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Kick Off Fall With An Exciting Line-Up Of Wisconsin Events

Travel Wisconsin lists fall events from September through mid-November 2017

MADISON, Wis. (Aug. 16, 2017) – With stunning fall color and mild temperatures, it’s no surprise fall is Wisconsin’s second busiest season. Get ready to experience an impressive line-up of autumn events with these Badger state favorites.

Explore Wisconsin’s changing fall foliage at the Chequamegon Fat Tire Festival or the Fall Color Biking Festival in Whitewater. Tap into the state’s distinctive music scene with Port Washington’s Paramount Music Festival and the Kilbourn City Live Music and Arts Festival in Wisconsin Dells. Experience breathtaking Chinese lanterns at the wildly popular China Lights at the Boerner Botanical Gardens in Hales Corners. Summer may be almost over, but with these exciting events, your Wisconsin fall bucket list is sure to get filled.

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

Travelers can visit TravelWisconsin.com on their desktop, tablet or mobile device. Plan your fall getaway around the season’s color using the [Travel Wisconsin Fall Color Report](#). You can also choose to “Like” us at [Facebook.com/TravelWisconsin](https://www.facebook.com/TravelWisconsin) or follow along on Twitter at [Twitter.com/TravelWI](https://twitter.com/TravelWI) and Instagram at TravelWisconsin.

SEPTEMBER EVENTS (Pages 3-9)

Oshkosh Public Museum’s “The Voices of Native American Art” – Oshkosh	July 23-Oct. 8, 2017
Paramount Music Festival – Port Washington	Sept. 1-3, 2017
La Crosse Area Bicycle Festival – La Crosse	Sept. 1-4, 2017
Chilimania – Edgerton	Sept. 8-9, 2017
Sputnikfest – Manitowoc	Sept. 8-9, 2017

Can-Yak Fishing Tournament – Mercer	Sept. 8-10, 2017
Villa Louis Carriage Classic – Prairie du Chien	Sept. 8-10, 2017
Whooping Crane Festival – Green Lake County	Sept. 9, 2017
Fat Tire Ride – Lake Geneva	Sept. 9, 2017
Thirsty Troll Brewfest – Mount Horeb	Sept. 9, 2017
Mid-Lakes Thresheree & Tractor Show – Manitowoc	Sept. 9-10, 2017
Artrageous Weekend – Wausau	Sept. 9-10, 2017
Take Me to the River – St. Croix	Sept. 9-24, 2017
International Wisconsin Ginseng Festival – Wausau	Sept. 15-17, 2017
Elkhart Lake Vintage Festival – Elkhart Lake	Sept. 15-17, 2017
15th Annual Oktoberfest – Chippewa Falls	Sept. 15-17, 2017
50 th Annual Wo-Zha-Wa Days Fall Festival – Wisconsin Dells	Sept. 15-17, 2017
35th Annual Chequamegon Fat Tire Festival – Cable and Hayward	Sept. 16, 2017
Bacon Bash – River Falls	Sept. 16-17, 2017
Driftless Area Art Festival – Soldiers Grove	Sept. 16-17, 2017
Wine and Harvest Festival – Cedarburg	Sept. 16-17, 2017
25th Annual Maple Fall Fest – Marshfield	Sept. 16-17, 2017
Apple Festival – Gays Mills	Sept. 22-24, 2017
30th Annual Wind Power Windsurfing Championships – Fond du Lac	Sept. 22-24, 2017
45 th Annual Warrens Cranberry Festival – Warrens	Sept. 22-24, 2017
Boerner Botanical Gardens' "China Lights" – Hales Corners	Sept. 22-Oct 22, 2017
International Fall Festival – Eau Claire	Sept. 23, 2017
Green Lake Harvest Fest – Green Lake	Sept. 23-24, 2017
Snowmobile Grass Drags and Swap Meet – Wausau	Sept. 23-24, 2017
Spirit of the St. Croix Art Festival – Hudson	Sept. 23-24, 2017
Geneva Lakes Antique and Classic Boat Show – Fontana	Sept. 23-24, 2017
Wade House Civil War Weekend – Greenbush	Sept. 23-24, 2017
Oktoberfest USA – La Crosse	Sept. 28-Oct. 1, 2017
Milwaukee Film Festival – Milwaukee	Sept. 28-Oct. 12, 2017
Octoberfest – Appleton	Sept. 29-30, 2017
Fall Color Biking Festival – Whitewater	Sept. 30, 2017
Beef-A-Rama – Minocqua	Sept. 30, 2017
Kilbourn City Live – Wisconsin Dells	Sept. 30, 2017
Shawano Country Miles of Art Fall Festival – Shawano	Sept. 30-Oct. 1, 2017
<u>OCTOBER EVENTS (Pages 9-12)</u>	
World Dairy Expo – Madison	Oct. 3-7, 2017
Chain O' Lakes Blues Festival – Waupaca	Oct. 6-7, 2017
Bayfield Apple Festival – Bayfield	Oct. 6-8, 2017
Audubon Days – Mayville	Oct. 6-8, 2017
Fall Fresh Art Tour – Pepin and Pierce Counties	Oct 6-8, 2017
Fermentation Fest – Reedsburg	Oct. 6-8 and 13-15, 2017
Apple Affair – Galesville	Oct. 7, 2017
Kickapoo Reserve Dam Challenge – La Farge	Oct. 7, 2017
Stone Lake Cranberry Festival – Stone Lake	Oct. 7, 2017
Pumpkin Patch Festival – Egg Harbor	Oct. 7-8, 2017
Oktoberfest Celebration – Lake Geneva	Oct. 7-8, 2017
Cranberry Fest – Eagle River	Oct. 7-8, 2017

