

# Los Angeles Times

## TRAVEL

### October festivals in the West and beyond

By Avital Binshtock, Special to The Los Angeles Times  
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If you're a fall season traveler and heading out in October, you may want to drop in on one of these festivals in the West and beyond.

#### Half Moon Bay Art & Pumpkin Festival

The 38th annual fall harvest celebration will include live music, a pumpkin parade, a haunted house, autumn crafts, home-style foods, pie-eating, carving and costume contests, a 5K and 10K run - and massive pumpkins.

[www.miramarevents.com/pumpkinfest](http://www.miramarevents.com/pumpkinfest)

 [October 2008 festivals & events in the West & beyond](#)  
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#### Transylvania, Romania

October 27-November 4

Tours, shows and celebrations follow the footsteps of Bram Stoker's novel character, Count Dracula.

[www.visit-transylvania.us](http://www.visit-transylvania.us)

 [Great beer festivals of the West](#)  
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#### Fort Lauderdale, Florida

October 30-November 3

Fort Lauderdale International Boat Show

What's said to be the largest boat show in the world is in its 49th year. The event will feature more than 1,600 vessels with 160 super yachts, marine supplies, accessories, electronics. Go to the boat show's [website](#) for more information.

 [2008 California food festivals](#)  
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#### Los Angeles, California

October 30-November 9

AFI Fest

The American Film Institute's event showcases the works of new and established filmmakers. [www.afi.com/affest](http://www.afi.com/affest)

 [Western U.S. Film Festivals](#)  
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**Madison, Wisconsin**

October 31

FreakFest

Mostly college students fill State Street for the ultimate Halloween party. [www.hacmadison.com](http://www.hacmadison.com)

**West Hollywood, California**

October 31

Halloween and Costume Carnival

A huge, gay-friendly Halloween street party along Santa Monica Boulevard draws about 300,000 people, many of them outrageously costumed. [www.visitwesthollywood.com/things-to-do/calendar](http://www.visitwesthollywood.com/things-to-do/calendar)

**Minot, North Dakota**

September 30-October 4

Norsk Høstfest

North America's biggest Scandinavian festival, in its 30th year, will feature the Beach Boys and Kenny Rogers, plus Nordic crafts, costumes, entertainment, art and food. [www.hostfest.com](http://www.hostfest.com)

**Nong Khai, Thailand**

October

The Naga fireballs

An annual natural phenomenon during which hundreds of small, colorful fireballs rise out of the Mekong River and disappear into the air. Also: light-and-sound shows and a long-boat race.

**Niagara Falls, New York**

October 2-5

Niagara International Kite Festival

Kites from around the world fly over the Canadian and American sides of Niagara Falls while 30,000 spectators watch in awe. [www.niagarakite.com](http://www.niagarakite.com)

**Albuquerque, New Mexico**

October 4-12

The International Balloon Fiesta

Myriad colorful balloons in a renowned mass ascension. [www.balloonfiesta.com](http://www.balloonfiesta.com)

**Denver, Colorado**

October 9-11

Great American Beer Festival

Described as the Super Bowl of beer, this annual event doles out more than 1,800 types of beers from 450 breweries. [www.beertown.org/events/gabf](http://www.beertown.org/events/gabf)

**Santarém, Portugal**

Mid-October to mid-November

National Gastronomy Festival. The country's main fair showcases the flavors of the nation's different regions. Go to the [website](#) for more information.

**Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts**

October 17-19

Martha's Vineyard Food & Wine Festival

A celebration of local, organic and eco-friendly foods; chefs, sommeliers and artisan food producers lead classes, demonstrations and tastings. [www.mvfoodandwine.com](http://www.mvfoodandwine.com)

**Half Moon Bay, California**

October 18-19