

2019



HOLIDAY
EVENTS

Wilmington.C.
River District & Island Beaches

Wilmington *Carolina Beach*
Kure Beach *Wrightsville Beach*

WilmingtonAndBeaches.com

866-266-9690

#WilmingtonNC

#WhenInWilmington



Experience the color and pageantry of holiday events that reflect the culture and warmth of Wilmington, North Carolina's river district and island beaches. Visitors can choose from more than 50 holiday events to create a memorable vacation in Wilmington, Carolina Beach, Kure Beach, and Wrightsville Beach. For details about seasonal highlights and specials, visit www.wilmingtonandbeaches.com/things-to-do/seasonal-highlights. For a free official visitors guide, call us at 1-866-266-9690 or email visit@WilmingtonAndBeaches.com. The following is a sampling of Holiday Events from the river to the sea.

November 18-January 2, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

2019 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 Aquarium. Admission charged. (910) 796-8099.

<https://www.lcfh.org/events/>

November 22 – December 24, see website for dates and times

Photos with Santa

Mayfaire Town Center: 6835 Conservation Way, Wilmington, NC

Capture your child's holiday memory of their visit with Santa at Santa's Workshop. Santa's Workshop is located at 890 Town Center Drive, near Regal Cinema. Free Admission.

(910) 256-5131. <http://www.mayfaire.com/>

November 22 -December 24, see website for further details

Holiday Lights and Window Displays

Mayfaire Town Center: 6835 Conservation Way, Wilmington, NC

Grab a cup of hot chocolate and stroll the streets of Mayfaire and view the magical lighted Holiday Window Displays, created by students. View all 21 decorated windows in Mayfaire & vote for your favorite! Free Admission. (910) 256-5131. www.mayfaire.com

November 30 - December 31

Island of Lights Festival

Carolina & Kure Beaches

An island-wide holiday festival featuring nightly lighted displays around Carolina Beach Lake, along with festive events, businesses and homes decked-out for the season. Free admission.

(910) 458-5507. www.pleasureislandoflights.com/home.html

November 30 - December 14, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Christmas by the Sea

Carolina Beach Boardwalk: Carolina Beach Ave. South

Family activities include Santa and hot chocolate, fire pit with storytelling, live nativity scene, caroling, holiday themed movies, puppet shows, arts & crafts.

Free Admission. (910) 458-8434. www.pleasureislandnc.org

December 6-22, 5—7:00 p.m. & 7-9:00 p.m.

Enchanted Airlie

Airlie Gardens: 300 Airlie Rd. Wilmington, NC

Stroll through Airlie Gardens and enjoy elaborate festive light displays, holiday flowers and musical entertainment. Visit with Santa, enjoy hot cocoa and snacks. This event sells out; reserve tickets early. No tickets at gate; advance tix only.

(910) 798-7700. www.airliegarden.org/

December 12-15, 7:30 p.m. & 3:00 p.m.

A Christmas Carol

Thalian Hall: 310 Chestnut St., Stein Studio Theatre Wilmington, NC

The timeless story of Christmas redemption moves from London to a Depression era "Hooverville" on the outskirts of St. Louis. Admission charge; Tickets Required.

(910) 632-2285. www.thalianhall.org

December 12-15, hours vary

Santaland Diaries

Cape Fear Playhouse/Big Dawg Productions

This hilarious David Sedaris comedy showcases the misadventures of Crumpet, an actor working as a disgruntled Santa's elf for Macy's "Santaland". This irreverent, hilarious and not politically correct look at the holidays has Crumpet joined by The Not Ready for Christmas Carolers. Tickets Required. (910) 367-5237. <https://www.facebook.com/events/483725345821116/>

December 13-29, hours vary

Cape Fear Holiday Lights & History Trolley Tour

Cape Fear Trolley Co.

