

Fort Wayne

Free Things To Do

Free Things to Do Any Time of Year in Fort Wayne, Indiana

Looking for an affordable weekend getaway with the family in the Midwest? Fort Wayne, Indiana is a perfect destination offering many free activities you can enjoy with your family any time of year!

1. Browse the newest exhibit at the **Fort Wayne Museum of Art** with free admission on Thursdays from 5:00 to 8:00 PM. Shop the Paradigm Gallery in-person or online for unique gifts and items created by local and national artists!
2. Uncover great local food at many of Fort Wayne's farmers markets. Explore [VisitFortWayne.com/farmersmarkets](https://www.visitfortwayne.com/farmersmarkets) for specific times.
3. Fort Wayne is a creative canvas, bursting with public art around every corner! Use the free **Fort Wayne Public Art Trail** to find more than 150 murals and sculptures around the area. You can even check-in on the mobile pass when you visit the public art pieces and earn prizes as you complete more check-ins!
4. Browse the nation's largest public **genealogy collection** at the Allen County Public Library Downtown. Visit in person and even enjoy a free, one-on-one consultation with a genealogy librarian, or start your search from home using their online databases! You can also join their free virtual programming, covering a range of topics.
5. Hike, Bike, and Paddle Fort Wayne's land and water trails with the **Fort Wayne Outdoor Pass!** Similar to the Public Art Trail, you can get this free pass on your phone, check-in as you explore the different trail locations, and earn great prizes as you complete more check-ins!
6. Experience the breathtaking view from the Tree Canopy Trail at **Promenade Park** in downtown Fort Wayne! While you're there, take a walk on the historic Wells Street Bridge, enjoy the relaxing swings, or grab a pint from Trubble Riverside.
7. See what's new at **The Landing**. This historic corner of downtown was the city's first major hub of activity in the 1800s, and has been restored with new energy and lots to explore. Stroll the pedestrian street to discover new restaurants, shops, and public art.
8. Explore the **Allen County Public Library** – one of the best in the nation! Kids love the downtown branch, complete with reading nooks, aquariums, a toddler play area, and free programming all summer long.
9. Soak up history at the **Old Fort**; the grounds are open to visitors every day with special programming monthly. During the summer, they even have guided tours and re-enactments offered weekly – so check for details to plan your perfect time to visit!
10. Take a tour of Fort Wayne's great nature preserves and parks including **Little River Wetlands, Eagle Marsh**, many of the **ACRES Land Trust preserves, Lindenwood Nature Preserve**, and **Salomon Farm Park**.
11. Explore Fort Wayne's **120 miles of trails**. Highlights include the 18 miles of hilly Aboite Trails, the Rivergreenway, the Indiana Native Tree Walk, the historic 5.5-mile Towpath Trail, the Pufferbelly rail-to-trail. Check out these 8 bike trail itineraries perfect for the family.
12. Find the names of loved ones or pay your respects to the fallen at the **Vietnam Memorial Wall** in Fort Wayne – a 360 ft., 80% size replica of the original Vietnam Memorial Wall in Washington D.C. The Vietnam Memorial Wall is located at the **Veteran's National Memorial Shrine and Museum** at 2122 O'Day Road.
13. Set out for a tour of an Amish community in **Grabill, Indiana**.
14. Take the **kids out to eat for free** at one of the many restaurants where kids eat free.
15. Visit the breathtaking **Allen County Courthouse*** (cell phones and cameras not admitted.) Group tours available by appointment Monday – Friday 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM or you can take the self-guided tour. *Call ahead to confirm tours are permitted for the date you plan to visit.
16. Pick up a **Downtown Walking Tour** map and explore the city's modern heart combined with Fort Wayne history; stop by the **Visitors Center** for guides to ten historic Fort Wayne districts; or pick up a map and hit the ARCH Heritage Trail downtown.
17. Walk through **Lindenwood Cemetery** and visit the graves of many of Fort Wayne's founders (don't forget to do some grave rubbings.)
18. Let the kids explore at many of our favorite playgrounds including **Taylor's Dream** and our 53 other playgrounds.
19. Venture through the stacks at **Hyde Brothers Booksellers**.
20. Explore some of **Fort Wayne's parks** including Pawster Park – perfect for your pooch; Swinney or Shoaff parks for some frisbee golf; and public gardens at Lakeside, Foster, and Freimann Square.

21. Browse **antiques** at any one of Fort Wayne's local antique shops.

22. Visit **Parkview Field** — open to the public on days when there are no games or events! Walk the concourse or bring your lunch to enjoy with a great view of the ballpark.

