

November, 2024

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WEEKEND

Getaways

- First Thanksgiving
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- Christmas Kickoff

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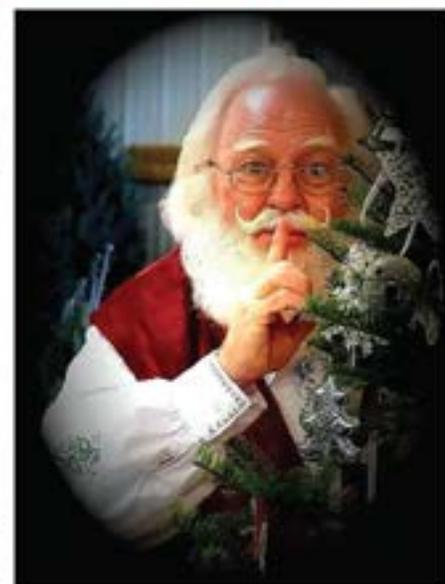
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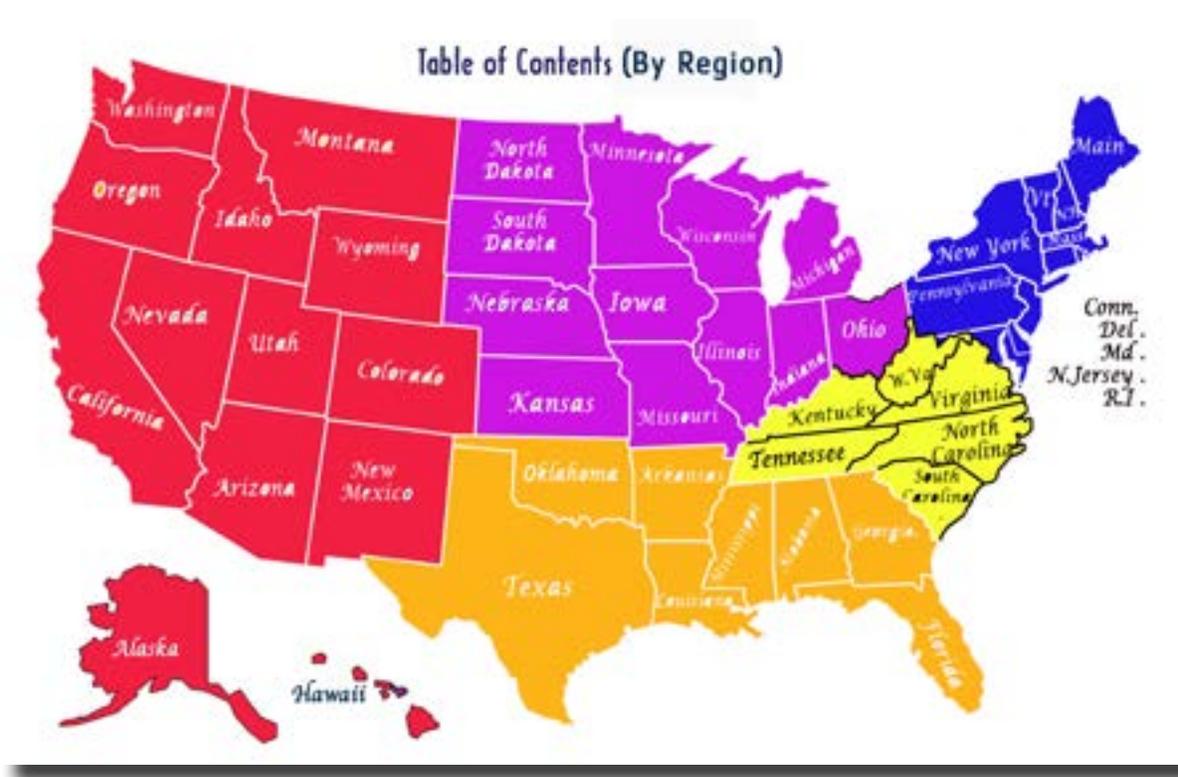


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From The Editor



Regardless of what is going on in our busy everyday lives, we should always remember to be thankful. Not just the one day of year when the calendar names it "Thanksgiving." But how many days go by when we simply don't take the time to thank others for helping us make our way a little bit easier?

I'm going to reverse my list this year and thank our readers first. If it wasn't for you, there would be no need for all the other staff members who work to put this monthly magazine together. We thank you for trusting our journalists who travel tirelessly to research, experience and then write the articles to give you ideas on where to go, what to do and who to see. I thank our clients who trust us to correctly share their stories with our subscribers and explain why they should visit in the future. And last, but certainly not least, I thank our office workers who sit behind a desk and painstakingly update events, replace photos, layout magazine, web and newsletter pages to make the articles stand out and shine. They stay in contact with our editors, but are seldom in the public eye. They are indeed a very important part of the process.

Let's go back to that very first Thanksgiving. The pilgrims had quite a lot in common with the team of Extended Weekend Getaways. They were tired. They had traveled for days to reach their destination. They faced unknown territory to accomplish their goals. But they didn't quit. They didn't turn back. They didn't give up. They kept on keeping on.

We, at Extended Weekend Getaways, won't give up either. We will continue to overcome hurdles to get our stories told. We will stay at the drawing board to create new ways to gain new interest and encourage them to experience new destinations, attractions and activities. We will continue to thank YOU for remaining loyal followers .

Happy Thanksgiving!

*Norman Reed
Managing Editor*

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Cover Photo:

Squanto was instrumental in helping the first Thanksgiving meal between the Indians and Pilgrims be a successful one. See the complete article - P. 17.

TRAVEL TRENDS:

Savoring The World:



By Robin O'Neal Smith
Associate Editor
<https://RobinOnealSmith.com>

Many tourists live for the thrill of discovering new flavors and tastes. Culinary explorers find their ultimate experiences in food tours - a rising trend that merges the love for travel with the passion for gastronomy. For foodies, travel enthusiasts, and culinary adventurers, food tours offer a delicious passport to the essence of a destination.

What is a Food Tour?

A food tour is a culinary journey typically conducted within a specific city or region, allowing participants to explore and experience the local cuisine. These tours can range from guided walking tours to shuttle excursions, where a knowledgeable guide leads the group to various eateries, markets, and specialty shops. Along the way, participants sample dishes, learn about the history and cultural significance of the foods, and often meet the chefs and artisans responsible for creating these delicious experiences. Food tours are an excellent way for travelers and locals to discover new flavors, support

local businesses, and connect with a community through its gastronomic heritage.

Why The Tours Are Popular

Food tours have become increasingly popular among tourists because they offer a delightful blend of cultural immersion and culinary adventure. These tours provide a unique opportunity to taste authentic local cuisine, often guiding participants through hidden gems and eateries beloved by locals but not widely known to tourists.

Beyond satisfying the palate, food tours also tell the story of a place through its flavors, ingredients, and traditional cooking methods, offering insights into local history and culture.

Tourists also enjoy the social aspect of these tours, as they get to meet fellow food enthusiasts and form connections over shared meals. Overall, food tours can transform eating into a memorable and enriching experience, making them a cherished highlight of the travel itinerary.



My Experiences

I experienced my first food tour in Portland, Maine, several years ago. I don't remember much about it except it was my first time eating French fries cooked in duck fat. They were good. I am a big fan of food tours, and they are a great way to try multiple restaurants I would not have time to try or know about during a visit.

I participated in a food tour with St. Augustine Experiences during a press trip to St. Augustine. They offer progressive dining tours, chocolate tours, craft brewery tours, historic walking tours, and more!

Our walking tour started at Carrera Wine Cellar and included three other restaurants. We tasted soups, finger food, drinks, and much more. The guide also gave

Food Tasting Tours

At Left: Eggs Benedict at Bourbon and Boards -
photo credit FloridasHistoricCoast.com

Below: Savor Tours Healdsburg
photo credit Sonoma County



us tidbits of information about the area and the restaurant's history.

In New York, I participated in a Like a Local Tours Food Tour through the Chelsea Market and High Line. Our guide was very knowledgeable, and they kept the group small. Chelsea Market is full of local artisan shops. Not only did we taste delicious food, but we also learned about the area and its history. At the Chelsea Market, we sampled Asian Tacos, Pizza, donuts, cookies, and several other items.

We visited the Farmers Market in Los Angeles and enjoyed a tour with stops at numerous food stands. We tried pickles, pizza, fruit, beer, caramels, and other items.

Popular Destinations

St. Augustine, FL - Besides the tour I already mentioned in St. Augustine, the nation's oldest city has several other companies offering delectable experiences. Visitors can eat their way through history at restaurants and shops that share the culinary heritage of St. Augustine. Greek, Spanish, Minorcan, Irish, and Florida farm fresh are all part of the experience.

The Tasting Tours offers the best of St. Augustine's culinary scene. On their tours, you sample delicious specialties from locally owned restaurants, hidden pubs, and romantic inns. You can choose from the Historic District Walking Brunch Tour,



Asian Tacos on the Like a Local Tour in NYC - photo credit Robin O'Neal Smith

the Weekend Riding Brunch Tour, Pub & Cocktail Tours, the Corks & Forks Walking Tour, the Wine & Dine Riding Food Tour, or the Dessert Pairing Tour.

St. Augustine City Walks Food & Wine Tours are the best way to experience multiple downtown restaurants and culinary venues in one afternoon without waiting in lines or for reservations.

Scottsdale, AZ - Scottsdale's food scene is not to be missed. Since 2009, Arizona Food Tours has guided foodies through the best of Scottsdale's culinary scene. These walking food and wine tours, which take place in Old Town Scottsdale, highlight signature food selections and drink pairings from locally owned, well-known establishments in the city.

Las Vegas, NV - Beyond the glitz and glamour, Las Vegas has a diverse culinary landscape. Lip Smacking Foodie

Tours is the ultimate way to explore the city's thriving food scene. Founded by restaurant industry veterans, these award-winning walking tours offer a VIP experience at some of the best and most exclusive restaurants on and off the Strip.

With curated dishes, insider stories, and no hassle of lines or reservations, guests are whisked away for an unforgettable culinary journey. Each tour is led by expert guides who ensure guests leave with a satisfied appetite and a deeper understanding of Vegas' food scene.

Philadelphia, PA - Famous for its cheesesteaks, Philadelphia offers food tours celebrating local flavors, from soft pretzels to artisan cheese. Visit the city's diverse neighborhood eateries and discover the stories behind the iconic dishes of their award-winning food scene.

The Italian Market & Beyond with Chefs & Journalists by Tiny Table Tours was started by

a renowned local food journalist. The two-and-a-half-hour tour covers two miles and offers a unique and personal glimpse into South Philadelphia's vibrant food scene. Through in-depth interviews with local chefs, business owners, and passionate tour guides, you'll enjoy an immersive experience as you sample six delicious bites, including sweet treats, a Vietnamese sandwich, and tacos. You'll also learn about iconic dishes like cheesesteaks and explore multigenerational family businesses.

Madison, WI - Madison has an INCREDIBLE and unexpected food scene, mainly due to our largest producers-only farmers market around downtown Capitol Square. They have several food tours and dining experiences, including the woman-owned Madison Eats Food Tours. The owner, Otehlia, offers walking and biking tours. You can explore Madison neighborhoods, taste local, seasonal food, and meet the chefs, farmers, and artisans who make it happen.

Sonoma County, CA - Sonoma County is recognized as a premier wine and food destination due to its diverse agricultural offerings. Visitors can experience the vibrant Sonoma County Wine Country lifestyle like a local with the help of a knowledgeable guide. Here's

a curated list of top food tours that showcase the region's culinary treasures.

Dine your way around the Sonoma Wine Country town of Healdsburg on a three-hour guided walking tour with a passionate, local foodie point of view. A table awaits at each stop on this food-focused progressive dining experience, with delicious offerings from award-winning chefs, artisans, and winemakers. You'll gain



insider access to Healdsburg and learn the rich history that makes Sonoma County a top wine and food region worldwide.

Sonoma Food Tour, Food Crush Tours, and Healdsburg Wine & Food Walking Tours are also fantastic

Alexandria, VA - Near Washington D.C., Alexandria offers many culinary experiences. The "Classic Restaurants of Alexandria" walking history experience takes you to some

of the city's oldest and most beloved dining establishments, like the ballroom of Gadsby's Tavern, where George Washington danced and hosted the first five presidents. It isn't a tasting tour; learn about Alexandria's culinary history. The same company offers a variety of food-tasting tours.

The Ice Cream History Tour shows culinary secrets as you stroll through cobblestone streets. Your knowledgeable guide will share Alexandria's rich history, from its colonial roots to its role in the culinary evolution of the region.

U.S. Virgin Islands - If you are headed out for an island vacation, savor the vibrant spices of the Caribbean by strolling along the streets of St. Croix and immersing yourself in the rich culture

with The Virgin Islands Food Tours.

Food tours are more than just a culinary indulgence; they're a gateway to understanding the soul of a destination through its flavors, traditions, and people. Whether savoring a chef's special in Scottsdale or indulging in local shrimp in Jacksonville, each bite tells a story that transcends borders. Discover the world, one plate at a time.

Bon appétit

HOTEL HOSPITALITY

A Historic Stay In Histori

By Kathy Barnett
Editor - In - Chief

Escape to the Historic Trinkle Mansion B&B for a Perfect Weekend Getaway

Nestled in the heart of Wytheville, Virginia, Trinkle Mansion Bed & Breakfast offers an enchanting blend of Southern charm, comfort, and history. This immaculately preserved mansion serves as an ideal retreat for those seeking a relaxing weekend getaway in a cozy, elegant setting.

