

Morel Mushroom Festival May 14–15 in Muscoda, Wis.

Hunting and eating morel mushrooms and enjoying the Morel Mushroom Festival in Muscoda, Wis., May 14–15 is an annual rite of spring. Visitors from around the region make the annual excursion to Muscoda for the coveted privilege of a taste of delicious goodness,

The morel mushroom has the same appearance as a crinkled fallen brown-to-gray leaf, making it seem like a search for a leaf in a leaf stack. But in Muscoda, Wisconsin's Morel Mushroom Capital, the Morel Mushroom Festival provides the opportunity to buy morel mushrooms (as available) without having to hunt for them during its brief season. The event is held annually the weekend following Mother's Day.

The Muscoda Morel Mushroom Festival offers family fun for children to adults. The weekend festivities includes bounce houses, a chalk drawing contest, arts and crafts fair, flea market, Bartels Chainsaw Carving Show, Lower Wisconsin Riverway Walking Tour, Effigy Mound tours, winery tours, the Muscoda Volunteer Fire Department Annual Steak Feed and food for sale from local vendors. Explorers in search of adventure and a fun way to poke around the hills and valleys surrounding the village can participate in geocaching on Saturday. Go to www.geocaching.com to sign up in advance.

The Tasting Room at Mushroom Headquarters in the heart of Muscoda offers visitors samples of fried morel mushrooms (while they last), Wirtz Morel Microbrew, a microbrew beer crafted locally by Wirtz Haus of Brew, a Wild Morel and Leek Jack Cheese made locally at Meister Cheese Company. Or, they can savor a mushroom brat and enjoy the other culinary samples from Roots Chocolates, Porter Maple Syrup, Spurgeon Wine and Newport Coffee & Breads.

The parade featuring the UW Marching Band, will be held at 2 p.m. on Wisconsin Avenue through downtown Muscoda.

Located in the heart of the Lower Wisconsin State Riverway, a drive to Muscoda is a great day trip along Highway 60, which follows the graceful curves of the Wisconsin River.

For more details and a complete schedule of the Muscoda Morel Mushroom Festival, go to www.muscoda.com, or call 608-739-3182.

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The Muscoda Mushroom Festival is held the weekend after Mother's Day each year. Thousands of visitors from the region attend the two-day event. The Mission of The Muscoda Mushroom Festival is to promote the morel mushroom, boost the local economy, promote tourism and provide a vehicle for nonprofits to raise money that is returned to the community.