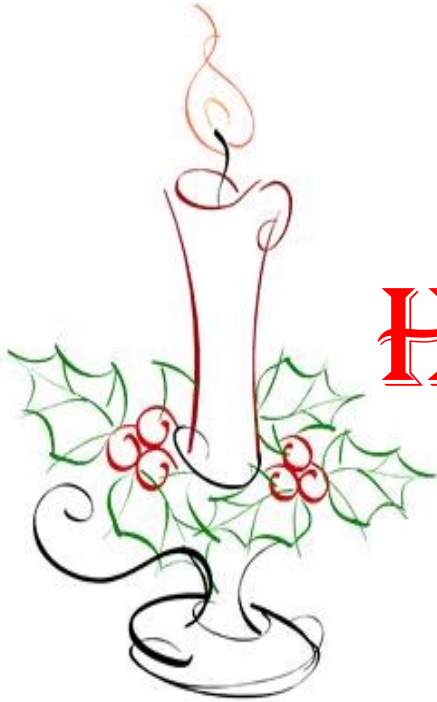


2015



HOLIDAY
EVENTS

Carolina Beach • Kure Beach • Wrightsville Beach
Wilmington.C.
Historic River District & Island Beaches

Wilmington *Carolina Beach*
Kure Beach *Wrightsville Beach*

www.WilmingtonAndBeaches.com

866-266-9690

FOR THE PERFECT HOLIDAY GETAWAY, JUST ADD WATER

See where the water takes you when you experience the color and pagantry of holiday events that reflect the culture and warmth of Wilmington, North Carolina's historic river district and island beaches. Visitors can choose from more than 50 holiday events to create a meaningful vacation in Wilmington and the beaches of Carolina Beach, Kure Beach and Wrightsville Beach. For information about seasonal specials and experiences, visit www.wilmingtonandbeaches.com/season/2015-fall-highlights/. For a free Wilmington and Beaches visitors guide, email us at visit@WilmingtonAndBeaches.com or call us at 1-866-266-9690.

Here's a sampling of holiday events from the river to the sea.

November 20– December 6

[Bread & Lights Gingerbread & Lantern Festival](#)

Please see website for a full schedule of festival activities and admission charges. Festival goers will have a chance to view amazing gingerbread creations and originally designed lanterns as well as participate in many other events. Cameron Art Museum, 3201 S 17th St, Wilmington. (910)395-5999; www.breadandlights.org

November 20–December 20

[Trailer Park Christmas-Theatre](#)

Fri. & Sat. 7pm; Sun. 3pm

Welcome to Whispering Pines Trailer Park's annual open-latch Christmas Party. Lorraine is serving her special "punch". Let's hope MeeMaw's on her best behavior. Tickets required. TheatreNow, 19 S. 10th St., Wilmington. (910)399-3669; www.theatrewilmington.com

November 21 & 28

[Kure Beach Holiday Market](#)

9am-3pm

Holiday shopping with an ocean view as you browse through our 30 talented artists and crafters. Free. Kure Beach Oceanfront Park, 105 Atlantic Ave, Kure Beach. (910)458-8216; www.townofkurebeach.org

November 23– December 6

[Cape Fear Festival of Trees](#)

9am-5pm

Visitors will wander through a winter wonderland featuring trees sponsored by area businesses to benefit Lower Cape Fear Hospice. Admission charged. N.C Aquarium at Fort Fisher, 900 Loggerhead Rd, Kure Beach. (910)796-8099 ext 6; www.capefearfestivaloftrees.org

www.WilmingtonAndBeaches.com

November 26

[Gallop for the Gravy 5K](#)

8am

This scenic certified 5K course starts and finishes at the Wilmington Family YMCA. Costumes are encouraged. Pre-registration required. YMCA, 2710 Market St, Wilmington. (910)343-9614; www.active.com/wilmington-nc/

November 27

[11th Annual Turkey Trot](#)

8:30am

This is a 5K timed run or a 1 mile walk around the beautiful Wrightsville Beach Loop. Prizes, food and fun for everyone. Admission charged. Wrightsville Beach Park, 1 Bob Sawyer Dr, Wrightsville Beach.