A Glimpse into History

Trinkle Mansion stands as a testament to early 20th-century architecture. Built in 1912 by local attorney William Trinkle, the home was constructed in the Colonial Revival style, featuring grand pillars, spacious verandas, and a welcoming façade reminiscent of a more gracious era. The mansion's intricate woodwork, stained glass, and original details create a sense of timelessness, making each visit feel like a journey into the past. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, Trinkle Mansion has been thoughtfully restored to preserve its charm while adding modern amenities, ensuring that guests experience both luxury and history in perfect harmony.



Hospitality at its Finest with Owner Patti

At the helm of Trinkle Mansion is owner Patti, whose warm hospitality and culinary skills make every guest feel right at home. Patti takes pride in creating a welcoming atmosphere that extends beyond the mansion's beautiful rooms and decor. Her genuine warmth and attention to detail ensure each guest feels special from the moment they arrive.

Mornings to Savor: Patti's Renowned Breakfasts

One of the highlights of a stay at Trinkle Mansion is undoubtedly the breakfast experience. Each morning, guests are treated to a multi-course, homemade breakfast prepared by Patti herself. Known for her delightful dishes, she sources the freshest ingredients to create meals that are both hearty and delicious. Guests rave about the variety, with offerings that may include fluffy quiches,

ic Trinkle Mansion B & B



savory frittatas, fresh seasonal fruit, warm muffins, and Patti's signature southern biscuits. Served in the mansion's elegant dining room, breakfast is as much a visual treat as it is a culinary one, with the meal often accompanied by freshly brewed coffee and freshly

squeezed juices.

Why Trinkle Mansion is Perfect

Trinkle Mansion is more than just a place to stay; it's an experience in Southern hospitality and history. Beyond the comforts of the mansion, Wytheville offers numerous attractions, from historic sites and scenic outdoor activities to local shops and restaurants. Whether you're in town for a quiet retreat or looking to explore the rich culture of Wytheville, Trinkle Mansion B&B provides the ideal setting to unwind and make memories.

For an unforgettable weekend steeped in charm, history, and relaxation, Trinkle Mansion Bed & Breakfast in Wytheville is the perfect choice.



SPORTS SPOT

Rev Up for NASCAR CUP



Get ready for one of the most electrifying weekends in sports as the NASCAR Cup Series Championship returns to Phoenix Raceway in Avondale, Arizona. Taking place from November 3-5, this year's event promises high-speed thrills, heart-pounding moments, and unforgettable experiences for fans of all ages. Nestled in the Sonoran Desert, Phoenix Raceway has become a favorite spot for fans to watch history unfold in the heart of the action.

The Final Showdown: Championship Weekend
The NASCAR Cup Series Championship Weekend is the crown jewel of stock car racing, drawing in fans nationwide. This year, the championship showdown brings the season's top four drivers head-to-head in a nail-biting finale. With the new Next Gen cars delivering heightened competition and a season of twists and turns behind them, this event is sure to showcase intense rivalries, daring overtakes, and edge-of-your-seat drama.

Located just 20 miles west of downtown Phoenix, Phoenix Raceway boasts a uniquely shaped, 1-mile oval track. Known for its thrilling dogleg turn, this track creates high-stakes opportunities for passing, making it one of the most action-packed venues on the NASCAR circuit. Whether you're a long-time NASCAR fan or a newcomer to the sport, the championship weekend will deliver the ultimate racing experience.

Fan-Friendly Attractions and Experiences
Phoenix Raceway has an incredible lineup of fan-friendly events beyond the race. Fans can enjoy pre-race concerts, driver meet-and-greets, and exclusive access to fan zones. The INfield Experience, available as an upgrade, offers fans a chance to get up close to the race-day excitement with trackside views, access to the pre-race grid, and even the chance to sign the start-finish line. Visitors can also catch driver Q&As and behind-the-scenes activities for a deeper dive into the NASCAR world.

Series Championship

For families, Phoenix Raceway offers Kid’s Club activities and play zones to keep younger fans engaged. Food trucks and local vendors bring authentic flavors of the Southwest, from savory street tacos to refreshing prickly pear lemonade. With various concession options, fans can refuel without missing a moment of the action.

Tickets, Travel, and Tips

Tickets for the NASCAR Cup Series Championship sell out quickly, so be sure to book in advance. Options range from general admission to VIP packages, and some ticket tiers include access to the exclusive INfield Experience or start/finish line views. Nearby accommodations fill up fast, so it’s wise to book early. Hotels and resorts in Phoenix, Avondale, and nearby Goodyear offer a wide range of options, from budget-friendly to luxury stays. Many local hotels provide shut-

tles to and from the raceway for convenience.

The weather in Phoenix during November is usually ideal for outdoor events, with mild temperatures perfect for watching the action. However, sunscreen, hats, and sunglasses are recommended to stay comfortable under the sun.

Don’t Miss This Grand Finale

Whether you’re a dedicated NASCAR follower or just looking for an exhilarating weekend, the NASCAR Cup Series Championship at Phoenix Raceway is an unmissable event. With the stakes at their highest, the drivers more determined than ever, and the fans fully immersed in the experience, it’s bound to be a weekend full of unforgettable memories. Don’t miss out—gear up, pack your bags, and head to Phoenix Raceway for an unforgettable motorsports experience.



DELICIOUS DELIGHTS

Sweet Gift For All



A New Way for Businesses to Celebrate with Sophistication and Sweetness

DAYTON, OH – Esther Price Candies, the 98-year-old premium chocolate and candy brand that has a tradition of quality ingredients and classic recipes, is thrilled to kick-off its Corporate Gifting program. This initiative positions Esther Price as the premier choice for corporate gifts, perfect for holidays, special events, and employee appreciation days. The program encourages companies to embrace the tradition of gifting with elegance, ensuring that every gesture is both meaningful and delicious, while providing a seamless ordering experience.

As the holiday season approaches, Esther Price Candies

offers a variety of customizable options to meet diverse gifting needs. The Executive Box (image with pen) features a premium selection of gourmet chocolates, nuts, & candies, carefully curated for a luxurious experience. Lastly, the Champion Box offers a winning selection of decadent chocolates and candies, celebrating excellence with every bite.

Doug Dressman, CEO of Esther Price, states, "We're excited to provide our customers with a unique way to connect with their clients, teams, and loved ones, creating memorable experiences through the simple yet powerful act of gifting." Esther Price's Corporate Gifting Program cements the brand's commitment to excellence, ensuring that each gift reflects the care and craftsmanship that have defined the brand for nearly a century. Esther Price Candies believes that corporate gifting is more than just a gesture; it's an opportunity to

strengthen relationships and create lasting impressions. For more information about Esther Price and its corporate gifting program visit <https://estherprice.com/pages/corporate-gifting>.

About Esther Price Candies Esther Price Candies is renowned for its boxed chocolate offerings and has kept its quality of processes the same since 1926. The brand offers a wide selection of candies including assorted and single varieties, custom orders as well as specialty seasonal candies. Customers can find a wide variety of caramels, creams, crunchy and chewy chocolates, fruit and nuts, and fudge and brittle. Today, Esther Price currently has seven retail stores in Dayton and Cincinnati and has over 100 wholesale accounts, and recently secured a spot in 100 plus Kroger stores across the state of Ohio.

<https://estherprice.com>

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New England States



Squanto and the First Thanksgiving



By Renée Gordon
History
and Travel
Writer



“A special instrument sent of God for their good beyond their expectations.”

Gov. William Bradford (Regarding Squanto)

I can clearly recall the day, in 6th grade we began to study the landing of the Pilgrims in Massachusetts. The colony was ill-equipped for the weather and they were starving when suddenly a Native American appeared, speaking fluent English and offering assistance. Even then I wondered where this man learned to speak fluent English.

Little did I know how convoluted the story was and how intertwined the lives of the Indigenous people and the Pilgrims were. Tisquantum, known in legend as Squanto, has faded into much of the story of the first Thanksgiving but his salvation of the Pilgrims, by interpreting for them and teaching them about New World food techniques and sources, is less prominent in the overall chronicle.

Squanto was born around 1580 into the Patuxet Tribe of the Wampanoags, People of the



First Light. He, and about 25 other natives, were enticed aboard a British slave ship bound for Spain. As many as 5.5 million natives were enslaved from 1492 and 1880. With assistance he escaped, fled to London and was employed by John Slaney the treasurer of Newfoundland. From Newfoundland he worked aboard another ship that took him closer to Patuxet. #Squanto

In the New World European explorers spread the plague, The Great Dying, from 1616-1619. The plague wiped out

2/3 of the 70,000 indigenous people in the 69 Patuxet villages. When the Pilgrims landed the bones of the dead littered the landscape and they viewed it as a sign that God had made a way for the Puritan faith to flourish.

In 1609 the Puritans had immigrated from England and settled in Leiden in the Netherlands, for 11-years, but the British continued to harass them. Finally, in 1619, the Dutch Merchant Adventurers financed a land patent near the Hudson River including provisions, two ships, the Mayflower and the Speedwell. The Leiden American Pilgrim Museum is housed in Leiden in a house constructed in 1365. The 2-room museum has exhibits reflective of a room the Pilgrims might have inhabited and a room that showcases medieval décor. Due to its size reservations are encouraged. The Pilgrims sailed from the port of Delfshaven near Rotterdam. On August 1, 1620. The Speedwell, originally a 1577



warship, docked in Southamptton to board passengers but it began to leak. The 102 Pilgrims were then placed aboard the 106-ft. Mayflower. The Mayflower landed near Plymouth Rock on December 18, 1620. More than 50% of the party died the first winter in Massachusetts, The Starving Time. The first Blacks arrived in Plymouth Colony between 1623 and 1640. They were accepted into the Plymouth community and served in the Plymouth militia.

Squanto appeared shortly after the Pilgrims came ashore. He functioned in a variety of roles including peacemaker, notably for Chief Massasoit of the Po-



kanoket tribe. Squanto helped negotiate a peace treaty with Chief Massasoit. The two groups shared a harvest feast, Thanksgiving, in 1621, to solidify their "partnership." A majestic sculpture of Chief Massasoit on the First Thanksgiving stands in Plymouth.

Squanto was the last member of his tribe. He had been kidnapped, enslaved, traveled the world and is believed to have

been poisoned by either the natives or the Pilgrims as a result of a belief that he had helped betray one group or the other.

The Mayflower Pilgrims landed on a 600-million-year-old rock of Dedham granodiorite. It has been moved several times and is today in a granite portico, the first national landmark.

It is inscribed with the year 1620, placed there at a later date.

Plimoth Patuxet Museums immerses visitors into the 17th century and invites you to a number of living history sites, the Mayflower II, Plimoth Grist Mill, 17th-Century English Village and Historic Patuxet. Historic Patuxet interprets the culture and lifestyle of the Na-



tive population. Inside a reconstructed wetu (home). You can participate in activities in the campsite including cooking, weaving, gardening and toolmaking. The tribe also consists of Wampanoag descended from those the English enslaved in the 1670s.

The original site of the English Village is 2.5-miles from the recreated colony. Homesites are denoted along Leyden Street by historical plaques. Structures are interpreted by authentically clad docents.

Plymouth Colonists' original 1636 grain mill is situated on Town Brook. Tours are

offered.

No one is certain what happened to the original Mayflower. Many historians theorize that after it returned to England it was scrapped for timber. A full-sized replica was constructed in England and sailed to Massachusetts in 1957. In 2020 it was added to the National Register of Historic Places. plimoth.org

The 81-ft. tall National Monument to the Forefathers is on a hilltop in Plymouth, Mass, the largest freestanding granite monument in the world. Faith, a 36-ft statue is carved with symbols that represent the ideals of the

Pilgrim Forefathers and was dedicated in 1889. Faith looks back to Plymouth, England with a foot on Plymouth Rock. A star atop her head represents wisdom.

Massachusetts is a year-round destination that affords the opportunity to get up close and personal with and understand those who impacted on North American history from its beginning. [#VisitMa.com](https://www.visitma.com)

Give thanks every day!

More on Massachusetts >HERE



Let's Follow The Christmas Trail



Experience the magic of the season like never before with the nation's first Christmas movie trail!

- The Connecticut Christmas Movie Trail featuring nearly two dozen films shot right here in the Nutmeg State will be unveiled during an exclusive event on Wednesday, November 13th.

Be an Extra in a Connecticut Christmas Movie

Twelve lucky people will win the opportunity to attend the event, meet the stars of different films from the trail and see the costumes from several productions.

- During the event, one of the twelve winners will be selected in a random draw to appear as an extra in an upcoming holiday movie filmed here in the Nutmeg State!

HOW TO WIN A TICKET TO ATTEND:

1. Visit ctvisit.com/articles/very-connecticut-christmas-movie-trail.
2. Submit your entry by Wednesday, November 6, 2024. Winners will be notified shortly thereafter of their invitation to the Hartford area event. The one lucky winner who will be a movie extra will be announced at the event on November 13th.



Wes Brown



Erin Cahill



Michael Rady



DELAWARE
BEER
WINE
— AND —
SPIRITS
SHOWCASE



The Delaware Beer, Wine & Spirits Showcase celebrates its 14th year on November 9th and is the only statewide festival for this industry. This year's event will take place at the Delaware Agricultural Museum and Village and will feature producers on the Delaware Beer Wine and Spirits Trail. Organizers are thrilled with the progress of renovations to the museum, so this year's event will take place completely indoors and guests will be able to enjoy the museum's new exhibitions.

VIP-only tastings and dinner voucher will take place 4 – 5 p.m.; General Admission is from 5-7:30pm. The event features beer, wine and spirits tastings, food trucks, live music, outdoor games, special

exhibits, guided tours of the Agricultural Museum. This event will also spotlight the Delaware Beer, Wine and Spirits Trail App.

