

6 hot festivals to warm you up this winter Southeastern events celebrate food, music and holidays

Festival season is generally associated with spring or fall, but thanks to the Southeast's moderate climate, festivals take place in our vicinity year-round. What makes winter festivals so attractive is that they typically celebrate music, food or the holidays, three good reasons to engage in revelry with hundreds of other like-minded folks. Here are six upcoming Southeastern festivals to check out this winter when cabin fever sets in.



Crystal Coast Christmas Flotilla

Dozens of boats, yachts, kayaks and commercial vessels decked out in twinkle lights and holiday finery will kick off the Christmas season in Beaufort, North Carolina, on Dec. 7. The festive flotilla will assemble in front of the Morehead City waterfront at 5:30 p.m. and on the Beaufort waterfront at 6:15 p.m. to be judged for excellence and creativity. The Awards Party follows at the Harvey W. Smith Watercraft Center across the street from the North Carolina Maritime Museum.

5:30 p.m. Dec. 7. Free. 315 Front St., Beaufort, North Carolina. 252-504-0763, crystalcoastnc.org.