

2018



HOLIDAY EVENTS

Wilmington.C.
River District & Island Beaches

Wilmington *Carolina Beach*
Kure Beach *Wrightsville Beach*

WilmingtonAndBeaches.com

#WilmingtonNC

866-266-9690

#WhenInWilmington



The following is a sampling of Holiday Events from the river to the sea.

Ongoing through December 23: Fri & Sat, 7:00 p.m.

Dinner Theatre: Christmas Cactus

TheatreNOW: 19 S 10th St Wilmington, NC

Enjoy a fun holiday show with a themed dining experience in Historic Downtown. Visit website for schedule. 910-399-3669. Tickets required. www.theatrewilmington.com/index.html

Ongoing through January 2

2018 Cape Fear Festival of Trees

NC Aquarium at Fort Fisher: 900 Loggerhead Rd. Kure Beach, NC

The Lower Cape Fear Hospice hosts the festival of trees among the inspiring and educational backdrop of the North Carolina Aquarium at Fort Fisher! Admission charged. www.lcfh.org/ways-to-give/foundation-events/festival-of-trees/

Ongoing through December 24

Photos with Santa

Mayfaire Town Center: 830 Inspiration Dr. Wilmington, NC

Whisper wish lists and create unforgettable memories as you celebrate the wonder of the holidays at Santa's Workshop! Mon-Sat 11am-7pm (Santa breaks 2-3pm), Sundays 12-5pm. www.mayfaire.com/connect?

Ongoing through December 31

Island of Lights Festival

Carolina & Kure Beaches

Pleasure Island is home to an island-wide holiday festival featuring nightly lighted displays around Carolina Beach Lake, along with businesses and homes decked out in their seasonal best. www.pleasureislandoflights.com

Ongoing through December 31

Holiday Lights and Window Displays

Mayfaire Town Center: 6835 Conservation Way Wilmington, NC

Area schools will Deck the Halls of Mayfaire with beautiful window displays. Our 18 ft. Christmas tree and plaza in front of Regal Cinema light up each evening with a spectacular light display choreographed to music. Shows are nightly from 6-9pm throughout the holiday season. www.mayfaire.com/connect?

Ongoing through January 2

Holiday Skate Rink

Mayfaire Town Center

We are excited to announce the addition of an outdoor ice skating rink to our Holiday Festivities this year. The ice rink will be located in the parking lot on International Drive, across from Belk. Skates will be available for rental. Visit www.holidayskaterink.com for hours.

Ongoing through December 29 (Fridays and Saturdays)

Christmas Train and Light Spectacular

Wilmington Railroad Museum: 505 Nutt St. Wilmington

The museum transforms into a winter wonderland with spectacular decorations, over 25,000 lights glisten and sparkle. Santa is also on hand with goodies as well as cider to sip and enjoy. www.wrrm.org

November 23-December 29, Friday & Saturday 5:30 p.m.

Spirit of the Holidays Cruise

Wilmington Water Tours: 212 S Water St Wilmington, NC

Cruise the Cape Fear River while enjoying the sights & sounds of Christmas. There will be Christmas carols, holiday cocktails, and snacks. Admission charged. 910-338-3134 wilmingtonwatertours.net/

November 24-December 30

Holiday Train Expo 2018

Independence Mall: 3500 Oleander Dr. Wilmington, NC

Polar Express, Christmas Village and much more! 8 unique and interactive model layouts. www.capefearrailroadsociety.com

November 29-December 16, Thurs-Sat 8:00 p.m. Sun 3:00 p.m.

Jacob Marley's Christmas Carol

Cape Fear Playhouse: 613 Castle St. Wilmington, NC

Enjoy a funny twist on this Holiday Classic. Ticket Required. 910-367-5237 www.bigdawgproductions.org

November 30, 4:00 & 7:00 p.m. & December 1, 10:00 a.m.

Ballet for Young Audiences The Nutcracker

Thalian Hall for Performing Arts: 321 Chestnut St. Wilmington, NC

This narrated version of the classic Christmas tale tells the story of a young girl named Clara. Admission charged. 910-632-2285

www.thalianhall.org/

November 30, 7:30 p.m.

2018 Island of Lights Festival Christmas Parade

Lake Park Blvd. Carolina Beach, NC

Floats, bands, Santa and more! Free admission. 910-458-2977

www.pleasureislandoflights.com/

November 30, 5:00– 8:30 p.m.

