal the beginning of the Grand Illumination. At 6:15 p.m. candles are lit in public buildings, shops and homes. Fireworks are launched at three historic area locations: Governor's Palace, Magazine, and Capitol. After the fireworks, entertainment resumes on the outdoor stages. ♿

NEARBY ATTRACTIONS:
Busch Gardens Christmas Town, Jamestown Settlement – A Colonial Christmas, Yorktown Victory Center – A Colonial Christmas

Gaylord Opryland Resort's A Country Christmas

Nashville, Tenn. November 16 – December 25, 2012

CONTACT: Tina Abellanosa
(615) 458-2821
tabellanosa@gaylordhotels.com
www.gaylordhotels.com

Gaylord Opryland Resort's 29th annual A Country Christmas will make memories of a lifetime for the thousands of people who travel from around the world to experience the most captivating holiday resort entertainment, décor and food in America. A Country Christmas includes more than two million lights and more than a dozen shows and attractions, including an interactive, bigger-than-life ice sculpture world—ICE!; the Radio City Christmas Spectacular featuring the Radio City Rockettes; lunch and dinner holiday shows aboard the General Jackson



Annual Events

Showboat; life-size outdoor Nativity display; Hall of Trees; and much more. (U)(C)(X)

NEARBY ATTRACTIONS:
Grand Ole Opry, General Jackson Showboat, Ryman Auditorium

KaLightscope Christmas

Louisville, Ky.
November 1, 2012 - January 1, 2013

CONTACT: Dineene Bradley
(502) 560-1495
dbradley@gotolouisville.com
www.kalightscope.com
www.gotolouisville.com

KaLightscope Christmas is a multi-layered celebration of the holidays throughout the Galt House. Larger-than-life lighted holiday sculptures—handcrafted by 30 artisans from China—are the main attraction. Made of sheer, painted fabrics, each towering sculpture is enhanced by light, color and an imaginative setting. It is a spectacular walk-through Christmas luminary experience. Colors of the Season is a dinner show packed with favorite holiday songs, dancing, and laughter. There's also the world's largest, life-sized Gingerbread Village. Santa hosts breakfasts, sits for photos, and tells stories. Artists and shopkeepers reveal their wares in the unique Mistletoe Marketplace.



NEARBY ATTRACTIONS:
Louisville Slugger Museum & Factory, Kentucky Derby Museum, Lights Under Louisville at Mega Caverns

Kentucky Bourbon Festival

Bardstown, Ky.
September 11 - 16, 2012

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

The Kentucky Bourbon Festival is a six-day festival celebrating the history, art, and passion of making Kentucky

Bourbon. Started in 1992 with one event, the festival now has grown to more than 35 events; including the World Championship Barrel Relay, the Great Kentucky Bourbon Tasting and Gala, live music, southern cooking, and a huge dose of southern hospitality. Attendance for 2010 included attendees from 40 states and 13 countries. (X)

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

Oglebay's Winter Festival of Lights

Wheeling, WV
November 11, 2012 - January 8, 2013

CONTACT: Cathy Javorsky
(304) 242-4020
grouptours@oglebay-resort.com
www.oglebay-resort.com

Since 1985, the Winter Festival of Lights at Oglebay has been delighting visitors of all ages. This annual holiday light show is one of the nation's largest, covering more than 300 acres over a six-mile drive throughout the resort. Every year new displays are added and the show is going green with brilliant LED lights replacing the traditional bulbs. The Winter Festival of Lights was listed as one of the 10 Best Christmas Light Displays in the U.S. according to AOL Travel last season. (U)(C)(X)

NEARBY ATTRACTIONS:
Capitol Theatre, Wheeling Island Casino, Victorian Wheeling

OpSail

Norfolk, Va.
June 6 - 12, 2012

CONTACT: Erin Filarecki
(757) 664-6620
efilarecki@visitnorfolktoday.com
www.visitnorfolktoday.com

Harborfest®, Norfolk's historic waterfront festival, includes tall ships and the Parade of Sail, the largest fireworks show on the

Philadelphia International Flower Show

March 4 - 11, 2012
Philadelphia, Pa.

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

The 2012 Philadelphia International Flower Show will present "Islands of Aloha." For the first time in PHS history the Flower Show will feature the flora, culture, and cuisine of the extraordinary Hawaiian Islands. Native and tropical plants will rise around cascades of towering waterfalls. All six big islands will be represented in showcase gardens that highlight each unique culture through flowers, plants, stories, entertainment, and art.

Pigeon Forge Winterfest

Pigeon Forge, Tenn.
November 6, 2012 - February 28, 2013

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

Our festival features more than five million lights on display throughout the city. Included is the Trolley Tour of Lights, which allows you to enjoy 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.

The Big E

West Springfield, Mass.
September 16 - October 2, 2012

CONTACT: Jessica Castro
(413) 205-5047
groupsales@thebige.com
www.thebige.com

Each September for 17 days during New England's most colorful season, one million plus guests enjoy top-name entertainment, Big E Cream Puffs, Mardi Gras Parade, the Big E Super Circus and Horse Show, the Avenue of States, Storrowton Village Museum, agricultural events, and competitions in the Mallary Complex and Coliseum. 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.

Virginia International Tattoo

Norfolk, Va.
April 26 - 29, 2012

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

There is a reason groups, families and fans return year after year to be a part of the pageantry and grandeur of this uniquely inspiring experience, now a beloved Virginia tradition. Each year's Tattoo performance is different, with new performers from across the globe, new themes of honor and patriotism, and state of the art technical effects that will leave you in awe. Mainstays include the massed pipes and drums, military drill teams, Celtic dancers, choirs, and other favorites.

East Coast, local, regional, and national entertainment, family activities, unique and unusual performances, water activities, and much more. Next year, OpSail 2012 will coincide with Harborfest®. Operation Sail Inc. is a non-profit organization established in 1961 with the endorsement of President John F. Kennedy. Backed by a Joint Congressional Resolution, its mission is to advance sail training and promote goodwill among nations. To date, it has held five international sailing events. (T) (X)

NEARBY ATTRACTIONS:
Naval Station Norfolk, Spirit of Norfolk, Victory Rover

Virginia Beach Patriotic Festival Virginia Beach, Va. June 1 - 3, 2012

CONTACT: Jim Coggin
(757) 385-6642
jcoggin@visitvirginiabeach.com
www.patrioticfestival.com

Hampton Roads is home to some of the largest military bases in the USA. Virginia Beach, the largest resort city on the east coast, is hosting The Patriotic Festival—A Military Celebration to honor our Armed Forces personnel and their families. Patriotic Festival 2012, featuring The Blue Angels, will take place along the Virginia Beach Oceanfront for three days of national recording artists, along with Military Displays, demos and a live Air and Sea Show. The Patriotic Festival is a signature event commemorating the Bicentennial of the War of 1812, the Star Spangled Banner, and the kick-off to OpSail 2012. (T) (X)

NEARBY ATTRACTIONS:
Virginia Aquarium & Marine Science Museum, Military Aviation Museum, Cape Henry Lighthouse

New England

America's Home- town Thanksgiving Celebration Plymouth, Mass. November 16 - 18, 2012

CONTACT: AHTC Office Staff
(508) 747-1818
info@usathanksgiving.com
www.usathanksgiving.com

The Annual America's Home-town Thanksgiving Celebration is held at the birthplace of Thanksgiving the weekend before. The festivities have become a beloved holiday occasion as well as an important link to our nation's history and heritage. Hundreds of thousands of people from all walks of life have traveled to the historic Plymouth 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. (T) (X)

NEARBY ATTRACTIONS:
Plimoth Plantation, Mayflower II, Pilgrim Hall Museum

Bourne Scallop Festival Buzzards Bay, Mass. September 21 - 23, 2012

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

The Bourne Scallop Festival has a proud 42-year history in the community, attracts more than 50,000 visitors from all over the world, and has been awarded *Cape Cod Life Magazine's* "Best Festival Winner." Families can enjoy non-stop entertainment, a midway of rides and games, and a professional Juried Arts & Crafts Show, featuring more than 100 vendors. Enjoy our famous 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 much more. (T) (X)

NEARBY ATTRACTIONS:
Hy-Line Cruises, Cape Cod Central Railroad, Sandwich Glass Museum

Bright Nights at Forest Park Springfield, Mass. November 21, 2012 - January 1, 2013

CONTACT: Kristen Smith
(413) 733-3800
kristen@spiritofspringfield.org
www.brightnights.org

Bright Nights at Forest Park celebrates its 17th season in 2012. The Land of the Nutcracker will be a ballet in lights. It will join the more than 600,000 lights that make up 15 scenes comprised of hundreds of pieces to the 2.5-mile holiday lighting experience. (T) (X)

NEARBY ATTRACTIONS:
Basketball Hall of Fame, Yankee Candle Flagship, Springfield Museums

Hampton Beach Seafood Festival Hampton, NH September 7 - 9, 2012

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

The Hampton Beach Seafood Festival is a world-class event in Hampton Beach featuring New England's famous seafood with more than 60 of the seacoast's top restaurants serving an abundance of mouthwatering seafood delicacies, 80 arts and crafts vendors promoting locally made products, continuous entertainment with bands and orchestras, a kiddie land with the region's most notable celebrities in children's entertainment, and chef demonstrations produced by Pat

Whitley. Don't miss the lobster roll eating competition and a spectacular fireworks display on Saturday, and on Sunday spectators will view an amazing sky diving extravaganza by Sky Dive New England. (T) (X)

NEARBY ATTRACTIONS:
Hampton Beach, Portsmouth, Isle of Shoals

New Hampshire Highland Games Lincoln, NH September 21 - 23, 2012

CONTACT: Lois Meredith
(603) 229-1975
info@nhscot.org
www.nhscot.org

The New Hampshire Highland Games is the largest Scottish Festival in the Northeastern United States and one of the most diverse in the country. Competitions in highland dance, piping and drumming, heavy Scottish athletics, fiddle, harp, sheep dogs, and pipe bands draw more than 600 competitors from around the world. Numerous stages feature world-class musicians and the vendor village offers the best of goods from across the pond. Visitors enjoy the colorful and informative displays of more than 60 clans in Clan Village as well as the seminars and great youth program. (T) (X)

NEARBY ATTRACTIONS:
White Mountains, Outlet Shopping

Newport Flower Show Newport, RI June 22 - 24, 2012

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

Join us for New England's premier outdoor flower show held at Rosecliff, a gilded age mansion. Group visitors will marvel at the exquisite floral arrangements filling the graceful rooms of Rosecliff. On the back lawn of Rosecliff, overlooking

