

# Norfolk's Grand Illumination

## EVENTS & ATTRACTIONS

GRAND ILLUMINATION PARADE

HISTORIC HOUSES

WELLS THEATRE

CHRYSLER MUSEUM

D'ART CENTER

SPIRIT OF NORFOLK

NAUTICUS

PAGODA & GARDEN

Norfolk is decorated for the holidays this season! Festivities begin with the Grand Illumination of the Downtown Norfolk skyline, where over a thousand voices line along the Grand Illumination Parade route and take part in a community countdown filled with festive and lighted floats.

## DAY 1

Norfolk's historic houses are decorated for the holidays. The Hunter House Victorian Museum, rich in architectural detail, displays the Hunter family's collection of furnishings and decorative pieces done up for a Victorian Christmas. The Moses Myers House, an elegant federal period home dating back to 1792, was built by one of Norfolk's first Jewish residents and is decorated for Hanukkah.

Savour dinner at the historic Omar's Carriage House, whose original patrons were horses! Converted to a restaurant in the 1940s by Virginia Bruce Roper, Omar's is sure to please. Be sure to try the fresh jumbo lump crab cakes and potato crisp flounder while you're there.

Enjoy a holiday performance at the Wells Theatre presented by the Virginia Stage Company. Located in downtown Norfolk's Theatre District, Wells Theatre was built by Jake Wells in 1901.

## DAY 2

Stroll through 5,000 years of art history at the Chrysler Museum of Art, home to Walter Chrysler Jr.'s world-class collection of more than 30,000 pieces of art. The museum features a world-renowned Tiffany-glass collection, Art Nouveau furniture, and works of art from African, Egyptian, Pre-Columbian, Islamic and Asian cultures. The museum also offers an extensive European and American collection of paintings, sculpture and decorative arts (customize a guided tour to fit your group's theme). Experience the art of glass with a glass blowing demonstration in their new studio!

Explore the Hermitage Museum and Gardens, an early 20th century residence surrounded by twelve acres of formal gardens and natural woodlands. Guided tours of the museum are conducted daily and last approximately 45 minutes.

Holiday shopping and lunch is a must at MacArthur Center with more than 70 new-to-the-market retailers. Enjoy lunch at MacArthur's 600-seat food court or at one of its numerous

sit-down restaurants. And celebrate the holidays by participating in MacArthur Center's outdoor winter carnival complete with an ice skating rink.

Discover over 20 local artists and their studios with a guided tour of d'ART Center in Norfolk's NEON arts district. The d'ART Center is an environment where working artists are a part of an interactive arts community that engages the public through the experience of art and the creative process.

Grand Illumination Early Dinner Cruise aboard the Spirit of Norfolk from 3:30pm to 6pm. Welcome the holiday season with a cruise before the Grand Illumination Parade. Start off your festivities with great food, great view from the water and great entertainment.

Norfolk's Grand Illumination Parade. Enjoy front row seats in "Street Seats" and watch floats, bands, balloons and dance teams light up Norfolk skyline. Or experience "Garden of Lights" at the Norfolk Botanical Garden, either by foot or car through the magic of the gardens 2.5 mile twinkling light display.

## DAY 3

Spend the afternoon strolling through Historic Ghent to find that perfect gift in antique market and specialty shops. Stop for lunch on Colley Avenue or 21st Street and experience local cuisine. Do not forget to take home some Virginia wine for gift or holiday party at the Mermaid Winery. The winery focuses on producing small lots of small well-balanced wines using Virginia grapes. The winemaking process can be viewed from the tasting bar where you can enjoy their creations.

Enter into a magical world at Nauticus with Dickens' Christmas Towne. Stroll through Victorian streets with holiday characters, lively carolers, sweet treats, train displays, unique seasonal gifts and of course, Father Christmas himself!

Unwrap the Holidays Dinner in lights at Pagoda and Garden LightFEST. A beautiful display of lights featuring over 40,000 sparkles of friendship glowing in the Garden and Pagoda. The Pagoda is the centerpiece of the Oriental Garden. This unique building provides a panoramic view of the beautiful Oriental Garden, the USS Wisconsin, and sunset over the Elizabeth River. The Pagoda is home to Chinese artifacts and an art gallery featuring Oriental brush paintings.

**For more details  
please contact:**

**Melissa Hopper**

VisitNorfolk  
mhopper@visitnorfolktoday.com  
800.368.3097

