

Best Tulip Festivals in the United States

One of the most beautiful things about spring is the rebirth of nature. With the most impressive revival going to flowers. Flowers are the epitome of spring and what better way to see their beauty first hand than by going to a tulip festival? Although tulips are often associated with Holland, the United States is home to two major tulip festivals that could give Keukenhof Gardens a run for its money.

Skagit Valley Tulip Festival - Skagit Valley, Washington. Dates : April 1 - 30, 2019

Although renowned for its natural beauty, Skagit Valley was originally considered a hidden gem. However, over time it became an increasingly popular tourist destination for its stunning tulip fields. Seeing how popular Skagit Valley was becoming, Chamber directors Jerry Diggerness and Joan Houchen decided to add additional events and activities to enhance the visitors' experience in 1984. Thus becoming one of the most famous tulip festivals in North America. Additionally, Skagit Valley Tulip Festival prides itself on being open the longest - from the first to end of April. Tulip blooming times can be a bit finicky, so having a longer festival ensures that visitors have the best chance of catching the tulips in their prime.



(Landing Lights for Bees. / Photo by Martin Smith via [Flickr](#))

The best locations to see the tulips in Skagit Valley are located at the local the tulip farms. The first one is called [Tulip Town](#) which gives visitors access to explore the vast tulip fields as well as the indoor tulip displays. Their main gardens are the Tulip Summit Society

Garden, the Veterans Memorial Garden, as well as the Waterwheel and Windmill Gardens. Although this is impressive on it's own, Tulip Town also host various activities such as a garden show and a trolley ride through the fields. They also sell fresh cut tulip bouquets, bulbs, and decorative pots for those who want to try their own hand at cultivating these beauties. Tulip Town is open seven days a week, 9am to 5pm. Admission is \$7 (cash only) and free for children 6 and under.



(Skagit Valley Tulip Festival. / Photo by Kevin Pieper via [Flickr](#))

The second farm to visit is [RoozenGaarde](#), who prides themselves with being the biggest tulip bulb producer in the United States. RoozenGaarde is also the largest tulip farm in Skagit Valley, covering 5 acres of land producing almost ½ a million tulips in over 150 varieties. After viewing the main garden, one can continue to walk through the adjacent tulip fields or drive through the vast valley to experience all RoozenGaarde has to offer. To make it easier to navigate, visitors receive a bloom map upon arrival. This indicates which field has which color of tulips so you can be sure to see your favorites. RoozenGaarde is also open seven days a week, 9am to 7pm. Admission is \$7 per person and \$6 for those with a military ID. Children 5 and under get in for free.

Tulip Time Festival - Holland, Michigan. Dates: May 4 -12, 2019

An equally amazing assortment of tulips can be found in the quaint town of Holland, Michigan. Voted by Reader's Digest as "The Best Small Town Festival in America", the [Tulip Time Festival](#) celebrates the town's rich Dutch heritage with dazzling displays of Holland's national flower. 2019 in particular is a wonderful time to visit as it will mark the festival's 90th anniversary. The town will be "painted orange" with a mass display of orange tulips to commemorate this special occasion.



(Window on the Waterfront Park. / Photo by Tulip Time Festival, Inc. via www.tuliptime.com)

Visitors can get an up close look at over 5 million tulips as they walk leisurely throughout the town - along the streets, in parks, and at public attractions. They also offer guided bus tours around the town hosted by locals in traditional Dutch clothing for a more in depth experience. Additionally, there are other festivities happening in the premises such as a carnival, quilt show, artisan market, floral arranging classes, and traditional Dutch dancing. There is no general admission fee for the Tulip Time Festival, however pricing for the activities mentioned above can be found on the festival's website.

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