


at us. Tractors, military men and a brigade of bagpipers entertained us. At one point, Blues Brothers-look-alikes pranced and sang along the avenue.

As the parade petered out, we hopped on a Centro Bus to our hotel, The Embassy Suites by Hilton Syracuse Destiny USA. A complimentary glass of wine awaited us after we checked in. After relaxing for an hour, we walked across the

parking lot to shop at the Destiny USA, a destination unto itself packed with boutiques, restaurants and family-friendly entertainment. What a fun, full day! 

For more info about taking Amtrak to Syracuse to enjoy the New York State Fair, go to NewYorkByRail.com/New-York-State-Fair.

TOP 10 THINGS TO DO AT THE NEW YORK STATE FAIR

In no particular order, here are New York By Rail's must-do's at the fair:

1. Eat local Syracuse foods, Dinosaur Bar-B-Que and Gianelli Sausage (Opposite Dairy Products Building).
2. Visit the Dairy Cow Birthing Center (Near Youth Building).
3. Listen to a free concert (Chevy Court).
4. Indulge in a \$1 baked or sweet potato (Horticulture Building).
5. Taste unique New York treats (Taste NY Marketplace).
6. Sidle up to the Milk Bar for a 25-cent milk (Dairy Products Building).
7. See a mammoth sand sculpture get built (Exposition Center).
8. Walk through the History of the NYS Fair Exhibit (Grange Building).
9. Tour the historic trains (behind the Horticulture Building).
10. Ride the 1,400-foot Broadway Skyliner (Midway).



DON'T MISS THE MUSIC!

Each year, the New York State Fair features a wide range of live musical performances, from country to nostalgic to pop. There are two concerts per day at Chevy Court, four per day at Experience Stage and other performances throughout the fairgrounds. Concerts are included with admission. This year's line-up includes:

- Bad Company (August 21)
- Dropkick Murphy's (August 25)
- Midland (August 26)
- Why Don't We (August 29)

For the complete concert line up, including a number of big-name artists, go to nysfair.ny.gov.

PLAN YOUR CAREFREE, CAR-FREE TRIP TO THE FAIR

Going to the New York State Fair on Amtrak is easy and relaxing because you don't need to deal with traffic or parking. Here's a sample itinerary:

1. Take Amtrak to Syracuse Station (SYR), then hop on a Centro Bus to the fair. Uber, Lyft and taxis also take you there.
2. Eat lunch inside one of the food pavilions or at one of the many concessions.
3. Enjoy the rides and entertainment.
4. Watch a parade or a cooking or agricultural demonstration.
5. Tour the barns to see the blue-ribbon animals.
6. Eat dinner.
7. Watch a concert.
8. Take Centro Bus to the Embassy Suites Destiny USA hotel.
9. The next morning, return to the fair, or shop and enjoy the entertainment at Destiny USA.
10. From the fair, take a Centro Bus to SYR to catch your train home. From Destiny USA, take the free hotel shuttle to SYR, a block away.

TAKE AMTRAK TO THE NEW YORK STATE FAIR using the SEE NEW YORK AND SAVE! 15% discount off one regular (full) adult fare. In addition, one child, ages 2 to 12, may receive a 50% discount on Amtrak within New York State on selected service routes, traveling with an adult. Purchase tickets at least five days in advance. The 2019 New York State Fair is August 21 to September 2. Blackout dates apply. Available on Amtrak.com and ILoveNY.com/travel-tools/transportation/amtrak-discount/.