Live Music will be presented by Lyric Drive (cover band playing wide range of Americana, rock, folk and funk) Meet the Brewers, Pick Your Favorites, and Games. Tastings of DE Beer, Wine, and Spirits

Visit visitdelaware.com/de-on-tap for the Trail's downloadable mobile app.

VIP Tickets provide reserved parking, early access, exclusive samplings, vouchers for dinner. Early-bird discounts are available for VIP and General Admission tickets.

At a Glance

November 9th, 2024 VIP: 4pm-5:00pm

General: 5:00pm-7:30pm
Delaware Agricultural Museum & Village, Dover DE

VIP Package

Purchase by September 13: \$50

Purchase by November 8: \$60

Purchase at the door: \$75

VIP Tickets Advance Sale Only

- Exclusive unlimited tastings only available for VIPs from 4:00 pm-5:00 pm

- Dinner voucher

- Reserved Seating

- Premium free parking

General Admission

Purchase by September 13: \$30

Purchase by November 8: \$50

Purchase at the door: \$65



PA Grand Canyon I



*By Kathleen Walls
Freelance Travel Writer*

Do you want to get off the beaten path and step back to the days of covered wagons and small gravel roads with no cars? I did that recently in Wellsboro, Pennsylvania, when I took a ride on the Ole' Covered Wagon Ride along the base of Pennsylvania's Grand Canyon. Many people don't know Pennsylvania has its own Grand Canyon. It's Pine Creek Gorge in Tioga County, deep in the Tioga State Forest. The canyon stretches for over 45 miles and has depths of nearly 1500 feet.

The Canyon from Above

I first glimpsed the PA Grand Canyon from above in Leonard Harrison State Park. From the park, I was looking down from

the east rim of the canyon. What a spectacular view ! It was September and the fall colors were just beginning. They start changing near the top of the canyon and peak between October 1 to the 14th. I could see the road the covered wagon would take alongside Pine Creek. The park is known for eagle sightings, but I wasn't that lucky. However, I saw several hawks. There is a trail called Turkey Path that goes down to the bottom of the canyon. It looked pretty steep.



n A Covered Wagon Train

If you visit, be sure and see the small museum in the visitor's center as you enter the park. There are exhibits telling about the importance of lumber to the area and some about the wildlife. Throughout the park and later along the trail on the covered wagon ride, brilliant yellow goldenrods were blooming. Near the lookout area, there is a pavilion with a map of the park and the canyon. It's dedicated to the memory of the CCC (Civilian Conservation Corps) who but this park and so many others. When I visited, workers were restoring a former log cabin built by the CCC.

Down in the Canyon

Ole Covered Wagon Tours begins at their rustic ranch style outpost. We have two wagons going out when I visited. I meet my guide, Donna, who is well versed in the history of the area. I watched as they hitched the horses to the wagons. Our wagon got Peanut and Patches. Reuben and Jessie, two brothers, were pulling the other wagon. I choose a seat on the bench that ran crosswise behind the driver and guide. The advantage was I could hear Donna better. The disadvantage was it was the last seat to get out when we stopped.

As we pulled out of the outpost and crossed Marsh Creek, past the gate that keeps cars off the wagon route. A short distance later, we were on the Pine Creek Rail Trail that parallels Pine Creek. Only hikers and bikers can use the route. You can have an electric bike or horses, but no motorized vehicles. You can primitive camp back here too. The railroad that once ran through here was abandoned in 1988. Today, the rail bed is one of the most popular rail trails in the nation.

We could see buildings and some cabins on the opposite side of Pine Creek. Donna pointed out as we drove down the trail There was a Presbyterian church built in 1838 that is one of the oldest buildings in Tioga County. The cab-

ins were few and far between. When the state took over the property, they told these families they and their immediate descendants down to grandchildren could remain in possession. The property could not be sold or leased. After



the last heir, the state's going to take it back.

We passed some fly fisherman standing in the idle of Pine Creek casting. Donna told us this is prime famous trout fishing stream. There's an annual trout fishing derby in the spring just before Memorial Day. The most popular catches are rainbow trout, brown trout, golden or palomino trout. She said three presidents have gone fishing here; Teddy Roosevelt, Dwight Eisenhower, and Jimmy Carter.

There were all kinds of shrubs, trees, and flowers along the trail. Besides my new favorite, goldenrod, there were yellow wing stems that looked a little like a daisy with yellow pedals, Japanese knotweed, and others. Donna told us that the Japanese Knotweed, a shrub with dark green leaves and a stringy white flower, was extremely invasive. She said, "Originally it was brought to this country as an ornamental shrub, but then they started planting it for erosion, and it went wild. You can't dig it up because there's just too much of it. And it's like every part of the plant reproduces. So it is really hard to kill. You can't burn it off."

The trees are a big part of Pennsylvania history. The eastern white pine tree is the tallest tree. There were sugar maple, red maple, ash, oak, hemlock trees, and some small elm trees. Donna explained about the elm. "Back in the 1930s, the Dutch elm disease started killing them. They'll live to be 10 inches and then they'll die."

Lumber was once a big industry here. The forest was decimated, leaving rotting stumps that caught fire and burned the mountainsides down to the soil. By 1845, there were 145 saw-

mills along Pine Creek's banks. That's where the CCC came into the picture.

We passed Darling Run Campsite, the only public camping along Pine Creek in this area. The sign tells that from 1935 to 1941 Darling Run was a Civilian Conservation Corps Camp



here. Until early 2020, the camp was overgrown and hidden. Today, thanks to the Outdoor Corps, a group of young people run by the national Student Conservation Association, the remains of the camp's stone foundations and an old flagpole have been restored and provide six campsites with

fire rings, picnic tables, and rustic benches.

Here, the "tree army," as the CCC was often called, did plant trees and re-forest the area after years of heavy logging. They also built state and national parks, dams, fought the massive forest fires due to all the logging, built fire lookout towers, constructed roads, and more.



We made a brief stop at the restroom. They are placed about every five miles, I believe. Our next stop was the end of our ride. The drivers unhitched the horse and gave them a about a 30 minute break while we intrepid explorers crossed

a small wooden bridge and climbed up some rugged steps (someone said 208 steps) carved into the mountainside to view Little Four Mile Falls. I went about halfway up and had a great view of the falls. This is where the Turkey Path I mentioned seeing at Leonard Harrison State Park ends. I've traveled full circle and discovered so much I never knew.

More on Pennsylvania >HERE



The Festival of Ice, slated for Dec. 5-6, is a perfect way to kick off the holiday season in the Juniata River Valley. Gaze at the 50+ beautifully carved ice sculptures in Downtown Lewistown at Monument Square. Enjoy a wagon ride, visit the Live Nativity, listen to carolers, participate in children’s activities and visit with Santa. This year’s theme is Christmas Around the World.

Holiday World Scramble

Explore the windows of participating downtown businesses, where you’ll find a special letter displayed in each window. Collect all the letters as you make your way through town, then unscramble them to form a holiday-themed word. Once you’ve figured it out, submit your answer for a chance to win exciting prizes from local businesses! Entry forms will be available on the front porch of the Historic Courthouse. The contest runs Dec. 5 - 8.

Follow the Star, World Nativities Exhibition

Nativity sets collected from around the world will be displayed in the rear vestibule of St. John’s Lutheran Church,



North Main Street, Lewistown from 5-9 p.m., both evenings of the festival. The exhibition will show how artists have adapted the Nativity scene to represent their own spiritual and cultural heritage.

Royal Crazy Parade

The festival’s theme will be evident in more than just the ice sculptures. The Crazy Parade is taking on a royal tone. This unusual kick off to the annual event is usually crazy enough, but this year it’s taking a cue from England’s love of all things royal. The Royal Crazy Parade will start at 6 p.m. sharp from Lewistown Borough Hall

on Third Street. Costumes are always encouraged and this year the option of crowns, fancy hats, and fascinators are also a possibility.

Holiday Markets

Enjoy and shop 60+ vendors at TWO holiday market locations, one at the Juniata Valley Bank parking lot and the other beside the Altiery Gingerich Insurance Agency, plus plenty of food trucks, community vendors, kids’ activities, pony rides, wagon rides, live nativity, live music, dance performances and more spread around the rest of the festival grounds. See rvvisitors.com



Chestnut Hill is Dec

Known as Philadelphia's Garden District, Chestnut Hill is going all out this year for the holidays. Located in the northwestern section of Philadelphia, you will find a blend of historic charm, natural beauty and a welcoming community full of energy and appeal to captivate guests from all walks of life.

This picturesque village shines year-round with a wide array of events, activities and attractions, making it the perfect place to visit regardless of the time of year. However, the holiday season in Chestnut Hill is unlike any other and not to be missed. This section of the city transforms into a magical Hallmark-style winter wonderland with festive decorations, dazzling lights, and enchanting melodies of carolers as they wander along Germantown Avenue.

Shop for Christmas trees and outdoor decor at Laurel Hill Gardens and see the annual extravagant gingerbread window display at Bredenbeck's Bakery while taking advantage of extended shopping hours



Holiday Garden Railway
Photo courtesy of **Morris Arboretum & Gardens**

to find the perfect gifts. From Small Business Saturday to the legendary Stag & Doe Nights on Wednesday the holiday traditions promise to captivate visitors of all ages. The charming neighborhood combines the old with the new, offering a blend of boutique shopping,



Bredenbeck's Bakery

elegant dining, and cultural attractions highlighting why it's such a unique and special place to visit.

One of the defining features of Chestnut Hill is its abundant green spaces. The Morris Arboretum & Gardens is a garden lover's dream. Spanning 92 acres, the historic public garden features a diverse collection of plants and historic gardens and is home to many of Philadelphia's oldest and rarest trees. An annual family favorite, don't miss the Holiday Garden Railway, (shown above) which runs through Dec. 30. Experience a magical miniature world of model trains, historic buildings, bridges, and more—all decorated with thousands of twin-

cked Out For The Holidays

klings! For an even more spectacular experience, see it at night! Night-time viewing is available only with advance tickets available at morrisarb.org/hgr

Chestnut Hill is also a gateway to the Wissahickon Valley Park, a 2,000-acre oasis offering miles of trails for hiking, biking, and horseback riding. It is maintained by the Friends of the Wissahickon, a nonprofit that's been preserving and enhancing the park for 100 years.

Down the road from the Arboretum is the 19th-century mansion, Woodmere Art Museum. Through its broad range of rotating exhibitions, lectures, and programs, the museum tells the story of the Delaware Valley's art and artists. Woodmere's permanent collection is made up of more than 8,000 works of art, including paintings, sculptures, and photographs. Woodmere's Outdoor Wonder (WOW), displays monumental outdoor sculptures.

Featured on Good Morning America's "Main Street USA" series, Chestnut Hill's Germantown Avenue offers visitors a mix of locally owned chic boutiques, antique shops, art galleries, and restaurants that are all within walking distance



of one another. More than 200 retailers are located throughout Chestnut Hill. The family-run hardware store opened in 1913 and has been operating for more than 100 years. Theatre lovers can also enjoy a wide variety of performances at Stagecrafters Theater, a seasoned theatrical company that has been captivating audiences with timeless productions, from classic masterpieces to modern works, for more than 90 years.

The neighborhood also boasts a diverse and award-winning culinary scene for foodies with a variety of dining options, including cozy cafes and eateries, including Matines Cafe and Chestnut Hill Brewery, to the award-winning, more than a century-old McNally's Tavern, a historic pub famous for its "Schmitter" sandwich and a welcoming atmosphere. Foodies will love the upscale and contemporary Italian restaurant Adelinas, and those looking to

sample locally-owned eateries offering diverse cuisines can head to Market at the Fareway, a modern farmers' market offering a variety of local and fresh products and grocery items. For dessert, head to Bredenbeck's Bakery & Ice Cream Parlor which has been serving ice cream and candy treats since 1889.

Extend your trip and book a stay at Chestnut Hill Hotel, featuring 36 unique rooms with modern amenities in three separate buildings. The 27-room main building showcases 18th-century-style decor. The "Post Office" building has a 1950s pop-culture theme inspired by Andy Warhol and the historic "Carriage House" building features a fireplace and reclaimed wood throughout each room.

Whether it's just for one day or an entire weekend, Chestnut Hill is the perfect place for anyone looking to discover the best of what the city of Philadelphia has to offer. The charming neighborhood combines the old with the new, offering a blend of boutique shopping, elegant dining, and cultural attractions highlighting why it's such a unique and special place to visit.

Visit www.chestnuthillpa.org.

More on Pennsylvania >HERE



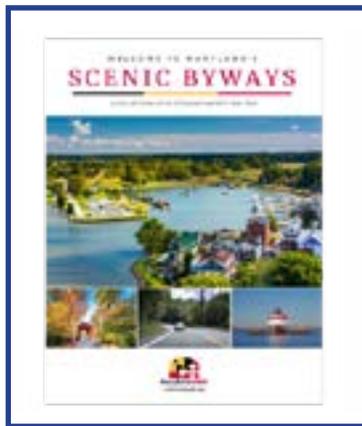
Turkey Trot Around

Plan a Thanksgiving getaway on one of Maryland's 18 incredible Scenic Byways. Forget the "fastest time to destination" route and opt for a relaxing road trip to explore charming towns, the splendor of nature and hidden gems.



You can choose to travel through Western Maryland's lush mountainscape, visit historic sites and cities, spend time in one or two of the quaint small towns or wander along the edge of the sparkling Chesapeake Bay. Find stunning, photo-worthy landscapes, educational opportunities that are informative—but not in your face—and plenty of pit stops serving up local Maryland delights.

Whatever your family's getaway dream is, your holiday planning just got a whole lot easier with an extended weekend getaway to Maryland. So go ahead and make a turkey day reservation today at one of Maryland's incredible restaurants and book a few nights at one of the unique inns to get your plans underway.