Nekoosa Giant Pumpkin Fest – Nekoosa	Oct. 7-8, 2017
Rural Arts Road Trip – Calumet County	Oct. 13-15, 2017
Sheboygan Children and Teen's Book Festival – Sheboygan	Oct. 13-15, 2017
Harvest Fest – Boulder Junction	Oct. 14, 2017
Autumn on the Farms at Old World Wisconsin – Eagle	Oct. 14-15, 2017
Chippewa Valley Book Festival – Chippewa Valley	Oct. 16-26, 2017
Kohler Food and Wine Experience – Kohler	Oct. 19-22, 2017
Fall Art Tour – Baraboo, Dodgeville, Mineral Point, Spring Green	Oct. 20-22, 2017
Fall Gallery Night and Day – Milwaukee	Oct. 20-21, 2017
Madeline Island Fall Festival – Madeline Island	Oct. 21, 2017
Medford Area Harvest Days – Medford Area	Oct. 26-29, 2017
Jack O' Lantern Days – Fish Creek	Oct. 27-29, 2017
Fairlawn Halloween Flashlight Tours – Superior	Oct. 29-30, 2017

NOVEMBER EVENTS (Page 13)

Wisconsin Book Festival – Madison	Nov. 2-5, 2017
Wisconsin Science Festival – Madison	Nov. 2-5, 2017
Holiday Harvest Wine and Food Festival – Prescott, Stockholm, Pepin	Nov. 11-12, 2017
Trainfest – West Allis	Nov. 11-12, 2017

**Top 2017 Fall Events and Activities
Detailed Descriptions**

SEPTEMBER

**Oshkosh Public Museum's "The Voices of Native American Art" – Oshkosh –
July 23-Oct. 8, 2017**

Journey through the history of Native American tribes and their descendants at this fascinating exhibit at the Oshkosh Public Museum. Browse through traditional art work across a variety of mediums, including beads, clay paint and metal. Each piece was hand-chosen by curatorial expert and citizen of the Oneida Nation of Wisconsin Karen Ann Hoffman.
920-326-5763; www.oshkoshmuseum.org

Paramount Music Festival – Port Washington – Sept. 1-3, 2017

Celebrate 100 years of Paramount Records in Ozaukee County with the sweet sounds of regional and national music. More than 25 acts will be performing blues, rock, Americana and more! Don't miss live performances by blues legends including John Primer, Corky Siegel, Billy Branch, Eddy Clearwater and Sam Lay.
262-208-6288; <http://paramountmusic.org>

La Crosse Area Bicycle Festival – La Crosse – Sept. 1-4, 2017

Grab your helmet and get ready for four days of spectacular biking adventures. Enjoy impressive views of the fall foliage during bike rides throughout the city, forests and mountain bike trails. These scenic rides through the Mississippi River Valley are perfect for beginners or experienced riders.
800-658-9424; www.explorelacrosse.com/bikefest

Chilimania – Edgerton – Sept. 8-9, 2017

At this fest, order a bowl of chili with a side of over 12 hours of live music and fun! Chili experts from across the country cook up their best batches for the public chili tasting contest, and save

room for the best Bloody Mary competition. Work off your meal with the Chili Chase 5K run/walk, or chill out with a performance by Nashville country star Keith Anderson. 608-561-7566; www.chilimania.com