Pops by the Sea Concert in Centerville, Mass.



the Atlantic Ocean, visitors will find judged flower arrangements, horticulture tents full of stunning flowers and plants, two spectacular marketplaces, festive music, and garden workshops and lectures. (X)

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

Pops by the Sea Concert
Centerville, Mass.
August 12, 2012

CONTACT: Arts Foundation of Cape Cod
(508) 362-0066
info@artsfoundation.org
www.artsfoundation.org

The Arts Foundation of Cape Cod presents the Boston Pops Espallade Orchestra with Conductor Keith Lockhart and celebrity guest conductor for an afternoon of entertainment on the Hyannis Village Green. (T)(X)

NEARBY ATTRACTIONS:
Hy-Line Harbor Cruise, JFK Museum, Heritage Museum & Gardens

Quechee Balloon Festival
Quechee, Vt.
June 15 - 17, 2012

CONTACT: Sandy Clavelle
(802) 295-7900
info@hartfordvtchamber.com
www.quecheeballoonfestival.com

The longest continuously running hot air balloon festival in New England features more than 20 hot air balloons. Balloon rides will be available to purchase on our website prior to and during the event. Featuring continuous music, Jumptown Parachute Demonstration Team, New England Disc Dogs, and more than 60 craft artisans and commercial vendors. And of course there will be festival food, a beer and wine garden, and more surprises. (X)

NEARBY ATTRACTIONS:
Billings Farm & Museum, VINS Raptor Center, Quechee Gorge

Sea Music Festival
Mystic, Conn.
June 7 - 10, 2012

CONTACT: Sarah Spencer
(860) 572-5309
sarah.spencer@mysticseaport.org
www.mysticseaport.org

Mystic Seaport is proud to host its annual Sea Music Festival, one of the world's premier sea music events. More than 5,000 people gather each year to hear Mystic Seaport's Chantey Staff, along with a core of performers, carry on classic musical traditions of the golden age of sail. We have featured music from maritime cultures around the world, including the United Kingdom, Italy, Portugal, Australia, Iceland, Poland, Netherlands, France, Canada, and Africa, as well as native peoples within the United States. (T)(X)

NEARBY ATTRACTIONS:
Mystic Aquarium, Mohegan Sun Casino, Foxwoods Resort Casino

Vermont Quilt Festival Inc.
Essex Junction, Vt.
June 29 - July 1, 2012

CONTACT: Pat Nowlan
(802) 872-0034
info@vqf.org
www.vqf.org

Quilts shows are all about quilts, and over the last third of a century, the festival has offered some of the best, both antique and new. Again this year, more than 400 eye-popping quilts are on display in several exhibits. Visitors may also shop the bustling merchants' mall with its colorful array of wares and enjoy free gallery talks and vendor demonstrations. Not to be missed on Thursday evening is the always-festive Champagne and Chocolate Preview. Lectures, classes, and quilt appraisals round out the activities. The Vermont Quilt Festival is New England's oldest and largest quilt event. (T)(X)

NEARBY ATTRACTIONS:
ECHO, Lake Aquarium, Spirit of Ethan Allen Cruise, Shelburne Museum

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.



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

Great Lakes

Amish Acres Arts & Crafts Festival Nappanee, Ind. August 2 - 5, 2012

CONTACT: Jenni Wysong
(574) 773-4188
jenniwyson@amishacres.com
www.amishacres.com

Amish Acres Arts & Crafts Festival will host more than 300 vendors from across the country as they ply their trade and sell their wares around the historic farm's pond. Farm wagon rides, marionettes and magic shows, family-style Threshers Dinner in the barn restaurant, and guided house and farm tours intertwine the festival's and farm's attractions. Continuous free entertainment on four stages is planned throughout the four days, along with festive food concoctions including kettle corn, pulled pork sandwiches, and breaded Hoosier tenderloins to bring a distinctive flavor to the annual event.

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NEARBY ATTRACTIONS:
Amish Acres Historic Farm & Heritage Resort, The Round Barn Theatre, Quilt Gardens Tours

Barnesville Potato Days Barnesville, Minn. August 24 - 25, 2012

CONTACT: Theresa Olson
(800) 525-4901
spudlady@potatodays.com
www.potatodays.com

Old-fashioned fun awaits as the lowly spud takes center stage for the Potato Days Festival. As one of the best potato producing areas in the country, Barnesville is proud to celebrate potato heritage with two days of "spud"tacular excitement. Rated one of the best festivals in the country by *U.S. News & World Reports*, it captures small town America. Virtually everything you could possibly do to a potato is done over the two days... pick it, peel it, toss it, fry it, race it, bake it; but most of all enjoy it.

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NEARBY ATTRACTIONS:
Hjemkomst Center, Prairie Wetlands Learning Center, Detroit Lakes



Ferdinand Christkindlmarkt Jasper, Ind. November 16 - 18, 2012

CONTACT: Laura Reckelhoff
(812) 482-9115
info@visitduboiscounty.com
www.visitduboiscounty.com

Step into 14th century German tradition with a visit to Christkindlmarkt, a festival-like setting where Christmas gifts and wares are sold. From lavishly decorated booths fully displayed with work from artisans and crafters, to a unique showcase of antiques, Christkindlmarkt truly embraces the German traditions and holiday spirit. Enjoy delicious foods, live entertainment, a lighted grotto display, wine tasting, visits with Sankt Nikolaus and free tours of Monastery Immaculate Conception. A Glockenspiel even comes to life on stage. Friday evening prior to Christkindlmarkt, attend the outdoor candlelit performance, where the Christkindl Angel appears to open the festive weekend.

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NEARBY ATTRACTIONS:
Monastery Immaculate Conception, Schnitzelbank Restaurant, Huntingburg Fourth Street Shopping District

Target Holidazzle Minneapolis, Minn. November 22 - December 25, 2012

CONTACT: Jenna Johnston
(612) 338-3807
jennaj@downtownminneapolis.com
www.holidazzle.com

A favorite holiday tradition, Target Holidazzle in Downtown Minneapolis offers a magical way to celebrate the holiday season. Target Holidazzle is free and open to the public. Celebrate the holidays and bring joy to children of all ages with this winter wonderland parade. Unique to Minneapolis, Target Holidazzle delights with storybook characters, lighted floats and enchanting holiday music.

NEARBY ATTRACTIONS:
Holiday Show at the Chanhasen Dinner Theater, Macy's Holiday Display, A Christmas Carol at the Guthrie Theater

Milwaukee Holiday Lights Festival Milwaukee, Wis. November 16, 2012 - January 1, 2013

CONTACT: Wendy Dobrzynski
(414) 287-4222
wdobrzynski@milwaukee.org
www.milwaukeeholidaylights.com

The 14th annual Milwaukee Holiday Lights Festival illuminates downtown Milwaukee. The six-week festival, which is southeastern Wisconsin's largest winter festival, includes thousands of lights, hundreds of events, and so much more. From storefront decorations, roofline lighting, and three downtown parks' elaborate animated displays; visitors will experience a Festival of Lights myriad in entertainment, celebration and fun. Beyond holiday decor, downtown Milwaukee features hundreds of holiday happenings. From performing arts to concerts and family activities, the Holiday Lights Festival bundles all of downtown's

festivities into one. ☒

NEARBY ATTRACTIONS:
Mitchell Park Domes, Capt. Frederick Pabst Mansion, Milwaukee Public Museum

National Cherry Festival
Traverse City, Mich.
July 7 - 14, 2012

CONTACT: Trevor Tkach
(231) 947-4230
trevor@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 crafts fair, orchard tours, and loads of luscious cherries prepared every way you can imagine. ☒

NEARBY ATTRACTIONS:
Winery Tours, Sleeping Bear Dunes, Lighthouses

Old World Christmas Market
Elkhart Lake, Wis.
November 30 - December 9, 2012

CONTACT: John Klemme
(920) 876-3366
sales@osthoff.com
www.christmasmarketatosthoff.com

The Osthoff Resort's Old World Christmas Market is reminiscent of the centuries-old German Christkindlesmarkt held each year in Nuremberg, Germany, dating back to the mid-16th century. The Old World Christmas Market features

international and regional artisans displaying their specialty wares such as: Estonian woolens, Russian nesting dolls, Turkish textiles, Plauen lace, Czech blown-glass ornaments, German hand-carved nutcrackers and smokers, exquisite handmade jewelry, fine apparel, and more. The Old World Food Court offers delicious fare, including: potato pancakes, weiner schnitzel, Nuremberg bratwurst, dumplings, sauerbraten, glühwein, and more. ☒

NEARBY ATTRACTIONS:
The Wreath Factory, Abler Art Glass, Shops at Kohler

Pro Football Hall of Fame Enshrinement Festival
Canton, Ohio

(Tentative) July 20 - August 5, 2012

CONTACT: Joanne Murray
(330) 458-2050
joannem@cantonchamber.org

www.profootballhofef.com

The annual Pro Football Hall of Fame Enshrinement Festival is comprised of 18 diverse events over nearly two weeks, enjoyed by approximately 700,000 people, and producing a \$55 million economic impact on the state of Ohio. The Enshrinement Ceremony is the central focus of the entire celebration, and it is surrounded by a multitude of activities including hot air balloons, parades, races, ribs burn off, drum corps competition, Ohio's largest fashion show, Enshrinees' gold coat presentation, fireworks, concerts, autograph sessions, fan appreciation parties, pre-season NFL game, and much more. The Hall of Fame Enshrinement Festival is truly a one of a kind celebration. ☒

NEARBY ATTRACTIONS:
McKinley Museum, Ohio's Amish Country, Harry London Chocolate Factory



Quilt Gardens Along the Heritage Trail in Elkhart, Ind.

Cruisin' The Coast® in Biloxi, Miss.



Quilt Gardens Along the Heritage Trail Elkhart, Ind.

