## **Arkansas Blues Festivals**

Arkansas lays at least partial claim to birthplace of bluegrass, but also the blues. Here is a sampling of some great blues festivals in the Diamond State.

Bikes, Blues & BBQ location: Fayetteville

September

Bikes, Blues & BBQ is the largest motorcycle rally in the United States benefiting local charities. Last year, it was estimated that over 400,000 people attended the rally from all 50 states and many other countries. Bikes, Blues & BBQ also benefits the local economy. According to a 2005 study conducted by the University of Arkansas Center for Business and Economic Research, an estimated \$35 million was expended to Arkansas businesses during the Bikes, Blues & BBQ rally week.

Bikes, Babes & Bling - sister rally for women

location: Fayetteville

June

"Bling" is designed as THE ladies' rally of the South. Everything from tricked out custom choppers to rockin' Harleys and sweet metric bikes will line the streets of Fayetteville. What better way to showcase these amazing rides than to round up the best of the best and let the public decide which one is the coolest of them all!

Blues For A Cause location: Pine Bluff September

Blues For A Cause, A Helping Hand was organized with a stated purpose which is to:

Help folks pay their medical bills, or other health related costs, when times are really tough, with funds raised from Blues Benefits & Music Festivals.

Eureka Springs Blues Weekend

location: Eureka Springs

June

Memorial Day line up of blues musicians, with main venues in the Eureka Springs Auditorium and the Park Hotel Barefoot Ballroom. The Weekend also includes free music in the afternoons at the historic Basin Spring Park Shell.

Hot Springs Blues Festival location: Hot Springs

September

The Spa City Blues Society hosts Annual Hot Springs Blues Festival on Labor Day Weekend.

King Biscuit Blues Festival

location: Helena

October

The King Biscuit Blues Festival, is one of the nation's foremost showcases of blues music. Held for three days annually in October, tens of thousands of blues enthusiasts converge on historic downtown Helena, Arkansas to hear stirring and uplifting performances of an American art form on the banks of the Mississippi River.



Riverfront Blues Festival,

location: Fort Smith

June

Features an international Blues competition hosted by the Fort Smith Riverfront Blues Society. The Riverfront Bluesfest has been named Top 100 Event in North America by American Bus Association. Each year the ABA compiles a list of the most appealing events across the continent for tour operators who are planning which trips to offer in the coming year.

Wild Hog Music Fest and Motorcycle Rally,

location: Helena

April

A festival that features music, motorcycles, field events, a poker run, bike show, food, merchandise and prizes.