Sputnikfest – Manitowoc – Sept. 8-9, 2017

One of Wisconsin's most "out of this world" festivals! Celebrate the 1962 crash landing of a piece of the Sputnik IV satellite in Manitowoc with fun, quirky activities. Show off your inner alien at the Cosmic Costume Contest by creating a star-studded costume or enter your pet in the Alien Pet Costume Contest. Don't miss your chance to win \$1,000 at the stellar Alien Drop, where the Manitowoc Fire Department drops hundreds of alien erasers on the crash site. 962-686-3090; www.manitowoc.org

Can-Yak Fishing Tournament– Mercer – Sept. 8-10, 2017

This is an outdoor lover's Mecca! Build your own cardboard can-yak and participate in the two-day fishing contests along the Turtle River. Visit the Paddling Outdoor Expo on Saturday for the latest and greatest fishing equipment. Get the most of out of your gear with demos and workshops by industry experts. 715-476-2389; www.can-yak.com

Villa Louis Carriage Classic – Prairie du Chien – Sept. 8-10, 2017

Hold your horses and get ready for competitive carriage driving at the Villa Louis Carriage Classic. Each driver is judged on driving abilities and equine performance in either arena or obstacle classes. National driving expert and author Gloria Austin will be giving educational lectures and lead stable tours throughout the weekend. 608-326-2721; www.carriageclassic.com



*Whooping Crane Festival
Photo Courtesy of Greg Bielski*

Whooping Crane Festival – Green Lake County – Sept. 8-10, 2017

Learn about the migration and life of this previously endangered bird by soaring to the International Crane Foundation for this festival. Kids can build their own birdhouses and see the interactive hands-on bird show. Shop around the artisan and vendor area for one-of-a-kind gifts or become a photography pro at this year's new nature photography workshop. 920-295-3877; www.operationmigration.org

Fat Tire Ride – Lake Geneva – Sept. 9, 2017

Hop on your bike and explore Lake Geneva, Fontana and Williams Bay during this 21.5-mile ride. Go at your own pace for amazing views of Lake Como. Afterwards, relax with live music and a pig roast. 262-248-6008; www.fattiride.com

Thirsty Troll Brewfest – Mount Horeb – Sept. 9, 2017

This beer extravaganza features 25 brewers serving over 100 different beers. Sample a variety of craft beers, microbrews, ciders, meads and wines from around the country at this tasty event.

Be sure to get a selfie with Jorgen the Thirsty Troll.
608-437-5914; trollway.com

Mid-Lakes Thresheree & Tractor Show – Manitowoc – Sept. 9-10, 2017

Discover the history of Wisconsin rural life, art and nature at this event in Manitowoc. Visitors can experience a day on the farm by making homemade butter or plowing a field. Explore over 25 interactive historic structures, antique steam engines and farm tractors. There's also exciting tractor-pulled barrel rides and horse and mule demonstrations.
920-732-1562; www.mid-lakesrusticiron.org

Artrageous Weekend – Wausau – Sept. 9-10, 2017

This art-filled weekend features over 120 professional artists at four different venues throughout Wausau's historic downtown. Visitors can browse and purchase work in a variety of artistic styles. Families can enjoy hands-on art activities and live entertainment. Grab food from either of two food courts, board a free shuttle to each location, and enjoy the art-rageous amount of talent.
715-842-1676; www.wausaufoa.org

Take Me to the River – St. Croix – Sept. 9-24, 2017

Take Me to the River connects all the beauty of the Lower St. Croix River with a collection of art fairs, musical performances, multi-artist studio sales and fine art events. The third weekend is dedicated to pottery where River Valley Potters combine the works of both the Western Wisconsin Pottery Tour and some Minnesota art studios.
651-439-1465; takemetotheriver.info

International Wisconsin Ginseng Festival – Wausau – Sept. 15-17, 2017

We know Wisconsin is the dairy state, but who knew it was also the "Ginseng Capital of the World?" Experience Wisconsin favorites and other tasty treats like Indian tacos and gourmet pizza all featuring ginseng from over 18 chefs and vendors. Become a ginseng expert with the "Cooking with Ginseng" demonstrations or dig up your own root during a tour of the fields.
715-355-8788; www.visitwausau.com

Elkhart Lake Vintage Festival – Elkhart Lake – Sept. 15-17, 2017

More than 250 vintage and historic racecars hit the track during this three-day event, including classic pre-war models. Car fanatics can watch a historic road course reenactment tour, which will leave Road America and follow an identical route driven in the early 1950s. Get up close and personal at the fan-friendly paddock to witness these racing machines fitted with era specifications.
920-892-4576; www.roadamerica.com