www.its-go-time.com/2015-wrightsville-beach-turkey-trot/

November 27

[Island of Lights-Light Up The Lake](#)

7pm

Light-up ceremony on Nov. 27th. Families can walk one mile around the lake to view lighted displays each night through Dec. 24th. Free. (910)458-8323; Carolina Beach Lake, Hwy 421 & Atlantic Ave, Carolina Beach. (910)458-8323; www.islandoflights.org

November 27-December 20

[SantaLand Diaries](#)

Fri-Sun 8pm

The story, written by David Sedaris and adapted by Joe Mantello, is that of disgruntled elf Crumpet and his misadventures working for Macy's. Featuring Anthony Lawson as Crumpet and The Not Ready for Christmas: Carolers. Tickets required. (910)251-1788; Red Barn Studio, 1122 S. 3rd St, Wilmington. www.thalian.org

November 27-December 22

[Enchanted Airlie](#)

Thurs, Fri. & Sat. 2 sessions each night: 5pm-7pm & 7pm-9pm

An STS Top 20 Event! Magical evenings of illumination and wonderment along with a meet & greet with Santa. Advance tickets required. Pre-paid tickets required. Airlie Gardens, 300 Airlie Rd, Wilmington. (910)798-7700; www.airliegarden.org/events-news/enchanted-airlie/

Occasionally changes in times, dates and/or prices of events do occur. We recommend that you call the number listed and/or check the website listed before traveling any distance for a particular event.

866-266-9690

November 27–December 23

[Visit Santa at The Cotton Exchange](#)

Nov. 27th 11am-4pm, Dec. every Sat. 12pm-4pm, Every Sun. 1-4pm, Dec. 21-22nd 12pm-4pm

Santa arrives on the 27th at 11am by horse and carriage with some of his elves. Free. The Cotton Exchange, 321 N Front St, Wilmington. (910)343-9896; www.shopcottonexchange.com

November 27-December 27

[The Christmas Train And Light Spectacular](#)

Fri & Sat 6:30pm-8:00pm

Model trains at night under thousands of holiday lights. This year we have added a new train display and over two thousand additional lights. And to top off the evening Santa will be present each night before Christmas. Admission charged. Wilmington Railroad Museum, 505 Nutt St, Wilmington. (910)763-2634; <http://www.wrrm.org/>

November 27– December 27

[Holiday Train Expo](#)

Fri 6pm-9pm; Sat & Sun 1pm-5pm

Come by and see this display of model trains as they travel through a wonderland of villages, parks and landscapes. Admission charged. Former Salt Shaker Bookstore, 705 S. Kerr Ave, Wilmington. (910)231-9627; www.capefearmodelrailroadclub.org

November 27-December 19

[Christmas by the Sea](#)

Friday, Nov 27 Kickoff & Saturdays 6:30pm-8:30pm

Activities include Santa, hot chocolate, fire pit with storytelling, live nativity scene, caroling, holiday movies at the gazebo, puppet shows and an arts & crafts area. Free. Carolina Beach Boardwalk. (910)470-8666; www.pleasureislandnc.org

November 27-28

[32nd Annual North Carolina Holiday Flotilla](#)

Launch party starts Friday at 7pm at the Blockade Runner Beach Resort. (Tickets required for launch party) Festival in the Park starts Saturday's activities at Wrightsville Beach Park from 10am-4pm. And the lighted boat parade starts at 6pm in Banks Channel with fireworks afterward at 7:30pm. Free. Various locations in Wrightsville Beach. (910)256-2120; www.ncholidayflotilla.org

November 27-December 26

[Holiday Lights Cruise](#)

Fri & Sat 5:30pm

A Holiday Lights Cruise of the Harbor. with Christmas carols, holiday cocktails, and snacks. Admission charged. Wilmington Water Tours, 212 S. Water St, Wilmington. (910)338-3134; www.wilmingtonwatertours.net