Greenfield Lake Tree Lighting & Movie

Greenfield Lake Park: 1941 Amphitheatre Dr. Wilmington, NC

This joyous occasion will be full of excitement starting with live entertainment, followed by the tree lighting, a visit from Santa and a free showing of "Elf." Free. www.wilmingtonnc.gov/

November 30-December 2

The Holiday Flea at the Brooklyn Arts Center

Brooklyn Arts Center: 214 N 4th St. Wilmington, NC

Join us for fabulous vintage vendors, BAC cash bar, and some of Wilmington's most amazing food trucks. Be sure to mark your calendars for an event that you will not want to miss. Refer to

website for daily hours. Admission charged. 910-616-9882
www.brooklynartsnc.com/

December 1, 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

Annual Candle Tea

Covenant Moravian Church, 4126 S College Rd. Wilmington
Moravian cookies, fresh baked sugar cake and crafts available for purchase. <https://www.facebook.com/covenantmoravianwilmington/>

December 1, 7:00 p.m. & December 2, 3:00 p.m.

A Carolina Nutcracker

The Wilson Center: 703 N 3rd St. Wilmington, NC

This exciting blend of historical characters and the cherished holiday ballet features all the classic elements of the original, merged with Wilmington's own history. Enjoy the splendor of a live 50-piece professional orchestra and treble chorus as well as artists from the Carolina Ballet in Raleigh. Tickets required. <https://cfcc.edu/capefearstage/carolina-nutcracker-2018/>

December 1, 10:00 a.m.- 3:00 p.m.

Fort Fisher Holiday Open House

Fort Fisher Historic Site: 1610 Fort Fisher Blvd Kure Beach, NC

Enjoy refreshments, an appearance by Father Christmas, decorations, and entertainment throughout the day, including musical performances guaranteed to delight all ages. Free admission. 910-458-5538 www.friendsoffortfisher.com/calendar.html

December 1, 5:00 p.m.

Dashing thru the Glow 5K

Riverlights Community Wilmington, NC

Dashing Thru The Glow 5K features Christmas lights and decorations throughout the course. The event also includes a Christmas Tree Lighting and a visit from Santa. All participants receive a Santa hat, cookies, and hot chocolate. Proceeds benefit Toys for Tots. Registration required. www.riverlightsliving.com

December 1, 6:00 p.m.

2018 Island of Lights Festival Christmas Flotilla

Carolina Beach Boat Basin

Fishing boats and pleasure craft electrically decorated with thousands of lights present a spectacular display on the Intracoastal Waterway. The boats compete for prizes and add to the wonderful holiday spirit. Free to spectators. 910-386-8081 www.pleasureislandoflights.com/christmas-flotilla.html

December 1, 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

Carolina Beach Holiday Market

Carolina Beach Lake Park

Just in time for the holiday season, Carolina Beach Farmer's Market helps you solve all your shopping dilemmas with many gifts that are sure to suit all ages on your list. They will have something for everyone from shark's teeth to soaps, yard art to fine art and everything in between. 910-458-2977.
www.facebook.com/CarolinaBeachFarmersMarket/

December 1, 4:00-8:00 p.m. & December 2, 1:00-5:00 p.m.

Old Wilmington by Candlelight Tour

The Latimer House: 126 S 3rd St. Wilmington, NC

This prestigious, historic two-day event ushers in the holiday season with a festive tour of private homes, churches and historical sites in Historic Downtown Wilmington all decorated in their finest Christmas holiday cheer. Ticket Required. 910-762-0492 www.lcfhs.org/old-wilmington-by-candlelight-tour.html

December 2, 6:30 p.m.

Wilmington Holiday Parade

Downtown Wilmington

Join the parade! Marching bands, floats, entertainers and of course, Santa Claus bring this holiday tradition to all ages. Parade will begin at N. Front and Walnut traveling south on Front to Church Street. Don't miss out on the Wilmington holiday cheer! Free. 910-772-4177 www.wilmingtonnc.gov/Home/Components/Calendar/Event/784/661

December 2&3, 12:00-3:00 p.m.

Jingle Belles Holiday Tea at the Bellamy Mansion

Bellamy Mansion: 503 Market St. Wilmington, NC

A festive, fully catered tea party that includes tea sandwiches, dessert selection, hot tea, plus all of the tea trimmings. 910-251-3700 Advance tickets required. www.bellamymansion.org/

December 6-9 & 13-16, 7:30 p.m.

