

Family-friendly festivals on the Long Beach Peninsula

LONG BEACH PENINSULA, WASH. — The Long Beach Peninsula delivers an array of festivals and events ideally suited to vacationing families. Starting with SummerFest, family entertainment and activities include a beach walk or run, parades, sand sculpture competitions, kite demonstrations, fairs, fireworks and more.

Each weekend now through Labor Day, families will find street entertainers, hands-on activities, live music and more as part of Long Beach's ongoing SummerFest series. Activities can be experienced in Fish Pan Alley, in pocket parks in downtown Long Beach and on the stage in Veterans Field.

Making their annual tour, Tall Ships are scheduled to call at the Port of Ilwaco. Lady Washington will tie up from Friday, May 29 through Tuesday, June 2. Ticketed visitors are welcome to go aboard to learn the workings of a tall ship, sing sea shanties and hear maritime tales. Hawaiian

Chieftain and Lady Washington are slated for additional visits July 6 through 8 and August 27 through 29.

The entire family (children in strollers and dogs on leashes included) is invited to participate in the Beach to Chowder 5K and 10K walk/run, on Saturday, June 20. The event starts under the "World's Longest Beach" arch on the Bolstad beach access, Long Beach. Awards with medals and steaming bowls of chowder are after the finish. The Discovery Trail Half Marathon will be run that same morning. Access <http://beachtochowder.com>

July events

Independence Day is celebrated in a big way on the Long Beach Peninsula. Firework displays take place in Ilwaco on July 3 and in Long Beach on July 4. Children are invited to participate in an Old Fashioned 4th of July Parade in Ocean Park also on July 4.

Following the celebrations, the Grassroots Garbage Gang invites everyone to tidy up at one of three annual beach cleanups scheduled for July 5.

Sandsations will bring gigantic-scale sandbox whimsy to Long Beach, July 15 through 19. During the week, expert sculptures will be on hand for demos and instruction. July 18 is the big day with a Sand Sculpting Extravaganza on the beach near the Long Beach boardwalk. Families are welcome to enter the competition.

August events

A multigenerational family favorite, the colorful Washington State International Kite Festival includes kite-flying lessons, kite-making classes, amateur and professional competitions, lighted night flies, mass ascensions and more from Aug. 17 to 23. Activities will take place along the Bolstad Ave. beach access and parallel to the Long Beach boardwalk.

An hour's drive from the Long Beach Peninsula, the classic Pacific County Fair will bring farm animals, gardening, amuse-

ments, carnival rides, blue ribbon competitions, fair food and more to Menlo, Aug. 26 through 29.

About the Long Beach Peninsula

With its mix of restaurants, ultra-fresh seafood, welcoming and pet-friendly lodging, museums, lighthouses, trails, parks and a 28-mile long, white-sand beach, the Long Beach Peninsula continues to be one of the Northwest's

most enjoyable family destinations. Located two hours from Portland and three from Seattle, the Long Beach Peninsula is a longtime favorite for those seeking easily accessible outdoors, a variety of family friendly restaurants, historical attractions and more. For event and visitor information, call the Long Beach Peninsula Visitors Bureau at 800-451-2542 or access www.fun-beach.com



Photo by Lynette Rae McAdams

The Beards Hollow Ocean Overlook, on Washington State Route 100 scenic loop in Ilwaco offers an amazing view.



Photo by Damian Mulinix

Fireworks reflect off the water of the Ilwaco harbor.



Photo by Natalie St. John

Participants attempt a synchronized banner dip during a parade on the Long Beach Peninsula.

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Photo by Damian Mulinix

Long Beach Peninsula beaches are packed watching fireworks displays.