May 30 - October 1, 2012

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

The fun and fantastic Quilt Gardens Along the Heritage Trail features more than 100,000 flowers planted in 18 giant quilt patterned gardens

and 18 hand-painted quilt murals located along the scenic Heritage Trail in Amish Country of Northern Indiana. Inspired by local quilt heritage, powered by imagination and 200+ local volunteers, there's nothing else like it in the nation. Quilt exhibits and events, garden shows and shops, in-home Amish meals, quilting bees and demonstrations all combine for an outstanding tour destination and event. All new for 2012 is the Deli-

icious Stitches food and fabric shopping tour specifically for groups. (♿) (♻️) (🚫)

NEARBY ATTRACTIONS:
Amish Acres, Das Dutchman Essenhaus, Shipshewana Flea Market

Wildlights at the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium

**Powell, Ohio
November 1, 2012 -
January 1, 2013**

CONTACT: Roger Dudley
(614) 645-3521
roger.dudley@columbuszoo.org
www.columbuszoo.org

The holidays, for most, conjure up thoughts of family, fun and of course, traditions. Many families in Central Ohio have made Wildlights one of their holiday traditions. This year marks the 23rd year for Wildlights at the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium and will promise to be even more spectacular than years past. Each year the zoo's grounds maintenance department starts hanging more than three million lights in September and works at a feverish pace to transform the zoo's grounds into a magical wonderland of lights. (♿) (🚫)

NEARBY ATTRACTIONS:
Ohio Historical Society "Dickens of a Mystery," Dublin Ohio Experiences, Franklin Park Conservatory

Zehnder's Snowfest Frankenmuth, Mich.

January 25 - 30, 2012

CONTACT: John Shelton
(989) 652-0434
john.shelton@zehnders.com
www.zehnders.com

Zehnder's Snowfest has been host to one of the top snow sculpting events in North America. Visitors can enjoy larger than life snow sculptures and beautifully detailed ice carvings. Zehnder's Snowfest includes entertainment in a warming tent with a variety of food and beverages. Activities include world snow carving, state of Michigan snow

sculpting, children and high school level snow sculpting, professional ice carving and U.S. National Collegiate Ice Carving competitions. (♿) (♻️) (🚫)

NEARBY ATTRACTIONS:
Chef's Hot Food Competition, Frankenmuth Brewery Beer Tasting, Bronner's Christmas Wonderland Video

The South

BayFest Music Festival Mobile, Ala.

October 5 - 7, 2012

CONTACT: Shana Jordan or
Robert O. Bostwick
(251) 208-7835
info@bayfest.com
www.bayfest.com

BayFest is an annual music festival that is expected to draw more than 200,000 guests who will make merry in the streets of downtown Mobile. There will be more than 125 live musical acts on nine stages during this weekend. BayFest offers continuous music for every taste, including country, classic rock, alternative, pop, jazz, R&B, rap, gospel, modern rock, and more. Mobile's BayFest music festival also includes a family activity area that has garnered rave reviews in and of itself. All of this is offered at a price less than what most individual concerts cost. (♿) (🚫)

NEARBY ATTRACTIONS:
Exploreum, USS Alabama Battleship, Bellingrath Gardens

Cruisin' The Coast® Biloxi, Miss.

October 7 - 14, 2012

CONTACT: Lisa Burnett
(228) 385-3847
cruisinthecoast@cableone.net
www.cruisinthecoast.com

Welcome to America's Largest Block Party. Join us for a week's worth of bobby socks, poodle skirts, "greasers" and



Annual Events

fun. Cruisin' The Coast® has become one of the most popular events for the Mississippi Gulf Coast, celebrating antique, classic and hot rod vehicles, nostalgic music, and related events. Car enthusiasts throughout North America drive to the Mississippi Gulf Coast to showcase their "rides"; antiques, classics and hot rods and to cruise the beautiful 30-mile stretch of beachside highway with designated stops in coastal towns.



NEARBY ATTRACTIONS:
Ohr-O'Keefe Museum of Art, Biloxi Shrimping Trip, Biloxi Lighthouse & Visitors Center

Festival International de Louisiane Lafayette, La.

April 25 - 29, 2012

CONTACT: Dana Baker
(337) 232-8086

dana@festivalinternational.com
www.festivalinternational.com

Historic downtown Lafayette is transformed into an entertainment complex featuring six music stages, food court areas, street musicians and animators, arts and crafts boutiques, art galleries, beverage stands, cultural workshops, international cooking demonstrations, and a world music store. All programming for the festival is designed to celebrate cultural expression in a variety of forms and to encourage understanding and appreciation for different cultures. Festival International events are free to the public and designed to encourage family participation from all sectors of the community.



NEARBY ATTRACTIONS:
Vermilionville, Acadian



Mardis Gras is New Orleans' signature event.

Holland Tulip Time Festival

Holland, Mich.
May 5 - 12, 2012

CONTACT: Sara Vander Zee
(616) 396-4221 ext. 107
groupsales@tuliptime.com
www.tuliptime.com

The Tulip Time Festival began in 1929 to celebrate Dutch culture and heritage while beautifying the community with tulips. Located west of Grand Rapids along the lakeshore, the festival has shows throughout the week, including local music, theatre, and national touring artists. You'll find three parades, six million tulips, Dutch Dance performances, Dutch Marktplaats, fireworks, an arts and crafts fair, shopping, and more. Group benefits include show rates and complimentary tickets for drivers and escorts, step-on guides, and group meals.

Indianapolis 500 Celebration

Indianapolis, Ind.
May 27, 2012

CONTACT: Chris Gahl
(317) 684-2473
cgahl@visitindy.com
www.500festival.com

The Indianapolis 500 Celebration features a two-week event schedule that provides an opening week of daily track activity, two days of qualifications, and a Race Week that includes the pageantry of 'The Greatest Spectacle in Racing.' There will be 12 days of on-track action at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway, kicking off with the 500 Festival Mini Marathon. The month will culminate with the Indianapolis 500 on May 27, 2012.

Mardi Gras

New Orleans, La.
February 21, 2012

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

Noted as the city is for jazz, Cajun and Creole cooking, and the French Quarter, Mardi Gras eclipses all as New Orleans' most famous centerpiece. It has, arguably, the greatest economic and cultural impact of any event in the city. A time of revelry, fraternity, festivity, and indulgence, Mardi Gras reflects New Orleanians' rich heritage, unleashes the joyous soul of the city and invites everyone to join in the fun.

Ozark Mountain Christmas

Branson, Mo.

November 1 - December 31, 2012

CONTACT: Lynn Berry
(417) 334-4084
lberry@bransoncvb.com
www.explorebranson.com

This nationally acclaimed holiday destination creates a grand finale for the year. This seasonal festival features the Branson Area Festival of Lights, which illuminates the night sky with millions of twinkling lights. Silver Dollar City, the award-winning 1880s theme park, has their Old Time Christmas finery all aglow on nearly every tree and building. With a five-story special effects Christmas tree, the Living Nativity and the grand production show of A Dickens' Christmas Carol, you will make new Christmas memories.



Cultural Center, Maison de Begnaud House

French Quarter Festival New Orleans, La. April 12 – 15, 2012

CONTACT: Marci Schramm
(504) 522-5730
info@fqfi.org
www.fqfi.org

This award-winning festival, which began in 1984, has grown to become the largest free music festival in the South. A record 20 music stages throughout the French Quarter present the best in New Orleans music; representing every genre from traditional and contemporary jazz to R & B and New Orleans funk, brass bands, folk, gospel, classical, opera, Cajun Zydeco, Latin, and international. More than 90 food and beverage booths located throughout the French Quarter make up the “World’s Largest Jazz Brunch,” a signature event featuring authentic local cuisine from renowned area restaurants. ☒

NEARBY ATTRACTIONS:
New Orleans, Cajun Country, Plantation Country

Holly Springs Pilgrimage of Homes Holly Springs, Miss. April 13 – 15, 2012

CONTACT: Stephanie McKinney

(662) 252-2515
stephanie@visithollysprings.com
www.visithollysprings.com

Discover the past through antebellum homes, storytelling from a few of Holly Springs colorful characters, museum tours and arts & crafts vendors. Discover ghosts from the past in Hillcrest Cemetery—known for being the resting place of Confederate and Union generals, members of the Confederate Congress, unknown soldiers from the Battle of Shiloh and the first African American senator Hiram Revels. ☒ ☒ ☒

NEARBY ATTRACTIONS:
Marshall County Historical Museum, Ida B. Wells Museum, Strawberry Plains Audubon Center

Louisiana Shrimp & Petroleum Festival Morgan City, La. August 30 – September 3, 2012

CONTACT: Lee Delaune
(985) 385-0703
info@shrimp-petrofest.org
www.shrimp-petrofest.org

The Louisiana Shrimp & Petroleum Festival has been held for more than 75 years in picturesque downtown Morgan City. Deep in the heart of Cajun Country, every Labor Day Weekend tens of thousands celebrate at Louisiana’s oldest chartered harvest festival.

The festival emphasizes the unique way in which these two seemingly different industries work culturally and environmentally in the “Cajun Coast.” The festival is truly a feast for all senses and according to *Time* magazine, “...one of the best, most unusual, the most down-home, the most moving and the most fun the country has to offer...” ☒ ☒

NEARBY ATTRACTIONS:
New Orleans, Plantation Country, Swamp Tours

Riverfest Arkansas Little Rock, Ark. May 25 – 27, 2012

CONTACT: Deanna Korte
(501) 255-3378
director@riverfestarkansas.com
www.riverfestarkansas.com

Little Rock’s largest music and arts festival, Riverfest, is held on the banks of the Arkansas River, with five stages, 100 acts, a kids zone, visual arts, food, and the best known names in music across all musical genres. Headliners in the past include Al Green, ZZ Top, Huey Lewis and the News, Brad Paisley, Run DMC, Dwight Yoakam, Hank Williams Jr., James Brown, and B.B. King, to name a few. Riverfest is the largest single event in the state of Arkansas with more than 260,000 people in attendance. ☒ ☒ ☒

NEARBY ATTRACTIONS:
Clinton Presidential Library, Heifer International Museum, Central High Visitors Museum

Saint Paul Winter Carnival Saint Paul, Minn.

