Itinerary for a Week at the World’s Biggest Fish Fry 2020

The World’s Biggest Fish Fry (WBFF) 2020 lasts more than a week; here’s how to enjoy it from the first event on Saturday, April 18 till the carnival packs up the following weekend! Come on, clear your calendar and Experience Paris!

**Friday** - Roll into town and get settled in. Stop by the Chamber or the World’s Biggest Fish Fry Headquarters and pick up a 2020 souvenir book. Check out the schedule of events, drive around and get your bearings. Drop in at Jack’s Java downtown or Sweet Jordan’s for coffee and a snack and make some new friends. You’ll find locals to be friendly and knowledgeable. Treat yourself to dinner out and get ready for a big week.

**Saturday**
For runners, the 5K Hushpuppy Dash is an exhilarating way to start Fish Fry Week! Join other enthusiasts for a scenic route that includes our 70’ Eiffel Tower and several of our signature fish, painted by local artists. Registration begins at 7 am at Henry County High School; race time is at 8 am.

*Travel tip – Return to the park at night to see the Eiffel Tower illuminated.*

You’ve heard of bed races, but have you ever witnessed the World’s Biggest Fish Fry Bed Races? Word to the wise, “Watch your toes!” Registration starts at 11 am with races beginning at 11:30, at First United Methodist Church, East Blythe Street in Downtown Paris.

Have some lunch on or near the square and browse our eclectic shops and boutiques. Check out the artwork and stories of Back Alley Paris or relax in our Fountain Plaza. Don’t forget to download the Downtown Paris App for history, sales and more info. Wander north on Poplar Street to view beautiful, historic homes and visit The Paris-Henry County Heritage Center, a 1917 house museum.

*Travel tip - Drive a few miles down Hwy 54 to Yoder’s Country Store. It’s chockfull of eclectic foods, household items, delectable snacks and a deli.*

The Demolition Derby is a Fish Fry mainstay. Enjoy this cool, spring night and watch folks have a bang-up good time…literally! The friendly crunching of metal begins at 7 pm at the Henry County Fairgrounds.
**Sunday**
Take it easy this morning, then head to the lake for lunch. Several marinas rent kayaks, fishing boats and pontoons so you can explore our part of the Tennessee River up close.

**Monday**
While the rest of the world heads to work, you have time to play, but at 7 pm it’s time to go downtown and dance under the stars at the **Fish Fry Street Dance**. One of our popular, local bands will have you tapping your toes, singing along and clapping for more. FREE EVENT!

**Tuesday**
Enjoy breakfast and a second cup of coffee, then hop in the car to explore a world-class attraction that delights all ages. Just an hour away, **Discovery Park of America** in Union City, TN has exhibits ranging from natural history to regional history, space, technology, transportation and more.

*Travel tip - Much of Discovery Park is under one enormous roof -perfect for a rainy-day.*

Have dinner at one of our delightful eateries, then put on your dancing shoes for **County Dance Night**. This popular event takes place at the fairgrounds and features one of our toe-tapping country bands. Afterwards, enjoy some cotton candy and a carnival ride or two before tucking in.

**Wednesday**
Stop by the Chamber and grab a **Tennessee National Wildlife Refuge** brochure. The Refuge Visitor Center specializes in edutainment - creative ways to learn about wildlife, the environment, conservation and community history. Spend time relaxing in a rocking chair on the back porch overlooking the water or inside viewing the osprey cam. Locals wait all year for the opening of the **All-You-Can-Eat Fish Tent** at the Fairgrounds at 5pm. Be there at 4:30 to watch the Hostess Princess throw out the first hushpuppy of the season! After you’ve eaten your last, delectable piece of fish and washed it down with a cold Pepsi Cola, walk over to the **Christian Concert** or the **carnival**, on site.

**Thursday**
Spend the day at **Land Between the Lakes National Recreation Area (LBL)**. There’s lots to enjoy on this 170,000 acre playground, but the **1850s Homeplace, a Working Farm and Living History Museum**, just an hour east of Paris, is a local favorite. The knowledgeable interpreters in period garb love to have visitors join in their day. So have a seat at the spinning wheel or grab a bucket of water for the oxen and find out what’s like to be at home on the farm in Tennessee.

After exploring LBL, head back to town for dinner. The fun starts at the fairgrounds at 7:30 with an exciting evening of bull riding, barrel racing and mutton busting under the April night sky.
Friday
Who doesn’t love a parade? Thousands of people flock to Paris for the World’s Biggest Fish Fry Grand Parade, so rise early to find the perfect spot. The band steps off at 10 am, marching from the corner of Eastwood Street and Tyson Avenue down the two-mile route to the fairgrounds. Bring a chair and experience floats, boats, bands and more!

All-you-can-eat catfish starts at 11 am. The Arts and Crafts Show and carnival are in full swing today and the rodeo begins this evening at 7:30.

Travel tip – From Wednesday till Saturday, 6,000 pounds of catfish will be served. Friday is the Fish Tent’s busiest day.

Saturday
Fish Fry fun moves to the Courthouse Lawn in Downtown Paris today with the Small Fry Parade at 10 am. Enjoy the laid back atmosphere as little ones ride hand-pulled floats or march with their kindergarten class.

Following the Small Fry Parade, the thrilling Catfish Races begin around 10:30 on the court house lawn. Race a catfish or just enjoy watching, either way, you’ve got a story for the folks back home.

Got wee ones? They love the Fish Fry Chalk Crawl on the sidewalk adjacent to the court house. If they’d rather catch a fish than draw one, the Junior Fishing Rodeo runs from 11 am – 1 pm at Williams Lake with lots of prizes and fun.

Meanwhile, the fairgrounds is still hopping with:
10 am – 8:30 pm – Arts and Crafts Show
11 am – midnight – Carnival
11 am – 6 pm – All you Can Eat Catfish at Fish Tent
7:30 pm – Bull riding, barrel racing and mutton busting

Sunday
1 pm – 6 pm – This is your last chance for a funnel cake and a Farris wheel ride. Travel safely back home and come back soon!