

# Reno Festival Calendar

A month-by-month guide to annual festivals in Reno, Nevada

Plan a Reno getaway around music, food, art, classic cars, hot air balloons, riverfront fun, and seasonal celebrations.

Use this evergreen calendar to choose the best time of year for a festival-focused trip to The Biggest Little City in the World.

## Reno Festivals at a Glance

Time of Year	Festival Ideas	Best For
Winter	Reno Latin Dance Fest, North Lake Tahoe SnowFest	Dancing, indoor events, winter add-ons
Spring	Reno Jazz Festival, Northern Nevada Celtic Ceilidh, Reno River Festival	Music, culture, outdoor fun
Summer	BBQ, Brews & Blues, Artown, Hot August Nights	Food, music, arts, classic cars
Fall	Great Reno Balloon Race, Great Italian Festival, Nevada Day Parade	Families, photography, food, history
Holiday Season	Reno Santa Pub Crawl	Adult nightlife and holiday costumes

*Note: Festival months are shown in an evergreen planning format. Exact dates, venues, hours, admission policies, and ticket requirements can change. Always confirm details with each official event website before booking travel.*

# Month-by-Month Reno Festival Planner

Use these cards to match your trip style with the time of year you want to visit Reno.

## January

### Reno Latin Dance Fest

Latin dance workshops, performances, socials, and nightlife.

Planning tip: Best for dance lovers and adults planning an indoor winter getaway.

## February / March

### North Lake Tahoe SnowFest

Parades, winter events, and Tahoe community celebrations.

Planning tip: A regional add-on for travelers using Reno as a winter base.

## March

### Reno Leprechaun Crawl

St. Patrick's Day costumes, downtown bars, and nightlife.

Planning tip: Best for adults; stay downtown and plan transportation.

## April

### Reno Jazz Festival

Jazz performances, student musicians, clinics, and university arts events.

Planning tip: A strong fit for music lovers and performance-focused travelers.

## May

### Northern Nevada Celtic Ceilidh

Celtic music, dance, vendors, and cultural celebration.

Planning tip: Good spring option for visitors interested in Irish, Scottish, and Celtic culture.

## Late May / Early June

### Reno River Festival

Outdoor adventure, food vendors, music, activities, and Truckee River energy.

Planning tip: A great first Reno festival and one of the easiest events to build a weekend around.

## June

### BBQ, Brews & Blues Festival

Barbecue, craft beer, blues music, and downtown Reno atmosphere.

Planning tip: Best for food, music, and an adults' downtown weekend.

## July

### Artown

A month-long celebration of arts, music, theater, dance, and community events.

Planning tip: Great for flexible trips because events happen throughout July.

# More Reno-Area Festival Ideas

## Late July / August

### Hot August Nights

Classic cars, cruises, concerts, and nostalgic Americana.

Planning tip: Book early; this is one of Reno's signature annual events.

## Late August / Early September

### Nugget Rib Cook-Off

A major barbecue and food festival in nearby Sparks.

Planning tip: A tasty regional add-on for food-focused Reno travelers.

## September

### The Great Reno Balloon Race

Hot air balloons, sunrise photography, and family-friendly fun.

Planning tip: Arrive before sunrise for the most memorable balloon events.

## October

### The Great Italian Festival

Italian food, wine, grape stomping, music, and downtown festivities.

Planning tip: Go hungry and consider staying downtown for easy access.

## October / November

### Nevada Day Parade

Nevada history, parade floats, and regional culture in Carson City.

Planning tip: A worthwhile fall day trip from Reno.

## December

### Reno Santa Pub Crawl

Holiday costumes, downtown nightlife, and festive bar-hopping.

Planning tip: Best for adults; book downtown lodging and plan transportation.

# How to Plan a Reno Festival Weekend

## Best First-Time Choices

- Reno River Festival
- BBQ, Brews & Blues Festival
- Artown
- The Great Reno Balloon Race

## Best for Families

- Reno River Festival
- Artown
- The Great Reno Balloon Race
- The Great Italian Festival

## Best for Food and Drink

- BBQ, Brews & Blues Festival
- The Great Italian Festival
- Nugget Rib Cook-Off in nearby Sparks

## Best for Music Lovers

- Reno Jazz Festival
- BBQ, Brews & Blues Festival
- Artown

## Festival Weekend Tips

- Book lodging early. For major Reno festivals, reserve two to three months ahead; for the biggest events, consider booking even earlier.
- Stay downtown when the festival is downtown. It can reduce parking stress and make it easier to enjoy restaurants, casinos, music, and nightlife.
- Check the official festival site. Exact dates, locations, admission rules, and schedules may change each year.
- Pack for high-desert weather. Reno can be sunny during the day and cool in the morning or evening.
- Build a weekend around the event. Add a Truckee River walk, museum visit, Midtown meal, Lake Tahoe day trip, Virginia City, or Carson City.

## Festival Packing Checklist

<input type="checkbox"/> Comfortable walking shoes	<input type="checkbox"/> Refillable water bottle
<input type="checkbox"/> Sunscreen and sunglasses	<input type="checkbox"/> Packable hat
<input type="checkbox"/> Light jacket or fleece	<input type="checkbox"/> Portable phone charger
<input type="checkbox"/> Small daypack or crossbody bag	<input type="checkbox"/> Camera or phone storage
<input type="checkbox"/> Tickets or wristbands if required	<input type="checkbox"/> Parking or rideshare plan

Plan your Reno festival trip: Read the full guide at [ThePlacesWhereWeGo.com](https://www.theplaceswherewego.com) and confirm each event with its official website before booking.

Sources to verify before final publication: official event websites, Visit Reno Tahoe, Travel Nevada, and individual festival organizers. This calendar intentionally uses general months rather than exact dates to keep it evergreen.