January 26 – February 5, 2012

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

The Saint Paul Winter Carnival is an 11-day festival that fosters community pride and connectedness by celebrating Saint Paul’s history and heritage through fun and educational experiences. More than 400,000 people visit Saint Paul, which creates \$3.5 – \$5 million in economic activity. The festival’s year-round management provides the volunteer support, programming continuity, and fiscal administration necessary to assure the growth and success of the Saint Paul Winter Carnival.

www.custerstatepark.com

Join the fun at the Buffalo Roundup and Arts Festival at Custer State Park in the Black Hills of South Dakota. Enjoy Arts in the Park and on-going entertainment under the big top. On Saturday, witness the Buffalo Stampede Art Auction and Sunday take part in the chili cook-off. Monday, hear the rumble as park staff and cowboys roundup the park’s 1,300 head of buffalo and drive them into the corrals. ☒ ☒

NEARBY ATTRACTIONS:
Mt. Rushmore National Memorial, Crazy Horse Memorial, Wind Cave National Park

Burlington Steamboat Days Burlington, Iowa June 12 – 17, 2012

CONTACT: Beth Nickel

The Heartland

Buffalo Roundup and Arts Festival Custer, SD

September 22 – 24, 2012
CONTACT: Craig Pugsley
(605) 255-4515
custerstatepark@state.sd.us





The Japanese Festival in St. Louis at the Missouri Botanical Garden.

(319) 208-0045
bnickel@growburlington.com
www.steamboatdays.com

Since 1963, Burlington Steamboat Days has hosted some of the finest entertainers in the country. The 2010 Burlington Steamboat Days event was the most popular in history, attracting more than 130,000 people. Burlington, a community with more than 28,000 people, drew in acts such as the Zac Brown Band, Lady Antebellum, Buckcherry, Billy Currington, and Jason Michael Carroll. ♿ ♻️ ❌

NEARBY ATTRACTIONS:
Catfish Bend Casino, Fun City, Burlington Bees' Baseball

Dodge City Days
Dodge City, Kan.
July 27 – August 5, 2012

CONTACT: Gina Brockleman
 (620) 227-3119
dcdays@dodgechamber.com
www.dcdays.com

Dodge City's heritage comes to life during Dodge City Days. Each year, the festival has a Western theme and hosts more than 50 events, including a Western concert with major

country stars, parades, a barbeque contest sanctioned by the Kansas City Barbeque Society, Western art show, chuck wagon breakfast, classic car show, a two-day arts and crafts show, and last, but definitely not least, is the PRCA Rodeo, one of the top 10 in the country.

♿ ♻️ ❌
 NEARBY ATTRACTIONS:
Boot Hill Museum, Boot Hill Casino & Resort, Dodge City Round Up Rodeo

Intertribal Gathering
Crawford, Neb.
June 8 – 10, 2012

CONTACT: Panhandle Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D) Council
 (308) 632-1311
panhandle.rcd@allophone.com
www.westnebraska.com

This event takes place at Ft. Robinson State Park, an area formerly known as the Red Cloud Agency, the site where Chief Crazy Horse died and the Cheyenne breakout occurred. The 13th Annual Intertribal Gathering features Native Americans from a 10-state area in full regalia. Thousands of native and non-native tourists come each year to celebrate the

Native American culture with food, dance, and song. Native American artisans and craft vendors display and sell beautiful authentic wares throughout the weekend. ♿ ❌

NEARBY ATTRACTIONS:
Ft. Robinson State Park, Toadstoll (badlands) Park, Drifters/High Plains

Japanese Festival 2012
St. Louis, Mo.
September 1 – 3, 2012

CONTACT: Gene Peimann or Denise Friederich
 (800) 332-1286
tourism@mobot.org
www.mobot.org

Celebrating the history and culture of Japan, the Japanese Festival at the Missouri Botanical Garden is one of the oldest and largest festivals of its kind in the United States. Featuring a 14-acre Japanese garden, the Missouri Botanical Garden has hosted this memorable event since 1977. The Japanese Festival offers events for everyone: Taiko, Sumo-Japan's national sport, Ikebana, martial arts, Bon Odori-Summer Festival Dancing, anime, and more.



NEARBY ATTRACTIONS:
Missouri History Museum, Gateway ARCH, St. Louis Zoo

Medora Musical
Medora, ND
June 1 – September 1, 2012

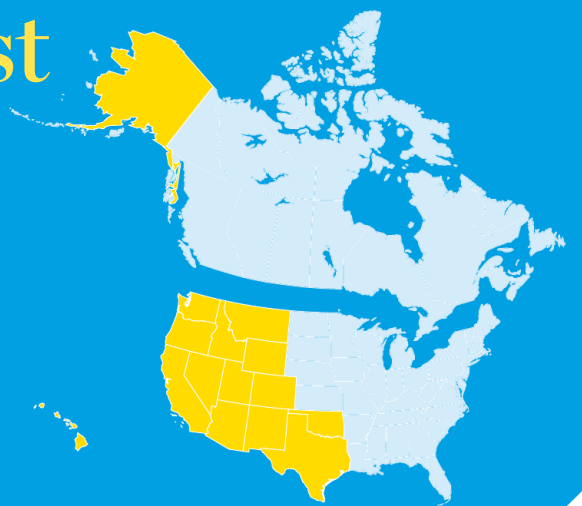
CONTACT: Betsy Williams
 (701) 623-4444
betsyw@medora.com
www.medora.com/musical

This Western-style musical takes place in the 2,852-seat Burning Hills Amphitheatre amidst the outdoor splendor of the North Dakota Badlands. The show is dedicated to the legacy of America's 26th President, Theodore Roosevelt, and the time he spent in North Dakota. Audiences are treated to an array of singing and dancing performed by the Burning Hills Singers and accompanied by the on-stage band, the Coal Diggers. The show also features nationally known comedy and variety acts. ♿ ♻️ ❌

NEARBY ATTRACTIONS:
Pitchfork Steak Fondue, Theodore Roosevelt National Park, Chateau de Mores State Historic Site

The West

With events ranging from music festivals to livestock celebrations, there's something for everyone in the West.



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

West shows, an Evening of Dancing Horses, Mexican Rodeo Extravaganza, and show jumping competitions.

NEARBY ATTRACTIONS:
Colorado History Center, Buffalo Bill's Museum and Grave, Denver Art Museum

Utah Shakespeare Festival Cedar City, Utah June 21 - October 20, 2012

CONTACT: Kami Terry
(435) 586-7878
terry@bard.org
www.bard.org

The Tony Award-winning Utah Shakespeare Festival presents live Shakespearean and classic theatre in the country's closest replica of the Globe Theatre at the Randall L. Jones Theatre. There are seminars where you can meet actors, backstage tours, and complimentary Greenshow entertainment each evening. All this and you have a chance to travel to southwestern Utah's national parks in the same itinerary.

NEARBY ATTRACTIONS:
Tuacahn Theatre - St. George, Cedar Breaks National Monument, Zion National Park

The Rockies

Eastern Shoshone Indian Days Powwow & Rodeo

Lander, Wyo.
June 21 - 24, 2012

CONTACT: Audrey Eaton
(307) 332-5546
audreyeaton@wyoming.com
www.easternshoshone.net

Traditional Indian Powwow located near Ft. Washakie on the Wind River Indian Reservation. Enjoy four days of Indian music and dancing, Indian games, feasts, a Powwow Parade, the Indian Hand game, an all-Indian Rodeo, Indian horse relay races, the 1868 Treaty Re-enactment between the Eastern Shoshone and Bannock tribes with the government, plus Indian arts and crafts sales as well as Native American food booths.

NEARBY ATTRACTIONS:
Guided Tour of Wind River Indian Reservation, Wind River Casino & Northern Arapaho Experience, Oregon/Mormon/Gold Rush Trails

Idaho International Dance & Music Festival Rexburg, Idaho July 24 - August 4, 2012

CONTACT: Donna Benfield
(208) 356-5700
donna@rexcc.com
www.rexcc.com/festival

Whether you have experienced the thrill of an international dance and music festival or not, this is the year to mark your calendar and head to one of our scenic Idaho locations. More than 300 dancers and musicians come from around the globe for this event to share the excitement of their native dances and music. These performances are alive with colorful costuming, exotic instruments, and stirring rhythms.

NEARBY ATTRACTIONS:
Yellowstone National Park, Jackson Hole Wyoming, Yellowstone Bear World

Montana Folk Festival Butte, Mont.

July 12 - 15, 2012
CONTACT: George Everett
(406) 497-6464
geverett@montanafolkfestival.com
www.montanafolkfestival.com

The three-day free Montana Folk Festival features performances and demonstrations by more than 250 of the nation's finest musicians, dancers, and craftspeople. It will feature 25 artists/groups on six stages including a dance pavilion dedicated to non-stop partici-

patory dancing, a family stage with performances appealing to both the young and the young at heart, and a Montana folklife stage. In addition to the performance stages, there are several themed festival areas: the Montana Folklife Area, the Family Area, two Festival Marketplaces and the Festival Food Courts.

NEARBY ATTRACTIONS:
Berkely Pit, World Museum of Mining, Lewis & Clark Caverns State Park

National Western Stock Show Denver, Colo.

January 7 - 22, 2012
CONTACT: Bonnie Blitz
(303) 299-5522
bblitz@nationalwestern.com
www.nationalwestern.com

Held at the National Western's 100-acre show grounds and known as the Super Bowl of livestock shows, this annual event is Colorado's largest tradeshow. It boasts more than 30 breeds of cattle, horses, bison, yaks, sheep, goats, llamas, stock dogs, poultry, and rabbits. It features the world's only carload and pen cattle shows in the historic Denver Union Stockyards, the Coors Western Art Exhibition and Sale and Children's Ranchland, as well as great food and shopping. Other highlights include Wild

Southwest

Christmas on the Pecos Carlsbad, NM November 23 - December 31, 2012

CONTACT: Lisa Boeke
(575) 628-0952
lboeke@carlsbadchamber.com
www.christmasonthepecos.com

Prepare for a truly unique experience in New Mexico for the holiday season. Board one of four pontoon boats and experience more than 45 minutes of holiday magic as you view more than 105 homes fully decorated with holiday lights. Each home is decorated by private home-owners and/or businesses and carries a

different theme. Come early or stay late, and grab a bite to eat, shop for holiday gifts, or have your picture taken with Santa Claus. (T) (W) (X)

NEARBY ATTRACTIONS:
Carlsbad Caverns National Park, Sitting Bull Falls State Park, Guadalupe Mountains National Park

Christmas Capital of Texas Grapevine, Texas November 23, 2012 – January 6, 2013

CONTACT: Heather Kisabeth (817) 410-3185
 hkisabeth@grapevintexasusa.com
 www.grapevintexasusa.com/christmas

Grapevine becomes blanketed with millions of lights, decorations, animated characters, and a whole lot more. This, plus great shopping for everyone on your list, Grapevine truly is the “Christmas Capital of Texas.” Festivities include “ICE!” at the Gaylord Texan Resort; Christmas on Main; North