23. Window shop at many of Fort Wayne's **boutique shops** featuring locally handcrafted items and unique finds.

24. Visit **Creative Women of the World** to learn about Fort Wayne's global impact on women in poverty and shop the store's fine artisan products.

25. Browse works of art at Fort Wayne's **favorite galleries** including Artlink Contemporary Gallery, Orchard Gallery, Northside Galleries, and the University of Saint Francis' five galleries.

26. Explore the **Rolland Center for Lincoln Research** at the Allen County Public Library. Opened in January 2022, this amazing new experience brings thousands of photographs, letters, documents, and pieces of art to life using interactive, immersive technology.

27. Enjoy local fine art alongside your morning coffee at Old Crown Coffee Roasters, Mocha Lounge, Firefly Coffee House, Fortezza Coffee, and Conjure Coffee.

28. Tour the **Hamilton Sculpture Garden**, a tribute garden to Emerine Hamilton, near the banks of the St. Marys River in Headwaters Park.

29. Enjoy **shopping** and free indoor play areas at Glenbrook Mall or outdoor shopping at Jefferson Pointe!

30. Take in the views of a beautiful limestone quarry at the **Hanson Observation Deck**. This observation deck is open to the public and will provide you with an amazing view of the quarry.

31. Stroll the sacred at the **Diocesan Museum**.

32. As you explore downtown, see if you can complete this historical **Scavenger Hunt**. (When you're done, check your answers here!)

33. Stop by the **Fort Wayne Visitors Center** for more ideas and suggestions!

Seasonal Free Things To Do

As the seasons change, so do many of Fort Wayne's great activities. Save on your next weekend away in Fort Wayne this summer.

1. Every Saturday evening this summer, explore downtown and catch live music from favorite local bands during **Downtown Live!**

2. Make a **splash** at one of Fort Wayne's Splash Pads: Buckner, Kreager, Shoaff, Memorial, McCormick, Waynedale, Shoaff, Headwaters, Riverside Gardens, Robert E. Meyers or Franklin Park. Or, splash in the Kids' Canal at Promenade Park! Most Fort Wayne splash pads open Memorial Day weekend.

3. Pack your lunch or pick up from your favorite local restaurant or food truck and enjoy a free concert at **Lunch on the Square** at Freimann Square every Thursday, 11:30am - 1:30pm, June through August.

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4. Grab a free ticket for a Fourth of July celebration with the Fort Wayne Philharmonic **Patriotic Pops** concert on July 3 at Parkview Field.

5. Head to **Promenade Park** for music near the riverfront! Enjoy the Muddy River Concert Series, every other Wednesday evening, celebrating themes of heritage, culture, and connection. Or check the schedule and take in one of the Riverfront Sunday Heritage Concert Series ensemble performances, happening on select Sundays throughout the summer.

6. Experience Fort Wayne's vibrant arts community during **Taste of the Arts** on August 27! This year's festival will feature in-person experiences around downtown at Arts Campus Fort Wayne, The Landing, and Promenade Park. Celebrate the rich diversity of arts and culture through live performances, kids' activities, visual art, and amazing local foods.

7. Delight your taste buds at **BBQ RibFest** at Headwaters Park, with free admission until 5:30 pm on Thursday, June 16 - Saturday, June 18.

8. Find Fort Wayne's beautiful flowers with this guide to **Fort Wayne in Bloom**.

9. Bring your own kayak and explore any of Fort Wayne's three rivers: the St. Joseph, the St. Marys, and the Maumee. Or, rent a kayak, canoe, or paddleboard from **Fort Wayne Outfitters** for a great price!

10. Celebrate at Fort Wayne's largest summer festival, the **Three Rivers Festival**, July 8-16. The festivities conclude with a downtown fireworks show on July 16.

11. Bring your racquets and visit the **public tennis courts** around the city at Kreager Park, Foster Park, Swinney Park, Lakeside Park, or one of our other great parks.

12. Visit **Salomon Farm Park** to see a working farm in action. Visit the goats, donkeys, sheep, and other farm animals, walk or bike the 1.8-mile trail around the property, enjoy bird-watching, or discover your new favorite photo spot! TIP: Later this year, check out the amazing sunflower field in mid- to late-August.

13. Roam the famous **St. Joe Pickle Festival**, July 14-16.

14. Grab your skateboard or skates and show off your skills at the outdoor **Lawton Skate Park**.

15. Catch a free concert every Saturday night at 6pm during **Rock the Plaza** at the Downtown Library Plaza.



Looking for another way to save? The Fort Wayne Adventure Pass offers you admission to four amazing attractions — for ONE low price! [VisitFortWayne.com/AdventurePass](https://www.visitfortwayne.com/adventurepass)