Leaving the car at home for Summerfest removes the biggest headache of the day. The festival grounds are next to downtown, which puts them within reach of several ways to travel. Traveling with children changes the plan: snacks, restroom stops and a slower pace all deserve a little extra time.

By bike or on foot

Bicycle parking is set up near the Mid, North and South gates. Downtown residents and hotel guests can often simply walk.

Bring a lock, lights for the ride home and a plan for weather.

By bus

Regular Milwaukee County Transit System routes run near the grounds, and the CONNECT 1 line stops close to the North Gate. Festival shuttle service has run in past years from park-and-ride lots, but routes, fares and hours change each year.

Check the current year's festival transit page before you go.

By streetcar

The Hop streetcar is free to ride and runs toward the Historic Third Ward and the lakefront, including service from the downtown train and https://chicago.ghost.io/summerfest-parking-shuttles-and-getting-there-without-a-car/ bus station. From there it is a walk to the festival gates.

Check the current streetcar hours before a late night at the festival.

Planning your night

Decide how you will get home before you leave, especially after a headliner, when everyone leaves at once. Agree on a meeting spot with friends in case phones die.

A little planning lets you enjoy the music without watching the clock.