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## Weekend Fun: Buskers, Baklava and Bonsai

Three fun-filled festivals will compete for your time this weekend.

### **Festival Info** **June 25-27, 2004**

#### **Buskerfest**

16th Street Mall  
Fri.: noon-midnight  
Sat.: noon-midnight  
Sun.: noon-6 p.m.  
Free admission

[Web site](#)  




JUNE 22, 2004 -- Unique entertainment, music and food can be found at three exciting family-oriented festivals this Friday, Saturday and Sunday, June 25-27. "Denver's most uncommon event," Buskerfest, returns to downtown this weekend. Now in its 12th year, the festival features more than 30 premier national and international street performers, including jugglers, acrobats, magicians, comedians, unicyclists, tightrope walkers and more.

Buskers will be performing along the 16th Street Mall Friday and Saturday from 12 noon – 12 midnight, and on Sunday from 12 noon – 6 p.m. This entertainment form evolved partly from traveling carnivals and circuses in America, and partly from the medieval European tradition of “busking,” where local merchants would invite entertainers to their storefronts, plazas and public squares to attract pedestrians and increase business.

Buskerfest is a free event, although tips are greatly appreciated. For more information and for details about the performers, call 303-295-1195 or visit [www.buskerfest.com](http://www.buskerfest.com).

#### **Cherry Blossom Festival**

Sakura Square  
Sat.: 11 a.m.-7:30 p.m.  
*Bon Odori at 7:30 p.m.*  
Sun.: 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
Free admission

[Web site](#)  


While downtown, head to Denver's Sakura Square for the 32nd Annual Sakura Matsuri, or Cherry Blossom Festival. This annual event is one of Denver's oldest festivals, celebrating Japanese culture through performances, demonstrations, arts, crafts and food. The festival will be located between 19th, 20th, Lawrence and Larimer Streets on Saturday from 11 a.m.- 7:30 p.m., and Sunday from 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.

#### **Greek Festival**

Assumption Cathedral  
Fri.: 11 a.m. - 11 p.m.  
Sat.: 11 a.m.- 11 p.m.  
Sun.: 11 a.m. - 8 p.m.  
*\$1 admission before 9 p.m.*  
*\$3 admission after 9 p.m.*

The main stage on Lawrence Street will feature Japanese music and dance, along with several martial arts exhibitions throughout the weekend, including Aikido, Kendo, Judo and Karate. New this year is a Naginata demonstration, a martial art that was once very popular among women warriors. This form of self-defense is characterized by graceful, sweeping movements using a long, wooden, spear-like weapon. Also, don't miss the spectacular earth-vibrating and heart-pounding drum performances by [Denver Taiko](#), scheduled for 1:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, and 12:40 p.m. and 2:20 p.m. on Sunday.

*Free: children under 12 and seniors over 65.*

Web site



Within the Denver Buddhist Temple, other activities and demonstrations will be offered, including flower arranging and bonsai, origami, doll making, and more. Also, the festival's all-weekend food bazaar will serve up a delectable menu of teriyaki, sushi, noodles, rice bowls, Japanese beer and more.

On Saturday evening at 7:30 p.m., everyone at the festival is invited to join in the annual Bon Odori dance, where dancers in colorful kimonos join together for traditional folk dancing. Public practice sessions are available on June 22-23 at the temple, from 7-9 p.m., however, novices are entirely welcome to join Saturday's dance. The festival is free and open to the public. Please call 303-295-1844 for the full schedule of events or visit <http://www.tsdbt.org/cherryblossom.html>.

Before the busy weekend is over, work in a stop at Denver's 39th Annual Greek Festival. Bring your appetite and enjoy gyros, dolmathes, Athenian pizza, souvlakia, baklava, loukoumathes, decadent Greek coffee, and more delicious traditional Greek fare while you immerse yourself in Mediterranean culture.

Live folk music and dancing is one of the great attractions of this festival, providing non-stop entertainment for shoppers at the agora (greek marketplace) where specialty gifts can be found at crafts, costume and jewelry booths. Fine dining and artwork can be found in the administration building adjacent to the cathedral. Inside, paintings by [Rip Kastaris](#) will be on display for sale. Kastaris is the official artist of the 2004 Olympics to be held in Athens, Greece. Official 2004 Olympic T-shirts, hats and other gift items will also be available.

The festival will be held at the Assumption Greek Orthodox Cathedral, located at 4610 E. Alameda Avenue. The cathedral will be open for public tours, and this is a great opportunity to view the beautifully painted ceiling of its dome. Admission for the festival is \$1, \$3 after 9 p.m. Children under 12 and seniors over 65 are free. The festival hours are Friday and Saturday, 11 a.m.-11 p.m., and Sunday, from 11 a.m.- 8 p.m. Call 303-388-9314 for more information or visit <http://www.assumptioncathedral.org/festival>.

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Written by Content Developer [Betsy Kimak](#), Office of Television and Internet Services.

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