With this guide to Maryland's 18 scenic byways, you can follow carefully mapped driving routes into areas rich with beauty, history and culture.

Native American Heritage

November is National Native American Heritage Month and an ideal time to celebrate the rich and diverse cultures and traditions of Maryland's indigenous people. Explore the

vibrant culture and deep heritage of the many different people who made their home in Maryland at Native American heritage sites, events, and celebrations around the state.

Asian Thanksgivings

Nov. 21/TOWSON - Apimeda Thanksgivings - food, stories and culture. Celebrate the diversity of APIMEDA (Asian Pacific Islander Middle Eastern Desi American) culinary traditions in this storytelling gathering highlighting APIMEDA



The Scenic Byways

foods shared on Thanksgiving. Presenters include TU-APIME-DA students, faculty, and staff and other guests.

Turkey Trot Charities

Nov. 23-27/Y Turkey Trot Charity 5K - Join us in person at one of our six race locations or virtually for a fun-filled morning of tradition, family, fitness, friendship and giving back! Perfect for adults, teenagers, children, and even your pup, the Turkey Trot is a guaranteed way to get a healthy start to your Thanksgiving and do something good for your community. Register by 11:59 pm on November 20th to beat the fee increase. To register, visit <https://runsignup.com/Race/MD/SixLocationsVirtual/YTurkeyTrotCharity5K>

Blessings of the Hounds And Horses

Since Colonial times, fox hunters have swept across these



rolling, grassy fields in a colorful pageant of horses, hounds and “hill toppers,” who prefer to watch and ride at a slower pace. Each Thanksgiving, it is a time-honored Maryland tradition to hold blessings of fox-hunters’ hounds and horses. There are nearly a dozen organized foxhunting clubs in Maryland--many have a Thanksgiving meet for their club members.

- Potomac Hunt (Montgomery)
- Goshen Hunt (Montgomery)
- Howard County-Iron Bridge Hounds (Howard Co.)
- De La Brooke Hounds-Calvert
- Marlborough Hunt (Anne Arundel/Prince Georges Co.)
- Wicomico Hunt (Wicomico)
- Carrollton Hounds (Carroll)
- New Market--Middletown
- Valley Hounds (Frederick Co.)

More on Maryland >HERE



Western States



Scottsdale's Festive Happenings



The holiday season in Scottsdale is filled with a variety of exciting events and programming for every type of traveler, including foodies, art and culture enthusiasts or zen seekers. From Lights to seeing Santa, this destination is chock-full of fun.

Holiday Events

Nov. 22 – Jan. 4 - Lights at the Princess

Every holiday season, The Fairmont Scottsdale Princess transforms into a holiday headquarters for families. Last year, attendees viewed 6.5 million LED lights hung around the resort to create a magical holiday atmosphere. Families can glide on the Desert Ice Rink, ride the 120 ft. Ferris wheel, meet Santa and other Christmas characters. Ride the Princess Express Train, sled down Snow Mountain and visit S'mores Land for treats.

Nov. 27 – Jan. 4 - ZooLights – The Phoenix Zoo will transform into a dazzling spectacle this holiday season, with millions of lights guiding visitors through illuminated pathways alongside animal habitats. This year's event will feature a new light show with music and synchronized imagery, in addition to over 50 animal-shaped lanterns, camel rides, cozy fire pits and photos with Santa.

Nov. 29 – Dec. 30 - Holiday Lights at McCormick-Stillman Railroad Park - Each holiday season, this holiday light show that is bound to impress. Guests will ride through seasonally decorated displays and sparkling lights after stepping aboard the Paradise & Pacific Railroad train.



Nov. 30 – Dec. 31 - Scottsdazzle - Bringing holiday cheer throughout Old Town Scottsdale. Think holiday market shopping experiences, tree-lighting ceremonies, sing-a-longs, holiday movie nights, Santa meet-and-greets and a holiday-themed ArtWalk amongst twinkling lights and festive decor.

Nov. 30 - Santa Social - Taking place at The Quad at Scottsdale Quarter, families are invited to enjoy a day of holiday entertainment including photos with Santa, Christmas character appearances, face painting, caricature art, tree lighting ceremony and a holiday movie.

Select nights Dec. 1 – 30 - Las Noches de Las Luminarias – Enter a desert wonderland this holiday season to enjoy an evening filled with luminarias, holiday lights, musical performances, entertainment and holiday delights all lining the Garden's iconic trails for a picture-perfect night.



Over The River



LITTLE RIVER – Locals say fall is the best season in Mendocino. The crowds have departed, leaves are turning, apples are ripening, impressive local wines are being poured, the bounty of Mendocino’s famous mushrooms are appearing in succulent dishes, and sweet Dungeness crab and fresh fish is being harvested from the sea. Visitors can enjoy the leisurely pace and indulge with a relaxing stay at the coast’s most picturesque, ocean-view resort, the Little

River Inn. They have a new Wine Cave Tour package to make that stay even more magical, a Mushroom and Beer Dinner and a Mushroom, Whiskey and Wine Train to savor the county’s fabulous mushrooms, and a “Winter on the Coast” discount. A feast for friends, which they call Friendsgiving, is scheduled for Nov. 23, and brings special pricing on rooms along with a gourmet four-course dinner. And for the first time ever, this November Little River Inn offers a package that allows guests to both fish and crab at the same time – something which is not permitted every year, with their exclusive Fishing and Crabbing package.



Fall in Mendocino brings delicious deals and events. The Fall River Inn adds to the mix with special discounts to celebrate mushrooms and potables with a train ride, mushroom and beer dinner, a new wine cave package, fishing and crabbing excursion while creating a Happy Friendsgiving!

- Through The Woods

This being the quiet season, great values are available at the inn. Guests can take advantage of the "Winter on the Coast" special from Nov. 2024, through February 28, 2025, with discounts of \$25-\$75 off rooms. This deal is good Sundays through Thursdays, excluding holidays.

The nearby Anderson Valley is a wine-lover's paradise and Little River Inn has a unique package that allows guests to learn about local wines like an insider. Their Wine Cave Tour package is a behind the scenes look at Twomey Winery, including a wine cave tour for two, a bonus pour, keepsake glasses, and half off shipping when it's time to send some wines home.

Guests experience some of the best wines Mendocino has to offer, while strolling the Twomey estate and exploring the hillside wine cave. Also included with the package are two nights in any room type (must include a Saturday or Sunday), and Little River Inn's handmade fudge waiting in the room. Tours are Saturday or Sunday at 11AM. Must be 21 or older. No pets allowed.

All aboard the Mushroom, Whiskey and Wine Train for talks, walks, wine, whiskey, and those delectable mush-



rooms! The Skunk Train journeys deep into the redwoods, winding its way along the world-famous Redwood Route to a mushroom and whiskey wonderland at The Glen. Once arrived, revelers will sip local wines, delight in mushroom tidbits, cozy up to a campfire, and be impressed by local whiskeys. Tickets are \$195 per person. This is a fundraiser event benefiting MendoParks. Departing from the Fort Bragg Depot at 11AM on November 2, 2024, this event is 21 and over. Every guest must present an ID to board the train. No pets allowed.

Then, on Friday, Nov. 8, the Inn gets serious about beer at their Mushroom and Beer Dinner. Chef Dym and Russian River Brewmaster Vinnie Cilurzo (of Pliny the Elder fame) collaborate to offer delicious surprises and eye-opening intel on brewing and mushrooms while attendees are treated to a six-course dinner of gourmet mushroom dishes paired with extraordinary brews. Tickets are \$175 per person. More details to come!



For the entire month of November (excluding a few blackout dates), Little River Inn is able to offer guests a rare opportunity to fish and crab at the same time. Their Fishing and Crabbing package includes an excursion on a boat to catch local fish and succulent Dungeness crab, perfect for holiday feasting. Guests embark at 7AM from the docks in Noyo Harbor to capture Rock Fish (up to 10 per person) and up to two Ling Cod. Then on the boat's return, they'll pull crab pots (up to ten crabs per person). For an added charge, they can clean the fish and cook the crabs (the crab cooker will be ready when the boat gets back to the harbor). Included with the package is guidance on getting a fishing license. The package costs \$200 per person, not including accommodations. Guest can call 888-INN-LOVE to book a room and schedule a time to go fishing.



As November winds down, a Friends-giving is in the offering. A new twist on the traditional holiday, groups of friends can celebrate with their chosen family, savoring a lavish, seasonal feast on Nov. 23. In honor of the occasion, rooms can be booked at discounted prices. See more at <https://www.littleriverinn.com>



WONDER & DELIGHT

THE GREAT DICKENS

CHRISTMAS

FAIR



FIVE WEEKENDS!

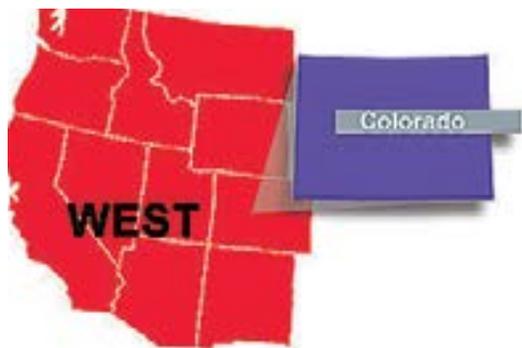
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Nov. 23 ~

Dec. 22

Including the Friday
after Thanksgiving

dickensfair.com



A Winter Wonderland

During the holidays, Colorado transforms into a winter wonderland of timeless traditions blended with new adventures. Many attractions and activities have been planned to bring about memories to last a lifetime.

See The Lights

Denver's Union Station sets the stage for holiday magic with the Grand Illumination event scheduled for Nov. 29. An expanded lineup of family-friendly entertainment will be presented to include classic holiday hits by the Denver Dolls. Santa and Mrs. Claus will be present to visit with the children and hear their Christmas wishes. Other highlights include face painting, a balloon artist, and a caricature artist.

The grand finale of the evening will be the lighting of the station's 40-foot-tall Christmas tree. It will display more than 7,000 colorful lights. A massive new clock was installed on the Plaza to count down the time until the event.

For more information, visit <https://www.denverunionstation.com/events/grand-illumination-2024/>



Cherished Traditions

The North Pole-Santa's Workshop, located at the picturesque foot of Pikes Peak, is a cherished tradition in Colorado Springs. It offers a vintage amusement park experience with rides, festive shops and the chance to meet Santa year-round, creating a timeless family experience. Take in a show with Elmer the Elf, or watch the glass blower create beautiful custom ornaments before your eyes. There's so much magic

here you can plan a full day of family fun. For more information, visit <https://northpolecolorado.com/>

For a cozy and rustic adventure, 2 Below Zero in Frisco offers mule-team-driven sleigh rides with chuckwagon dinners and live music, while Steamboat Springs provides a Wild West touch with its Haymaker Sleigh Ride Dinner.

For a touch of nostalgia, Col-

erland For Christmas

orado's historic trains cantake travelers on a journey through winter wonderlands. The Leadville Railroad Holiday Express offers a magical ride through snowy mountains with scenic views. The Santa Express Train with the Royal Gorge Route Railroad leads passengers to the North Pole and back, complete with a visit from Santa. The Polar Express Train Rides at the Colorado Railroad Museum and the Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad, both offer unparalleled holiday experiences.

For the second time, America's

highest suspension bridge will become a winter wonderland. Opening in December, the Royal Gorge Bridge will transform into an interactive drive-thru holiday lights experience, The Bridge of Lights (Nov. 17–Dec. 31).

A Merry Menu

The Hotel Maverick's restaurant, Devil's Kitchen in Grand Junction will transform its rooftop terrace into an amazing snow globe dining experience against panoramic

views of the Grand Mesa and Colorado National Monument. Cozy up and enjoy a festive meal of regionally inspired dishes and specialty craft cocktails in private illuminated igloos and gondolas.

Frisco's Wassail Days (Nov. 25–Dec. 3) presents a weeklong celebration serving more than 5,000 complimentary samples of wassail, a spiced apple cider, with Main Street adorned in lights and pop-up Santa sightings.

Indulge in a unique Snowcat Dinner at Aspen's Cloud Nine Alpine Bistro, where a picturesque cabin in the Rockies serves exquisite dishes with breathtaking views. Guests meet at 5:30pm inside the Aspen Highlands Welcome Center and enjoy a hot chocolate with schnapps. Guests must dress warmly as the ride can be cold; the snowcats are not enclosed, however, blankets are provided. The open-air snowcat departs at 6pm and you will arrive at the restaurant at approximately 6:30pm. <https://www.aspen-snowmass.com/visit/dining/aspens-highlands/snowcat-dinners-at-cloud-nine>

More on Colorado >HERE





Celebrating 40

Waimea Plantation Cottages Resort, located on the shores of West Kauai is celebrating their 40th anniversary of timeless Hawaiian hospitality this year.

KAUAI -- With roots dating back to 1884, the property has welcomed guests with the charms of authentic Hawaiian plantation homes since 1984.

“As we celebrate the 40th anniversary of Waimea Plantation Cottages Resort, we are pleased to share our Anniversary Celebration Sale with new and returning guests,” said Gregg Enright, general manager at Waimea Plantation Cottages. “Known for spectacular sunsets and starry nights, Waimea Plantation Cottages offers an ideal location for a



couple’s getaway, a family vacation, or to celebrate special occasions.”

Guests booking cottages with the 40th Anniversary Celebration Special will enjoy 20% off Best Available Rates. Upon check-in, guests will be treated to a complimentary selection of Kauai Cookies, shell leis, one bottle of water per person, and complimentary coffee and tea.

In preparation for the celebration, the resort has recently



100 Years of Hospitality



completed the installation of Fujitsu split unit air conditioners in each room of every cottage, enhancing guest comfort, especially during the warmer summer months.