Pole Express and the largest lighted Christmas parade in North Texas. Holiday entertainment is available nightly with holiday musicals, the Grapevine Opry’s Christmas Spectacular, family Christmas movies and the Texas Star Murder Mystery Dinner Theater. (T) (W) (X)

NEARBY ATTRACTIONS:
ICE! at the Gaylord Texan, Christmas Musicals and Grapevine Opry Christmas Spectacular at the Historic Palace Theatre, Parade of Lights

Denton Art & Jazz Festival Denton, Texas April 27 – 29, 2012

CONTACT: Dana Lodge (940) 382-7895
 dcvb@discoverdenton.com
 www.discoverdenton.com

Great music, good food, beautiful art and activities for the whole family—where jazz is king. More than 20 acres and 2,000 musicians, artisans, and performers attract 200,000 visitors annually to the Denton Arts and Jazz

Festival. (T) (W) (X)

NEARBY ATTRACTIONS:
North Texas Horse Country Tour, Pace Car Rides at Texas Motor Speedway, Tours of the Bureau of Printing and Engraving Western Currency Facility

Dickens on the Strand Galveston, Texas December 1 – 2, 2012

CONTACT: Clay Wade (409) 765-7834
 clay.wade@galvestonhistory.org
 www.galvestonhistory.org

Travel back in time to the streets of Charles Dickens’ Victorian London as Galveston Historical Foundation presents the 39th annual internationally acclaimed Dickens on the Strand Holiday Festival. Presented the first weekend in December in Galveston’s Historic Strand District, enjoy the ambiance of gas lamps and brick streets while Galveston’s own Victorian era buildings serve as a one of a kind backdrop. With hundreds of street vendors and shopkeepers offering handcrafted gifts, culinary

delights, and drinks from around the world, Dickens on the Strand offers a one of a kind experience for all ages. (X)

NEARBY ATTRACTIONS:
Moody Gardens Festival of Lights, East End Historical District Christmas Candlelight Tours, Grand Opera House

Gathering of Nations Native American Powwow

Albuquerque, NM April 26 – 28, 2012

CONTACT: Derek Mathews (505) 836-2810
 tsunami@gonmail.com
 www.gatheringofnations.com

The Gathering of Nations Native American 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 United States and Canada. Attracting more than 3,000 participants, the powwow features Indian singing and dancing, aisles of shopping



Dickens on the Strand in Galveston, Texas.

at the Indian Trader's Market, and native foods and music. The powwow also features the crowning of Miss Indian World. The event gives its audience access to an intimate and diverse piece of Native American culture. 📍 🗺️ 🚫

NEARBY ATTRACTIONS:
Indian Pueblo Cultural Center, Acoma Pueblo, Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Albuquerque

GrapeFest Grapevine, Texas September 13 - 16, 2012

CONTACT: Heather Kisabeth
(817) 410-3185
hkisabeth@grapevine
texasusa.com
www.grapevinetexasusa.com

GrapeFest, the largest wine festival in the Southwest, celebrates Texas as a leader in the wine industry. The perfect spot for culinary and wine enthusiasts, festivities include: Culinary Pavilion, Grape Stomp, the People's Choice

Wine Tasting Classic—the largest consumer-judged wine competition in the nation, and more. Traditional fun will delight festival guests throughout the weekend with non-stop entertainment on six stages presenting a variety of music from jazz to country. GrapeFest features several wine pavilions featuring Grapevine, Texas, and international wines. 📍 🗺️ 🚫

NEARBY ATTRACTIONS:
People's Choice Wine Tasting Classic, Grapevine Vintage Railroad, Grapevine Wine Trail

Pork & Brew State BBQ Championship Rio Rancho, NM July 6 - 8, 2012

CONTACT: Art Perez
(505) 891-7258
aperez@ci.rio-rancho.nm.us
www.riorancho.nm.org/
porkandbrew

Pork & Brew BBQ is the Official State Championship for New Mexico, fully sanctioned by

the Kansas City BBQ Society. Competitors from across the country compete for cash prizes and bragging rights. Join us and sample some great BBQ from the best of the best. There is also great entertainment, activities for kids, and arts and crafts vendors. 📍 🗺️ 🚫

NEARBY ATTRACTIONS:
Albuquerque, Golf, Santa Fe

State Fair of Texas® Dallas, Texas September 28 - October 21, 2012

CONTACT: Sue Gooding
(214) 421-8716
sgooding@bigtex.com
www.bigtex.com

The State Fair of Texas® is a 24-day showcase of entertainment, exhibits and competition. The annual event is held in Dallas' historic Fair Park and is located just two miles from downtown Dallas. Fair Park is a 277-acre complex recognized for its beautiful

landscaping and unique collection of art deco architecture. The fair was founded in Dallas in 1886 by a group of civic leaders who wanted to focus attention on their young city's accomplishments and prospects. The State Fair of Texas® has consistently offered its visitors a first look at the newest and best in products and performances. 📍 🗺️ 🚫

NEARBY ATTRACTIONS: *Dallas Arboretum, Dallas Zoo, Sixth Floor Museum*

TEXAS Outdoor Musical Drama Canyon, Texas June 2 - August 18, 2012

CONTACT: Vince Hernandez
(806) 655-2181
info@tphf.com
www.texas-show.com

TEXAS is set against an authentic tapestry of history in beautiful Palo Duro Canyon. The show's fictional characters bring to life the stories, struggles, and



GrapeFest in Grapevine celebrates Texas culture and wine.



Annual Events

triumphs of the settlers of the Texas Panhandle in the 1800s. Enjoy singing, dancing, and good ol' Texas humor, along with spellbinding lighting, special effects, and fireworks. You'll want to come early and enjoy a traditional Texas-style dinner in our covered patio. Browse through our gift shop or take a backstage tour to get a behind-the-scenes look at how the show is produced. TEXAS plays nightly at 8:30 p.m., Tuesday through Sunday, June through August. 🎪🎭🎆

NEARBY ATTRACTIONS:
Panhandle Plains Historical Museum, American Quarter Horse Museum, Palo Duro Canyon State Park

Tucson International Mariachi Festival Tucson, Ariz. April 24 - 28, 2012

CONTACT: Lupita Castellanos
(520) 838-3913
lupita-castellanos@hotmail.com
www.tucsonmariachi.org

The Tucson International Mariachi Festival is an award-winning conference recognized as one of the largest cultural events in the United States. Since the conference's inception, organizers have made education an integral component, with more than 1,000 participants from across the country. The festival continues to foster mutual respect between Hispanics and non-Hispanics through the celebration of music, dance, culture, arts, family, and spirit. The weeklong conference provides three days of workshops giving participants the best the world has to offer from the music and dance of Mexico. 🎪🎭🎆

NEARBY ATTRACTIONS:
Plaza Musical, Fiesta Garibaldi, Espectacular Concert

The West

Arlington Fly-In Arlington, Wash. July 11 - 15, 2012

CONTACT: Barbara Tolbert
(360) 435-5857
barbara.tolbert@arlingtonflyin.org
www.arlingtonflyin.org

Country fair of airplanes and aviation. Daily airshows, WWII speakers, military history displays, vintage aviation displays, and radio controlled demonstrations. B-17, antique and helicopter rides available. On-site trams and guest services. Food, activities and hundreds of aircraft on display where you can meet and talk with pilots. 🎪🎭

NEARBY ATTRACTIONS:
Flying Heritage Collection, Museum of Flight, Boeing Factory Tour, Golden Days

Golden Days Fairbanks, Alaska July 18 - 22, 2012

CONTACT: Lisa Herbert
(907) 452-1105
goldendays@fairbankschamber.org
www.fairbankschamber.org

Each year, the Greater Fairbanks Chamber of Commerce hosts "Golden Days," an annual event celebrating the Pioneer Days of Fairbanks. It was on July 22, 1902 that Felix Pedro struck gold, resulting in the founding of the City of Fairbanks. Golden Days, celebrated over five days under the golden sun, offers something for everyone... parade, rubber ducky race, street fair, kids day, comedy night. 🎪🎭

NEARBY ATTRACTIONS:
Red Green River Regatta, State of Alaska BBQ Championship, Governor's Annual Picnic

The Lights of Christmas Stanwood, Wash. November 29 - December 30, 2012

CONTACT: Warm Beach Camp Registration Department
(360) 652-7575
registration@warmbeach.com
www.warmbeachlights.com

Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta

Albuquerque, NM
October 6 - 14, 2012
CONTACT: Kelly Ryan
(505) 222-4340
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. Nothing rivals the power of the Mass Ascensions on crisp early mornings as these graceful giants leave the ground to take their place in the azure desert sky. 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.

Cheyenne Frontier Days

Cheyenne, Wyo.
July 20 - 29, 2012
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 called "Wild Horse Gulch," 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.

Fiesta San Antonio

San Antonio, Texas
April 19 - 29, 2012
CONTACT: Anne Cannon
(210) 227-5191
anne@fiesta-sa.org
www.fiesta-sa.org

Fiesta San Antonio celebrates the Alamo City's diverse history and culture with 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 or military organization. Those groups give back to their community all year long.

Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race

Anchorage, Alaska (start) and Willow, Alaska (restart)
February 28 - March 16, 2012

CONTACT: Chas St. George
(907) 376-5155
cstgeorge@iditarod.com
www.iditarod.com

A race over 1,049 miles of rough, beautiful terrain. Mother Nature 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.