Stroll the riverfront to view the city's holiday tree and as the sun goes down over the Cape Fear River, grab a hot chocolate before embarking on this year's Cape Fear Holiday Lights & History Trolley Tour hosted by Mrs. Claus herself! (910) 679-4339. <http://wilmingtontrolleytours.com/>

December 13-14, 6:30 p.m.

Christmas Train & Light Spectacular

Wilmington Railroad Museum

Holiday magic returns to the railroad museum with more lights and more action. The museum transforms into a winter wonderland with spectacular decorations. Over 25,000 lights glisten and sparkle as well as musical animations and twilight model train displays. Santa is also on hand with goodies as well as cider to sip and enjoy. (910) 763-2634. <http://www.wrrm.org/events.html>

December 13-14, 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 <http://wilmingtonwatertours.net/cruises-tours-excursions/>

December 13-15, 7:00 p.m.

Kure Beach Fantasy Christmas Show

Ocean Front Park: 101 K Avenue Kure Beach, NC

A beloved holiday tradition with Frosty and his penguin friend, Harriet Hippo, The Grinch, Cookie Monster, and dancing bears. Free. (910) 707-2015. www.townofkurebeach.org/fantasy-christmas-show.aspx

December 13-15, 8:00 p.m. (Sunday matinee is at 3:00 p.m.)

PSL's Very-Well Organized Holiday Special

Ronald Sachs Violins: 616-B Castle Street in downtown Wilmington

Our hard-working team of writer elves have been diligently working on an ALL-NEW batch of holly-jolly comedy sketches, making a mockery of everything Yuletide! Tickets Required. (910) 632-0775. www.pslcomedy.com

December 13-15

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, stocking stuffers, refreshments, free parking, and a romp around the decorated grounds. Refer to website for daily hours. Admission charge. (910) 686-9518. <http://poplargrove.org/festivals>

December 13-15, check website for dates and times

Elf: The Musical

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

Based on the beloved holiday film, this hilarious fish-out-of-water comedy follows Buddy the Elf in his quest to find his true identity. Tickets Required. (910) 632-2285. www.thalianhall.org

December 14, 4:30-7:30 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 for a festive holiday evening filled with music, dancing, costumes, refreshments and more! Admission charged. (910) 251-3700.

www.burgwinwrighthouse.com

December 14, 5:00-9:00 p.m.

2019 Island of Lights Tour of Homes

Carolina & Kure Beach

Take a self-guided tour through some of Pleasure Island's most beautiful homes decorated for the holidays. Enjoy southern hospitality as the owners welcome you into their homes. Tickets required. Admission charged. (910) 458-5507.

www.pleasureislandoflights.com/tour-of-homes.html

December 14, 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Polar Express Day

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

Experience the magic of the season with refreshments, story time, train rides, ornament decorating, crafts. Admission charge; members free. (910) 254-3534.

www.playwilmington.org/special-events

December 14, 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 14-15, 6:00 p.m. (Sunday matinee at 3:00 p.m.)

The Great Wilmington Nutcracker Ballet

The Wilson Center: 703 N Third Street Wilmington, NC

Experience the Classic Christmas ballet featuring unique elements including aerial artists, still walkers, high-tech digital imagery, and more. Tickets Required. (910) 362-7999. <https://wilsoncentertickets.com/show/?id=12602>

December 14-15, Saturdays & Sundays

Polar Express Holiday Show

Wilmington Railroad Museum: 505 Nutt St Wilmington, NC

Immerse yourself in the telling of the wonderful holiday classic, Polar Express, followed by refreshments and a visit from Santa. Admission charge. (910) 763-2634. www.wrrm.org/events.html

December 14-15, 6:00 p.m.

Hark! The Herald Angels Swing XII: A Christmas Cabaret

Blockade Runner Beach Resort

Celebrate the sounds of the holiday season at the beautiful Blockade Runner Beach Resort as Opera House Theatre Company presents Hark! The Herald Angels Swing XII: A Christmas Cabaret. Enjoy cocktails at 6:00 p.m. and a prix fixe dinner at 7:00 p.m. (910)256-7109. <https://blockade-runner.com/event/hark-the-herald-angels-swing-xii-a-christmas-cabaret/>

December 14-15, 1:00 p.m.