The resort offers 59 one- to five-bedroom cottages, built between the 1880s and 1930s, across 43 acres of oceanfront grounds. Lovingly refreshed to harmonize contemporary comfort with the simplicity of the plantation era, each cottage features a fully equipped kitchen and a private lanai.

Beyond the anniversary sale, guests can enjoy the oceanfront pool, a 2-mile-long black sand walking beach, and an on-property restaurant serving American and BBQ fare. Beachside hammocks, three propane grilling stations, free parking, complimentary current movie DVD rentals, and a free guest laundry facility round out the experience.

Nearby the awe-inspiring

Waimea Canyon, known as the “Grand Canyon of the Pacific,” Koke’e State Park, the breathtaking Napali coastline, and Kekaha Beach, one of Hawaii’s longest white-sand beaches, are some of Kauai’s most loved attractions. For those seeking local charm, Waimea Town and nearby Hanapepe Town offer eclectic boutiques and eateries.

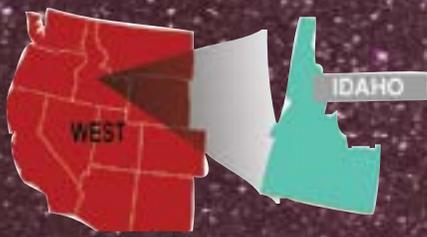
For more information on Waimea Plantation Cottages or to book reservations, please visit www.waimea-plantation-cottages.com or call 800-716-6199.

Established in 1884 as a dairy

and then a working sugar cane plantation, Waimea Plantation Cottages was reborn as a resort in 1984. Each of the 59 cottages has a unique floor plan with comfortable Hawaii-style furnishings. Most of the historic cottages carry a nameplate next to the front doorframe with the surname of a plantation worker who once called the cottage home. The 43-acre property is landscaped with tropical plants, trees, and expansive green lawn areas providing a sense of serenity and quiet. Walking along the beach guests are treated to spectacular sunsets with the island of Niihau in the background.

More in Hawaii >[HERE](#)





Meet Idaho's Celestial

An outdoor escape to Idaho offers more than majestic mountains, serene lakes and lush forests. As the weather grows milder, it's the perfect time to blast off to a stargazer's paradise with some of the darkest skies in the United States. Be sure to pack your binoculars and telescopes and make a date with the stars.

Did you know that Idaho is home to five Certified International Dark Sky locations, which all have low levels of light pollution and make them just right for stargazing. Venture to any of these spots for a stellar experience like no other.

Bruneau Dunes State Park

Located on southern Idaho's northern edge of the vast Owyhee desert. Equidistant between Boise and Twin Falls, it serves as a convenient escape where visitors can immerse themselves in a more natural landscape and take in night skies that reflect what early settlers to the area first experienced.

Bruneau Dunes continues to evaluate the quality of its night skies, conducting night sky quality surveys and adhering to its Light Management Plan. Observatories are open from April through October, and year-round access is planned for the future.

Central Idaho Dark Sky Reserve

A region of 3,668 square kilometers (1,416 square miles) of remote and largely rugged lands in the Sawtooth Mountains of central Idaho, U.S.. The reserve has as its core parts of two recognized wilderness areas, and is situated in the spectacular scenery of the Sawtooth National Forest. In addition to the world-class skiing in the Sun Valley area, visitors come to the area for day hiking, backpacking, and horseback riding and accessed from 23 major trailheads. The reserve's chief draw is its wilderness quality, with its lack of development and significant visitor services.

tial Show Stoppers

City of Rocks National Reserve

The Park was established in 1988 to protect National Historic Landmark sites containing segments of the California Trail and Salt Alternate Trails/Kelton Road and to preserve the “scenic quality of the area.” The U.S. National Park Service and the Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation jointly manage the site. Site management worked with Castle Rock State Park to upgrade all lighting to follow the 5 principles for Responsible Outdoor Lighting and installed interpretive signage to highlight the importance of dark-sky friendly lighting.

Craters of the Moon National Monument

Protecting some 21,618 hectares of volcanic formations and lava flows on the northern edge of the Snake River Plain in south-central Idaho, The Monument sits at the edge of one of the largest remaining ‘pools’ of natural nighttime darkness in the lower 48 U.S. states, defined by the rugged wilderness of interior Idaho. Craters Of The Moon has capitalized its dark-sky resource – as well as its planetary-themed name – to draw visitor attention to the splendor of its night skies and their active conservation.

Ketchum

The City of Ketchum is situated at an elevation of 1,784 m in the Wood River Valley of central Idaho. Ketchum’s economy now revolves largely around tourism focused on the region’s world-famous winter skiing conditions. The City also boasts an active arts and culture scene. The City has reached out to residents to educate them about the need for dark skies, committed to bringing municipally-owned lighting into compliance with the code, and has contributed to the ongoing effort to designate the US first International Dark Sky Reserve in the adjacent Sawtooth National Forest.



Spending The Magical

While everyone is adjusting to the start of the fall season, savvy travelers are looking ahead to winter. It's a time full of surprises and magic at Montana's Triple Creek Ranch, a legendary Relais & Châteaux mountain retreat.

The welcoming lodge at the heart of Triple Creek Ranch offers extraordinary cuisine and a world-class wine list. Add the roster of outdoor activities that showcase the best of the American West, and it's the perfect Bitterroot Mountain adventure. Praised for its five-star service, the ranch has 25 private luxury cabins outfitted to cozy up by the fire while the snow falls, with wood-burning fireplaces, log frame beds, tranquil views, and most featuring private hot tubs.

Winter Adventures in the Rockies

Triple Creek Ranch offers a broad menu of outdoor experiences and complimentary winter gear so guests may embrace every aspect of a glittering Montana winter.

As a signature experience, guests can enjoy a beautiful trail ride in the snow with an experienced wrangler through trails ranging from the 700-acre primary ranch property to winding through the adjacent four-million-acre Bitterroot National Forest.

For the incredible opportunity to ski or snowboard in both Montana and Idaho, Triple Creek Ranch offers free round-trip shuttles to the



nearby Lost Trail Ski Area, along with complimentary lift tickets & equipment rentals. Famed for its daily fresh powder, laid-back atmosphere, and uncrowded slopes, Lost Trail boasts five double lifts, three rope tows, and almost 70 runs, providing many options for all experience levels.

Guests can also head out on a thrilling dog sled ride or even drive their own team of sled dogs for a majestic winter experience reminiscent of early explorers in the Rockies. Snowshoers can avail themselves of complimentary snowshoes, pre-loaded GPS trackers, trail maps, backpacks, bottled water, and gourmet picnic lunches for a self-guided snowshoe adventure.

Using complimentary Nordic skis, boots, and poles, cross-country skiers can ski on property or head up to the Chief Joseph Pass Trail system on the Continental Divide, where there's even a warming cabin to enjoy the gourmet packed lunch that the kitchen provides for guests to enjoy on their journey.

Season At Triple Creek Ranch



Those wishing to stay warm inside also have a range of activities to look forward to such as the Double H Hat Making Workshop, Cooking Classes, guest favorite Artisanal Soap & Candle Making, Yoga & Meditation, or even just relaxing at the Mountain Wellness Spa. Guests ready for some diabolically addictive fun can also attend the annual Stave Puzzle Weekend March 6 – 10, 2025.

Winter Is Wine & Dine Season

With new menus daily, Chef Jacob Leatherman and his team create culinary magic inspired by the flavors of the American West, sourced locally when possible, and created through the lens of his classical French training. In winter their extraordinary cuisine headlines celebrations like Christmas and New Year's, which are wonderful holidays to spend on the ranch when the property is brilliantly decorated, and there are festive meals, fun in the snow, and even fireworks. This winter, Chef Jake and his team will welcome guests to a very special Culinary Weekend with Morning Cooking School, Makers Classes, Beverage Classes, and Wine Pairing Dinners from January 2-6, 2025.

Triple Creek Ranch has also held a Wine Spectator Best of Award of Excellence for a dozen consecutive years, and the winter season is when the Ranch unveils its classic Vintner Events. These are four-day long weekend cel-

ebrations in partnerships with such acclaimed American producers as Chappellet Winery, Schramsberg & J. Davies Vineyards, Hill Family Estate, Et Fille Winery, Chateau Montelena, and more, with wine dinners and special tastings in the company of the vintners themselves.

Western Art & Artists

Triple Creek Ranch is infused with the spirit and history of the American West, thanks to a museum-worthy collection of over 1,500 original pieces of Western art from the owners'



private collection displayed throughout the property inside & out. Through this association with the Western Art community, the Ranch has partnered with many artists, and become well-known for its Artist Workshop Weekends and Artist in

Residence programs, held during the winter season featuring some of the most prominent painters and sculptors of the American West. This winter, look for Lance Boen, Gerald Painter, and Tim Joyner at the Artist Workshop from January 16-20, 2025. Then guests can join Jeremy Winborg as the Artist in Residence from February 6- 9, 2025.

Whether looking for adventure, or simply setting aside quiet time to enjoy the Montana wilderness, Triple Creek Ranch has created a winter hideaway like no other resort in the West. <https://www.triplecreekranch.com/>

More on Montana >HERE

Mid - Eastern States



A Holiday Getaway



(StatePoint) Looking for a getaway destination for this year's holiday season? Look no further than Kentucky. From family adventures full of fun and thrills, to cozy and quiet getaways, Kentucky is brimming with unforgettable ways to spend a holiday vacation.

Is your family seeking jolly thrills? Kentucky Kingdom, located in Louisville, is pulling out all the holiday stops for "Christmas at Kentucky Kingdom." From Nov. 29 through Jan. 4, this world-class amusement park will feature more than 1 million lights, gorgeous holiday decor and opportunities to see Santa Claus. At Holly Jolly Junction, kids can meet Rudolf the Red-Nosed Reindeer and all of his friends. In addition, the park will debut a 175-foot-long snow tubing hill covered in real snow! All this, plus select rides like Cyclos and Lightning Run, will be open to the public throughout the season.

Shaker Village of Pleasant Hill

offers a more contemplative approach to the season. Located, in Harrodsburg, 25 miles southwest of Lexington, Pleasant Hill was one of the largest Shaker communities in the country during the 19th century. Shakers are celebrated for their craftsmanship, unique architecture and spirituality, but they were also among the first Protestant groups to celebrate Christmas.

Today the 3,000-acre property has been preserved as a testament to the Shaker tradition, which is evident year-round, but particularly during the holiday season. On Friday evenings in December at Shaker Christmas by Candlelight, tag along with an interpreter for a candlelit stroll through the heart of Pleasant Hill and get an up-close view and in-depth explanation of how the historic buildings were decorated for the holidays.

My Old Kentucky Home State Park located in Bardstown is also well known for its historical take on Christmas. From Nov.

15 through Jan. 6, you can get a view of traditional and unique Christmas customs from the Victorian era. Learn the origins of the Christmas tree, how mistletoe became famous for exchanging kisses, the tradition of the yule log, the history of the Christmas pickle, and legends of Father Christmas and Santa Claus.

Grand Rivers Festival of Lights is an annual attraction that brings in guests from near and far, and features over 1 million lights and displays in Patti's Settlement and downtown Grand Rivers. Enjoy musical Christmas productions at the Badgett Playhouse, one-of-a-kind gifts at unique shops, memorable family meals at Patti's Restaurant, and cozy lodging beside Kentucky Lake and Lake Barkley.

If you love both the holidays and animals, don't miss the Reindeer Farm in Bowling Green. Throughout December, the farm offers a unique opportunity to get up close and personal with Santa's reindeer. In addition, you can have breakfast with Santa and Mrs. Claus and take a tour of the farm to interact with pigs, mini horses and much more.

For more information on what makes Kentucky the ideal home for the holidays, check out www.kentuckytourism.com.

More on Kentucky >HERE



Hunting History

“In essentials, unity; in nonessentials, liberty; and in all things, love.”

–Moravian Motto



*Renée S. Gordon
Travel and
History Writer*

Winston-Salem, one of the oldest cities in the state, is actually two cities, the oldest, Salem, dates from 1752. The Moravians, a protestant sect that originated in what is now the Czech Republic, originally settled in Pennsylvania but eventually a group moved to 100,000-acres in North Carolina and named their colony Wachovia, the land of streams and rivers. In 1766, Salem was chosen as the administration center site.

Salem has been a destination since its founding as a congregational town in 1766. The village had the first public waterworks in the country



by 1788 and 3-years later George Washington visited to see it and spent 2 nights in the Tavern. In 1849 land was sold by Salem to establish Winston but it was not until 1913 that the two towns officially incorporated. VisitWinstonSalem.com

Interestingly, some of the greatest innovations the area has to offer are to be found in historic Old Salem dating from 1760-1850s. The district has more original historic structures than Williamsburg and eight restored gardens surrounded by historic fencing styles.

n Winston-Salem: Part 2

The Heritage Bridge visually and physically connects modern Salem with Old Salem Historic District. Fishcetti designed this 1999 replica of an 1800s frame bridge. As you walk the 120-ft. bridge you can almost feel the centuries slide away and then you step out into the Moravian world, as it existed between 1766 and 1840. www.oldsalem.com



Old Salem Museums & Gardens preserves more than 70 structures and is an important and well-regarded living history site. The Old Salem Visitor Center was constructed in 2003 and provides an orientation to Old Salem through an introductory video and themed exhibitions. Housed in the James Gray Auditorium is a Pennsylvania, restored, 1800 David Tannenberg Organ.

The country's largest collection of southern furniture and decorative arts is situated adjacent to the visitor center in the Museum of Early Southern Decorative Arts (MESDA). African American crafts and craftsmen are prominently represented throughout. Three of the most renowned artists whose works are included are Joshua Johnson, David Drake the Potter and Thomas Day. In the late-1700s Johnson was the first African American portraitist in the country.

