

Plan your weekend with the official guide of weekly events from Visit Gainesville, Alachua County

October 5-11, 2023



Be Informed.

The below information was accurate at the time of publishing. Please contact organizers directly to double check details.

POP, R&B Singer Jason Derulo Rocks Gator Growl for the 100th Year Celebration of UF Homecoming - Get Ready for the Exciting Homecoming Weekend Line Up Orange and Blue Events

Thursday, October 5 - Friday, October 6

This year marks 100 years of Homecoming & Gator Growl at UF. Homecoming & Gator Growl is a week of events including the Homecoming Leadership Pageant, Soulfest, Festival, Gator Gallop, Parade, and Gator Growl.

Thursday at 6 p.m., the student-run pep rally Gator Growl features Sammy Adams and Jason Derulo at Exactech Arena.

Friday's festivities start with the UF Homecoming Festival at UF Plaza of the Americas at 9:30 a.m., followed by the 2-mile fun run Gator Gallop at 10 a.m. Join the crowd of over 100,000 Gator fans for the Homecoming Parade marching up 13th Street and then along University Avenue towards Main Street starting at 12 p.m. on Friday. Find details and get Gator Growl tickets at gatorgrowl.org

Wear Blue in the The Swamp as Florida Gators Football takes on Vanderbilt Saturday, October 7, 4 p.m. | Ben Hill Griffin Stadium 157 Gale Lemerand Dr., Gainesville, FL 32611

The 57th meeting between the two schools is this year's homecoming matchup for the Gators. Arrive early for pre-game festivities including Gators Fan Fest and Gator Walk. Find game day details including parking, mobile ticketing and more at FloridaGators.com. Photo by Matt Stamey

Go Behind-the-Scenes with a Rock and Roll Hall of Famer at the new Exhibit "Tom Petty: Among the Wildflowers"

Open Now through December 31, Thursday - Sunday, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. | Cade Museum for Creativity and Invention 811 S Main St., Gainesville, FL 32601

Tom Petty: Among the Wildflowers explores the joys, pains, and creative awakenings that Gainesville native Tom Petty experienced while pouring his soul into his magnum opus, Wildflowers, released in November 1994. The exhibit includes artifacts previously on display at the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame in Cleveland, Ohio.

Chill with Cool Dinos at the New Interactive Exhibit "Antarctic Dinosaurs" Saturday, October 7, 10 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. | Florida Museum of Natural History 3215 Hull Rd., Gainesville, FL 32611

Step back in time and discover life beneath the ice in Antarctic Dinosaurs. Uncover the history of the world's southernmost continent and the unique species that have called it home in this interactive, family-friendly experience. Antarctic Dinosaurs is on display through April 21.

Photo courtesy of Bria Woods for the Witte Museum



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Show Off Your Salsa Dance Moves at Hippvanna
Friday, October 6, 9 p.m. – 1 a.m. | Hippodrome Theatre
25 SE 2nd Pl., Gainesville, FL 32601

Dance the night away as DJ Elio Piedra provides the Latin dance beats all night. Bruch up on your dance skills or learn new moves at the bachata class at 9 p.m. before the dance floor opens up at 10 p.m. Enjoy a night of Latin dance and meet other dance enthusiasts.



Dive into the World of Indian Fusion Music with Dr. Susmita Datta
Sunday, October 8, 7 p.m. – 9 p.m. | Heartwood Soundstage
619 S Main St., Gainesville, FL 32601

Dr. Susmitta Datta performs renderings of Indian semi-classical Hindi bhajans, ghazals and Bengali songs (ragpradhan and Nazrul-geeti). The evening also features Tamarind Free Jones with a range of styles ranging from Indian fusion to indie folk. Enjoy a cross pollination of jazz, pop and classical forms from India.



See What's in Bloom on a Guided Tour of Kanapaha Botanical Gardens
Saturday, October 7, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. | Kanapaha Botanical Gardens
4700 SW 58th Dr., Gainesville, FL 32608

Look for colorful displays in the hummingbird, butterfly and herb gardens. Kanapaha Botanical Gardens is pet-friendly and features paved pathways to navigate the beautiful botanical collections throughout the 68-acre property. The Children's Garden features special plants, fish ponds, and waterfalls.



Go Trick-or-Treating and Browse Plant-Based Vendors at the October Farmers "Spoo-ket"

Sunday, October 8, 12 p.m. – 4 p.m. | Critter Creek Farm Sanctuary
12626 NW CR 231, Gainesville, FL 32609

Meet the critters of Critter Creek and shop for produce, art, crafts and more. Kids can dress up in a Halloween costume to go trick-or-treating and earn a prize with the spooky scavenger hunt.



Don't Miss the Final Performances of "The Crucible"
Now through Sunday, October 8 | Gainesville Community Playhouse
4039 NW 16th Blvd., Gainesville, FL 32605

The town of Salem falls into mass hysteria as a group of teenage girls accuse their neighbors of witchcraft to avoid punishment after their own dabbling in the occult. This gripping retelling of the infamous Salem witch trials explores themes of the abuse of power, the destruction caused by false accusations, and the importance of standing up for truth and justice. Don't miss this riveting story about the purge of witchcraft in old Salem.

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For a complete listing of this weekend's events visit: <https://bit.ly/whatsgood1005>

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