Annual Events

The largest holiday light display in the Northwest, the Lights of Christmas combines live entertainment, children's activities, food, and more. In a winter wonderland of one million lights, patrons amble through seven themed areas full of creative light displays, shop for gifts made by local artists, sip lattes around one of the many warming fires, and take in a variety of live entertainment. 🍷 🍷

NEARBY ATTRACTIONS:
Future of Flight Boeing Tour, Tulalip Resort Casino, Seattle Premium Outlet Mall

Newport Seafood & Wine Festival

Newport, Ore.
February 24 - 26, 2012

CONTACT: Lorna Davis
(541) 265-8801
lorna@newportchamber.org
www.newportchamber.org

Newport's 35th annual Seafood & Wine Festival, held on the picturesque Oregon Coast in a tented venue located near the Rogue Ales Brewery at the South Beach Marina, is the last full weekend of February. Newport swells with more than

17,000 visitors for a weekend of wine, culinary wonders, seafood, and arts and crafts. With more than 150 vendors, this event is one of the largest in Oregon. 🍷 🍷

NEARBY ATTRACTIONS:
Oregon Coast Aquarium, Rogue Ales, the Historic Bayfront

Oregon Shakespeare Festival

Ashland, Ore.
February 17 - November 4, 2012

CONTACT: Freda Casillas
(541) 482-2111 ext. 242
fredac@osfashland.org
www.osfashland.org

Founded in 1935, the Tony Award-winning Oregon Shakespeare Festival (OSF) is among the oldest and largest professional non-profit theatres in the nation. Each year, OSF presents an eight-and-a-half-month season of 11 plays in three theatres plus numerous ancillary activities. Operating on a budget exceeding \$26 million, OSF presents more than 780 performances annually with attendance of approximately 400,000. 🍷 🍷

NEARBY ATTRACTIONS:

Crater Lake, Applegate Valley Wine Trail, Rogue River Jet Boats

Valdez May Day Fly-In

Valdez, Alaska

May 11 - 13, 2012
CONTACT: Alene Maag
(907) 835-2984
flyin@valdezalaska.org
www.valdezflyin.com

This premier fly-in in North America showcases bush pilots' skills in short take-off and landing competition and features the best in Alaska "bush-flying." Other spectator events include pilots' low-altitude flour bombing, military demos and static displays, aerobatics, and much more. Pilots also enjoy a "Poker Run" through Prince William Sound, including a low tide beach landing. 🍷 🍷

NEARBY ATTRACTIONS:
Glaciers - flightseeing & climbing, Whitewater Rafting, Exxon Oil Spill Exhibition

Portland Rose Festival

Portland, Ore.
May 25 - June 10, 2012

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

For more than 100 years, the Portland Rose Festival has brought together families and individuals from Oregon and beyond with events that spotlight the riches of the Pacific Northwest while offering examples of many international cultures. Attended by more than two million people, the festival is annually one of the top three most highly decorated events by the International Festivals & Events Association (IFEA).

Tournament of Roses

Pasadena, Calif.
December 30, 2011 - January 2, 2012

CONTACT: W. Gravely
(626) 449-4100
wgravely@rosemail.org
www.tournamentofroses.com

The Pasadena Tournament of Roses is a volunteer organization that annually hosts the Rose Parade®, Rose Bowl Game® presented by Citi, and various associated events. The 123rd Rose Parade, themed Building Dreams, Friendships & Memories, will take place on January 1, 2012, at 8 a.m. (PST) featuring majestic floral floats, high-stepping equestrian units and spirited marching bands. Following the Rose Parade, the 98th Rose Bowl Game, presented by Citi, will kick off at 2:10 p.m. and feature a match-up between two of the top collegiate football teams in the nation.



Canada

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



- 🚗 Designated Motorcoach Parking
- 👥 Offers Group Incentives
- 🇨🇦 Anniversary Year
- 🍴 Food

is Canada's premier agricultural show and marketplace attracting more than 125,000 visitors from across Canada, the United States and more than 75 countries around the world. Located on 22 acres of prime indoor facilities, Agribition offers visitors a comfortable opportunity to view world-class livestock genetics and features more than \$1.9 million in livestock sales during the six days of the show. Agribition is where the world meets for agriculture.



NEARBY ATTRACTIONS:
RCMP Heritage Centre,
Saskatchewan Science Centre, Government House

Annapolis Valley Apple Blossom Festival Kentville, Nova Scotia May 30 - June 4, 2012

CONTACT: Linda Manning
(902) 678-8322
info@appleblossom.com
www.appleblossom.com

The Annapolis Valley Apple Blossom Festival annually opens Nova Scotia's tourist season and continues to enjoy national and international recognition. In 1988 and 1991, the American Bus Association selected it as one of the Top 100 tourist events in North America. In 2001, Canada Post named the Festival one of the Top 10 tourist attractions in Canada and simultaneously released the Apple Blossom Festival Stamp in 2001 for the 69th festival. In 2002, the Royal Canadian Mint presented the Annapolis Valley Apple Blossom Fes-

tival the 2002 50 cent Sterling Silver Coin.



NEARBY ATTRACTIONS:
Bay of Fundy - Highest Tides in the World, Hall's Harbour Historic Fishing Village, Wineries & The Irving Centre at Acadia University

Canadian Finals Rodeo Edmonton, Alberta November 7 - 11, 2012

CONTACT: Tyler Riopel
(780) 471-7324
triope@northlands.com
www.cfr.ca

Canadian Finals Rodeo (CFR) is an annual world-class rodeo event that consistently sets new attendance records while attracting the best contestants and stock in the land. Held in Edmonton since 1974, the heart-pound-

ing action of CFR has been entertaining fans of all kinds for decades. Only the best of the best compete in the event, and with a total prize purse that exceeds \$1.3 million, you either give it all you've got or go home empty handed.



NEARBY ATTRACTIONS:
West Edmonton Mall, Farmfair International, River City Round Up

Canadian Western Agribition Regina, Saskatchewan November 19 - 24, 2012

CONTACT: Marty Seymour
(306) 565-0565
info@agribition.com
www.agribition.com

Canadian Western Agribition

The Charlottetown Festival Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island June 15 - October 9, 2012

CONTACT: Craig LeClair
(902) 628-1864
info@confederationcentre.com
www.charlottetownfestival.com

The Charlottetown Festival features professional musical theatre, including "Anne of Green Gables - The Musical™," "The Full Monty," and "Buddy: The Buddy Holly Story." Free outdoor performances, gallery exhibitions, dining and shopping. Visit the center's website for the 2012 festival lineup and to book online. 🗑️

NEARBY ATTRACTIONS:
Province House, Founders' Hall, Peake's Quay

Fall Okanagan Wine Festival Kelowna, British Columbia September 28 - October 7, 2012

CONTACT: Christina Ferreira
(250) 861-6654
info@thewinefestivals.com
www.thewinefestivals.com

Warm desert days and cool nights is just what the doctor—or in this case, viticulturist—ordered to ripen our grapes and prepare for harvest. For 10 days in October the annual Fall





Islendingadagurinn is Manitoba's Icelandic Festival.

Okanagan Wine Festival is a celebration of earthly delights. With more than 165 events happening around the valley, it makes it a great time to visit the Okanagan. (F) (M) (X)

NEARBY ATTRACTIONS:
Golf, Museums, Cultural

The Iceberg Festival
St. Anthony, Newfoundland/Labrador
June 8 - 17, 2012

CONTACT: Paul Alcock
 (709) 454-3092
contact@theicebergfestival.ca
www.theicebergfestival.ca

Come along to the northern tip of the Great Northern Peninsula, in Newfoundland, Canada, recognized throughout the world as Iceberg Alley. Dip your toes in the icy North Atlantic, and immerse yourself as you experience traditional Newfoundland music and culture at its finest. The Iceberg Festival will feature boat tours, traditional music, nature walks, and great Newfoundland cuisine. (M) (X)

NEARBY ATTRACTIONS:
L'Anse Aux Meadows - A UNESCO World Heritage Site, Grenfell Historic

Properties, Norstead - A Viking Port of Trade

Islendingadagurinn (Icelandic Festival of Manitoba)
Gimli, Manitoba
August 3 - 6, 2012

CONTACT: Shelley Narfason
 (204) 642-7417
icfest@mts.net
www.icelandicfestival.com

The Icelandic Festival of Manitoba "Islendingadagurinn" is the second-oldest continuous ethnic festival in North

America. Today, the Icelandic festival includes all of the original components but has also expanded to include activities far beyond what the original organizers would ever have imagined. It now draws as many as 50,000 visitors over a four-day period, and is not only attended by people of Icelandic descent but by others seeking to learn more about a fascinating culture in a beautiful resort town. (M) (X)

NEARBY ATTRACTIONS:
Lake Winnipeg, Icelandic Museum, Winnipeg Beach



Annual Events

The Magic of Lanterns - Montréal Botanical Garden Montréal, Québec September 7 - October 31, 2012

CONTACT: Albane Le Nay
(514) 872-1400
espacepourlavie@ville.montreal.qc.ca
www.montrealspaceforlife.ca

The Magic of Lanterns event, which is presented in the Chinese Garden of the Montréal Botanical Garden, introduces visitors to different facets of traditional Chinese culture. Created anew each year, the lanterns are designed in Montréal and meticulously handcrafted by skillful artists from Shanghai. The hundreds of lanterns are then shipped by boat all the way to the Botanical Garden, where they add their special glow to the fall sky in Montréal. 🚫 🚫 🚫

NEARBY ATTRACTIONS:
Montréal Biodôme,
Montréal Insectarium,
Montréal Tower

New Brunswick Highland Games Festival Fredericton, New Brunswick July 27 - 29, 2012

CONTACT: Chris Gallant
(506) 461-5253
chrisjagallant@gmail.com
www.highlandgames.ca

The New Brunswick Highland Games Festival is one of the largest events of its kind in Atlantic Canada and is a favorite amongst competitors and visitors alike. The event is a pageant of music, color, and Scottish culture and has two equally important halves—the Highland Games, which include piping and drumming, highland dancing, and traditional athletics, and the Scottish Festival, which features entertainment, clans, and workshops. 🚫 🚫 🚫

NEARBY ATTRACTIONS:
Historic Garrison District,
Kings Landing Historical Settlement,
Fredericton
Boyce Farmers' Market

Calgary Stampede

Calgary, Alberta
July 6 - 15, 2012

CONTACT: Lindsay Jardine
(403) 261-0101
ljardine@calgarystampede.com
www.calgarystampede.com

“The Greatest Outdoor Show on Earth” known as the Calgary Stampede is a 10-day citywide celebration of Western values and heritage and boasts the richest outdoor rodeo in the world, thrilling chuck wagon races, a Grandstand Show, and world-class agricultural and First Nation attractions and competitions. It is this Western spirit, the people, and their stories that make the Calgary Stampede a unique visitor destination.

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

The gigantic summer music celebration features 11 days of non-stop entertainment right in the heart of downtown Montréal. Several city blocks are closed to traffic, as right of way is given to pedestrians, creating a festive spot with cafés 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 and a place for incredible musical discoveries with influence, such as jazz, blues, Reggae, and much more.

Canadian Tulip Festival

Ottawa - Gatineau region
May 2012

CONTACT: The Canadian Tulip Festival Inc.
(613) 567-5757
info@tulipfestival.ca
www.tulipfestival.ca

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 WWII. Since 1953, this symbol of international friendship and the beauty of spring are celebrated annually by Ottawa and Gatineau residents. Each May, Ottawa and Canada's Capital Region is adorned with more than three million tulips.