Only one of his portraits was signed. Dave the potter was born in 1801 and was taught to read and write by his owner. He included original poems on some of his works and he signed some of his pieces. In his 30s he lost a leg and could no longer operate the treadle on the pottery wheel. The slaveowner paired him with another slave who had crippled hands but could work the treadle. During the Civil War his owner had him make pots to hide his fortune. mesda.org

African Americans were always an integral part of Salem. They made the bricks, helped construct the structures and were artisans, craftsmen, tradesmen woven into the settlement's fabric. The majority of the enslaved were bilingual, speaking both German and English, and were called upon to serve as translators.

Four years after Salem was established records reveal that Africans and African Americans were approximately 20% of the population.

Attitudes towards the enslaved changed in the 1800s and in 1822 blacks organized their own church funded by the Female Missionary Society of the Moravian Church. The "Negro Church" was made of logs and stood 32-ft. by 28-ft. The Missionary Society established a school there in 1827 that operated until teaching African Americans to read became illegal. The congregation outgrew the church and in 1861 built a new one. The church became a Freedman's Hospital after the Civil War. In 1999 it was reconstructed on its original.

In 1861, the congregation constructed a Greek revival brick church. Union Chaplain, Reverend Clark, read the Emancipation Proclamation from the pulpit on May 21, 1965. In 1914 the church was officially named St. Philip's Moravian Church in reaction to its being known as the slave church. stphilipsmoravian.org

Moravians were originally buried together in God's Acre (1766) by choir, or gender group and non-Moravians were buried in the Stranger's Graveyard. The first black burial was Catarina (Sukey) in 1799 and the final one was in 1813. In 1816, it was determined that burials should be segregated and "Negro God's Acre" was established at the opposite end of town



In the 1990s, efforts were made to locate and identify the gravesites. Excavations determined there are more than 100 graves. One elderly woman recalled hearing that there were gravestones beneath the church steps, acting on this information they recovered 12 gravestones.

The village was laid out in a grid pattern with a main square flanked by a street on a north-south axis. At one end of the town a tavern for use by "outsiders" was erected in 1784. No

windows were built in the side that faced the village. It now functions as the Tavern Museum and reflects the experience of a person lodging there. It is believed to be haunted and is one of two National Historic Landmarks in Old Salem.

The 1769 Single Brothers' House, the second landmark, housed the unmarried brethren.



Winkler Bakery has one of the oldest operating dome ovens in the nation and is wood heated.

This functioning bakery sells both Moravian cookies and their famous sugar cake. Mrs. Hunters' Moravian Cookies are hand-rolled, hand-cut and hand-packed at the rate of more than 10-million annually. Oprah Winfrey listed them as one of her favorite things. For more information visit <https://anescookies.com>

In the 1930s Vernon Rudolph began making doughnuts in a rental property in Old Salem. The secret recipe was purchased from a chef in New Orleans and went on to become known as Krispy Kreme doughnuts.

Richard Joshua Reynolds founded a tobacco company in Winston-Salem and established one of the world's largest tobacco firms in 1874. In 1912 40 dependencies on their 1,067-acre formed a model farm estate. The residence, Reynolda House, is considered one of the last and best-preserved examples of American Country House architecture. The 64-room, interior is filled with the best American craftsmanship of the era with metalwork by Caldwell

& Company and furniture ordered from Wanamaker Department Store's. The original furnishings have survived and are largely Italian Renaissance and English Tudor. A 2,566 pipe Aeolian organ, one of only 899 made, is situated in the two-story Reception Hall and is played daily. The house has four levels in the center with two additional wings. Ironically, Reynolds, responsible for the first successful packaged cigarettes, did not smoke cigarettes or cigars.

Reynolda House Museum of American Art exhibits the best collection of American Art in the Southeast United States. Tours are self-guided and audio guides are available. Continue your visit in Reynolda Gardens, a fine example

of the American Garden Movement. reynoldahouse.org Maya Angelou was a resident of Winston-Salem and both her 75th birthday party and her funeral repast were hosted by Oprah Winfrey and held at the Graylyn Estate.

World class cuisine and 85 accommodations are on offer there. Find more information at <https://graylyn.com>



More on North Carolina >HERE



Have A Holly Dolly

*By Norman Reed
Managing Editor*



Immerse yourself in the spirit of Christmas at Dollywood's Smoky Mountain Christmas presented by Humana, open Nov 1 - Jan 5. Find more than six million twinkling lights, dozens of towering Christmas trees and decorations everywhere, all adding a cheerful glow to the award-winning rides and attractions, like the new Big Bear Mountain. Discover festive flavors, heartwarming holiday shows, and seasonal shopping, all conveniently located right in the heart of the Smokies. Discover the warmth, wonder and glow of one of the most cherished holiday traditions at Dollywood.

Whether you're a first-time visitor or a seasoned holiday-goer, this year's Holly Dolly Christmas Tour offers a festive lineup at Dollywood, Dolly Parton's Stampede, and Dollywood's newly added HeartSong Lodge & Resort. The trip highlights Dolly's beloved winter wonderland, filled with shows, delicious meals, breathtaking scenery, and joyful shopping experiences.

Tour Highlights

- Schedule accommodations at DreamMore Resort.
- Exclusive Holiday Events at Dollywood and HeartSong Lodge
- Price: Starting at only \$749

Arrival and Festive Feast at Dolly's Stampede

Our journey begins with a scenic ride to Pigeon Forge, where we'll check into Dollywood's DreamMore Resort and Spa. Nestled in the



Smoky Mountains, the DreamMore Resort offers comfort with its indoor pool, spa, and Christmas-inspired decor.

The evening kicks off with a lively dinner show at Dolly Parton's Stampede. Enjoy a four-course meal served by playful elves in a magical arena decked with twinkling lights, poinsettias, and a live nativity. Watch spectacular horse stunts, holiday music, and a breathtaking live nativity featuring three wise kings atop camels.

A Holly Dolly Day at Dollywood

After a breakfast buffet at the resort's Song & Hearth Restaurant, the day is yours to spend

ly Christmas Getaway



at Dollywood, just a short shuttle away. Your ticket includes all-day access, reserved seating for select holiday shows, and time to explore 6 million twinkling lights, festive performances, and holiday treats. Don't miss "Christmas in the Smokies" and the vibrant Parade of Many Colors, lighting up the evening sky.

Back at the resort, relax at the DreamMore's spa, indoor pool, or lounge with a holiday drink as you soak up the seasonal ambiance.

Christmas Shopping and Dollywood Lights

Fuel up with breakfast before visiting Pigeon Forge's Incredible Christmas Place. Stroll through beautifully decorated holiday displays to find the perfect Christmas keepsakes. Then,

head to Gatlinburg for a shopping adventure in the historic downtown area, plus a visit to Sugarlands Distillery for a guided tour and tasting.

Dine at the Applewood Farmhouse, famous for its Apple Julep, apple fritters, and homemade apple butter. The evening wraps up with the Country Tonite Christmas Show, a heartwarming blend of holiday songs, bright costumes, and stunning choreography.

Titanic Museum

After breakfast, we'll visit the Titanic Museum, featuring 400 artifacts and a winter wonderland display. Walk the Grand Staircase, hear real Titanic survival stories, and even touch an iceberg. Next, you'll have free time at The Island, where shops, restaurants, and attractions offer something for everyone, including a 200-foot Ferris wheel and fountain light shows.

In the afternoon, we return to Dollywood, where the Smoky Mountain Christmas Festival celebrates the season with four million lights, thrilling rides, and unforgettable performances. Catch the holiday drone light show and warm up with festive treats before heading back to DreamMore for a relaxing final evening.

Day 5: Departure and Heartfelt Farewell

After breakfast, we depart for home, filled with holiday cheer and memories from a magical Holly Dolly Christmas in the Smokies.

This festive holiday tour through Dolly's Smoky Mountains has all the elements for a perfect holiday getaway: seasonal music, exceptional dining, unique shopping, and the twinkling charm of a Smoky Mountain Christmas. Book your Holly Dolly Christmas Tour today, and celebrate the magic of the season!

More on Tennessee >HERE

Midwest States



Christmas Lights



It's that time when explorers start to get excited for the most enchanting event of the year. This winter walk transports you to a land of festive lights, holiday cheer, and magical surprises. Believe us, merriment is all around. Despite the winter weather, it is always fun to start new holiday traditions in Illinois. All ages will be delighted by the sight of these Illinois holiday lights. Keep scrolling to learn more about the best Christmas lights in Illinois.

The most incredible Christmas light hike in Illinois kicks off every year at the end of November in the Coulterville Park.

The Coulterville Holiday Light Display takes place in a small Southern Illinois town of fewer than 1,000 people, and it attracts Illinoisans from far and

wide. It is one of the most popular ways to enjoy IL Christmas lights at this festive time of year.

This year, there will be over one million lights on this 1/2 mile winter walk, as well as 450 wooden figurines, 15 animated scenes, and a 300-piece ceramic village. Visitors will also get to stroll through Candy Land, a recreation of the classic board game complete with candy canes, gum drops, and other sweet delights.

Other attractions include a Frozen-themed ice palace, a Ferris wheel in Santa's Playland, and Frosty's Theatre, which will show movies every night.

This traditional event runs from dusk to 9 p.m. It is free to view any day and Fridays and Saturdays include free refreshments and kids' activities.

Celebrate Christmas in Coulterville with fun activities for the whole family while enjoying some of the best holiday lights in IL.

This Christmas light hike in Illinois is made possible by volunteers and local community sponsors. It is a true coming together of neighbors at a magical time of year. It also involves area students, who love to decorate the trees. Some volunteers work throughout the year to design the incredible displays. The association accepts donations of money, labor, and lights.

Prepare yourself for a night of awe and amazement that will astound the whole family. Brave the cold this holiday season for the best winter lights display in Illinois.

More on Illinois >HERE

22ND ANNUAL COULTERVILLE Holiday Light Display

Free Event



Downtown Coulterville
102 West Grant Street

December 7th-27th

NIGHTLY Dusk - 9PM
FEATURING

18 Block Drive-Thru Display
(Now Featuring King Street)
2 MILLION LIGHTS & 600 FIGURINES

*DRIVE-THRU STARTS AT CITY PARK &
TRAVELS 18 BLOCKS ON 7TH, KING STREET & PALM STREETS*

Lighted Park Walk-Thru
1 MILLION LIGHTS, HUNDREDS OF
DECORATED TREES AND ANIMATED SCENES

SANTA'S DANCE PARTY
EVERY SATURDAY · 5PM-8PM

EVENT NIGHTS EVERY
FRIDAY- SUNDAY FROM
5PM- 8PM IN DECEMBER
SANTA & HIS MAGICAL FRIENDS VISIT THE PARK

FREE HOT CHOCOLATE & SWEETS
FREE KID'S GOODIE BAGS & CRAFTS
--- PAID CONCESSIONS ON-SITE ---



During The Display Look For
"Blizzard the Elf"
And Stop By
Sparta/Coulterville DQ

Kids 12 & Under Receive A
Certificate & Blizzard Coupon
If They Find "Blizzard the Elf"

**ONE \$2
BLIZZARD
PER CHILD**

For 2024 Season



Come Dance With Our Magical Characters On Event Nights!



FOR INFORMATION OR TO MAKE DONATIONS

Coulterville Light Display | P.O. Box 273, Coulterville, IL 62237
Contact: Light Director-Scott Rust 618-525-9182 or scotttrust@yahoo.com



Christkindlemarket

An expanded, redesigned space has been reserved for this event

DES MOINES – Put Dec 5 – 8 on your calendar now so you don't miss CDM2024 to be at Principal Park. It's considered the second largest festival of this type in the U.S. More amazing activities and over 40 vendors are in store for patrons visiting.

"We're excited to build upon our success from 2023 with a move to the parking lot north of the stadium for an expanded and redesigned patron experience," said Suzanne Hull, Director of Christkindlmarket Des Moines. "In addition, we are hosting an afterhours in our enlarged, heated, entertainment tent from 9 – 10 p.m. Friday and Saturday nights. Our festival attendees will also enjoy expanded food options, Breakfast with St. Nick (ticketed), new vendors, dedicated Glühwein refill lines, enhanced decorative lighting and additional free surface parking."

With the amazing quality and authenticity of the European traditions at CDM, it's no surprise that it continues to grow. There is a wide range of new and returning activities and vendors; from imported sweets and beer to traditional specialty items such as Steinbach nutcrackers and Glühwein mugs, the gift possibilities are endless.

Entertainment is as impressive as the cuisine and handmade treasures offered. Yuletide Hall presented by Prairie Meadows will be home to talented musicians and performers. In addition to various music styles, attendees will enjoy performances Saturday and Sunday from the



Schuhplattler Gruppe Edelweiss, the #1 award winning Bavarian Dance group in North America.

Patrons are invited to support local nonprofits by bidding on decorated trees in the Weihnachtswald (Christmas Tree Forest) presented by Siegwerk. The winning bidders can take home their trees and ornaments on Sunday at 5pm. The Kinderkorner tent presented by the Mid-American Energy Foundation will host various children's activities throughout the weekend.

Free surface parking is available west of Principal Park and south of W Martin Luther King Jr Pkwy and in the parking lot directly west of the stadium. Admission is free. For open hours and more information, visit <https://christkindlmarketdsm.com/parking/>

More on Iowa >HERE

INDY'S MOST DELICIOUS EVENT!

1200 CHEFS • LIVE DEMOS • EPIC TASTINGS



GET TIX
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WORLD FOOD CHAMPIONSHIPS®

NOV 8 • 12 | INDIANA STATE FAIRGROUNDS



Hey Fair Friends! Our very own 2024 Taste of the Fair Winners have qualified to compete at a WORLD competition this November at the Indiana State Fairgrounds & Event Center!