November 27-28; December 4-5

Poplar Grove Candlelight Tour

Tours every hour; 5pm-8pm

A candle-light tour through each of the eight rooms of the Manor House, decorated with natural flora and greenery inspired by the Foy's family history. Admission charged. Poplar Grove Plantation, 10200 US Hwy 17 N, Wilmington. (910)686-9518; www.poplargrove.org/festivals/christmas/

November 28-December 24

Mayfaire's Santa Village

Mon- Sat 11am-3pm & 4pm-7pm; Sun 12pm-5pm

Capture your child's holiday memory at the Santa Village. Professional photos available. Santa welcomes children, adults, and pets. Admission charged. Mayfaire, 1055 International Dr., Wilmington. (910) 256-5131; www.mayfairetown.com

November 28

WRRRC Turkey Trot Trail Run

9am

Runners will proceed on paved road and then enter well marked trails through pine forest and over wooden footbridges. Pre-registration required. Carolina Beach State Park Marina, 1010 State Park Rd, Carolina Beach. www.wilmingtonroadrunners.org

November 28

Jingle Bell Breakfast with Santa & Mrs. Claus

8:30am-10:30am

The Jingle Bell Breakfast is for kids 3-8 years old. The event features a buffet breakfast, story time, and a visit from Mr. & Mrs. Claus. Cameron Art Museum, S. 17th St, Wilmington. Admission charged. (910)395-5999; www.breadandlights.org

December 1

Swing'n the Holidays

4pm & 7:30pm

Music by Jive Aces with special guest performance by the Satin Dollz. Tickets required. Thalian Hall, 310 Chestnut St, Wilmington. (910)632-2285; www.thalianhall.org

December 3

Greenfield Lake Christmas Tree Lighting

6pm

Join the holiday festivities with the lighting of the City of Wilmington's Christmas tree at the World's Largest Rotary Wheel. Following the tree lighting will be a visit from Santa and a showing of the movie, *Elf*. Free. Greenfield Lake Park, 1941 Amphitheater Drive, Wilmington. (910)341-7855; www.wilmingtonnc.gov

December 3-6

Babes in Toyland

Thur-Sat 7pm; Sun 3pm

Go on a journey with two children Jane and Alan as they run away from home in search of fun. The children believe that Toyland, a magical land of spirited toys, will deliver them from their hardships. Tickets required. Hannah Block USO Community Arts Center, 20 S 2nd St, Wilmington. (910)251-1788; www.thalian.org/

December 3-20

Christmas Belles

Thurs-Sat 8pm

Sun 3pm

It's Christmas time in the small town of Frayo, TX and the Futrelle sisters are not exactly in a festive mood. Cape Fear Playhouse, 613 Castle Street, Wilmington. (910)367-5237; www.bigdawgproductions.org/2015-season.htm

December 4

Island of Lights Christmas Parade

7:30pm

Extraordinary nighttime lighted parade. Festive fun and entertainment for whole family. Free. Lake Park Blvd/Hwy 421 S, Carolina Beach. (910)458-5507; www.islandoflights.org

December 4

A Forces Command Holiday

7:30pm

The Army Ground Forces Band is an active duty Army Music unit based out of Fort Bragg. The concert will feature traditional and contemporary holiday tunes as well as a reading of "Twas the Night Before Christmas." Admission is free but tickets are required. CFCC Humanities & Fine Arts Center, 703 N. Third Street, Wilmington. (910)362-7999; www.cfcc.edu/capefearstage

December 4

Night Tour at the Burgwin-Wright House

Take a step back in time and experience a life without electricity and modern conveniences. This special tour will be guided by candlelight with costumed interpreters as they reveal the rituals and superstitions of years past. Admission charged. Burgwin-Wright House Museum, 224 Market Street, Wilmington. (910) 762-0570; www.burgwinwrighthouse.com/

New events are added during the season. For more events, visit www.wilmingtonandbeaches.com and click on "Holiday Events".

