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Link to photos:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/u/0/folders/1Qg5KgAa-O91Mks--qCNm5DVRy75owu60>

Title (in search results): US Art Festivals Worth Traveling For

## Will travel for art: US festivals you can make into a vacation

Get ready for streets full of fluttering white tents, sizzling food stands, and foot-stomping live music... it's art festival season, baby!



<https://www.shutterstock.com/image-photo/people-walk-around-art-festival-enjoying-2137689753>

Alt: Blurred view of art festival tents along a street

Caption: *Watch how much you imbibe, or this will be your view of the festival*

And there's good news: you don't need to schmooze with scarfnecks in Miami, New York, or LA to get your fix. There are interesting events all over the country.

For a down-to-earth good time and affordable arts and crafts, head to one of these fan-favorite festivals in cities worth visiting for themselves!

### Creativity in the city

- [Winter Park Sidewalk Art Festival \(Orlando\)](#)
- [New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival](#)
- [Old Town Art Fair \(Chicago\)](#)
- [Des Moines Arts Festival](#)
- [Cherry Creek Arts Festival \(Denver\)](#)
- [Art in the Pearl \(Portland, OR\)](#)
- [St. James Court Art Show \(Louisville, KY\)](#)

### Small-town gems

- [Artisphere \(Greenville, SC\)](#)
- [Lakeshore Art Festival \(Muskegon, MI\)](#)
- [Central Pennsylvania Festival of the Arts \(State College, PA\)](#)
- [Ann Arbor Art Fair \(Ann Arbor, MI\)](#)
- [Kimball Arts Festival \(Park City, UT\)](#)
- [Long's Park Art Festival \(Lancaster, PA\)](#)

## **Creativity in the city**



<https://www.istockphoto.com/photo/lake-worth-florida-street-painting-festival-gm170107776-24750925?phrase=art+festival>

Alt: A barefoot street artist making chalk art

Caption: Festival street painting – colorful, messy, always worth checking out

## [Winter Park Sidewalk Art Festival](#) (Orlando)

 Mid-March

Orlando is more than resorts and Disney adults! While everyone else is standing in line for "It's a Small World," expand your horizons at this popular arts fest in Winter Park.

Get your fill of inspiration browsing **paintings, woodwork, leather, glass, jewelry**, and a whole heckuva lot more – and if that's still not enough, the Orlando area is full of art museums and theaters. Winter Park is also a popular foodie spot, so once you walk up an appetite, head to one of the area's many restaurants for a bite.


 Mid-March

For more cool things to do when you're here, check out [WayAway's guide to Orlando](#).

## [New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival](#)

No one parties like NOLA! This massive celebration of arts and culture brings you stage after stage, act after act of jazz and blues, as well as three artisan fairs: the **Congo Square African Marketplace**, **Contemporary Crafts**, and the **Louisiana Marketplace**.

Forget Mardi Gras – if you've been longing for a taste of New Orleans culture and creativity, this is the time to visit.

 Late April through early May

For more cool things to do when you're here, check out [WayAway's guide to New Orleans](#).





[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Category:Old\\_Town\\_Art\\_Fair#/media/File:Wells\\_St\\_Art\\_Fair\\_02\\_\(185517838\).jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Category:Old_Town_Art_Fair#/media/File:Wells_St_Art_Fair_02_(185517838).jpg)

Alt: Crowds and artists' tents on Wells Street in Chicago

Caption: *Shade is nice, when you can find it...*

## [Old Town Art Fair](#) (Chicago)

Nationally renowned artists, a charming historic backdrop, plenty of food and entertainment... it's no wonder this has been **America's top-voted festival** for multiple years in a row. Even among Chicagoans, who have no shortage of excellent art fairs, it's a perennial favorite.

One thing you won't find elsewhere is the Garden Walk, **a peek into the private gardens of the Old Town Triangle**. The blooms and architecture are just as lovely as what you'll see for sale in the streets!

 Early June

For more cool things to do when you're here, check out [WayAway's guide to Chicago](#).

## [Des Moines Arts Festival](#)

If you still use the phrase "flyover country," has Iowa got a surprise for you! Des Moines's art festival started small in the '50s and has since become a **prestigious national favorite**.

Experience all the talent, fun, and delicious snacking of a well-done outdoor art event, along with interactive creative projects and an **IMDb-verified film festival**, Interrobang. And don't forget to explore the other recreational gems this corn-belt city has to offer, like the Pappajohn Sculpture Garden, the Principal Riverwalk, and Gray's Lake.

 Late June

## [Cherry Creek Arts Festival](#) (Denver)

Fireworks scare pets to death, so why not celebrate the nation's birthday more quietly by going out West and immersing yourself in the freedom of art?

Head to the Rockies to meet hundreds of national and international artists and see their work firsthand. You can also **hear some new jams** live, sample Denver's **best restaurants and food trucks**, and try your hand at **creative projects** at the family-friendly Creation Station.

Your local doggos will thank you for it!

 Early July

For more cool things to do when you're here, check out [WayAway's guide to Denver](#).



<https://www.shutterstock.com/image-photo/hand-on-potter-wheel-fair-94403890>

Alt: Closeup of a woman's hands giving a pottery demonstration

Caption: *Look for artist demos, a real treat at any art fair*

### [Art in the Pearl](#) (Portland, OR)

A real pearl among festivals, this is **one of the country's top ten favorites**, and you'd hardly guess from its high-quality arts and entertainment that it's run by a grassroots gaggle of volunteers.