15th Annual Oktoberfest – Chippewa Falls – Sept. 15-17, 2017

Hold on to your Lederhosen, it's time to celebrate 15 years of Oktoberfest in Chippewa Falls. Sip some beer and indulge in tasty traditional German cuisine. Don't forget about the hilarious tapping of the golden keg, Glockenspiel performance, stein holding competition and sauerkraut-eating competition.
715-723-0331; visitchippewafallswi.com

50th Annual Wo-Zha-Wa Days Fall Festival – Wisconsin Dells – Sept. 15-17, 2017

"Wo-Zha-Wa" in Ho-Chunk means "fun time," and that's exactly what you'll be having during this family-friendly three-day fest. This festival has something for everyone, including an arts and

crafts fair, antique flea market and live entertainment. There's also the amazing 100-unit parade and street carnival in downtown Wisconsin Dells. 800-223-3557; www.wisdells.com

35th Annual Chequamegon Fat Tire Festival – Cable and Hayward – Sept. 16, 2017

Hop on your bike for the 35th anniversary of this thrilling off-roading adventure! Hit the trails and enjoy the beautiful and challenging rolling glacial terrain. For the less extreme, there are the family-friendly children's bicycle parade and rodeo, bicycle toss, log pull, and bicycle bowling. 715-798-3594; www.cheqfattire.com

Bacon Bash – River Falls – Sept. 16-17, 2017

The nation's largest free bacon festival features two delicious days of cook-offs, pig-themed activities, live music and shopping. Munch on everything from bacon-inspired treats to bacon-wrapped delicacies, and don't forget to vote for the best bacon dish. For all the piglets out there, take part in the pig races, kid's eating contest and pig calling contests. 715-425-2533; www.riverfallsbaconbash.com

Driftless Area Art Festival – Soldiers Grove – Sept. 16-17, 2017

The Driftless region showcases its beauty with 80 visual artists utilizing ceramics, fiber, glass, jewelry, painting, photography and so much more. Browse the art, enjoy live music, and stop by the organic local food vendors. Kids can explore their own creative talents at the kid's creativity zone. 608-624-3600; driftlessareaartfestival.com

Wine and Harvest Festival – Cedarburg – Sept. 16-17, 2017

Historic Cedarburg hosts the Wine & Harvest Festival, complete with scrumptious artisan food, award-winning wines and a large variety of arts and crafts for sale. The "Giant Pumpkin Weigh-Off" is a must-see with pumpkins weighing in over 1,000 pounds! Wine lovers can join in the "Grape Stomp," or sip delicious wines at Cedar Creek Winery. 262-377-9620; www.cedarburgfestival.org

25th Annual Maple Fall Fest – Marshfield – Sept. 16-17, 2017

It's classic fall fun at this sweet Wisconsin event. You won't leave hungry with a pancake breakfast and over 150 food and craft vendors. Cheer on your favorite competitor at the maple syrup contest or the maple dessert baking contest. Back by popular demand are grilling experts Mad Dog & Merrill, who will be grilling up fantastic treats using maple syrup. 715-384-3454; visitmarshfield.com



Maple Fall Fest

Photo Courtesy of Marshfield Convention and Visitors Bureau

Apple Festival – Gays Mills – Sept. 22-24, 2017

It's an apple-pickin' good time in Gays Mills, home to the largest orchards in the area. Munch on every kind of apple creation you can imagine along with great live music, a craft show and flea market. The fun doesn't stop there. Families can participate in the horse shoe or volleyball tournament. The weekend ends with the Apple Fest Parade.

608-735-4341; <http://www.gaysmills.org>

30th Annual Wind Power Windsurfing Championships – Fond du Lac – Sept. 22-24, 2017

In September, Fond du Lac hosts the largest windsurfing race in the Midwest and Great Lakes region. Check out top athletes from across the U.S and Canada as they face off in the 30-mile race across Lake Winnebago in this highly competitive sport.

920-922-2550; www.windpowerwindsurfing.com

45th Annual Warrens Cranberry Festival – Warrens – Sept. 22-24, 2017

Visit the world's largest cranberry festival, reppin' Wisconsin's state fruit for 45 years. Take a tour of a cranberry marsh and even walk down into the bog to see how cranberries grow.

There's over three miles of shopping filled with local arts and crafts and farmers' markets.

Compete in a variety of cranberry-themed contests, and wrap up the day with the tasty fest favorite, the deep-fried cranberries-on-a-stick.

