

Celebrate Christmas in Texas' oldest town, weekend packages available

Tis the season to celebrate the holidays in Nacogdoches. A variety of events included in the annual Nine Flags Christmas Festival combined with the beautifully decorated storefronts on the downtown brick streets will have you feeling as though you stepped into yesteryear.

Grab your sneakers for the 21st annual Jingle Bell Run beginning at 8 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 2, downtown. The run, one of the most popular running events in Nacogdoches and an undoubted highlight of the festival, includes a 3K walk and 5K run. Avid runners and casual strollers alike are invited to participate. The newly designed route will wind through many beautiful Nacogdoches sites.

After the run, the City of Nacogdoches Main Street will host the annual Nine Flags Christmas Festival beginning at 9 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 2, downtown. Downtown stores will be open to accommodate holiday shoppers and will offer children's activities such as cookie decorating and scavenger hunts. Visitors also will be able to enjoy a variety of East Texas food trucks that will be placed around the downtown square and along Main Street. Live entertainment including bands, choirs, and dancers will perform throughout the day on the stage behind the Charles Bright Visitor Center, also located in the square. The day will end with the United Way lighted Christmas parade followed by fireworks.

A Christmas-themed weekend will occur Friday, Dec. 8 through Sunday, Dec. 10, in Texas' oldest town. Jingle & Mingle, a shopping event with live music and food trucks will be from 5 to 8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 8, downtown. Next, the City of Nacogdoches Main Street will host a Progressive Dinner event beginning at 5:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 9, at various participating locations. The event will showcase downtown eateries, each of which will provide a dish for a unique dining experience. A special Stay and Play holiday package is available for visitors looking to stay the entire weekend. Packages include two nights at the recently renovated historic Fredonia Hotel, two tickets to the Nacogdoches Convention and Visitors Bureau Wine, Whiskey and Brew Tour as well as two tickets to Saturday's Progressive Dinner. To purchase a weekend package, call (936) 564-1234.

For more information on these events, contact Amy Mehaffey, City of Nacogdoches Main Street director, at [936-559-2573](tel:936-559-2573) or mehaffeya@ci.nacogdoches.tx.us.