

King Richard's Faire



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His fans roar their approval as Sir James knocks his opponent down into the dirt of the jousting arena with a mighty blow from his shield. Men, women and children of all ages cheer on their champion over the loud boos echoing from the other side of the field. This may sound like a scene from medieval Europe, but this was actually one of many events taking place at King Richard's Faire this weekend in Carver.

Enjoying its 30th year, the Faire is the largest medieval faire in New England and takes place on weekends from September 3rd to October 23rd. The 80-acre site in Carver, Massachusetts is only a half hour drive from New Bedford and attracts thousands of visitors who are transported to a time of jousting, jesters, wenches, minstrels and nobility. Entry costs \$27 dollars for adults (cash only), which allows you access to any of the eight stages that feature ongoing performances ranging from child friendly musicals, to live tiger shows, to raunchy comedy.



Most of the staff you will meet, from the bar wench to King Richard himself, stay well in character, giving this event an authentic feel. The costumes are impressive, even from those not working there. Many of the Faire's more creative guests opt to dress the part for the event and there are no shortages of corsets, swords, armor and feathered hats to be seen. The grounds for King Richard's Faire are constructed with medieval looking sets

that include shops, food stands, and gaming activities.

The Faire is certainly a fun event; this was my third time going. However, you should be warned that it can be quite pricey. While the stages can keep you entertained all day long for the cost of admission, playing the games such as archery or knife throwing will cost you more. Most items are paid for with tickets which can be purchased on the grounds, but you will want to bring cash or hit up ye olde ATM that is right inside the entrance. Food and beverage is also typically priced for any theme park. For example, a basket of waffle fried will cost you about \$5.50 (11 tickets). Still, the roasted turkey legs and chowder bowls are legendary if you have the money. Additionally, the shops offer some very nice souvenirs and authentic artisan made items, but the prices on these can also be steep.

King Richard's Faire is enjoyable for both children and adults as it offers a variety of options. There is a children's stage called Kid's Cove which offers musicals, puppet shows and other events for kids throughout most of the day. Children will also enjoy seeing the jousting and sword fighting and love the Tale of the Tiger. However, many of the comedy shows include innuendos that might not be appropriate for young children. For example, the popular Mud Show is

hilarious in its messiness and will have adults rolling with its naughty humor, but you may not want to bring the little ones.

If you're not bringing children along, the Faire is a great time for those 21+ to enjoy cold beer, wine, mead or hard cider. The Faire sells "Yards of Beer" which are literally yard tall souvenir cups which run for 10 dollars (20 tickets). If you bring a group of friends, grabbing a yard of beer and checking out some of the PG-13 comedy shows is a great way to spend a crisp fall day. And no matter what age you are, seeing a 900-pound Liger is always awesome!

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