

You can eat your way around the world.

We love that the city is still a melting pot. Every summer, that translates into heaps of delicious, authentic ethnic food at our scores of local festivals. Here's how to eat your way around the world in eight ways without leaving Cleveland. — Tori Woods

1. Riverfront Irish Festival

Sure, everybody's Irish on St. Patty's Day. But here's another opportunity to indulge

in the spirit of Ireland. Celtic cuisine such as bangers and mash, corned beef and cabbage and shepherd's pie will keep you sated as you watch the dancers and listen to the

bagpipes and other entertainment presented on three stages.

» June 8-10, Fri 5 p.m. - midnight, Sat 1 p.m. - midnight, Sun 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.; Riverfront Square, Cuyahoga Falls; free admission; visit www.riverfrontirishfest.com for more information.

2. 13th Annual Powwow & Festival

Members of more than 100 American Indian tribes will convene this Father's Day weekend. You can feast on burgers, hot dogs, buffalo-meat tacos, fry bread, Sioux blueberry pudding, traditional teas and all-natural saffras root beer. Jewelry, art and craft vendors will be on site, and entertainment includes educational demonstrations, storytelling, dance and song.

» June 15-17, Fri 3 - 10 p.m., Sat 11 a.m. - 8 p.m., Sun 11 a.m. - 6 p.m.; Edgewater Park, Cleveland; adults \$8, seniors \$6, children \$4; free parking; for more information, visit www.aiecc.net/powwow.htm.

3. St. Demetrios Greek Festival

Though you'll be tempted to fill up on gyros, shish kabobs, calamari, lamb, pastitso and moussaka, save room — the church ladies also bake Greek sweets you won't want to miss. But don't worry if you can't possibly pack in another morsel

of baklava. You can take some to go. Don't miss the gym full of vendors, an outdoor grill and the Taverna, featuring folk dancers and flaming cheese.

» June 21-24, Thu noon - 10 p.m., Fri & Sat 11 a.m. - 11 p.m., Sun noon - 10 p.m.; St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church, 22909 Center Ridge Road, Rocky River; free admission; visit www.saintdemetriosrr.org for more information.

4. Feast of the Assumption

Ravioli, or spaghetti, or cavatelli, or ravioli — the choices seem unending, and it's impossible to choose wrong. Everyone with a taste for fresh cuisine served streetside or Italian gifts and crafts will be at home. The Feast includes rides, entertainment, fireworks and a parade. Don't forget the cannoli.

» Aug. 15-18, Wed 10 a.m. - 11 p.m., Thu & Fri 6 p.m. - 11 p.m., Sat noon - 11 p.m. Mayfield Road, (Little Italy neighborhood) Cleveland; free admission; for more information, contact Holy Rosary Catholic Church, (216) 421-2995.

5. Egyptian Festival, St. Mark Coptic Church

A Pharaoh's bounty of shish kabob, macaroni béchamel, stuffed grape leaves, falafel, tabbouleh and an abundance of traditional Egyptian cookies await visitors at this Seven Hills festival. Jewelry, gifts and souvenirs are available, and activities including digital photos taken in traditional Egyptian garb provide fun for the whole family.

» Aug. 24-26, Fri 4 - 10 p.m., Sat noon - 10 p.m., Sun 1 - 6 p.m. St. Mark Coptic Church, 2100 East Pleasant Valley Road, Seven Hills; free admission; for more information visit www.stmarkcocleveland.org/egyptianfestival.html.



6. Slavic Village Harvest Festival

The 30th Annual Slavic Village Harvest Festival oompahs its way through the city's Warszawa Neighborhood. At this celebration of Eastern European traditions, kielbasa and pierogis will be in abundance, as will traditional musicians and dancers. Don't miss the pierog-eating competition.

» Aug. 25 & 26, Sat 1 - 10 p.m., Sun noon - 9 p.m. Fleet Avenue, Cleveland; free admission; visit www.slavicvillage.org for more information.

7. 2007 Labor Day Oktoberfest

This festival provides the perfect opportunity to gorge on bratwurst, frankfurters, German potato salad, sauerkraut, potato pancakes, spaetzle, knockwurst, Wiener schnitzel ... and of course, lots and lots and lots of beer. Music, dancing and shopping are available to aid digestion.

» Aug. 31-Sept. 3, Fri 5 - 11 p.m., Sat & Sun noon - 11 p.m., Mon noon - 9 p.m. Cuyahoga County Fairgrounds, Berea; admission \$8, ages 12 and under free; free parking; for more information, visit www.bereaoktoberfest.com.

8. St. John Cantius Polish Festival

Come for the pierogies, stay for the polka. Traditional Polish eats will be provided by Sokolowski's University Inn, including kielbasa, stuffed cabbage, baked chicken and roast pork loin with dumplings and cabbage. Don't miss the Golden Agers, who will be selling some of the best pierogies this side of Warsaw. There will also be live music and dancing — participation in the polka is optional but encouraged!

» Aug. 31-Sep. 2, Fri 5 - 11 p.m., Sat 3 - 11 p.m., 3, Sun 3 - 10 p.m. St. John Cantius Church, 906 College Ave., Cleveland; free admission; for more information, call (216) 781-9095.

ON THE WEB: For expanded festival listings, visit www.clevelandmagazine.com.