SantaLand Diaries

Ruth & Bucky Stein Theatre: 310 Chestnut St. Wilmington, NC

This hilarious comedy, written by David Sedaris, looks at the misadventures of working for Macy's Santaland as a disgruntled Santa's elf. This hilarious and not politically correct look at the holidays features Kevin Wilson as Crumpet joined by The Not Ready for Christmas Carolers and directed by Anthony David Lawson. Adult language and subject matter. Tickets required. www.thalianhall.org

December 7-22

Enchanted Airlie (An STS Top 20 Event!)

Airlie Gardens: 300 Airlie Rd. Wilmington, NC

Stroll through Airlie Gardens and enjoy elaborate festive light displays, holiday flowers and musical entertainment with the whole family! Tickets required. This event sells out quickly so reserve your tickets early. No tickets at the gate. 910-798-7700 www.airliegarden.org/events-news/enchanted-airlie

December 7-27

Holiday Lights Trolley Tour

Downtown Wilmington: 106 S Water St. Wilmington, NC

Come out and let someone else do the driving while you and your family look at the beautifully decorated homes and neighborhoods in the historic downtown area The tour starts with a short narrated tour of the Downtown and then proceeds to look at the Holiday lights in the surrounding areas, all the while you are listening to Holiday Music. Tickets required. <http://wilmingtontrolley.com/special-events/>

December 7, 7:00 p.m.

Cape Fear Chordsmen in Holiday Concert

Temple Baptist Church: 18th & Market St. Wilmington

Come enjoy a cappella stylings of traditional carols and holiday music! Joined by The Cape Fear Academy Honors Vocal Ensemble, the Cape Fear Chordsmen will bedazzle you with Holiday Joy and Smiles! 910-541-1256 www.capefearchordsmen.com

December 7-9, 7:00 p.m.

Kure Beach Fantasy Christmas Show

Ocean Front Park, Kure Beach

Come and see this favorite Kure Beach tradition. Enjoy Frosty and his penguin friend, Harriet Hippo, The Grinch, Cookie Monster, the dancing bears and more, along with Santa Claus and crazy elves, as they entertain you with song, dance and their zany antics! 910-458-8216. www.townofkurebeach.org/ocean-front-park-pavilion-calendar.aspx

December 7-9 & 14-16

A Christmas Carol

Thalian Hall: 310 Chestnut St. Wilmington

Ebenezer Scrooge, a prosperous curmudgeon, is forced to face his selfish ways when three ghosts on Christmas Eve lead him through his Past, Present and Future. Admission charged. 910-632-2285 www.thalianhall.org/event/

December 7-9; 14-16

A Merry Little Christmas Festival: Arts, Crafts & Gift Show

Poplar Grove Plantation: 10200 US-17 Wilmington, NC

For families near and far seeking a local outdoor shopping experience, including a variety of local Arts & Crafts, stockings stuffers, refreshments, free parking, and a romp around the specially decorated grounds. Refer to website for daily hours. Admission Charged. 910-686-9518 www.poplargrove.org/

December 8, 4:30-8:30 p.m.

A Christmas Stroll through the Past

Burgwin-Wright House Museum: 224 Market St. Wilmington, NC

Join the Burgwin-Wright House, Bellamy Mansion Museum and St. James Episcopal Church as they host their annual festive holiday evening filled with music, dancing, costumes, refreshments and more! Go back in time for an old-fashioned Christmas on this magical night full of fun for the whole family. Admission charged. 910-251-3700 www.bellamymansion.org/

December 8, 9:00-10:00 a.m.

Storytime with Santa

Barnes & Noble Mayfaire: 850 Inspiration Dr. Wilmington

Kids, gather around Santa and hear a classic Christmas tale at Barnes & Noble. This is a magical time for families. Your child will get to enjoy spending time with Santa as he tells a Christmas story. Admission is free.

December 8, 5:00-9:00 p.m.

2018 Island of Lights Tour of Homes

Carolina & Kure Beach

Take a self-guided tour through some of Pleasure Island's most beautiful homes when they are decorated for the holidays. Enjoy southern hospitality at its best as the owners welcome you into the privacy of their homes for this special holiday treat. Tickets required. Admission charged. 910-458-5507 www.pleasureislandoflights.com/tour-of-homes.html

December 8, 9:00 a.m.

