

# Leesburg Bike Fest, Florida

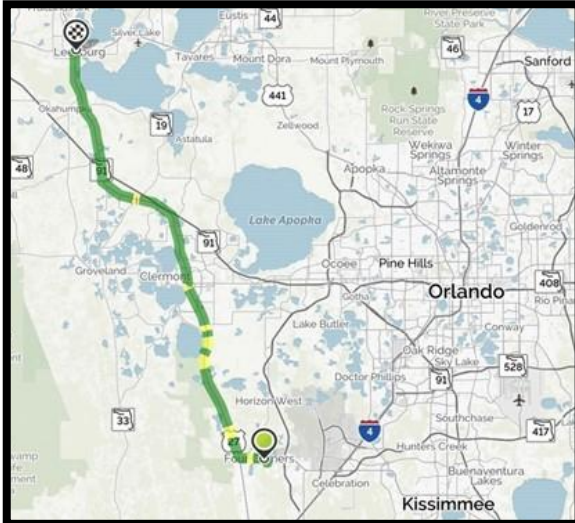
Stuart Jones

I had a chance to pay a visit to this annual event back in 2015 while staying in Florida, with some great weather it certainly made it a memorable time. It's worth giving this one a look if you are ever out that way.

into a music festival; bring in headlining acts like Lita Ford and Puddle of Mudd, offering up top-notch entertainment for free. Southern hospitality is alive and well in Leesburg.

Town Square was the epicentre of entertainment. Food vendors lined the perimeter while a steady line-up of bands played throughout the day and night. Lita Ford shredded her electric guitar Friday night while the performance by Wes Scantlin and Puddle of Mudd took it to a whole 'another level Saturday. Live music was a constant at the rally as stages could be found all around the downtown district.

The long list of popular Leesburg events included a Tattoo Expo featuring 40 regional and international artists, tattoo guns at the ready to spread their sub-dermal artistry. Motorcycle riding



Leesburg is a city in Lake County, Florida, United States. The population was 15,956 at the 2000 census. As of 2005, the population recorded by the U.S. Census Bureau was 19,086.

Leesburg was around a 1-hour drive (40 miles) from where I was staying in Orlando.

Nineteen years ago, the first Leesburg Bike Fest was held. Like many rallies, it got off to a modest start, a handful of vendors, a few events, and maybe 5,000 people filtering through the town over the course of a weekend. But the seed had been sown, word spread, and the rally blossomed. The businesses of Leesburg recognized the economic boost the rally presented, filling hotels, restaurants, and stores in the downtown district. Nineteen years later, those 5,000 rally-goers has boomed as between 100,000 – 200,000 visitors fill the town over a three-day period. Leesburg has responded in kind by shutting down its Main Street to regular traffic, allowing only motorcycles to cruise up and down the street, bikes squeezing into every crevice on both sides and even the middle of the thoroughfare. They turn their Town Square

A vibrant promotional poster for the 19th Annual Leesburg Bike Fest. The poster features a large eagle with a banner that says 'STOP AT THE BIKE FEST'. Below the eagle, it lists '3 HEADLINERS', '80+ CONCERTS', '300+ VENDORS', '12+ VENUES', and '5 HOTBODY CONTESTS BIKESHOWS &amp; EVENTS!'. It also lists activities like 'Rat's Hole Custom Bike Show', 'Biker Games', 'Drill Teams', 'Tattoo Expo', 'LED Parade', 'Poker Runs', 'Hot Rod Show &amp; Movie Cars', and 'Demonstrations &amp; More!!!'. The poster includes photos of headliners Lita Ford, Puddle of Mudd, and Marshall Tucker Band, along with a hot body contest winner. At the bottom, there are logos for Budweiser, Gator Harley Davidson, Lake County Florida, Leesburg Partnership, and Born to Ride, along with the website www.LeesburgBikefest.com.





was taken to extremes by both the riders of Team Extreme Street Bike Stunts and Jerry Palladino's "Ride Like a Pro" squad, while the high-flying antics of the Disc-Connected K9's provided entertainment of another kind. Progressive Insurance chose Leesburg to debut Flo's Chop Shop, bringing in barbers from SHED out of Austin to provide free straight razor shaves or trim up beards. Entertainment was non-stop, stages filled with bikini-babes battling for bucks in the Ms Budweiser and Ms Leesburg Bike Fest competitions. Saturday ladies got their fill of eye candy as buff bodies stripped of their shirts and strutted their stuff in the Mr Lucky Man contest



Views down Main Street