608-378-4200; www.cranfest.com

Boerner Botanical Gardens' "China Lights" – Hales Corners – Sept. 22-Oct. 22, 2017

For a fall evening that truly shines, visit the renowned international lantern festival "China Lights" at the Boerner Botanical Gardens. A team of artisans traveled from China to create a magical paradise of eye-catching colorful light displays. Over 95 percent of the displays are brand new this year! Enjoy the views while exploring the rich history of Chinese lanterns.

414-525- 5601; www.chinalights.org

International Fall Festival – Eau Claire – Sept. 23, 2017

Take a trip around the world without leaving the state! Stroll down South Barstow street, and experience eclectic, international live entertainment, including Irish dancing, martial arts demos and a special performance by the University of Wisconsin – Eau Claire's own Blugold Marching Band. Don't miss the Parade of Nations and the sweet fun of the Cotton Candy Eating Contest.

715-839-4914; www.downtowneauclaire.org

Green Lake Harvest Fest – Green Lake – Sept. 23-24, 2017

Downtown Green Lake transforms into an autumn haven. The streets are filled with food from local restaurants and live music, like Wisconsin-native bands Backdraft and Remington's Ride. Top off the weekend with the Harvest Fest parade and Jack Taylor Memorial Car Show. The kids can get in on the action with the petting zoo and face painting station.

800-253-7354; www.visitgreenlake.com

Snowmobile Grass Drags and Swap Meet – Wausau – Sept. 23-24, 2017

No snow? No problem! At this event, snowmobiles are put to the test before the harsh Wisconsin winter with full throttle drag racing on grass. Cheer on your favorites as the mini-trucks and mini-rods race at the dirt pull track. Pick up a toy of your own at the largest snowmobile and ATV/UTV swap meet in Wisconsin.

715-571-9768; www.trailmatesclub.com

Spirit of the St. Croix Art Festival – Hudson – Sept. 23-24, 2017

Experience the beauty of the historic St. Croix River town of Hudson at this juried art fair.

Channel your inner artist with fun, interactive demos with more than 85 artists showing their exceptional creative talent. Stroll through Lakefront Park for local musicians and yummy treats from area restaurants.

800-386-8432; discoverhudsonwi.com

Geneva Lakes Antique and Classic Boat Show – Fontana – Sept. 23-24, 2017

It's anchors away at this classic and vintage boat show with unique boats from across the country. Each boat is entered in the People's Choice Awards with categories like Pre-War, Post-War and Most Historic. Stick around for the exciting "starting of the engines" at the boat parade on Saturday.

630-802-2698; genevalakesboatshow.com

Wade House Civil War Weekend – Greenbush – Sept. 23-24, 2017

Walk through an authentic civil war camp and learn about the life of a soldier during the 1860s at the Wade House's Civil War Weekend. This year features an 1864 reenactment of the "Battle of Franklin," which took place in Tennessee during the Civil War. Don't miss thrilling military drills, hands-on kids activities and a visit from Abraham Lincoln.

920-526-3271; wadehouse.wisconsinhistory.org

Oktoberfest USA – La Crosse – Sept. 28-Oct. 1, 2017

Say Willkommen to the biggest Oktoberfest in the country! Drawing over 150,000 visitors, this celebration includes the Maple Leaf Parade, a polka party with live music and the hilarious Lederhosen Races. There's also plenty of traditional brews, food and a visit from the Oktoberfest royal family.

608-784-3378; oktoberfestusa.com

Milwaukee Film Festival – Milwaukee – Sept. 28-Oct. 12, 2017

One of the largest cultural events in Milwaukee, this fest offers a variety of acclaimed national and international fiction and documentary films, including some by local filmmakers. Last year, the festival screened more than 280 films in 15 days with an attendance of over 76,000 movie lovers.

414-755-1965; www.mkefilm.org

Octoberfest – Appleton – Sept. 29-30 2017

Say prost to Appleton's largest block party! The festival kicks off with the License to Cruise classic car show and over 100 arts and crafts vendors. There's also five stages of music with great local and national musical acts. Don't forget the delicious German food and the wide variety of beer.

920-734-7101; www.octoberfestonline.org

Fall Color Biking Festival – Whitewater – Sept. 30, 2017

This biking fundraiser explores the John Muir Trails in southeastern Wisconsin to benefit future trail development and maintenance. There are various rides available including the children's ride or the unicycle ride. Partner up with the kiddos for a parent/child tag team race or let them enjoy the children's activity tent while the adults kick back and relax after the race with tasty treats and a beer garden.

