

# STATE & LOCAL

## FALL FESTIVALS IN NORTH CAROLINA

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Music, pumpkins, apples, cows... the early days of fall are approaching and what better way to spend them than around different parts of North Carolina experiencing the different festivals. The crisp, warm air provide for an enjoyable day outdoors; why not spend it at one of the many festivals offered around North Carolina?

No matter where you are from you should be able to find a unique and enjoyable festival for you, your family, and friends to participate in. Among the few offered in Clayton, Charlotte, Asheville, and even Durham, the assortment of events should cater to the likings of everyone.

Asheville, a perfect fall getaway, is home to the Blue Ridge Parkway; its beauty and serene hiking trails is reason in itself to visit. Asheville could be considered the epitome of fall; the changing of spring flowers to fall leaves is apparent as you drive through the Parkway. Though Asheville may be inviting through its impeccable scenery, it is also appealing to those who are partial to beer and blue grass music. Yes, the Brewgrass Festival. It is an annual showcase of over 100 types of beers and bluegrass musicians. This festival is so popular it is already sold out! Who knew beer and music could be so widespread.

While the Brewgrass Festival may be over the top for some, Charlotte offers a lower key event: Festival in the Park. This yearly event has a reputation for being sophisticated, but fun. A number of artists come out to exhibit their arts and crafts while many entertainers are all over to provide amusement for the large quantity of Charlotteans and guests that venture out every year in hopes of a new and exciting difference. Charlotte may be a big city, but the experience that is gained through this festival is one of relaxation and stimulation.

A more local festival can be found right here close in Durham, NC. Centerfest is an outdoor festival that contains entertainment,

art (visual and performance), great festival food, music, and educational activities for the entire family. The event is centered near The Farmer's Market and local restaurants near the Durham Central Park District. Centerfest has been going on, after this year, for 36 consecutive years and has been a delightful occurrence that leaves people wanting to come back year after year.

While some of these festivals may have an admittance fee and you might have to include the cost of food, the experience you take back is worth more than a few

dollars. Finding a festival, whether it be in your hometown or 25 miles from where you stay, that fits you is what's important. I have many memories of Fall Festivals from when I was younger that I hold near and dear to my heart. I always think that fall colors=fall festivals. North Carolina has an advantage to have so many unique and special opportunities that span from the Outer Banks to Western Carolina. Take a break from homework or work, and enjoy a festival!

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