Take advantage of BOGO tickets and watch over 300 competitive cooking teams from around the World as they battle it out across 12 delicious categories for the title of World Food Champion!

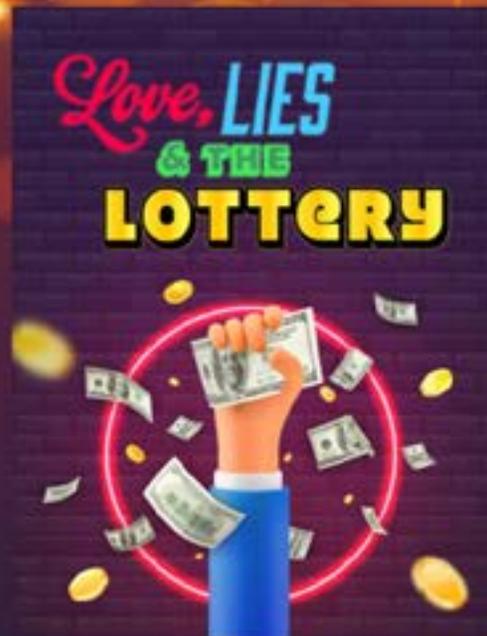
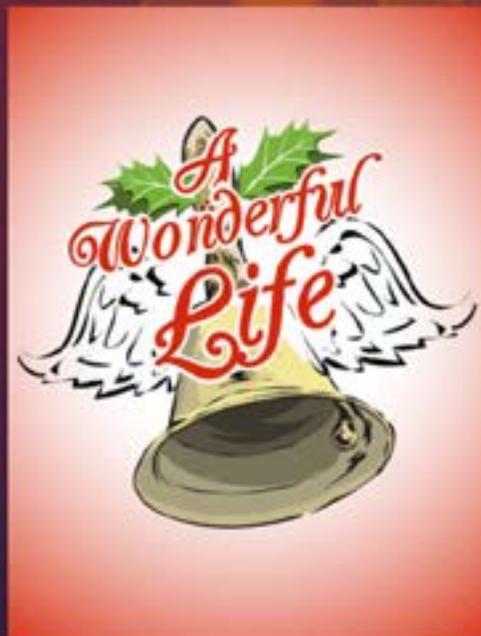
The event features celebrity chefs, cooking demonstrations, BBQ and Live Fire expos, VIP experiences, tons of food samples are more! You won't want to miss out on the fun and excitement of Kitchen Arena!

[> Buy Tickets Here](#)

50
YEARS
1974-2024

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PLAYHOUSE



OCT 3 - NOV 10

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JAN 8 - FEB 16

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Kentucky, off of I-65 in Southern Indiana



*Our stage is in-the round so every
seat gives you an excellent view!*

*Scan to visit our
website!*

A Getaway To Chateau



Sunday Champagne Brunch Every Sunday

Adults \$48 | Kids 5-11 \$21 |
Kids 4 and under are free

Join the locals for brunch at Chateau Grille. Savor delectable dishes prepared by our award-winning chef and her culinary team served in a friendly setting among sweeping views of the Ozark Mountains and Table Rock Lake.

Hours of Operation: 11 am – 2 pm

Seasonal hours may apply
Chateau Grille - Chateau on the Lake has partnered with OpenTable to provide free, secure, and instantly confirmed online reservations.

Gingerbread Houses Grand Reveal

Opens Friday, November 1st

Free | Open to the public

The annual life-size candy and cookie house village is expertly crafted in house by the exceptionally talented pastry chefs and culinary team. See stained glass fruit roll-up windows against graham cracker walls and lit candy cane street lamps. Examine all the details so meticulously placed together to create this three feet tall village. The village consists of four store fronts, two houses and a church. It is on display from November 1st through the first week of January.

Thanksgiving Champagne Brunch at The Chateau Grill

Thursday, November 28th

Adults \$110 | Kids 5-11 \$38 |
Kids 4 and Under are free

Celebrate Thanksgiving in The Chateau Grille from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. with a delightful Champagne Brunch. Enjoy a feast of seasonal favorites and bubbly in an elegant atmosphere.

This Thanksgiving feast includes Champagne and Mimosas for attending adults ages 21 and older. The menu features soup, salad bar, seafood, sushi, breakfast selections, carved meats, desserts and more.

u On The Lake



Brunch with Santa Every Sunday in December

Adults \$52 | Kids 5-11 \$26 | Kids 4 & Under Free

Experience the magic of the season at our Brunch with Santa, from 10:30 AM to 3:00 PM! Delight in a delicious brunch spread while enjoying festive entertainment and special moments with Santa Claus himself. Bring the whole family for a memorable event filled with holiday cheer, delicious treats, and cherished photo opportunities.

For more information, please call 419-7243-1777.

Santa Charity Event Saturday, December 21st

Join us at Chateau on the Lake for a festive morning at our Breakfast with Santa charity event, where the magic of the season comes to life as Santa himself makes a special appearance. Immerse yourself in the holiday spirit while enjoying a delightful breakfast. Don't miss the chance to participate in our silent auction featuring generous donations from a variety of local businesses. All proceeds will be donated to the Imagine Technical Institute. Imagine Technical Institute (ITI) is a vocational training and employment services provider for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities in southwest Missouri.

Christmas Brunch Sunday, December 22nd

Celebrate the season with our festive Christmas Brunch! Join us for a sumptuous holiday feast in a beautifully decorated setting. Enjoy a wide selection of seasonal favorites, delectable desserts, and warm hospitality.

**Christmas Day 3-Course Dinner
Wednesday, December 25th**

Stay tuned for more information!

More on Missouri >HERE



Rock & Awe Time



FREMONT - Rock & Awe Re-loaded! Holiday Light Show, KICK-OFF Party! 100 N. Park Ave, Fremont, Ohio 43420 5 p.m. Preshow party, kick-off of the light show at 6:00 PM.

Rock & Awe Holiday Light Show features more than 33,000 lights synchronized to music, and special effects to bring holiday cheer for all to enjoy, and admission is FREE! Opening night is Wednesday, Nov. 27, 2024 (Thanksgiving Eve) where there will be a short presentation before we light up the show at 6 p.m. However, you should come early for music by DJPH. There will be FREE Hot Chocolate, candy canes, and Rock & Awe ornaments by Croghan Colonial Bank. Enjoy delicious delights from the Jimmy G's BBQ Food Truck, a Polar Express Limo ride giveaway contest by Limoscene

Limo Service and more! There will be FREE LED Bracelets and Wands that interact with the show donated by Croghan Colonial Bank and the Sandusky County Visitors Bureau. Supplies are limited. (Another reminder to arrive early). South Creek Clydesdales will be offering horse drawn sleigh rides around the Courthouse and Veterans Park, taking riders past the lights. Rides will be \$5 per person, 3 and under are FREE.

Rock and Awe Holiday Light show runs nightly from Nov 27 to New Year's Day, Sundays through Thursdays from 6 to 9 p.m. and Fridays and Saturdays from 6 to 11 p.m! The Sandusky County Courthouse is located at 100 North Park Avenue in Fremont. Sponsor, Croghan Colonial Bank will be having Croghan Night at the

Lights on December 6th with more FREE Hot Chocolate, snacks, and giveaways! Rock and Awe Holiday Light Show is choreographed and sponsored by the Sandusky County Visitors Bureau with additional sponsorships by Croghan Colonial Bank, The Sandusky County Commissioners, The Sandusky County Communities Foundation, and The Chamber of Commerce of Sandusky County. Special thanks to our Promotional Sponsors at BAS Broadcasting 92.1 The Wolf and Eagle-99 FM! For more information, visit: [sanduskycounty.org!](http://sanduskycounty.org)

More on Ohio >[HERE](#)



ROCK & AWE

FREE HOLIDAY LIGHT SHOW

SANDUSKY COUNTY COURTHOUSE, 100 NORTH PARK AVE. FREMONT

START A NEW TRADITION!

The Sandusky County Rock & Awe Holiday Light Show is quickly becoming a cornerstone of new holiday traditions for families in Fremont, Ohio, and beyond. Each year, as the days grow shorter and the cold air brings the promise of winter, the light show at the historic Sandusky County Courthouse draws families together, turning ordinary nights into something magical.

For many, the Rock & Awe show offers a new way to celebrate the season. With over 33,000 lights synchronized to beloved holiday music, the event transforms the courthouse into a luminous spectacle, blending nostalgia with modern flair. Children's faces light up as they watch the brilliant display, while parents remember holidays gone by. It's more than just a light show—it's a time to pause and enjoy the beauty of the season together.

This free event, running from Thanksgiving Eve to New Year's Day, gives families an opportunity to create fresh memories. Whether you're standing outside with cocoa in hand or listening to the music from your car radio, this immersive experience adds a new layer of joy to the holiday season.

Learn More at:

SanduskyCounty.org/rock



Sponsored by:



KICKING OFF THE HOLIDAY SEASON!



NOV. 22-24

I-X CENTER

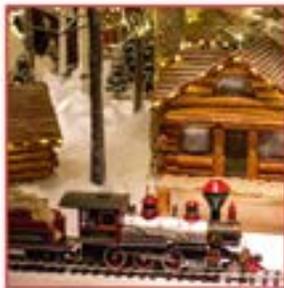
3 DAYS ONLY!



Stop by **SANTALAND** and snap a photo with Santa, and don't forget to tell the jolly fella what you want for Christmas! **Please bring your own camera.*



Check out the Live **ENTERTAINMENT STAGE**, featuring festive performances that are sure to get you in the holiday spirit.



Delight your inner child when you catch a glimpse of the **NEW TINSELTOWN TRAIN AREA** featuring magical model train displays!



ClevelandChristmasConnection.com

f @IXChristmasConnection **ig @ChristmasConnection**

MARKETPLACE | EVENTS

Time For Shopping



CLEVELAND - Kick-off the most wonderful time of the year with a visit to Christmas Connection, Northeast Ohio's largest holiday market and a seasonal tradition for decades. With more than 550 exhibitors, the three-day shopping event will let you find unique, artisan gifts, while also enjoying festive holiday features like the tallest Santa in Cleveland and new Tinseltown Train Area!

Held Nov. 22-24 at Cleveland's I-X Center, Christmas Connection exhibitors feature gift ideas for all ages. From delicious food items and one-of-a-kind décor to unique games and personalized items, there really is something for everyone (yes, even those hard to shop for too!).

A new beauty feature this year, Merry Christmas, Beautiful, is presented in partnership with America's Beauty Show by Cosmetologists Chicago and includes the latest beauty products for either pampering yourself or those on your list who love the latest trends and looking their best from head to toe. Plus, there is an opportunity to buy a limited-edition Glam Bag available for pre-purchase for only \$99.99 valued at \$350+ and filled with 11 must-have products including a BaBylissPRO® Nano Titanium™ Dryer valued at \$95 and an adult admission ticket to the



show! Keep the products for yourself or re-package them as gifts. Bag must be picked up during show hours.

Along with great gift-giving finds, the new Tinseltown Train Area will enchant guests of all ages. Kids can shop in the Sugar Plum Shoppe featuring over 3,000 pre-wrapped gifts, all under \$9 each and perfect for pint-sized wallets. Don't miss SantaLand and the chance to visit and take a picture with Santa, Mrs. Claus and the Elves!

Christmas Connection is also located within a short drive from downtown Cleveland and other great holiday activities.

Be first to shop! A limited number of early bird shopping tickets are available for Friday from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. Unwrap exclusive vendor discounts and

enjoy limited priority shopping away from the crowds. Tickets available online only.

Other Hours are:

Fri. - 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.
Sat. - 8 a.m. - 7 p.m.
Sun. - 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Prices:

\$12 - General Admission presal online until Nov. 21.
\$14 - General Admission after Nov. 21.
FREE Ages 12 & under
\$10 - Group/Bus - 15 or more.
For more information on group tickets and eligibility, please contact Kelsey Christopher at kelseyc@mpeshows.com or 440-591-6963.

Parking is \$10 per vehicle

Learn more by visiting ClevelandChristmasConnection.com.

More on Ohio >HERE

Middletown Lights Up



It's A Drive - Through Fantasy Light Display not to be missed. Light Up Middletown is celebrating 25 years in business this year and will be open every night from Thanksgiving through to New Year's Eve from 6 - 10: 00 p.m. - Open in all weather & Holidays

Light Up Middletown began in 1999 when retired Middletown High School secretary, Florella Randall took it upon herself to bring more holiday lights to Middletown. With encouragement from friends and civic leaders she formed the first Board of Directors and, through donations, worked hard to present the first L.U.M. event consisting of seven displays. As the money and sponsorships grew so did the work.

Enter Barney Strassburger, who quickly became the site manager and brought together a strong group of retired men to do the bulk of the work. Thus, was born the "Grandpa Gang." The Grandpa's are truly the backbone of Light Up Middletown.

In recent years, volunteers from Cleveland Cliffs have helped with putting up the larger displays. Their assistance is a tremendous help to the grandpas. Numerous businesses, civic groups and hundreds of volunteers have supported Light Up and come together to welcome over one million visitors.

With donations received and support of our

business sponsors, Light Up has upgraded the electric and recently worked with the City and MYSA and the Ohio Challenge to repave the roads in Smith Park. We support organizations such as Middie Way Baseball, Women enriching lives, Wreaths Across America, and recently purchased escape ladders for all Middletown School rooms.

Flo passed away in 2023, but now 25 years later, her dream to provide a donation only, volunteer driven, family event continues. We thank you for your continued support and hope our efforts will put a special memory into your holiday season.