Jingle Bell 5K Run

Wrightsville Beach Museum: 303 W Salisbury St. Wrightsville Beach

Race participants are encouraged to dress in holiday apparel (i.e. Santa costumes, antlers, snow men etc.). Registration required. 910-256-2569 <http://wbmuseumofhistory.com/events/jingle-bell-run>

December 8, 15, & 22, 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

Holiday Elf Camp

NC Aquarium at Fort Fisher: 900 Loggerhead Rd. Kure Beach, NC

The North Carolina Aquarium at Fort Fisher is offering three Holiday Elf Camps this year for ages 5-12. Our elves will be making gifts, wrapping them, meeting other elves and making extra-special memories here at the aquarium. This fun, educational program gives adult elves guilt-free time for holiday shopping or relaxation. Pre-registration required. <http://www.ncaquariums.com/fort-fisher>

December 8-December 23, Saturdays & Sundays

Polar Express Holiday Show

Wilmington Railroad Museum: 505 Nutt St Wilmington, NC

Immerse yourself in holiday cheer with the telling of the wonderful holiday classic, Polar Express, followed by a visit from Santa. Tickets Required. 910-763-2634 www.wrrm.org/events.html

December 8 & 15, 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Polar Express Day at The Children's Museum

The Children's Museum of Wilmington: 116 Orange St Wilmington

Join us in your jammies for our 4th annual Polar Express day! We will have hot chocolate, story time, holiday crafts, letters to Santa, train rides and so much more! This event is sold out.

Email abrilhante@playwilmington.org to be put on a waiting list.

www.playwilmington.org

December 8, 7:30 p.m.

Homegrown Holiday with Zoe & Cloyd

UNCW Kenan Auditorium: 601 S College St. Wilmington, NC

Steeped in American roots music, this performance features the duo's original music as well as homegrown renditions of holiday favorites.

Admission charged. (910) 962-3500 www.uncw.edu/arts/presents/2018-2019/

December 8, 2:00 p.m.

A Charlie Brown Christmas

The Wilson Center: 703 N 3rd St. Wilmington, NC

Enjoy the Christmas special we all love with live actors and jazz musicians! Bring the whole family. It's a great chance to celebrate together with this holiday classic. www.cfcc.edu/capefearstage/

December 8, 10:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.

Christkindlmarkt at St. Matthew's Lutheran Church

St. Matthews' Lutheran Church 612 S. College Rd. Wilmington, NC

Children can visit with Father Christmas while Harbour Towne Fest Band plays and delicious German food is served. Wine and beer will be available for purchase, as well as vendor shops to browse. (910) 791-4582 <https://christkindlmarkt.stmatthewsch.org/>

December 9, 4:00-7:00 p.m.

Floating Lantern Ceremony 2018

Cameron Art Museum: Reflection Pond: 3201 S 17th St. Wilmington

Remembrance, Reflection and Gratitude. Write, draw, express your love, gratitude, and wishes on a lantern and watch as it floats on the majestic museum pond. 910-395-5999 www.cameronartmuseum.org

December 9

Santa Cares– Sensory Friendly Event

Mayfaire Town Center: 980 Inspiration Dr. Wilmington, NC

A sensory-friendly opportunity for children with all spectrums of special needs to enjoy the time-honored tradition of the Santa Photo Experience with their family in a calming environment. Free. www.mayfaire.com/connect?

December 13

12 Tastes of Christmas

Brooklyn Arts Center: 516 N 4th St. Wilmington

34 stations will feature 17 local eateries and 17 local drinkeries, pairing the best in food and beverages. Attendees will enjoy eating and drinking amidst the Griswolds' "Christmas Vacation" theme. Tickets required. www.brooklynartsnc.com

December 14&15, 2:00 & 7:00 p.m.

The Promise

Hannah Block USO: 120 S 2nd St. Wilmington

This exciting interpretation of the Christmas Story include original musical pieces and dance elements. Turning Pointe Dance Company will be joining this production to open both acts. 910-341-7860 wilmingtoncommunityarts.com

December 14-15, 21-24, 6:00-10:00 p.m.

Christmas Caroling with Santa and his "Reindeer"

Downtown Wilmington

Come and sing Christmas carols with Santa and his special "reindeer." Snuggle under warm lap blankets while enjoying the beautiful Christmas lights. Admission charged.

www.horsedrawntours.com

December 15-16, 7:00 p.m.

Christmas Cabaret

Landfall Country Club: 800 Sun Runner Pl. Wilmington, NC

Join us for this Wilmington holiday tradition filled beautiful secular and sacred Christmas music with a theatrical flair. Tickets required. Order online. <http://operahouse.squarespace.com/purchase/>

December 15

Toys for Tots Fundraiser Concert

Brooklyn Arts Center: 516 N 4th St. Wilmington

L Shape Lot is hosting their 7th Annual Toys for Tots Fundraiser, at the beautiful Brooklyn Arts Center, along with special guest Massive Grass. www.brooklynartsnc.com

December 15, 6:00 p.m. & December 16, 3:00 p.m.

