

Tuxedo, New York, U.S.

By Tom Kirvan

New York Renaissance Faire

ANNUAL RENAISSANCE FAIRE HIGHLIGHTS THE 'GOLDEN AGE'

Home of the annual New York Renaissance Faire, Tuxedo, N.Y. serves as a fitting host for the gala event that runs from August 15 to October 4 this year. The event is open Saturdays, Sundays, and on Labor Day.

Located about an hour's drive north of New York City, Tuxedo has long been associated with the "black tie" evening wear that became popular during the Gilded Age that spanned three decades during the late 1800s.

But the New York Renaissance Faire pays homage to an earlier era, the Elizabethan Age, the so-called golden age of English history marked by the reign of Queen Elizabeth I from 1558 to 1603. The period was famous for cultural renaissance, theatrical triumphs, and global exploration. It also was best known for the explosion of theatre and poetry, as playwrights like William Shakespeare and Christopher Marlowe transformed the stage, making it a cultural hub for all social classes.

Renaissance themes are highlighted during the New York event that typically attracts around 160,000 patrons over the course of its late summer to early autumn run.

The popular event was born in 1978 under a different name – the New York Renaissance Festival – and took on its current identity in 1996 after merging with the Renaissance Entertainment Corporation that presents similar faires elsewhere in the U.S.

Stationed in a massive, wooded parcel that was formerly a botanical garden, the site of the New York Renaissance Faire is transformed each year into an immersive 65-acre Elizabethan village that transports visitors to 16th-century England.

The Renaissance Faire features an array of attractions, ranging from "daredevil acrobats, soulful musicians, side-splitting comedians, three full-contact jousts, and hundreds of performers who bring the city to life," according to a spokesperson for the event.



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Here are the main highlights that make the event a fan favorite each year:

- **Thrilling Shows:** The Faire features more than 125 continuous daily performances across 20 stages, including high-energy jousting tournaments, fire-wielding comedy acts, and sword-swallowing routines
- **Artisans Market:** Visitors can browse more than 100 distinct shops selling handmade goods, ranging from custom leather armor and fairy wings to pottery and jewelry.
- **Interactive Pub Crawls:** Visitors can join the lively tavern crawls, which include comedic banter, games, and a variety of alcoholic beverages.
- **Immersive Characters:** The Renaissance Faire is filled with professional actors portraying everyone from Queen Elizabeth I and Robin Hood to pirates and fairies, all of whom take special joy in improvising with the crowd.
- **Traditional Food and Games:** Feast on massive turkey legs and bangers and mash while enjoying games of skill like axe throwing, archery, and tomato tossing at the infamous "Veggie Justice" booth.

The event has long been a training ground for stage and screen actors who use the festive opportunity to grow in their careers, invariably spending months in preparation for the Renaissance Faire. The event also supports several charitable causes to encourage reading programs and blood donations.

According to social media influencer Nixie Travels, the New York Renaissance Faire rates as a must-see event.

"One of the loveliest renaissance faires in the country," Nixie exclaimed. "This beautiful, well-groomed former botanical garden is the setting for top-notch performers and world-class artisans. One can truly escape the hustle and bustle of everyday life simply by wandering this luscious forest site. So much to see and do, so little time!"

The comments were echoed by influencer Jherlyn Lopez in a glowing review.

"The New York Renaissance Faire was an amazing opportunity to experience a family fun day, full of entertaining, magical creatures and costumes, as well as good food all across the venue," Lopez declared. "The ambiance was great, and fantastic products and magical structures really take you back in time. Absolutely recommend it as a place to visit with friends and family."

Image credit: Vladimir Korostyshevskiy (2011 September 19). *Knights jousting during the New York Renaissance Fair in Tuxedo, New York* [Photograph]. Shutterstock. Retrieved August 17, 2026 from [Shutterstock](#)