

Paducah, KY

"Christmas on the River" Weekend Itinerary

Celebrate the magic of the season with a cozy, Christmas-themed weekend along the riverfront in Paducah. "Christmas on the River" brings together local traditions, live performances, family-friendly fun, and festive flavors that are perfect for both visitors and hometown holiday lovers.

From sipping cocoa between carriage rides and Santa sightings to dressing in your best Christmas pajamas for a cocktail trail and choosing between a heartwarming play or a symphonic celebration, this itinerary makes it easy to plan a full weekend downtown. Use the guide below as-is or mix and match activities and dining to create your own merry memories on the river.

For lodging, restaurant listings, and maps, explore Paducah's diverse dining scene and available lodging at Paducah.travel.

Friday, December 12

Arrive and Get Festive

Check in to your favorite Paducah stay Downtown or in LowerTown! Suggested options: Holiday Inn Riverfront, Paducah Harbor Plaza, The Dim Light, The Belle Louise & more. [Paducah's Unique Lodging](#)

5:00 PM: Early Dinner

A welcoming, sit-down dinner downtown before your show.

Suggested options: Stella's, Grill 211, or Max's

A casual local restaurant within walking distance of Market House Theatre featuring comfort classics.

Suggested option: Broussard's Cajun Cuisine, Over/Under, or Doe's Eat Place

7:00 - 8:45 PM

"Best Christmas Pageant Ever" at Market House Theatre

Kick off the weekend with this beloved holiday production. Laugh, reminisce, and start feeling all the Christmas nostalgia in the heart of downtown.

9:00 PM

Post-Show Treat

Stroll to one of these nearby businesses for a specialty beverage before turning in for the night. Suggested options: Barrel & Bond, The FoxBriar Cocktail Bar, or The Johnson



Santa, Shopping, & Sips Downtown Day

8:30-9:30 AM

Breakfast

Fuel up for a full day of festivities. Suggested options: Kirchhoff's Bakery, a cozy downtown bakery offering pastries, and locally roasted coffee next door at Etcetera Squared Coffeeshop.

If you are an early riser with a big appetite, Gold Rush Café is open at 7am with their award-winning bread pudding waffles.

10:00 AM

Annual Holly Jolly Event at Trout Old Time General Store & Market

Explore the charm of an old-time general store decked out for the holidays. Enjoy special sales on select items, enter to win exciting giveaways, and indulge in festive treats while shopping for nostalgic gifts, local goodies, and stocking stuffers in a holiday atmosphere.

Stop by all the wonderful shops and boutiques downtown, like Shane Lee Boutique inside Etcetera Squared Coffee Shop. There is something for the whole family. New Business shout out: Fly Guys Menswear, Vonthera, and Fanspired.

12:30-1:30 PM

Lunch

Walk or drive a short distance to a casual downtown eatery perfect for a mid-day break between shopping and afternoon activities.

Suggested options: Kirchhoff's Deli, X-Man's BBQ, and Forever Sweet Creamery.

2:00 – 5:00 PM

Choose your own adventure or combine these festive stops:

Santa & Mrs. Claus

Drop by Paducah Main Street office to visit Santa & Mrs. Claus for photos, wish-lists, and kid-friendly holiday cheer. Located at 227 Broadway St.

Pajama Party Cocktail Trail

Slip into your favorite Christmas pajamas and explore participating bars, restaurants, and shops. Enjoy a Carriage Ride downtown during the trail. Bring in the holiday participating in the last Cocktail Trail of the year! [Purchase Cocktail Trail Tickets](#)



Upstairs Downtown Open House

Enjoy festive cocktails, mocktails, and special tastings while exploring the unique “Upstairs Downtown” spaces.

Downtown shops and restaurants invite you to get into the holiday spirit. For \$25, purchase a ticket to tour beautiful homes and experience downtown living during the Upstairs Downtown Open House. [Purchase tickets](#)



Carriage Rides & Holiday Shows

5:00 - 6:00 PM

Dinner

Before your evening activity, don't forget dinner downtown. [Paducah Dining Guide](#)

5:00 - 8:00 PM

Holiday Carriage Ride

Bundle up and experience downtown by horse-drawn carriage. Enjoy the glow of lights, decorated storefronts, and the riverfront ambiance-perfect for families and couples alike.

Choose Your Evening Performance:

7:00 - 8:15 PM

Best Christmas Pageant Ever at Market House Theatre

If you missed it Friday (or loved it so much you want to see it again!), catch this heartwarming performance.



7:30 - 9:30 PM

A Christmas Celebration: Paducah Symphony Orchestra at The Carson Center

This show features the PSO and Guest choirs and Paducah Native, Jacob Waid. Tickets go fast for this grand symphonic celebration of holiday favorites in one of Paducah's premier performing arts venues.

9:30-10:30 PM

Christmas in the Park & Night Cap

Experience the magic of the holidays at Christmas in the Park in Paducah, Kentucky! Every year, Paducah Power System transforms Bob Noble Park into a festive wonderland with over half a million sparkling Christmas lights, making it a must-see holiday light display in Paducah. Drive through the park nightly and enjoy a dazzling winter spectacle perfect for families, friends, and visitors of all ages. End the night at a cozy lounge like The Cork Room with a seasonal cocktail or a glass of wine.

Sunday, December 14

A Cozy Christmas Finale

10:00–11:30 AM

Brunch

Sleep in or check out of the hotel/Airbnb and enjoy a relaxed brunch downtown. Two options on Sunday, Gold Rush Café or Etcetera Coffeehouse on North 6th St.

3:00 – 4:30 PM

Performance before the Road

Christmas with T. Graham at The Carson Center
Close out your weekend with a warm, soulful Christmas concert filled with songs of the season.



For help planning your own custom visit to Paducah, I'm here to help! Whether you're organizing a church outing, family or class reunion, motorcoach tour, or a friends' getaway, I can provide personalized group itineraries, dining suggestions, and step-on guidance tailored to your group's interests and schedule.



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