December 4-5

[Ballet for Young Audiences: The Nutcracker](#)

Fri. 4pm & 7pm; Sat. 10am

New York's Ballet for Young Audiences narrates this 60 minute version. Tickets required. Thalian Hall, 310 Chestnut St, Wilmington. (910)632-2285; www.thalianhall.org

December 4-6

[The Holiday Flea at BAC](#)

Fri. 3-9pm, Sat. 10am-5pm, Sun. 12-5pm

Shop a wide array of vintage, retro, and upcycled treasures. Admission charged. Brooklyn Arts Center, 516 N 4th St, Wilmington. (910)538-2939; www.brooklynartsnc.com

December 5

[Battleship Alive-Christmas Edition](#)

8am-5pm

WWII living history event with a demonstration of a 1940's Christmas in the Battleship Auditorium. Admission charged. #1 Battleship Road, Wilmington. (910) 251-5797; www.battleshipnc.com/Events/Battleship101Alive

December 5

[Jingle Trails 5K Family Run/Walk](#)

2pm

Spread some holiday spirit with the whole family on a favorite trail run. Optional jingle bells will be provided so you can "jingle all the way!" Registration required. Poplar Grove Plantation, 10200 US Hwy 17 N, Wilmington. (910)686-9518; www.poplargrove.org/festivals/christmas/

December 5

[Christmas Candle Tea](#)

9am-3pm

Highlights will include Moravian music, hot spiced tea and cookies, traditional craft demonstrations, the Moravian Putz (the Nativity story in narration, sight and sound) and an opportunity to buy Moravian cookies. Free. Covenant Moravian Church, 4126 S. College Rd, Wilmington. (910)799-9256; <https://www.facebook.com/Covenant-Moravian-Church-301214586575582/>

December 5

[A Verry Merry Showboat](#)

10am-12 noon; 1pm-3pm

Kids can fly a flag with Santa (bring your own or buy one onsite). Type your Christmas wish list on a vintage typewriter using authentic WWII *Battleship North Carolina* radio message paper. Admission charged. 1 Battleship Road, Wilmington. (910)251-5797; www.battleshipnc.com

December 5

[Island of Lights Holiday Flotilla](#)

6pm

Fishing boats and pleasure craft are electrically decorated with thousands of lights in a spectacular display. Free. Intracoastal Waterway, Snows Cut to Carolina Beach Boat Basin, Carolina Beach. (910)458-8323; www.islandoflights.org

December 5

[Poplar Grove Arts & Crafts Festival](#)

10am-7pm

The grounds will be open for a special day & evening for families seeking a local shopping experience, including local Arts & Crafts, kettle corn, hot cider, wagon rides, inflatables, and Santa. Admission charged. Poplar Grove Plantation, 10200 US Hwy 17 N, Wilmington. (910)686-9518; www.poplargo.org/festivals/christmas/

December 5

[Breakfast with Santa](#)

9:30am-11am

You're invited to 'Breakfast with Santa' in Santa's Village across from Belk in Mayfaire. Kids will enjoy a delicious breakfast from Chick-fil-A, crafts, a visit with Santa Claus, and more! Tickets required. Proceeds go to the Big Buddy program. Mayfaire, 1055 International Drive, Wilmington. (910)256-5131; www.mayfairetown.com

December 5-6

[A Carolina Nutcracker](#)

Sat-7pm; Sun-3pm

The area's only full-length ballet staging of the holiday favorite. Set in Wilmington at the Bellamy Mansion, 150 years ago. Live professional orchestra and children's chorus. CFCC Humanities & Fine Arts Center, 703 N. Third Street, Wilmington. (910)362-7999; www.cfcc.edu/capefearstage/a-carolina-nutcracker/

December 5-6

[Old Wilmington by Candlelight Tour](#)

Sat. 4-8pm; Sun. 1pm-5pm

An STS Top 20 Event! Holiday candlelight tour of elegant historic homes and sites. Purchase tickets at the Latimer House. Admission charged. Latimer House, 126 S. Third St, Wilmington. (910)762-0492; www.lcfhs.org/events

December 5, 12-13 & 19-20

[11th Annual Polar Express Holiday Show](#)