262-495-8600; www.fallcolorfestival.org

Beef-A-Rama – Minocqua – Sept. 30, 2017

Moo-ve on over to Minocqua for a day all about beef! Vendors line the streets and showcase their best dish for a chance to win the tastiest beef competition. Sample the delicious roast beef sandwiches and cheer on the beef-eating contestants. Work it all off with the Rump Roast 5K and 10K walk/run.

715-356-5266; www.beefarama.com

Kilbourn City Live – Wisconsin Dells – Sept. 30, 2017

Bring the whole family to this fantastic downtown Wisconsin Dells music festival. This year, in addition to the many musicians, there will be an artisan and farmers' market, along with plenty of autumn children's activities.

800-223-3557; www.wisdells.com

Shawano Country Miles of Art Fall Festival – Shawano – Sept. 30-Oct. 1, 2017

Get a behind the scenes glimpse at local artists and their private workshops at this celebration of art and nature. Tour the studios and galleries of local artists throughout Shawano and Menominee counties, and see colorful paintings, murals and barn quilts on display.

715-524-2139; www.smartwisconsin.com

OCTOBER

World Dairy Expo – Madison – Oct. 3-7, 2017

Wisconsin isn't the dairy state for nothing! Madison hosts this expo featuring all things dairy and then some. Herd your crew to the educational seminars and virtual farm tours to learn more about livestock and dairy. Talk to industry experts and dairy vendors at the trade show. End the day with the daily cattle show, one of the best known dairy cattle shows in the world with cattle from national and international breeders.

608-224-6455; worlddairyexpo.com

Chain O' Lakes Blues Festival – Waupaca – Oct. 6-7, 2017

Groove to the sweet sounds of blues at the 6th annual Chain O' Lakes Blues Festival. This year's musical lineup includes The Jimmy's and the lively Big N' Tasty Blues Band who will perform on the beautiful shores of the Waupaca Chain O' Lakes.

715-258-7343; www.chainolakesbluesfestival.com

Bayfield Apple Festival – Bayfield – Oct. 6-8, 2017

Celebrate the autumn harvest by touring the orchards and wineries of the Bayfield Fruit Loop. Then sample local apple-themed treats from over 60 local food vendors. Enjoy live music by the Blue Canvas Orchestra of Big Top Chautauqua and a 400-person band. View the breathtaking fall colors during the Peel Out 5K and 10K trail run at Mt. Ashwabay.

715-779-3335; bayfield.org

Audubon Days – Mayville – Oct. 6-8, 2017

Audubon Days returns for a weekend jam packed with family fun. The hilarious bed races are sure to put a smile on everyone's face. There's also great live music and performances and an Audubon Days parade. Be sure to stop by the petting zoo to see the cute animals and after browsing the craft fair.

920-387-5776; www.audubondays.com

Fall Fresh Art Tour – Pepin and Pierce Counties – Oct 6-8, 2017

Admire a variety of artwork at each of the 17 stops on this self-guided studio tour, showcasing paintings, jewelry and sculpture. Get your hands dirty with hands-on projects like wheel-thrown pottery, tile painting, or watch the blacksmithing demonstration.

715-672-8188; www.freshart.org

Fermentation Fest – Reedsburg – Oct. 6-8 and 13-15, 2017

From yogurt to coffee – One-third of what we consume is fermented. This fest features food tastings, art events, cooking classes and so much more taught by authors, chefs and experts on

fermented foods. There's also brew masters and cheese makers handing out tasty samples while discussing their fermentation process. Participate in the 50-mile self-guided Farm/Art Tour through the backroads to see art installations and mobile roadside stands selling delicious locally grown produce.

800-844-3507; fermentationfest.com

Apple Affair – Galesville – Oct. 7, 2017

It's apples as far as the eye can see! Come hungry for caramel apples, apple cider and the famous 10-foot apple pie baked in a 12-foot oven. There's also scrambled egg omelets made in one of the largest skillets you will ever see. Hop on a bike for the Apple Affair Bike Tour with distances from six to 75 miles.

608-582-2868; www.galesvillewi.com

Kickapoo Reserve Dam Challenge – La Farge – Oct. 7, 2017

This triathlon puts 500 participants to the test through the rugged hills of scenic southwestern Wisconsin and the Kickapoo Valley Reserve. Contestants paddle seven miles down the Kickapoo River then hop on a bike for a hilly 15 miles. Finish up by running three miles on a wooded trail.