Holiday Train Expo 2019

Independence Mall: Dillard's Wing

Be enchanted by spectacular displays of 12 unique model train layouts as 30 trains travel across miles of scale track through a wonderland of villages, parks and landscapes. Take advantage of a photo-op with the Polar Express. Admission charge. (910) 231-8567.

December 17, 7:30 p.m.

Statewide Holiday Pops with NC Symphony

Wilson Center: 703 N Third St. Wilmington, NC

This musical tradition celebrates with holiday favorites to start the season off on the right note! Admission charge. (877) 627-6724 <https://cfcc.edu/capefearstage/show/?id=9602>

December 19, 3:00 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.

Merry Country Christmas

Thalian Hall Center for Performing Arts: 310 Chestnut Street

Experience the joy of Christmas with this production of toe-tapping, heartfelt holiday music. Admission charge. (910) 632-2285.

www.thalianhall.org/event/1f8753c6377b086e60b0895c73c3653b#map

December 19-22, hours vary

Santaland Diaries

Cape Fear Playhouse/Big Dawg Productions

This hilarious David Sedaris comedy showcases the misadventures of Crumpet, an actor working as a disgruntled Santa's elf for Macy's "Santaland". This irreverent, hilarious and not politically correct look at the holidays has Crumpet joined by The Not Ready for Christmas Carolers. Tickets Required. (910) 367-5237. <https://www.facebook.com/events/483725345821116/>

www.facebook.com/events/483725345821116/

December 19-22, 7:30 p.m. & 3:00 p.m.

A Christmas Carol

Thalian Hall: 310 Chestnut St., Stein Studio Theatre Wilmington, NC

The timeless story of Christmas redemption moves from London to a Depression era

"Hooverville" on the outskirts of St. Louis. Admission charge; Tickets Required.

(910) 632-2285. www.thalianhall.org

December 20-24, 6:00-10:00 p.m.

Caroling by "Reindeer" Drawn Carriage or Trolley

Downtown Wilmington

Come and sing Christmas carols with Santa and his special "reindeer." Snuggle under warm lap blankets while enjoying the Christmas lights and sights. Admission charged. (910) 251-8889. www.horsedrawntours.com

December 20, 5:30 p.m.

The Polar Express Movie Experience

Carolina Beach Lake Park

Enjoy a Happy Holiday feeling watching the Polar Express movie lakeside on at 22 foot screen. Festivities start at 5:30 PM with rides available on the Polar Express Train around the beautiful Carolina Beach Lake Park twinkling with lights and a chance to visit with Santa Claus. This delightful evening is sure to get the whole family in the Happy Holiday Spirit. Free for Spectators. (910) 458-2977. <https://www.facebook.com/events/993424584354962/>

www.facebook.com/events/993424584354962/

December 20-21, 6:30 p.m.

Christmas Train & Light Spectacular

Wilmington Railroad Museum

Holiday magic returns to the railroad museum with more lights and more action.

The museum transforms into a winter wonderland with spectacular decorations. Over 25,000 lights glisten and sparkle as well as musical animations and twilight model train displays. Santa is also on hand with goodies as well as

cider to sip and enjoy. (910) 763-2634. <http://www.wrrm.org/events.html>

December 20-22, 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

<http://wilmingtonwatertours.net/cruises-tours-excursions/>

December 20-22, check website for dates and times

Elf: The Musical

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

Based on the beloved holiday film, this hilarious fish-out-of-water comedy follows Buddy the Elf in his quest to find his true identity. Tickets Required. (910) 632-2285.

www.thalianhall.org

December 21, 9:00 a.m.—3:30 p.m.