Sat & Sun 4:30pm & 5:30pm

Special reading of "Polar Express" story, visit from Santa, hot cocoa & more. Pre-paid reservations required. Wilmington Railroad Museum, 505 Nutt St, Wilmington. (910)763-2634; www.wrrm.org

December 5-December 23

[Holiday Elf Camps](#)

Sat- 9:00am-3:30pm; Mon Dec. 21-Wed Dec. 23 8:30am-3:00pm
Children ages 5-12 can create and wrap gifts, meet other elves, and make special memories. Preregistration required. Fee includes pizza lunch, snacks, crafts, and holiday gift wrap. N.C Aquarium at Fort Fisher, 900 Loggerhead Road, Kure Beach. (910)722-0500; www.ncaquariums.com/fort-fisher

December 6

[13th Annual Wilmington Holiday Parade](#)

4:55pm

Parade will reach the viewing area at Riverfront Park at 6pm. Free. Front and Water Streets, Wilmington. www.wilmingtonnc.gov

December 8

[Fort Fisher Holiday Open House](#)

10am-4pm

Enjoy seasonal refreshments, decoration and entertainment throughout the day. Murray Middle School Jazz Band will perform. Free. Fort Fisher State Historic Site, 1610 Fort Fisher Blvd S, Kure Beach. (910)458-5538; www.friendsoffortfisher.com

December 10-21

[A Christmas Carol](#)

Thurs. & Fri. 7pm, Sat. 2pm & 7pm, Sun. 2pm

Take a break from the holiday rush and settle in for the dramatic and sometimes spooky holiday classic. Tickets required. Thalian Hall, 310 Chestnut St, Wilmington. (910)632-2285; www.thalianhall.org/2014-2015-main-attractions--special-events

December 11-13

[Kure Beach Christmas Fantasy Show](#)

6:30pm

There will be singing, dancing and characters galore to celebrate the holidays. Free. Downtown Kure Beach, 101 K Ave, Kure Beach. (910)619-2050; www.townofkurebeach.org

December 11-12

[Coastal Carolina Christmas](#)

Fri 7pm; Sat 7:30pm

A concert of carols by the Wilmington Boys Choir and selections from Handel's Messiah by the Choir of St. Paul's. Saturday's show features Al DiMarco (accordionist, keyboardist, singer/songwriter). St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 16 N. 16th St, Wilmington. (910)762-4578; www.spechurch.com

December 11-12

[Holly Jolly Holiday Stroll](#)

All day

Holiday sights and activities include street musicians, local choral groups and more than two dozen businesses. Various downtown Wilmington locations. (910)763-7349; www.wilmingtondowntown.com

December 12

[NC Symphony – Holiday Pops Concert](#)

7:30pm

This all-new concert features selections from the Polar Express and Frozen, plus holiday favorites and sing-alongs. Tickets required. CFCC Humanities & Fine Arts Center, 703 N Third Street, Wilmington. (910) 362-7999; www.ncsymphony.org

December 12

[Island of Lights Tour of Homes](#)

4pm-9pm

Enjoy holiday decorations and Southern hospitality as home owners welcome you for a self-guided tour. Admission charged. (910)458-5006; Various homes on Pleasure Island. www.islandoflights.org

December 12

[Santa Claus Cruise](#)

9:30am & 12:30pm

Cruise Aboard the *Henrietta III* to the North Pole to pick up Santa Claus. This annual holiday cruise benefits the Salvation Army. Admission is 6 cans of non-perishable food per person. Must call for reservations. Cape Fear Riverboats, 101 S. Water St, Wilmington. (910)343-1611; www.cfrboats.com

December 12

[7th Annual 5K Jingle Bell Run](#)

7:30am (registration), 9:00am (race)

Race participants are encouraged to dress in holiday apparel. Entry fee required. Wrightsville Beach Museum, 303 W Salisbury St, Wrightsville Beach. (910)256-2569; www.wbmuseumofhistory.com/

December 12 & 19

[Santa by the Sea](#)