608-625-2960; kvr.state.wi.us

Stone Lake Cranberry Festival – Stone Lake – Oct. 7, 2017

Cran-fans unite for the Stone Lake Cranberry Festival. Over 300 vendors sell thousands of pounds of delicious cranberries and craisins. See where the magic happens with a guided bus tour of the cranberry marshes. Show off your baking skills in the cranberry baking contest or get your cran fix with a cranberry pancake breakfast, pie social and bake sale.

715-699-0893; www.stonelakecranberryfestival.com

Pumpkin Patch Festival – Egg Harbor – Oct. 7-8, 2017

Travel to the heart of Door County for this family-friendly two-day festival. Browse the arts and crafts vendors in Harbor View Park, place a bid in the silent auction and listen to live music throughout the weekend. Kids can enjoy the carnival rides, face painting and a roaming magician.

920-868-3717; www.eggharbordoorcounty.org

Oktoberfest Celebration – Lake Geneva – Oct. 7-8, 2017

Visit downtown Lake Geneva for this kid-friendly Oktoberfest. Enjoy an authentic German polka band, pumpkin giveaway, live music and scooter games. Save room for brats, potato pancakes and the fest favorite cider donuts. Don't miss the giant pumpkin weigh-in with Wisconsin farmers competing to see whose pumpkin is the biggest.

262-248-4416; www.visitlakegeneva.com

Cranberry Fest – Eagle River – Oct. 7-8, 2017

This fest sells more than 10,000 pounds of cranberries each year! Browse over 270 arts and crafts vendors from across the country, and try tasty cran-inspired treats like cranberry brats, soda and wine. Satisfy your sweet tooth with a slice of the famous "World's Largest Cranberry Cheesecake." Participate in the Berry Bog 5K run/walk taking place on Saturday morning.

800-359-6315; www.eagleriver.org

Nekoosa Giant Pumpkin Fest – Nekoosa – Oct. 7-8, 2017

Looking for a quirky fall event? Look no further. The main event of this fest is a gigantic pumpkin hoisted to the top of a 100-foot crane and dropped spectacularly to the field below. There's also pumpkin carvers, a giant pumpkin weigh-off and the great pumpkin bake-off contest.

715-323-4533; nekoosagiantpumpkinfest.com

Rural Arts Road Trip – Calumet County – Oct. 13-15, 2017

Travel the scenic roads of Calumet County on this three-day, self-guided road trip, featuring one-of-a-kind artwork from 35 new and returning artists at nine locations. Eclectic art pieces range from hand-blown glass and watercolor to oil paintings and hand-wrought silver jewelry. On-site demos give visitors a peek at the process of making these unique pieces. Along the tour, try local and organic foods, like grass-fed beef, artisan cheeses and pure maple syrup.

920-286-0971; ruralartsroadtrip.com

Sheboygan Children and Teen's Book Festival – Sheboygan – Oct. 13-15, 2017

Children and teens alike can enjoy talks with 15 world-class authors and illustrators at four locations around Sheboygan, including the John Michael Kohler Arts Center, Mead Public Library, Bookworm Gardens and the Stefanie H. Weill Center. Little ones can take part in the silly bedtime pajama concert with author and illustrator Barney Saltzberg as he brings his characters to life.

920-458-6144; sheboyganchildrensbookfestival.org

Harvest Fest – Boulder Junction – Oct. 14, 2017

Fall fun is in full swing at Harvest Fest! Bring the family for an old-fashioned tractor drawn hayride through town. Kids can get their face painted and play games with Granny Autumn. The Boulder Junction Volunteer Fire Department hosts a Fire Fighter Challenge and live demo in honor of Fire Prevention Week. End the day with freshly made fall treats and seasonal produce.

715-385-2400; www.boulderjct.org

Autumn on the Farms at Old World Wisconsin – Eagle – Oct. 14-15, 2017

Bring the family for fun harvest activities at Old World Wisconsin's farms and 1880s village. Get a hands-on look at how Wisconsinites used their livestock and garden to sustain their families. Try it out for yourself by dyeing and spinning wool, or view a sausage making demonstration.

262-594-6301; oldworldwisconsin.wisconsinhistory.org

Chippewa Valley Book Festival – Chippewa Valley – Oct. 16-26, 2017

Calling all aspiring writers! The Chippewa Valley Book Festival spotlights local and national authors as they take part in readings and book signings, including Pulitzer prize winning author Matthew Desmond. Featured author and chef Beatrice Ojakangas will be discussing her Finnish cookbook over dinner in Eau Claire.