Holiday Elf Camp—Saltwater Animals

North Carolina Aquarium at Fort Fisher

Looking for something fun this holiday season? The North Carolina Aquarium at Fort Fisher is offering three Holiday Elf Camps this year for ages 5-12 years old. Our elves will be making gifts, wrapping them, meeting other elves, and making some extra special memories here at the aquarium. Pre-Registration Required. (910) 772-0500. www.ncaquariums.com/fort-fisher

December 21-22, 1:00 p.m.

Holiday Train Expo 2019

Independence Mall: Dillard's Wing

Be enchanted by spectacular displays of 12 unique model train layouts as 30 trains travel across miles of scale track through a wonderland of villages, parks and landscapes. Take advantage of a photo-op with the Polar Express. Admission charge. (910) 231-8567.

December 21-22, Saturdays & Sundays

Polar Express Holiday Show

Wilmington Railroad Museum: 505 Nutt St Wilmington, NC

Immerse yourself in the telling of the wonderful holiday classic, Polar Express, followed by refreshments and a visit from Santa. Admission charge. (910) 763-2634. www.wrrm.org/events.html

December 23, 4:00 & 7:00 p.m.

It's a Wonderful Life: Film Screening

Thalian Hall: 310 Chestnut St. Wilmington, NC

Frank Capra's iconic holiday film is a Wilmington tradition, shown as it was meant to be seen: on the big screen. This timeless tale brings back old memories and creates new ones when viewed in majestic Thalian Hall. Admission charge. (910) 632-2285; www.thalianhall.org

December 24, 1:30 p.m. 3:30 p.m.

Christmas Eve Hike

Carolina Beach State Park

Looking for something to do on Christmas Eve or to escape visiting family? Join a Park Ranger at 1:30pm at the Marina Parking Lot Trailhead to hike to Sugarloaf Dune. Learn about the park's natural resources with a tinsel of history about Carolina Beach State Park. Free Event. 910-458-8206. <https://www.ncparks.gov/carolina-beach-state-park/events-and-programs>

December 27-28, 6:30 p.m.

Christmas Train & Light Spectacular

Wilmington Railroad Museum

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December 27-30, 1:00 p.m.

Holiday Train Expo 2019

Independence Mall: Dillard's Wing

Be enchanted by spectacular displays of 12 unique model train layouts as 30 trains travel across miles of scale track through a wonderland of villages, parks and landscapes. Take advantage of a photo-op with the Polar Express. Admission charge. (910) 231-8567.

December 27-29, 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 <http://wilmingtonwatertours.net/cruises-tours-excursions/>

December 31, 9:00 p.m.

Island of Lights New Year's Eve Celebration

Carolina Beach Boardwalk

The celebration begins at 9:00 p.m. with music. Don't miss the giant beach ball drop at midnight followed by a spectacular fireworks display. This free family-friendly event will feature a DJ and dancing, with refreshments and party favors available for purchase. Free admission. (910) 458-5507.

www.pleasureislandoflights.com/

December 31

New Year's Eve Waterfront Celebration

Blockade Runner Beach Resort 275 Waynick Blvd Wrightsville Beach

Enjoy one night of luxury accommodations, two tickets for a plated prix fixe special New Year's Eve dinner with ballroom dancing. Admission charge; ticket required.

(910) 256-2251. <https://blockade-runner.com/event/new-years-eve-2020/>

December 31, 7:00 p.m.

Embassy Suites New Year's Eve Roaring 20's on the River

Embassy Suites Wilmington Riverfront Hotel

Celebrate the New Year with a Roaring 20's celebration with unparalleled views of the Cape Fear River. Enjoy a four-course dinner for two, open bar, celebratory libations and accommodations so you can dance the night away with music

by Dance Candy Band in the Riverfront Grand Ballroom. Tickets Required. (910) 765-1131; www.facebook.com/events/650405645482559/

December 31, 9:00 p.m.

Bluewater's New Year's Eve Bash

Bluewater Waterfront Grill

Choose to Party on the Inside on the second floor with live music from Brickhouse playing your favorite beachy rock tunes, or you can also Party on the Outside with a DJ and dancing on their tented and heated patio. Cash bar is available, complimentary festive party favors, and a bubbly toast at midnight! Tickets

Required. (910) 256-8500. <https://blockade-runner.com/event/new-years-eve-2020/>

December 31, 9:30 p.m.