Balloon GLOW

On Wednesday, Dec. 11, from 7-8 p.m. (weather permitting) come out and watch some of Southwest Ohio's balloon pilots light up the night sky. Hear the flames roar and the fans cheer as the balloons glow from the ground level. A fan favorite, the night balloon glow is a magical display that families look forward to every year. Please note the date is subject to change if weather does not cooperate.

How to Find Us :

Smith Park
Tytus and Verity Parkway
500 Tytus Avenue
Middletown, Ohio 45042

Admission by cash donation - you set the price!



Open Every Night Including Holidays

6 - 10 p.m. (Rain, Snow, or Moonshine)

Thanksgiving thru New Years Eve!

Admission is by Donation (You set the price)

LIGHT UP
MIDDLETOWN
Celebrating 25 Years

Smith Park
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www.lightupmiddletown.org

Welcome To

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Fri. + Sat. / 5:30pm - 10 p.m.

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Holiday Cheer Is Near

Families have been creating cherished memories at Butch Bando's Fantasy of Lights, a locally owned and family-operated drive-thru light show, for some time now. Celebrating their 25th year of holiday cheer, there are several new displays to experience, located at Alum Creek State Park Campgrounds near Delaware.

"We have three miles of smiles and are a family tradition for all," says co-owner Theresa Bando. This time-honored tradition has been illuminating the holiday nights and spreading joy to all who visit. Open every night from 5:30 - 9 p.m. Sundays - Thursdays and until 10 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays. from Nov. 22 until January 1st, this enchanting spectacle is a must-visit for anyone seeking the true spirit of the season. Mrs. Claus will be present to help take letters to Santa and collect unwrapped toys for PIN 11/29-12/23.

A Heartwarming Tradition:

Butch Bando's Fantasy of Lights is more than just a light show; it's a celebration of family, community, and the magic of the holidays. Steeped in a tradition that spans over two decades, this drive-thru experience offers a glimpse into the wonders of the season. As you drive along the scenic route, you'll find yourself immersed in a world of dazzling lights, whimsical displays, and the sweet sounds of festive melodies. It's a perfect way to embrace the holiday spirit with your loved ones.

Special Festive Touch:

From November 29th to December 23rd, add an extra touch of magic to your visit by bringing your letters for Santa. Mrs. Claus herself will be there to collect these heartfelt messages, ensuring they reach the North Pole in time for Christmas. Don't forget to include your email address at the bottom of the letter, allowing Santa to send a special reply back to your little ones. It's a wonderful opportunity to make the season even more memorable for the children and a chance to reinforce the belief in the mag-ic of Christmas.



Convenient and Affordable:

Getting tickets for this heartwarming experience is easy. Tickets are sold per carload and can be purchased online or at the gate, making it a convenient outing for families of all sizes. The affordability of the tickets ensures that everyone can partake in this festive adventure without breaking the bank. Visit the official website at butchbandosfantasyoflights.com for more information on ticket prices, special events, the local charities benefited, and any updates related to the show.

Join the Celebration:

The show's organizers extend their heartfelt gratitude to the community for allowing them to be a part of your family's holiday traditions. So, gather your loved ones, hop in the car, and embark on a magical journey through this dazzling display of lights. Let the enchantment of Butch Bando's Fantasy of Lights brighten your holiday season and create memories to cherish.



'Tis The Se



*By Sarah Miller
Freelance Writer*

Holidays glimmer in Toledo, Ohio, The Glass City. This mid-size city, on the banks of the Maumee River, affords winter fun possibilities. Try the new ice skating ribbon at Glass City Metropark. Or, cozy inside the world-class Toledo Museum of Art and Glass Pavilion to create your own shimmering, hand-blown glass ornament in flames. The Toledo Zoo's holiday lights dazzle with music and wild animals. You'll find yourself singing "I Wanna Hippopotamus for Christmas." To add to your holiday playlist, tune in to Toledo's holiday happenings.

I Want a Hippopotamus for Christmas Lights Before Christmas at the Toledo Zoo

Imagine the magic of lions, tigers, and bears—even hippopotamus with over a million twinkling holiday lights. In Africa, board the train and chug along the wide-open savannah past animated animal light displays. Across the way, hop on a lion or ostrich to go round the African-themed carousel. Around the corner, Arctic Wolves howl and playful polar bear cubs plunge.

Looking to see Santa? You might catch him around the reindeer or maybe scuba diving inside the Toledo Zoo Aquarium. Winter Village is the spot for the fan-favorite ice slide, mini market with hot cocoa, and crackling fires. Stroll winding garden paths around The Toledo Zoo Conservatory to see the star attraction—the lighted Norwegian Spruce.



My Local Tips: The Lights Before Christmas at the Toledo Zoo is a must do. We have one of the best zoos in the country, it's highly walkable and the holiday lights are impressive. Reservations are needed to be made in advance, and we love to make our reservations for dawn when it's less crowded.

Friday, Nov. 22 to Sunday, Dec. 31, 2024

Deck the Halls Holidays at the Manor House

Oh there's no place like home for the holidays, unless it's a 30,000-square-foot mansion that's fully decked out for the holidays. Wildwood Manor House is set in Toledo Metroparks Wildwood Preserve. Built in 1938, this Georgian

ason For Toledo



colonial style home heralds the holidays in style. Step inside over 30 different festive areas themed for the holidays.



My Local Tips: Over 40,000 people visit Holidays at the Manor House, it's free and open to the public. Every year is different with Grinch and Fa-la-la- Llama-themed rooms. Kids love the miniature train display and all three decorated floors are wheelchair accessible. On selected weekends, guests can roast s'mores and take horse-drawn carriage rides around the estate. December 7–15, 2024

Walking in a Winter Wonderland Glass City Metropark

Lace up your skates for a twirl around The Ribbon, a new 1,000-foot-long refrigerated ice trail. Located in Toledo's Glass City Metropark, the trail is the only one of its kind in the region. Skate with views of the Maumee River and the city skyline, or cozy inside at The Garden by Poco Piatti for wood-fired pizzas, Mediterranean dishes, or drinks by the fire. Skate rentals are inside Market Hall, and little ones can borrow a penguin or polar bear prop for assistance on the ice. Reservations are strongly recommended.

My Local Tips: This special winter place is fun for the family, even your dog. There are trails near the river and a sledding hill. Cabana rentals have crackling bonfires and the on-site restaurant serves the best wood-fired pizzas, bowls, and wraps. For dessert, try the baklava and fried powdery donuts.

I Saw Three Ships National Museum of the Great Lakes

Right next door Toledo's Glass City Metropark, the National Museum of the Great Lakes is a maritime adventure. The museum boasts 40 hands-on exhibits and 300 artifacts that tell the stories of how the Great Lakes have shaped our history. Maritime and history buffs can take an audiovisual voyage back to the 1600's fur traders and into the Underground Railroad of the 1800's. Continue to the rum runners of the 1900s to sailors of today.



My local tip: Mark your calendar for December the 2nd for the Christmas Tree Ship event. Santa Claus will arrive at the museum's dock on a tugboat filled with Christmas trees. Meet and greet Santa, enjoy free museum admission from 10 am to 5pm. Trees can be ordered ahead to bring home or to give to a family for the holidays.

Have a Holly, Jolly Christmas

The Toledo Museum of Art's Glass Pavilion is a great place to visit during the holidays. View the many exhibits on display. Attend one of their daily glass-blowing demonstrations, take time to enjoy a meal or share a drink with family or friends at the TMA Café and then take home a piece of "The Glass City" by visiting their Museum Store.

Dine at the original Tony Packo's Cafe, home of the famous Hungarian Hot Dog. Opened in 1932, this neighborhood eatery serves items like fried pickles, chicken paprikash, and split-style dogs topped with chili sauce and onions. Made famous from the hit TV

series "M*A*S*H" this comfort food spot walls are lined with autographed hot dog buns signed by presidents, astronauts, and celebrities.

Warm up with a hot chocolate flight at The Brew House Downtown. Try their homemade cheesecake or shareable savory appetizers inside this cozy, locally-owned spot.

Spend the night downtown at The Renaissance Toledo Downtown Hotel, or stay nearby at the Maumee Bay State Park Lodge with crackling fireplaces, hiking paths, indoor pool and sport courts. Delta Hotels Toledo by Marriott is the city's newest hotel and is located only a 9-minute drive to the Toledo Zoo. Complete with an indoor pool, restaurant, bar, and fitness center, this full-service hotel makes a perfect addition to your extended weekend holiday getaway.

More on Ohio >HERE

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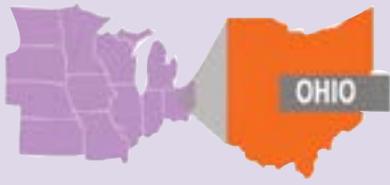


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Christmas Magic Year-Round

MEDINA - A journey through Castle Noel offers an immersive journey into holiday magic, where every corner is meticulously crafted to evoke the charm, nostalgia, and pure joy of the season. This holiday attraction is much more than a museum—it's a curated experience designed by visionary artist Mark Klaus and his wife, Dana, who has spent years collecting and showcasing Christmas memorabilia from some of the most beloved holiday films and television specials.

New: Gingerbread Theatre

The Gingerbread Theatre, new this season, feels like stepping into the pages of a storybook. Families are welcomed into a whimsical, gingerbread-inspired world filled with colorful candy-cane forests, larger-than-life candy carpet, and the scent of holiday spices lingering in the air. This cozy theater invites guests to settle in and enjoy live storytelling sessions, where classic Christmas songs are brought to life. Children can expect characters dressed as gingerbread people, elves, and even their giant Yeti stopping by to surprise guests of all ages, creating an interactive experience that leaves everyone wide-eyed with wonder.

A Magical New Experience: The Polar Bear Club

One of the most unique features this year is The Polar Bear Club, a turn-of-the-century arctic-themed retreat that lets visitors experience an 1800s inspired bar, full of fun and laughter. Did I mention there's a squirrel playing a banjo? With seating that includes an 1800s boat for 16 people, and vintage decor, this elegant space is designed to feel like a hidden lounge from a bygone era. Guests can sip on "polar-style" specialty drinks—a menu that includes a Mr. Grinch cocktail in an iced glass, Cindy Lou Who fantastic pink cocktail with a rock candy swizzle stick. You get the idea and frosty mocktails topped with a dash of fun. The experience captures a nos-

talgic magic reminiscent of arctic expeditions, with sculpted icebergs, polar bears and totem poles from Alaska in an atmosphere feeling chic and timeless.

More Holiday Wonder at Castle Noel

Beyond these exciting new attractions, Castle Noel's extensive collection of holiday memorabilia keeps

guests enchanted for hours. Stroll through exhibits featuring authentic props, costumes, and set pieces from Christmas classics, such as *The Grinch*, *Elf*, *A Christmas Carol*, and *Home Alone*. One of the highlights is Santa's Chimney Squeeze, where visitors can try sliding down a chimney and experience the thrill of holiday adventure firsthand. The Blizzard Vortex also delights with swirling snow that makes guests feel like they're walk-

ing through a real snowstorm, perfect for snapping memorable holiday photos.

For fans of A Christmas Story

Castle Noel features displays showcasing Ralphie's iconic pink bunny suit and more, which serve as a nostalgic tribute to this timeless tale. Christmas lovers will also be delighted to discover intricate animatronics from New York City department store window displays. Some were salvaged and restored by Klaus to preserve the enchanting artistry of Christmas past.

Whether you're cozying up in The Polar Bear Club or taking in the charming storytelling at the Gingerbread Theatre, Castle Noel offers an unforgettable experience for visitors of all ages. With the twinkling lights, festive music, and magical scenes around every corner, it's a place where you can truly embrace the spirit of the season and make memories that will last a lifetime.



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Making More Memories



NEW BRAUNFELS - Bright holiday lights can create lasting memories of joy. So take the time to go and drive through the enchanting displays, some new while other favorites return, Santa's Ranch. Grab your friends and family for an unforgettable weekend getaway, as Santa's Ranch promises a fun experience for all.

For more than 20 years, Santa's Ranch has been a source of abundant holiday cheer and countless Christmas memories. Located centrally in New Braunfels, you'll be enchanted as you navigate the scenic country road and are dazzled by unforgettable, one-of-a-kind displays.

From Nov. 1st to Jan. 4th, Santa's Ranch opens its gates daily, welcoming you to a magical journey from 6 - 10 p.m. Sundays through Thursdays, and 6- 11 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays.

Over 3 million lights await you over the mile long journey, with each turn bringing a new round of "oooh's and ahhhh's!" Smiles and giggles reflect the excitement of the giant gingerbread house. Hearts are warmed by the sight of the nativity scene. The North Pole is brought to life with the activity of Santa's helpers.

Tasty treats provide warmth from the inside out. The concession stand is ready and waiting with hot cocoa, fresh homemade kettle corn, cinnamon roasted nuts, decorated sugar cookies and more! Warm blankets, hoodies, t-shirts, plushies, ornaments and more. are just a few of the many souvenirs the ranch offers. Be sure and take the experience home! There are even treats for your favorite pets!

Santa's Ranch is more than a wonderful Christmas experience - it's a favorite Hill Country tradition. Families return

year after year for their favorite displays - old and new. Pictures are shared with family, friends, and social media, while filling the pages of treasured scrapbooks. Children eagerly remind parents to plan their family trip - or multiple trips - as each new Christmas season begins.

From animated Christmas displays, to the treats, to selecting a souvenir, every moment is designed to kindle the spirit of Christmas within you. Located on Interstate 35 just one exit South of San Marcos, the majestic 50-foot Christmas tree serves as a beacon of good times to come. Season tickets are available - come back as many times as you like with as many family members and friends as you can fit in your car each trip. Be sure to get your tickets now at santas-ranch.com or call for more information at (830) 832-3382. Together, let's bring the holiday season to life!

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