Meet over a hundred artists working in a variety of media, and catch demos from gifted creators in **ceramics**, **woodworking**, **metalworking**, and more. Hard to believe it's all free... except for the food and wares (do pay for those!).

 Labor Day weekend

For more cool things to do when you're here, check out [WayAway's guide to Portland](#).

### [St. James Court Art Show](#) (Louisville, KY)

The historic Victorian homes of Old Louisville are the perfect backdrop for the hundreds of artists that set up shop here every autumn. And by *hundreds*, we mean **over 600 creators representing 17 different mediums**.



Wander all four blocks of creativity to your heart's content, and while you're in Louisville, check out Churchill Downs and the Kentucky Derby Museum. Maybe even take a ghost tour – it's October, after all!

 First full weekend in October

## Small-town gems



<https://unsplash.com/photos/xOwnyyaZ030>

Alt: Aerial view of Main Street in Park City with artists' tents


Caption: *Not even a twinkie wiener sandwich is more American than a main-street festival in Small Town, USA*

### [Artisphere](#) (Greenville, SC)

Celebrate the arts fest trifecta – visual, performing, and culinary – among the foothills of the **Blue Ridge Mountains**. In spring, the charming streets of Greenville burst into color and song from well over a hundred creative folks from around the country.

Besides the annual festival, you'll find the picturesque gardens and suspension bridge of Falls Park on the Reedy, as well as state parks to explore and waterfalls to find nearby.

When it's time to fuel up, you can't go wrong at the cafes, bars, and restaurants that make Greenville a **rising star on the foodie scene**.

 Early to mid-May


 Fly into Greenville-Spartanburg International (GSP)

### [Lakeshore Art Festival](#) (Muskegon, MI)

Lake Michigan is calling! Muskegon is worth visiting for its **26 miles of white-sand beaches** alone, but toward the end of June, the 250 juried arts and crafts exhibitors in its annual arts festival make it extra tempting. Add an **artisan food market**, street performers, and activities for kiddos, and you've got a perfect family vacation.

Split your weekend between wandering the fair and taking advantage of the region's recreational activities.

 Late June

 Fly into Grand Rapids (GRR) and drive an hour northwest to Muskegon



<https://www.shutterstock.com/image-photo/young-girl-female-age-45-getting-188942699>

Alt: A little girl getting her face painted

Caption: *See the art, BE the art*



## [Central Pennsylvania Festival of the Arts](#) (State College, PA)

Every summer, the home of the Penn State Nittany Lions welcomes artists from around the country at this juried outdoor arts festival. Traffic-heavy downtown streets are blocked off so pedestrians can explore **artists' tents**, **children's activities**, **concerts**, and **live street painting**. You can also check out the work of local artists at the People's Choice festival happening at the same time in Boalsburg.

Don't just stick to the festival, though – they don't call this Happy Valley for nothing. Explore the beautiful Penn State campus; taste-test the **local wineries, breweries, and distilleries**; stroll the waterfront and **Victorian downtown** of nearby Bellefonte; and hike or kayak in the surrounding Pennsylvania wilds.



Mid-July



Fly into the University Park Airport (SCE) directly, or fly into Pittsburgh (PIT) and drive 2.5 hours to State College

## [Ann Arbor Art Fair](#) (Ann Arbor, MI)

If you're a college football fan, you'll know Ann Arbor as the home of the Michigan Wolverines – but it's also the site of a rocking yearly arts festival. Actually, it's got **three independently juried fests in one**: the Street Art Fair ("The Original"), the Summer Art Fair, and the State Street Art Fair.

Check out all three, and remember to explore Ann Arbor itself! It's a nicely walkable college town with plenty to do, see, and EAT.



Late July



Fly into Detroit (DTW, or YIP to be closer to Ann Arbor) and drive a half hour west

For more cool things to do when you're here, check out [WayAway's guide to the Detroit area](#).



<https://www.istockphoto.com/photo/the-musicians-were-playing-rock-music-on-stage-there-was-an-audience-full-of-people-gm1319479588-406337714?phrase=festival>

Alt: Guitarist performing in front of a blurred crowd

Caption: *Live music events at art festivals are a great way to discover up-and-coming bands*

### [Kimball Arts Festival](#) (Park City, UT)

High-quality art, live music, and scenic mountains in the background – what more could you ask for? It's hardly surprising that this is one of the country's most highly rated arts festivals.

Fill up on beauty and creativity at the fair, and leave time to explore what else Park City has to offer. You probably won't be skiing those gorgeous slopes in August, but there's still an **alpine slide**, a **mountain coaster**, and **scenic lifts** to keep you busy. And if your scene is more urban than outdoorsy, Salt Lake City is a short drive west.

 Early August

 Fly into Salt Lake City (SLC) and drive 40 minutes east to Park City


For more cool things to do when you're here, check out [WayAway's guide to the Salt Lake City area](#).

### [Long's Park Art Festival](#) (Lancaster, PA)

Lancaster (pronounced LANK-uster, not Lan-caster) is smack-dab in the **heart of Amish country**, but it's also noteworthy as one of the **oldest inland cities in the US**.

Soak up some history as you visit the Labor Day art festival in Long's Park, a tree-lined, 80-acre green space with picnic areas, playgrounds, and a lake. But don't worry about getting stuck behind a horse and buggy... that's *outside* the city.

 17 Labor Day weekend

 Fly into Philadelphia (PHL) and drive 1.5 hours west to Lancaster



<https://www.shutterstock.com/image-photo/weekend-cultural-festival-public-park-blurred-2156497255>

Alt: Blurred festival tents on a grassy field

Oh dear... what did we say about imbibing?!