Celebrate New Years Cruise Aboard the Henrietta

Cape Fear Riverboats

Enjoy light appetizers, dance to your favorite tunes played by our DJ or enjoy a walk on our upper deck to view the cities beautiful lit skyline. Drinks will be available at our fully stocked bar and a champagne toast will be served at midnight to welcome in the NEW YEAR. Tickets Required. (910)343-1611.

<https://cfrboats.com/>

December 31, 5:30 p.m.

New Year's Eve Gala

Thalian Hall Center for Performing Arts

Join the party at Thalian Hall's legendary New Year's Eve Gala featuring a delicious dinner, dessert, drinks and a sensational live performance by the Opera House Theatre Company. An enchanting evening of dinner, drinks, dessert and the

Broadway classic "La Cage Aux Folles". Admission charge; Tickets required. (910) 632-2285 www.thalianhall.org/events

December 31, 5:00 p.m.

NYE at HopsCo!

Hops Supply Co.

Ring in the New Year at HopsCo! Don't you want to go into 2020 with a good beer in your hand? Come have dinner with us and keep the party going. DJ & Dancing in the Pub Room. Champagne Cocktails, Beer Feature, Party Favors and a Midnight Toast. https://www.facebook.com/events/2389876344473221/?active_tab=about

866-266-9690

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 charge. (910) 254-3534. www.playwilmington.org

December 31, 6:00 p.m.

New Year's Eve Bash: Seawitch Café & Tiki Bar

SeaWitch Cafe & Tiki Bar

Enjoy a fun New Year's Eve celebration that begins with a Red Carpet Walk-In, complementary New Year's Party Favors and Hats, Photo Booth, large Dance Floor and heated tent. Dance to your favorite tunes with the fabulous band Feebs playing jazz, blues, rock, folk, and everything in between. Toast in the New Year with a complimentary champagne toast at midnight. Reservation Required. (910) 805-6364. <https://www.tickettailor.com/events/seawichttikibar/318611/>

December 31, 8:00 p.m.

New Year's Eve Dance Party at Tails Piano Bar

Tails Piano Bar and Lounge

Enjoy a New Year's Eve Dance Party at Tails Piano Bar filled with rhythm and blues, soul, jazz, and gospel, sung with verve and vivacity by the classy Lemetrius Nolan, accompanied Adam Spenser on piano and Riley on drums. A complimentary cake and champagne toast will be provided. Admission Charged. (910) 399-6428.

<https://www.tailspianobar.com/>

December 31, 7:00 p.m.

Comedian Brent Blakeney: New Year's Eve

Dead Crow Comedy

Brent Blakeney is a comedian out of Raleigh, NC. Hard work and dedication has led to Brent gaining notoriety at comedy festivals, as well as the chance to work with some of the biggest names in the industry. Brent was voted "Best of Fest" at the SLO Comedy Festival in San Luis Obispo, California, as well as winning the "North Carolina's Funniest" competition. Tickets Required. (910) 399-1492.

www.deadcrowcomedy.com

December 31, 8:00 p.m.

Swinging New Year's Eve: The Phantom Playboys

Lazy Pirate Island Sports Grill

The Phantom Playboys will be rockin' the Dock dance floor with their signature brand of Rockabilly at the Lazy Pirate to welcome in 2020. The disco ball dance floor is sure to be on fire with their explosive performance. Tickets will sell out and include a Midnight Champagne Toast, Classy Party Favors and a discount on your New Year's Eve Dinner. This is a fantastic way to party-in the New Year! Tickets Required. (910) 458-5299. <https://www.facebook.com/events/542153966566845/>

New events are added during the season. For more events:

www.wilmingtonandbeaches.com/events

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.

WilmingtonAndBeaches.com