

Insider Tips on How to Best Explore the Carolina Renaissance Festival

Plan Ahead

- Avoid peak traffic by arriving at or before 10:00 AM and leaving before 4:00 PM. The Peak event traffic is 11:00 AM - 3:30 PM and again at 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM. You may still incur traffic non-Festival related traffic, so keep snacks and entertainment in the car for the ride just in case.
- It is impossible to see and do it all in one day. A 5-hour visit is ample enough time to experience a quality sampling of the Festival's overall offering.
- Festival general policy states that no outside food and beverage is allowed. However, parents / grandparents can bring baby food products, medical dietary foods, and one factory sealed water bottle.
- Bring cash. Many of the games and concessionaires don't accept credit cards (and the various performers always appreciate tips).
- The Festival website provides details on several great ways to save on Festival admission that include discount tickets for seniors, military veterans, and several weekends with free admission for children.
- The Festival is an **outdoor** event. Bring sunscreen, wear comfortable shoes, and stay hydrated. Consider a small umbrella for shade and avoid wearing perfume and cologne that can attract unwanted flying insects (bug spray helps).
- Stay up to date with Festival news and information by following the Festival on social media and visiting the Festival website.

At the Festival

- Know the shows. The Festival website provides a schedule of event program and map (also handed out at the gate). Shows not appropriate for children have a rating of **LC** which is short for "Loose Cannon" and means that the shows may contain adult innuendo humor (but no profanity).
- Family friendly "must see" performances include The Jousting Knights on Horseback, The Ancient Art of Falconry, The Sea Fairies: Swimming Mermaids, The Barely Balanced Acrobats, Gravity Check Jugglers, Gypsy Geoff, Queen Isabella's Musicale & Knighting Ceremony, Hey Nunnie Nunnie, and more.

- For guaranteed seating at the shows, plan to arrive five to ten minutes early. Arrive 20 minutes early to secure seating at the Jousts.
- Start your holiday gift shopping early at the Artisan Marketplace. High quality arts & crafts include blown glass, handmade candles, pottery, jewelry, and much more.
- Some food & beverage concessions require standing in multiple lines. Divide and conquer to save time!
- The Festival village is shaped like a horseshoe. When you reach the end, a rear exit gate allows for you to take a short stroll immediately back to the front for re-entry (or to the parking lot for departure). Get your hand stamped at exiting if you wish to re-enter.

Mobility Challenges

- There is parking near the front entry for vehicles displaying disability placards. This can sometimes fill up and is another reason for arriving early. The parking is well mowed and groomed farm fields.
- There are wheelchair viewing areas at select performance locations, wheelchair accessible portable restrooms, and wheelchair rentals at the Belrose Costume Rental Shop located just outside the village front gate entrance. Motorized scooters are not available for rent, but patrons bringing their own scooters are welcome.
- Much of the Festival village is open lanes, mowed lawns, and gravel walkways. Grading is mostly flat with a modest slopes in parts. As the season progresses and more patrons walk the grounds, it is not uncommon for rocks to raise up, tree roots to become exposed, or rain erosion to occur. The Festival makes a constant effort to keep up and groom the landscape to remove any these obstacles. If a Festival day follows a significant bad weather event, it can sometimes delay this effort and result in need for a modest avoidance.