



Good times and good friends await you in Knoxville, a vibrant and beautiful river city with an abundance of great restaurants, nightlife, museums, shopping, family fun and national championship sports. It's a warm, welcoming place with its own distinct history, spirited arts community and blessed with the natural beauty of the Tennessee River and the Great Smoky Mountains.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Erin Burns Freeman, Director of Communications
Knoxville Tourism & Sports Corporation
865-342-9137
865-673-4400 (fax)
ebfreeman@knoxville.org

SEASONAL FESTIVALS KEEP THE CITY'S SPIRIT MOVING

Knoxville has an array of fun, educational, cultural and musical festivals throughout the year from an Italian Street Fair to Civil War reenactments.

Spring

Big Ears Festival – This festival offers an exciting and dynamic platform of musical and artistic discovery, presenting a variety of concerts, performances and discussions that stand apart from the mainstream. Here you'll find an extraordinary array of artists so there will be music for everyone! Various downtown Knoxville locations host this event.

Dogwood Arts Festival – You know spring has truly arrived when the *Dogwood Arts Festival* hits the streets of Knoxville. This unique event has grown to become much more than a celebration of the beautiful dogwoods, azaleas and other plant life that make East Tennessee shine. It has grown to become an event that promotes and supports education, arts, music, drama, crafts, history and other related activities for the purpose of emphasizing the cultural opportunities in the city of Knoxville. Events include various arts and crafts shows, nature tours, musical events and a parade through downtown Knoxville. Other events include children's activities, and of course, an array of delectable food.

Knoxville Opera's Rossini Festival – The annual *Rossini Festival*, whose proceeds benefit the Knoxville Opera, is one of the premier cultural events in the Southeast. The festival brings a taste of Europe to East Tennessee and celebrates the color, fun and excitement of opera and Italian culture. A favorite of the festival is its "Italian Street Fair." Downtown Knoxville's Gay Street is transformed into a lively European festival with several stages featuring a range of entertainment options including

an upscale “Artisan’s Market,” the smells and tastes of authentic Italian foods and beverages, and a special children’s area with entertainment, fun and games.

“Sundown in the City” Outdoor Concert Series – *Sundown in the City* is an annual concert series that runs every Thursday night, April through June. The Market Square District, in the center of downtown Knoxville, is the perfect location for the array of musicians that take part in this staple of Knoxville entertainment. Admission is free and children are welcome. Grab a lawn chair and a blanket and enjoy the beautiful spring nights of East Tennessee.

Summer

Kuumba Festival – The *Kuumba Festival* is an annual event sponsored by African-American Appalachian Arts, Inc. Each year, participants from Knoxville and other communities in the United States and Africa come together to demonstrate the shared heritage of the African, African-American and African-Appalachian communities, and to show how this heritage is an integral part of the culture of East Tennessee region. The festival, which takes place at Chilhowee Park in June, showcases visual arts, folk arts, dance, theater, music, storytelling, games and food.

Knoxville Dragon Boat Festival – The *Knoxville Dragon Boat Festival* races pit corporate and community teams against each other for a friendly competition in 41-foot long dragon boat canoes. Cultural activities on land add to the experience of this ancient Asian ritual. This event raises money for Knox Area Rescue Ministries.

Shakespeare on the Square – This is a free, outdoor summer Shakespearean festival featuring live performances on a community stage in the Market Square District of downtown Knoxville. Past performances include, *Romeo and Juliet*, *A Midsummer Night’s Dream*, *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare*, *Hamlet* and much more!

Festival on the Fourth – *Festival on the Fourth* celebrates the birth of our nation with food, live entertainment, fun and fireworks. The festival takes place at World’s Fair Park and offers live music from a variety of performers, including traditional Appalachian music and the Knoxville Symphony Orchestra. There are numerous free activities and crafts for children, plus several vendors offering a variety of tasty food choices. Fireworks light up the night and end this celebration of our nation’s birth with a bang!

East Tennessee Irish Festival – Celebrate the sights, sounds, and tastes of our Appalachian Celtic heritage, while enjoying traditional Irish music and dancing, pipe and drum band, Irish and festival style food and drink, annual Police and Fire dept. tug-of-war, “Wee Folk” area for kids, local entertainers, crafts and arts exhibits, information about local green industries and much more. Proceeds benefit Second Harvest Food Bank.

Knoxville Jazz Festival – The Knox County Public Library teams up with renowned artists and composers to foster an appreciation for both public libraries and jazz. The libraries will host a series of lecture, clinic and free concerts leading up to a two-day jazz fest.

Fall

Tennessee Valley Fair – The *Tennessee Valley Fair* is an annual event held in Knoxville at the beginning of September that provides entertainment for the whole family. It features a traditional midway, children's rides, rodeos, livestock events, tractor pulls, demolition derbies, concerts, beauty pageants, performing arts shows, and an array of contests and competitive exhibits. Unique daily entertainment includes pig races, hands-on science exhibits, stilt walkers, comedians, karaoke contests and live gospel music. The daily fireworks displays are a favorite of all fair attendees.

Chrysler Jeep Boomsday Festival (Labor Day weekend)– The *Chrysler Jeep Boomsday Festival* consists of concerts, games and events – not to mention the largest Labor Day weekend fireworks show in the nation! Since 1987, Knoxville has enjoyed a full day of family activities and 30 minutes of spectacular fireworks, choreographed to a soundtrack, and a magnificent blast-off from the Henley Bridge over the Tennessee River.

Hola Festival – Pick up your passport and travel to Spain and the Americas... right in the heart of downtown Knoxville! A fun hands-on-cultural experience, the *Hola Festival* is a day-long Hispanic-themed event featuring music, dance, homemade food, arts and crafts, cultural heritage displays, children’s activities and a Parade of Nations.

Pellissippi State Hot-Air Balloon Festival – Since the early 1990’s, the *Pellissippi State Community College Hot Air Balloon Festival* has provided a unique event for East Tennesseans and has grown to become one of the largest hot air balloon festivals in the region.

Winter

Christmas in the City - This festival celebrates the holidays in grand fashion. With special events occurring almost daily, there is something for everyone who wishes to join in the community spirit of Christmas in Knoxville. Events include Christmas "Candlelight Tours" of Knoxville's 18th century homes, a presentation of the *Nutcracker* by the Appalachian Ballet, a traditional Christmas Eve Prelude, Candlelight Communion Services, Holidays on Ice, Fantasy of Trees and much more.

The Knoxville Tourism & Sports Corporation promotes the Knoxville/Knox County area as a premier destination for conventions, sports-related events & leisure travelers to enhance the quality of life for the citizens of the City and County, while generating economic impact & development.

"It's All Here, Just for You. Enjoy!"

www.Knoxville.org