



A Brief History of Bacon



Whether for breakfast, on a BLT, or wrapped around scallops, do you know where bacon comes from?

What first comes to mind when you think of bacon? There are several options—your favorite breakfast side, your go-to Cobb salad that wouldn't be the same without those savory bits, or even the new Nick Jonas song (reasonably titled) "[Bacon](#)". While bacon has always been a household staple, it has recently infiltrated every aspect of food and consumer culture as consumers and businesses seek more innovative ways to utilize the meaty treat. From [Sriracha bacon lollipops](#) to [bacon roses](#), the infatuation is here to stay. But how did it all come to be?

The beginning of bacon

Bacon is considered one of the oldest meals in history, dating back to [1500 BC](#), when the Chinese would preserve and salt pork bellies. In the 16th century, European peasants would proudly show off whatever amount of bacon they could afford. From that point on, the savory snack quickly transformed itself into a global sensation.

Bacon by the numbers

- Americans eat [approximately 18 pounds of bacon](#) per year. Considering how many Americans live off a pork-free diet (due to religion, vegetarianism or preference), this



means those that do are really pulling their weight (no pun intended) to keep demand up.

- According to the [National Pork Board](#), bacon volume grew by almost 25 percent between 2001 and 2009.
- Of the almost 24 billion pounds of pork produced in 2014, approximately [60 percent](#) was processed into bacon and sausage products. That means more than HALF of all pork was sourced as our favorite breakfast treats.
- [53 percent of households](#) in the US have bacon on hand at any given time.
- 70 percent of bacon in America is eaten at [breakfast](#).

Bacon fun facts

- Six items on Wendy's menu include bacon as an ingredient.
- The cliché "[bring home the bacon](#)" is attributed to a church in Dunmow, England, from the 12th century, where they would offer a side of bacon to any husband who could swear before God and the congregation that he had not fought with his wife for a year and a day. Any man who could bring home the bacon was highly respected.

Events to celebrate bacon

- The [Bacon and Beer Classic](#) is hosted in Chicago, Nashville, Scottsdale, Dallas, Washington DC, Denver, New York City, Seattle and Santa Clara, with 50+ bacon-infused dishes hosted at a sports stadium, including a bacon-eating contest.
- [Zingerman's Camp Bacon®](#) is a fundraiser in Ann Arbor, Michigan for bacon lovers, bacon makers, bacon chefs and bacon fans to celebrate all the flavors and tastes of Bacon as well as participate in activities and listen to speakers.
- The third annual [Bacon Bash](#) will take place in Esplanade Park on October 8, 2016 in Fort Lauderdale. Hosted by [Riverwalk Fort Lauderdale](#) and [Covenant House Florida](#), this free event brings together local residents, businesses, and visitors for a pork-filled afternoon while raising funds for the two local charities. There will be pay-by-plate bacon delicacies, cash bar, and a VIP section for attendees 21+ that includes drink samples, bacon bites, and more.

The bacon boom is here to stay. Celebrate with your favorite bacon pastimes, the new bacon innovations of today, or at a bacon celebration like Bacon Bash.

#BaconBashFTL