Folklorama Winnipeg, Manitoba August 5 - 18, 2012

CONTACT: Murray Greenfield
(204) 982-6215
greenfieldm@folklorama.ca
www.folklorama.ca

Named the 2009 Event of the Year by the Tourism Industry Association of Canada, Folklorama offers the chance to travel the world without leaving the city. Celebrate the cultures found in Manitoba with song, dance, food, drink, and hospitality at more than 40 cultural pavilions. As you are welcomed by generations of people passionate about sharing their cultures, you will experience the warmth of the community while enjoying the world-class entertainment and delicious cultural dishes. Groups receive VIP treatment—bypassing lines, seating, a cultural tour, and a progressive meal.



Folklorama in Winnipeg is an international and cultural celebration.

Québec City International Festival of Military Bands Québec, Québec August 21 - 26, 2012

CONTACT: Marie-Eve Jacob
(418) 694-5757
mjacob@fimmq.com
www.quebecatattoo.ca

March in step as military bands from around the world join forces to delight spectators with their toe-tapping rhythms at the Québec City International Festival of Military Bands, held annually at the end of August. Activities

include live performances, family fun, parades, outdoor concerts, and a music extravaganza called the Québec City Military Tattoo. You don't want to miss this Tattoo, a whirling kaleidoscope of music and a dazzling display of pomp and ceremony that features 800 musicians. The drums and pipes, the drill teams and the mass band performances enthrall spectators. ♣ ♣ ♣

NEARBY ATTRACTIONS:
Visit of Plain of Abraham, Tour of Old Québec, Tour at the Montmorency Falls

Tall Ships 2012 Halifax, Nova Scotia July 19 - 30, 2012

CONTACT: Leanne Strathdee
(902) 422-5115
leanne@wdcl.ca
www.my-waterfront.ca

Waterfront Development Corporation hosts the 2012 Tall Ships Nova Scotia event, which visits Halifax, and then visits other ports across the province. The Halifax waterfront is the most visited destination in the province and showcases the best of Nova Scotia. Waterfront Development is dedicated to creating one of the world's greatest

waterfronts, and events like Tall Ships offer something for everyone. The Tall Ships Challenge Race series is run by the American Sail Training Association. ♣ ♣ ♣

NEARBY ATTRACTIONS:
Halifax Waterfront

Titanic 100 Dartmouth, Nova Scotia April 1, 2012

CONTACT: Ken Pinto
kenpinto@ns.sympatico.ca
www.titanic100.ca/
commemoration

In 2012, Halifax will commemorate the 100th anniversary of the world's worst ocean disaster



The Québec City International Festival of Military Bands.



Annual Events

during Titanic 100. Halifax, by fate, has connections to the Titanic like no other place in North America. Hours after the Titanic sank, ships from the Port of Halifax were commissioned to recover victims of the disaster. Explore one of the final chapters of this captivating story through the numerous Titanic sites including cemeteries and exhibits at the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic and Bedford Institute of Oceanography. Commemoration activities include a world conference, wake and commemoration, marine art festival, monument memorial, concerts and film festival. 🚫🚫

NEARBY ATTRACTIONS:
Maritime Museum of the Atlantic, Pier 21 Canada's Immigration Museum, Citadel National Historic Site of Canada

Van Gogh: Up Close Ottawa, Ontario May 25 - September 3, 2012

CONTACT: Helene Donaldson
(613) 990-1985
info@gallery.ca
www.gallery.ca/vangogh

This will be the first major project devoted to the Dutch artist by a Canadian institution for more than two decades. Presented in Canada exclusively in Ottawa, Van Gogh: Up Close will break new ground in exploring the artist's representation of nature—in particular his innovative use of the close-up view. This exhibition will feature approximately 50 paintings including works that have rarely been shown publicly, as well as a selection of Japanese prints. Organized by the National Gallery of Canada and the Philadelphia Museum of Art. 🚫🚫

NEARBY ATTRACTIONS:
Parliament Hill, IMAX: Van Gogh at Canadian Museum of Civilization, ByWard Market

Montréal Just For Laughs Festival Presented by Videotron

Montréal, Québec
July 1 - 31, 2012
CONTACT: Arman Afkhami
(514) 509-5276
tourism@hahaha.com
www.hahaha.com

The world's largest comedy festival, which will be celebrating its 30th anniversary in 2012, features more than 1,700 indoor and outdoor shows, artists from 19 different countries performing in both English and French and some special surprises for its 30th. The line-up features the biggest names in comedy and the brightest newly discovered talent. In addition, the festival showcases all forms of comedy, including film, theater, sketch, and a unique comedy conference that attracts big names of the comedy and film industry. The festival's magic transforms the streets into a giant open-air theater with more than 1,200 free performances spread through July.

Québec Winter Carnival

Québec, Québec
January 27 -
February 12, 2012
CONTACT: Patrick Lemaire
(418) 626-3716
patrick.lemaire@carnaval.qc.ca
www.carnaval.qc.ca

For its 58th edition, the Québec Winter Carnival will again offer an incomparable winter experience to thousands of visitors.



Québec Winter Carnival.

With spectacular sports competitions, exciting nightlife, and activities for the whole family. The carnival offers 17 days of festivities, 300 shows and activities, a majestic Ice Palace, and two night parades. Great activities not to be missed include the 400-foot-long Ice Slide, the Canoe Race, the International Snow Sculptures Competition, the parade featuring giant inflatable characters, and the outdoor stage on the Plains of Abraham.

Royal Nova Scotia International Tattoo

Halifax, Nova Scotia
July 1 - 8, 2012
CONTACT: Leah Whitehead
(902) 420-4620
lwhitehead@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 the traditional pipes and drums to intense acrobatic displays. The Tattoo features military and civilian bands, historic re-enactments, dancers, choirs, military displays, and competitions.

Stratford Shakespeare Festival

Stratford, Ontario
April 1 - November 1, 2012

CONTACT: Stratford Shakespeare Festival
(519) 273-1600
groups@stratfordshakespearefestival.com

www.stratfordshakespearefestival.com Besides works by Shakespeare and other classical dramatists, North America's largest repertory theatre festival presents productions of Broadway-style musicals and a wide range of contemporary plays. On most days two different shows can be seen at each of the festival's four theatres, thus giving patrons plenty to choose from, even on a short visit.

2012 Top 100 Events, Annual Events

★ Annual Event ★★ No. 1 Event in the United States ★★★ No. 1 Event in Canada

★ **Tournament of Roses**
Pasadena, Calif.
12/30/2011 – 1/2/2012

★ **Fancy Brigade Finale Philadelphia Mummers Parade**
Philadelphia, Pa.
1/1/2012

National Western Stock Show
Denver, Colo.
1/7/2012 – 1/22/2012

Zehnder's Snowfest
Frankenmuth, Mich.
1/25/2012 – 1/30/2012

★ **Saint Paul Winter Carnival**
Saint Paul, Minn.
1/26/2012 – 2/5/2012

★ **Québec Winter Carnival**
Québec, Québec
1/27/2012 – 2/12/2012

Oregon Shakespeare Festival
Ashland, Ore.
2/17/2012 – 11/4/2012

★ **Mardi Gras**
New Orleans, La.
2/21/2012

Newport Seafood & Wine Festival
Newport, Ore.
2/24/2012 – 2/26/2012

★ **Daytona 500**
Daytona Beach, Fla.
2/26/2012

★ **Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race**
Anchorage, Alaska and Willow, Alaska
2/28/2012 – 3/16/2012

★ **Philadelphia International Flower Show**
Philadelphia, Pa.
3/4/2012 – 3/11/2012

International Cherry Blossom Festival
Macon, Ga.
3/16/2012 – 3/25/2012

★★ **National Cherry Blossom Festival & Centennial Celebration of the Gift of Cherry Blossom Trees**
Washington, DC
3/20/2012 – 4/27/2012

150th Anniversary of the Battle of Shiloh
Pickwick Dam and Shiloh, Tenn.
3/30/2012 – 4/7/2012

Titanic 100
Dartmouth, Nova Scotia
4/1/2012

★ **Stratford Shakespeare Festival**
Stratford, Ontario
4/1/2012 – 11/1/2012

French Quarter Festival
New Orleans, La.
4/12/2012 – 4/15/2012

Holly Springs Pilgrimage of Homes
Holly Springs, Miss.
4/13/2012 – 4/15/2012

Seabreeze Jazz Festival
Santa Rosa Beach, Fla.
4/18/2012 – 4/22/2012

★ **Fiesta San Antonio**
San Antonio, Texas
4/19/2012 – 4/29/2012

★ **Kentucky Derby Festival & Kentucky Derby**
Louisville, Ky.
4/21/2012 – 5/5/2012

Tucson International Mariachi Festival
Tucson, Ariz.
4/24/2012 – 4/28/2012

Festival International de Louisiane
Lafayette, La.
4/25/2012 – 4/29/2012

Gathering of Nations Native American Powwow
Albuquerque, NM
4/26/2012 – 4/28/2012

★ **Virginia International Tattoo**
Norfolk, Va.
4/26/2012 – 4/29/2012

Denton Art & Jazz Festival
Denton, Texas
4/27/2012 – 4/29/2012

★ **Canadian Tulip Festival**
Ottawa-Gatineau region
5/2012

★ **Holland Tulip Time Festival**
Holland, Mich.
5/5/2012 – 5/12/2012

Valdez May Day Fly-In
Valdez, Alaska
5/11/2012 – 5/13/2012

First Flush Festival
Wadmalaw Island, SC
5/20/2012

Riverfest Arkansas
Little Rock, Ark.
5/25/2012 – 5/27/2012

★ **Portland Rose Festival**
Portland, Ore.
5/25/2012 – 6/10/2012

Van Gogh: Up Close
Ottawa, Ontario
5/25/2012 – 9/3/2012

★ **Indianapolis 500 Celebration**
Indianapolis, Ind.
5/27/2012

Annapolis Valley Apple Blossom Festival
Kentville, Nova Scotia
5/30/2012 – 6/4/2012

Quilt Gardens Along the Heritage Trail
Elkhart, Ind.
5/30/2012 – 10/1/2012

75th Anniversary Season of The Lost Colony Outdoor Drama
Manteo, NC
6/2012 – 8/2012