Wilmington Ballet Company: The Nutcracker

The Wilson Center: 703 N 3rd St Wilmington, NC

Experience the Classic Christmas ballet featuring unique elements including aerial artists, stilt walkers, high-tech digital imagery, and more. Tickets required. <https://cfcc.edu/capefearstage/>

December 15, 8:00-9:30 a.m.

Santa's Magical Morning

NC Aquarium at Fort Fisher: 900 Loggerhead Rd. Kure Beach, NC

Delight in a donut breakfast. Catch Kris Kringle diving with his aquatic friends, including sharks, rays and eels. Wonder at nature as an Aquarium educator tells tales of Santa's North Pole neighbors and polar pals. Tickets required. (910) 772-0500.

www.ncaquariums.com/fort-fisher

December 17-20

Adrian Vicker's Miniature British Fair & Christmas Festival

Thalian Hall: 310 Chestnut St. Wilmington, NC

This miniature spectacle stretching over 800 square feet and made from over 800 individual pieces, including a Ferris wheel and carousel. Let the fair embrace all your senses, and transfer you back to a simpler time all made available in the ballroom of Thalian Hall. www.thalianhall.org

December 18, 7:30 p.m.

The Beach Boys Reasons for the Season Christmas Tour

The Wilson Center: 703 N 3rd St. Wilmington, NC

The Beach Boys presents the Reasons for the Season Christmas Tour at the Wilson Center in downtown Wilmington, NC. Ticket Required. (910) 362-7999 <https://cfcc.edu/capefearstage/beachboys/>

December 19, 3:00 & 7:00 p.m.

3 Redneck Tenors

Thalian Hall: 310 Chestnut St. Wilmington, NC

Finalists from America's Got Talent, the 3 Redneck Tenors have been delighting audiences since 2006. They've been described as "downhome laughs with big city music", pulling from Gospel, Country, Broadway, Pop, and Classical influences. Admission charged. www.thalianhall.org/

866-266-9690

December 19, 7:30 p.m.

Statewide Holiday Pops with NC Symphony

Wilson Center: 703 N Third St. Wilmington, NC

Celebrate the sounds of the season with all of your festive favorites, from "Greensleeves" to "White Christmas," and much more—and join in our traditional sing-a-long! Admission Charged. 877-627-6724
www.ncsymphony.org/events/

December 20, 4:00 & 7:00 p.m.

Screening of It's A Wonderful Life

Thalian Hall: 310 Chestnut St. Wilmington, NC

Frank Capra's iconic holiday film is a Wilmington holiday tradition, shown as it was meant to be seen: on the big screen. This timeless tale brings back old memories and creates new ones for children and grandchildren alike when viewed in majestic Thalian Hall. Admission charged. www.thalianhall.org

December 31, 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

New Year's Noon

Children's Museum of Wilmington: 116 Orange St. Wilmington, NC

This kid-friendly celebration has crafts, singing, dancing and an epic confetti toss and juice toast at noon in the courtyard of the Children's Museum. Admission is charged. 910-254-3534
www.playwilmington.org

December 31

New Year's Eve Speakeasy Celebration

TheatreNOW: 19 S 10th St. Wilmington, NC

Shhhhhhh! This Throwback Costume Party is a New Year's Eve speakeasy celebration. Get your password for this exclusive evening from the Prohibition Era. Choose your celebration time from two seatings featuring a multi-course tasting meal, party favors, champagne toast and cabaret style entertainment. Advance reservations required. www.theatrewilmington.com

December 31, 5:30 p.m.

Midnight in Paris: A New Year's Eve Celebrations

Le Catalan: 224 S Water St. Wilmington

Join Le Catalan as they celebrate the New Year at their Midnight in Paris celebration. Bon Annee!
910-815-0200 <http://www.lecatalan.com/>

December 31, 7:00 p.m.

New Year's Eve Gala

Thalian Hall: 310 Chestnut St. Wilmington, NC

Escape to the Greek Isles and dance the night away at the preeminent New Year's Eve party in town! An enchanting evening of dinner, drinks, dessert, and a sensational performance of the smash-hit musical based on ABBA classics, Mamma Mia! After the show, ring in 2019 with a live DJ, dancing, karaoke, and a champagne toast! Ticket Required. 910- 632-2285 www.thalianhall.org/event/



The Wilmington and Beaches CVB will not be held responsible for the information contained herein. Inclusion in this brochure should not be construed as a recommendation but merely as a guide. Before traveling any distance, please contact event organizers to confirm dates and times, etc.