



Mycology experts lead the festival's edible mushroom forays



4 Colorado puts the fun in fungi

Telluride celebrates all things mushroom this month

THERE'S A BIG FUSS ABOUT FUNGUS IN Colorado this month. At the 38th annual Telluride Mushroom Festival (Aug. 16-19), merry mycologists and everyday 'shroom enthusiasts are gathering for four days of mushroom hunting, foraged feasts and decomposer-centric lectures.

"The festival began as a scientific conference," explains festival director and *Fungi* magazine editor-in-chief Britt Bunyard. Since the first gathering in 1980, the event has, well, mushroomed. He says attendees now range "from hippie foragers to foodies in search of the rarest and choicest of wild delicacies."

Besides exploring the multifarious powers of fungi in expert-led workshops and hikes, there's scads of self-aware silliness, including mushroom-themed movie screenings and tastings of the mushroom-infused Mycobeer. The event also features a wacky parade where festivalgoers dress and dance as their favorite mushroom. —LAURA BEAUSIRE telluridemushroomfest.org

5 This museum isn't a total joke

The folks behind the new National Comedy Center in Jamestown, New York, want to be taken seriously

Lucille Ball's hometown believes that when people laugh, they learn. That's why Jamestown, New York, is opening the new 37,000-square-foot National Comedy Center this month. "We like to think the word 'experience' describes us better than 'museum,'" says executive director Journey Gunderson. More than 50 exhibits will allow guests to attempt cartooning, comedy writing and live stand-up. There's even a faux pie fight and holograms of comedians such as Jim Gaffigan. "Comedy is a necessary elixir for culture and society," says Gunderson. "We hope people leave understanding how important it is."



The museum will cover comedy's history, from vaudeville to viral memes

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