Virginia Beach Patriotic Festival
Virginia Beach, Va.
6/1/2012 – 6/3/2012

Medora Musical
Medora, ND
6/1/2012 – 9/1/2012

TEXAS Outdoor Musical Drama
Canyon, Texas
6/2/2012 – 8/18/2012

OpSail
Norfolk, Va.
6/6/2012 – 6/12/2012

★ **CMA Music Festival**
Nashville, Tenn.
6/7/2012 – 6/10/2012

Sea Music Festival
Mystic, Conn.
6/7/2012 – 6/10/2012

Intertribal Gathering
Crawford, Neb.
6/8/2012 – 6/10/2012

The Iceberg Festival
St. Anthony, Newfoundland/Labrador
6/8/2012 – 6/17/2012

Burlington Steamboat Days
Burlington, Iowa
6/12/2012 – 6/17/2012

Star-Spangled Spectacular 2012 - A Festival of Naval Vessels and Tall Ships
Baltimore, Md.
6/13/2012 – 6/19/2012

Quechee Balloon Festival
Quechee, Vt.
6/15/2012 – 6/17/2012

★★★ **Niagara 1812 Bicentennial**
Thorold, Ontario
6/15/2012 – 6/18/2012

The Charlottetown Festival
Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island
6/15/2012 – 10/9/2012

Eastern Shoshone Indian Days Powwow & Rodeo
Lander, Wyo.
6/21/2012 – 6/24/2012

Utah Shakespeare Festival
Cedar City, Utah
6/21/2012 – 10/20/2012

Newport Flower Show
Newport, RI
6/22/2012 – 6/24/2012

★ **Boston Harborfest 2012**
Boston, Mass.
6/28/2012 – 7/4/2012

★ **Festival International de Jazz de Montréal**
Montréal, Québec
6/28/2012 – 7/7/2012

Vermont Quilt Festival Inc.
Essex Junction, Vt.
6/29/2012 – 7/1/2012

★ **Royal Nova Scotia International Tattoo**
Halifax, Nova Scotia
7/1/2012 – 7/8/2012

★ **Montréal Just For Laughs Festival presented by Videotron**
Montréal, Québec
7/1/2012 – 7/31/2012

★ **National Independence Day Celebration**
Washington, DC
7/4/2012

Gettysburg Civil War Battle Re-enactment
Gettysburg, Pa.
7/6/2012 – 7/8/2012

Pork & Brew State BBQ Championship
Rio Rancho, NM
7/6/2012 – 7/8/2012

★ **Calgary Stampede**

Calgary, Alberta
7/6/2012 – 7/15/2012

National Cherry Festival

Traverse City, Mich.
7/7/2012 – 7/14/2012

Arlington Fly-In

Arlington, Wash.
7/11/2012 – 7/15/2012

Montana Folk Festival

Butte, Mont.
7/12/2012 – 7/15/2012

Finger Lakes Wine Festival

Watkins Glen, NY
7/13/2012 – 7/15/2012

Golden Days

Fairbanks, Alaska
7/18/2012 – 7/22/2012

Tall Ships 2012

Halifax, Nova Scotia
7/19/2012 – 7/30/2012

★ **Cheyenne Frontier Days**

Cheyenne, Wyo.
7/20/2012 – 7/29/2012

Pro Football Hall of Fame Enshrinement Festival

Canton, Ohio
(Tentative) 7/20/2012 – 8/5/2012

Idaho International Dance & Music Festival

Rexburg, Idaho
7/24/2012 – 8/4/2012

New Brunswick Highland Games Festival

Fredericton, New Brunswick
7/27/2012 – 7/29/2012

Dodge City Days

Dodge City, Kan.
7/27/2012 – 8/5/2012

Amish Acres Arts & Crafts Festival

Nappanee, Ind.
8/2/2012 – 8/5/2012

Islendingadagurinn (Icelandic Festival of Manitoba)

Gimli, Manitoba
8/3/2012 – 8/6/2012

★ **Folklorama**

Winnipeg, Manitoba
8/5/2012 – 8/18/2012

Pops by the Sea Concert

Centerville, Mass.
8/12/2012

Québec City International Festival of Military Bands

Québec, Québec
8/21/2012 – 8/26/2012

Barnesville Potato Days

Barnesville, Minn.
8/24/2012 – 8/25/2012

Louisiana Shrimp & Petroleum Festival

Morgan City, La.
8/30/2012 – 9/3/2012

Japanese Festival 2012

St. Louis, Mo.
9/1/2012 – 9/3/2012

Hampton Beach Seafood Festival

Hampton, NH
9/7/2012 – 9/9/2012

War of 1812 Bicentennial-Battle of Plattsburgh Commemoration Weekend

Plattsburgh, NY
9/7/2012 – 9/9/2012

The Magic of Lanterns - Montréal Botanical Garden

Montréal, Québec
9/7/2012 – 10/31/2012

150th Commemoration of the Maryland Campaign

Frederick and Hagerstown, Md.
9/8/2012 – 9/22/2012

Kentucky Bourbon Festival

Bardstown, Ky.
9/11/2012 – 9/16/2012

GrapeFest

Grapevine, Texas
9/13/2012 – 9/16/2012

★ **The Big E**

West Springfield, Mass.
9/16/2012 – 10/2/2012

Bourne Scallop Festival

Buzzards Bay, Mass.
9/21/2012 – 9/23/2012

New Hampshire Highland Games

Lincoln, NH
9/21/2012 – 9/23/2012

Buffalo Roundup and Arts Festival

Custer, SD
9/22/2012 – 9/24/2012

Fall Okanagan Wine Festival

Kelowna, British Columbia
9/28/2012 – 10/7/2012

State Fair of Texas®

Dallas, Texas
9/28/2012 – 10/21/2012

Applefest®

Franklin, Pa.
10/5/2012 – 10/7/2012

BayFest Music Festival

Mobile, Ala.
10/5/2012 – 10/7/2012

★ **Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta**

Albuquerque, NM
10/6/2012 – 10/14/2012

Cruisin' The Coast®

Biloxi, Miss.
10/7/2012 – 10/14/2012

Apple Scapple Festival

Bridgeville, Del.
10/12/2012 – 10/13/2012

Sea Witch Halloween & Fiddler's Festival

Rehoboth Beach, Del.
10/26/2012 – 10/28/2012

★ **Ozark Mountain Christmas**

Branson, Mo.
11/1/2012 – 12/31/2012

KaLightscope Christmas

Louisville, Ky.
11/1/2012 – 1/1/2013

Wildlights at the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium

Powell, Ohio
11/1/2012 – 1/1/2013

World Championship Punkin Chunkin

Nassau, Del.
11/2/2012 – 11/4/2012

★ **Christmas at Biltmore®**

Asheville, NC
11/2/2012 – 1/1/2013

★ **Pigeon Forge Winterfest**

Pigeon Forge, Tenn.
11/6/2012 – 2/28/2013

Canadian Finals Rodeo

Edmonton, Alberta
11/7/2012 – 11/11/2012

Holiday Festival of Lights

Charleston, SC
11/9/2012 – 12/31/2012

Oglebay's Winter Festival of Lights

Wheeling, WV
11/11/2012 – 1/8/2013

Creche Festival

Moncks Corner, SC
11/14/2012 – 12/3/2012

America's Hometown Thanksgiving Celebration

Plymouth, Mass.
11/16/2012 – 11/18/2012

Ferdinand Christkindmarkt

Jasper, Ind.
11/16/2012 – 11/18/2012

Gaylord Opryland Resort's A Country Christmas

Nashville, Tenn.
11/16/2012 – 12/25/2012

Fantasy In Lights

Pine Mountain, Ga.
11/16/2012 – 12/30/2012

Milwaukee Holiday Lights Festival

Milwaukee, Wis.
11/16/2012 – 1/1/2013

Overly's Country Christmas

Greensburg, Pa.
11/16/2012 – 1/1/2013

Gaylord National's ICE!

National Harbor, Md.
11/16/2012 – 1/6/2013

Canadian Western Agribition

Regina, Saskatchewan
11/19/2012 – 11/24/2012

Bright Nights at Forest Park

Springfield, Mass.
11/21/2012 – 1/1/2013

★ **Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade**

New York, NY
11/22/2012

Target Holidazzle

Minneapolis, Minn.
11/22/2012 – 12/25/2012

Christmas on the Pecos

Carlsbad, NM
11/23/2012 – 12/31/2012

Christmas Capital of Texas

Grapevine, Texas
11/23/2012 – 1/6/2013

The Lights of Christmas

Stanwood, Wash.
11/29/2012 – 12/30/2012

Old World Christmas Market

Elkhart Lake, Wis.
11/30/2012 – 12/9/2012

This Man Called Jesus

Lexington, SC
11/30/2012 – 12/16/2012

Dickens on the Strand

Galveston, Texas
12/1/2012 – 12/2/2012

Billy Graham Library: Christmas at the Library

Charlotte, NC
12/1/2012 – 12/23/2012

Edison & Ford Holiday Nights

Ft. Myers, Fla.
12/1/2012 – 12/31/2012

Colonial Williamsburg's Grand Illumination

Williamsburg, Va.
12/2/2012

Beach Ball Drop

Panama City Beach, Fla.
12/31/2012 – 1/1/2013

Committee Sponsors

The American Bus Association and the 2012 Top 100 Selection Committee thank their hosts, the Knoxville Tourism & Sports Corporation and their partners: Country Inn & Suites, Calhoun's on the River, Hampton Inn & Suites West, Holiday Inn Knoxville West, Knoxville Hilton, Beck Cultural Exchange Center, Crescent Bend (Armstrong Locket House), Knoxville Zoo, Tennessee Riverboat, East Tennessee History Center, the Emporium Center, Tennessee Theatre, Women's Basketball Hall of Fame, Chariots of Hire, Knoxville Visitors Center, WDVX Radio, and Gentry Trailways.

Online Event Listings

The 2012 Top 100 Events are also listed on ABA's website, www.buses.org. To obtain a complimentary copy of this booklet:

- E-mail: abainfo@buses.org
- Fax: (202) 842-0850
- Call: (800) 283-2877

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.

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In partnership with ABA, Group Leaders of America 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.

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For planning materials and assistance, contact the Group Tour & Travel Coordinator at 800-626-2326 or www.ococean.com.

••••• Upcoming Events •••••

Springfest
May 5 - 8

Sunfest
Sept. 22 - 25

Winterfest
Nov. 17 - Jan. 1, 2012



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