5pm-8pm

Enjoy holiday crafts, playing games, share in story time and much more. Meet Santa and a few of his festive friends. Every child receives a complimentary 6x8 photo with Santa. Admission charged. NC Aquarium at Fort Fisher, 900 Loggerhead Rd, Kure Beach. (910)772-0500; <http://www.ncaquariums.com/fort-fisher>

December 12

Christmas Stroll Through the Past

4pm-7pm

An old-fashioned Christmas with period decorations, costumed interpreters and a small petting zoo! Luminaries will light the way. Tickets required. Burgwin-Wright House and Bellamy Mansion, Market St, Wilmington. (910)762-0570; www.bellamymansion.org

December 18-24

Christmas Caroling with Santa and his "Reindeer"

6pm-10pm

A very special holiday horse drawn/carriage tour of downtown Wilmington. Admission charged. Departs at foot of Market and Water St, Wilmington. (910)251-8889; www.horsedrawntours.com

December 19

Polar Express Day

9am-12pm

Join us for a reading of *The Polar Express* at 10am. The children will be able to make a train ornament, write a letter to Santa, drink hot cocoa and receive a Christmas spirit bell. Free with museum admission or membership. Children's Museum, 116 Orange St, Wilmington. (910)254-3534; www.playwilmington.org

December 19-20

Wilmington Ballet Company Presents: Nutcracker

3pm

A traditional Christmas classic. Admission charged. CFCC Humanities & Fine Arts Center, 703 N. Third Street, Wilmington. (910)362-7999; www.wilmingtonballetcompany.org

December 22

It's a Wonderful Life-Film Screening

7pm

This holiday classic is shown on the big screen in its original format. Tickets required. Thalian Hall, 310 Chestnut St, Wilmington. (910)632-2285; www.thalianhall.org

December 31

New Year's Noon Countdown

10am-12pm

Toast 2016 with juice, make a party crown, streamers, glittery slime & more! Admission charged. Children's Museum of Wilmington, 116 Orange St, Wilmington. (910)254-3534; www.playwilmington.org

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.

December 31

[Island of Lights New Year's Eve Countdown Party](#)

9pm until Midnight

A spectacular fireworks display follows the lowering of a giant beach ball to welcome in the New Year at midnight. Free. Carolina Beach Boardwalk, Carolina Beach. (910)458-8434; www.islandoflights.org/newyears.html

December 31

[NYE 2015-Baccanalia!](#)

6:00pm & 9:00pm

Enjoy a 4-course indulgent meal and contemporary acts including flame acts, aerial acts, live music, comedy and more! Party favors and champagne toast included. Tickets required. TheatreNow, 19 10th Street, Wilmington. (910)399-3669; www.theatrewilmington.com

December 31

[New Year's Eve Cruise](#)

8pm-1:30am

New Year's cruise aboard the *Henrietta III Riverboat* with entertainment, dancing, heavy hors d'oeuvres, party favors and champagne. Prepaid reservations required; Departs from Dock St. & S. Water St, Wilmington. (800)676-0126; www.cfrboats.com/

December 31

[New Year's Eve Winner Party Boat Cruise](#)

10pm-12:30am

A midnight champagne toast, dessert, party favors and fireworks aboard the *Royal Princess II*. Reservations required. Winner Boats, 100 Carl Winner Dr, Carolina Beach. (910)458-5356; www.facebook.com/WinnerBoats

December 31

[New Year's "Memphis" Musical Broadway](#)

7pm

Ring in the New Year with "Memphis" the Broadway Musical. Then ring in 2016 with dancing, karaoke, dinner, drinks, dessert, and a champagne toast at midnight. Tickets required. Thalian Hall, 310 Chestnut St, Wilmington. (910)632-2285; www.thalianhall.org

December 31

[Midnight in Paris](#)

5:30pm

Ring in the New Year 2016 at Midnight in Paris...3 course French menu & glass of bubbly plus "cotillions". Reservations required. Le Catalan Café, 224 S. Water St, Wilmington. (910)815-0200; www.lecatalan.com



Wilmington & Beaches CVB
505 Nutt Street Wilmington, NC 28403
1-866-266-9690
www.wilmingtonandbeaches.com