715-839-5004; www.cvbookfest.org

Kohler Food and Wine Experience – Kohler – Oct. 19-22, 2017

Bring out your inner foodie with this premier event featuring celebrity chef Alex Guarnaschelli and the cast of "America's Test Kitchen." This interactive experience brings together regional and local chefs and winemakers for hands-on cooking demos, pairing sessions and signature



*Kohler Food and Wine Experience
Photo Courtesy of Kohler Co.*

evening soirees. Be sure to try a twist on a Wisconsin favorite: an old fashioned made with KOHLER Original Recipe dark chocolate brandy.
855-444-2838; www.americanclubresort.com

Fall Art Tour – Baraboo, Dodgeville, Mineral Point, Spring Green – Oct. 20-22, 2017

Explore southwestern Wisconsin's finest artists and their studio spaces at this exclusive fall event. Step into a former brewery, an old public school building and an Amish log cabin for a unique view of these artists' spaces. Spend the weekend soaking up the beautiful rolling hills, autumn colors and artwork at over 55 private studios.
608-987-3787; fallarttour.com

Fall Gallery Night & Day – Milwaukee – Oct. 20-21, 2017

Get your art on with a special sneak peak of Milwaukee's artistic talent at this popular fall event at 50 businesses, stores and restaurants throughout downtown Milwaukee. Whether you're an art expert or a first-time admirer, you'll enjoy a stroll through each location and an opportunity to chat directly with the artists. Be sure to grab a bite to eat from one of the many area restaurants.
414-273-1173; historichirdward.org

Madeline Island Fall Festival – Madeline Island – Oct. 21, 2017

Explore the beauty of the Apostle Islands with this classic fall festival at Madeline Island. Stop in one of the local stores for fresh apple cider, ice cream or wine and food tastings. There's also a morning farmers' market, tours of the Madeline Island Museum and pumpkin decorating for the kids.
715-747-2801; www.madelineisland.com

Medford Area Harvest Days – Medford Area – Oct. 26-29, 2017

Head to Taylor County for a weekend of outdoor fun. Bring the family for a weekend-long scavenger hunt and 5K run/walk. Come hungry for the chili and dessert contest and kid's candy drop. Friday offers adults-only trick or treating, and wrap up the weekend with the Harvest Parade.
715-748-4729; www.medfordchamber.org

Jack O' Lantern Days – Fish Creek – Oct. 27-29, 2017

Calling all witches and goblins for this Halloween-themed fest in Fish Creek. Kick off the weekend with the Halloween Costume Parade. Kiddos can head to the ghoulish trick-or-treating throughout the village. There's also Halloween Adult Art Night at Hands On Art Studio and the "Great Pumpkin Lighting" afterwards. For otherworldly fun, board the Door County Trolley for a nightly ghost tour.
920-868-2316; visitfishcreek.com

Fairlawn Halloween Flashlight Tours – Superior – Oct. 29-30, 2017

Experience spooky fun as you creep through the darkened Fairlawn Mansion by flashlight. Learn about the superstitious life of the Victorians and how they celebrated Halloween as guides take you through the mansion that was built in 1891.
715-394-5712; superiorpublicmuseums.org

NOVEMBER

Wisconsin Book Festival – Madison – Nov. 2-5, 2017

Find your inner bookworm at this premier literary event in Madison. The four-day festival brings over 10,000 visitors to experience literature, spoken word and artistic performances from local literary talent along with nationally recognized voices.

608-229-2081; www.wisconsinbookfestival.org

Wisconsin Science Festival – Madison – Nov. 2-5, 2017

The Wisconsin Science Festival aims to inspire, engage and cultivate the curiosity of its visitors through a variety of hands-on science experiments, demos and performances. This state-wide celebration focuses on the power of knowledge and creativity to change the world as well as the next generation of global citizens.

608-316-4382; www.wisconsinsciencefest.org

Holiday Harvest Wine and Food Festival – Prescott, Stockholm, Pepin – Nov. 11-12, 2017

Explore the 11 wineries on a self-guided tour along the Great River Road Wine Trail, all in the name of wine! Each ticket holder receives a wine trail glass and a six-bottle wine tote at the first winery visited. Grab your glass, and sample delicious wines and ciders paired with local food. Reduced price tickets for designated drivers are available.

715-448-3502; www.greatriverroadwinetrail.org

Trainfest – West Allis – Nov. 11-12, 2017

It's all board at America's largest operating model railroad show in West Allis. Explore more than 70 mesmerizing, intricately-detailed running trains and talk to model train manufacturers and vendors from across the country. Kids can conduct their own train or take a train ride around the festival grounds.

262-820-3566; www.trainfest.com

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