

# Traverse City Events

12

EVENTS

## January

**Kalkaska Winterfest/Dogsled Races**  
In the village of Kalkaska, winter is celebrated with lots of food and events, including America's most well-attended sled dog race. (231) 258-9103.

## February

### Women's Winter Tour

This noncompetitive cross-country ski and snowshoeing event (for women only) features great exercise punctuated by frequent stops for food, wine and chocolate. (231) 929-7775



### North American Vasa

This premiere cross-country ski race is open to both classical and freestyle skiers, with distances of 12, 27 and 50km on the famed Vasa trail near Acme. (231) 938-4400.

## April

### National Trout Festival

The village of Kalkaska celebrates the opening of trout season with two parades, a golf outing, craft shows, flea markets, and fun for the entire family. (231) 258-9103

## May

### Old Mission Blossom Days

Originally known as the "blessing of the blossoms," this is a time of food, wine and fun amid the vineyards, wine and orchards of the Old Mission Peninsula. (800) 969-4009

### Empire Asparagus Festival

The village of Empire celebrates with games and competition, an Asparagus Dinner and a poetry contest. (231) 326-5922

## June

### Leland Wine and Food Festival

Under a big tent in Leland's picturesque Fishtown district, this event features tempting food, music and selections of wine from many nearby vineyards. (231) 271-9895

## July

### Cedar Polka Fest

This Polish-American Leelanau Peninsula community kicks up its heels at a four-day party with hearty food, drink and continuous polka music and dancing. (231) 228-3378

### National Cherry Festival

America's Cherry Capital celebrates its heritage with an eight-day party that features over 150 family activities: air shows, fireworks, three parades, games, midway rides, nightly outdoor concerts and lots of chances to taste delicious cherry products. (231) 947-4230



### Empire Anchor Days

The founding of this Lake Michigan port is commemorated by a two-day festival with a parade, games, a chicken barbecue and an evening dance on the beach. (231) 326-5287

### Friday Night Live

On Friday evenings in late summer, downtown Traverse City is closed to motor traffic to let people stroll around for music, food, shopping and family fun. (231) 922-2050.

### Suttons Bay Jazzfest

This nine-hour outdoor event includes continuous live jazz and a sampling of Leelanau County's fine wines and cuisine at Suttons Bay's

## August

### Traverse City Film Festival

Held at screening venues around downtown Traverse City, this six-day event features parties, premieres, panel discussions and free outdoor family films. (231) 392-1134

### Harbor Days

In the picturesque town of Elk Rapids, this festival features a community dinner, an open-air movie in the park, games, a carnival, a parade and fireworks. 1-800-626-7328

### Sleeping Bear Dunegrass & Blues Festival

An outdoor festival in Empire that features bluegrass, folk and rock music, as well as arts and crafts displays, food booths and a kids' tent with arts & crafts. (231) 326-5287

### Suttons Bay Art Fair

One of the most competitive art shows in Michigan, this fair at Suttons Bay's Marina Park features some of the area's best artists and crafters as well as artisans from other parts of the country. (231) 271-3050.

### Buckley Old Engine Show

This event has over 700 antique gas and steam tractors, cars and trucks - and a working 1923 steam locomotive that carries passengers around a mile of track. (231) 269-3669.



### Peshawbestown Traditional Pow Wow

The Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians holds its annual Pow Wow featuring native singers, dancers, artists and artisans. (231) 271-4104.

## September

### Traverse Epicurean Classic

The Epicurean Classic features some of America's top chefs, cookbook authors and wine experts for three days of cooking classes, wine tastings, dinners, winery tours and other events. (231) 932-0475.



### Tour de Leelanau

This European-style bicycle road race -- 78 miles for men and 52 for women -- starts in Leland and weaves through hills of the Leelanau Peninsula. (231) 922-5926

## November

### The Iceman Challenge

This competitive 27-mile cross-country mountain bike race starts in the village of Kalkaska and follows a forest trail Traverse City (231) 922-5926.

### Macaroni & Cheese Cook-Off

On the Saturday after Thanksgiving, the wineries of Old Mission offer gourmet versions of this classic made by students at the Great Lakes Culinary Institute. 1-800-969-4009.

## December

### Holiday Friday Night Live & Downtown Open House

Celebrate the season in downtown Traverse City at a special Holiday edition of the city's popular Friday Night Live block party. (231) 922-2050

### Festival of Trains

Local model-train buffs assemble working model railroad displays for this popular holiday event at the Grand Traverse Heritage Center. (231) 995-0314