✦ THE SEASON AT A GLANCE

Six weekends, *one* for everything

If you only remember one page, make it this one. Each weekend has a headliner. Build the rest around it.

Nov 21 – 29 · Thanksgiving week

Kickoffs and a Thanksgiving run

Turkey Trails at Veterans Park, Portland lights its tree on Tuesday, the Indian Lake Loop on Thanksgiving morning, then Merry Monthaven and the Nashville Yards tree lighting on Saturday.

Dec 4 – 6 · The big one

Parade weekend

Goodlettsville lights up Friday. Saturday has four parades, Yulefest and a boat parade on the lake. Sunday is the Hendersonville Christmas Parade. Clear the calendar.

Dec 12 – 13

Gallatin's turn

The Gallatin Christmas Parade at noon, Mt. Juliet's in the morning, Dickens of a Christmas in Franklin and Santa visits everywhere you look.

Dec 14 – 20

Lights and the big shows

The Ryman, the Nutcracker and the Symphony. Weeknights are the calm nights for Cheekwood and Glow Wild. Last Saturday in Bell Buckle.

Dec 21 – 27 · Christmas week

Last call for Santa

Santa's last nights at Glow Wild and Opry Mills are December 24. Several places close Christmas Day. I list which on page 23.

Dec 28 – Jan 3 · New Year's

Ring it in, any age

Nashville's free Big Bash on New Year's Eve, a noon countdown for the little ones and a First Day Hike on January 1.

✦ ALL SEASON LONG

- **Glow Wild** Nashville Zoo · Nov 13 – Jan 3
- **Holiday LIGHTS** Cheekwood · Nov 20 – Jan 3
- **ICE! & A Country Christmas** Gaylord Opryland · Nov 6 – Jan 2
- **FrankTown Festival of Lights** Franklin · Nov 20 – Dec 31
- **The Dancing Lights of Christmas** Lebanon · Nov 7 – Jan 3
- **Rink Under Broad** Nashville Yards · from Nov 21
- **Candy Cane Village** Goodlettsville · from Dec 4
- **Christmas at Belmont Mansion** Nashville · Nov 27 – Dec 29
- **Christmas at The Hideaway** Gallatin · Fri – Sun to Dec 20
- **Christkindlmarkt** Nolensville · Fri – Sun, Nov 27 – Dec 20
- **Santa Land** Streets of Indian Lake · select days to Dec 23

Opening weekend *to parade weekend*

DATE	EVENT	TIME	COST
Opening *weekend* *Nov 13 – 20*			
Nov 13 – 15	**Christmas Village** · 250+ merchants, The Fairgrounds Nashville	See site	TICKETED
Nov 13 – 15	**Tinsel & Treasures + Depot Christmas Market** · Downtown Gallatin	Fri – Sat	FREE
Nov 13 – 14	**A Very Merry Market in the Park** · Triple Creek Park, Gallatin · Santa Sat	Fri 4–8	FREE
Nov 13 – 14	**Holiday on the Hill Market** · Northfield Church, Gallatin · free Santa photos	Fri 4–8	$5
Fri, Nov 20	**Sparkle Night** · Santa arrives, tree lighting · Streets of Indian Lake	4:30 – 6	FREE
Thanksgiving *week* *Nov 21 – 29*			
Sat, Nov 21	**Turkey Trails Nashville** · Veterans Park, Hendersonville	8 AM	TICKETED
Sat, Nov 21	**Christmas at Big Sky Farm opens** · Portland · Big Sky at Night 4–7	9 – 7	FREE
Sat, Nov 21	**Christmas at the Inn + Jingle & Mingle** · White House	9 – 4	FREE
Sat, Nov 21	**Christmas Harvest Craft Show** · Gallatin Civic Center	9 – 4	FREE
Sat, Nov 21	**Holiday Kickoff Parade with Santa** · Opry Mills	12 – 2	FREE
Nov 21 – 22	**Winter House Concerts** · Historic Rock Castle	See site	$75
Tue, Nov 24	**Portland Christmas Tree Lighting** · Main Street, Portland	5 – 6	FREE
Thu, Nov 26	**Indian Lake Loop 5K & 5-mile** · Streets of Indian Lake	8 AM	REGISTER
Fri, Nov 27	**Shop Local in Portland begins** · Black Friday to Dec 5	All day	FREE
Nov 27 – 28	**Boutique Bazaar: A Classic Christmas** · The Chapel at Three Oaks, Gallatin	Fri 3–7	$10 PARKING
Sat, Nov 28	**Merry Monthaven Christmas** · Tree lighting and caroling, Hendersonville	12 – 7	FREE
Sat, Nov 28	**Nashville Yards Tree Lighting** · Merry Market Nov 28 – 29	5 PM	FREE
Into *December* *Nov 30 – Dec 4*			
Tue, Dec 1	**TubaChristmas** · Northfield Church, Gallatin	7 PM	FREE
Dec 3 – 13	**Nashvillage Holiday Market** · Walk of Fame Park, Nashville	Thu – Sun	FREE
Fri, Dec 4	**Tree Lighting + Santa's Holiday Party** · Goodlettsville	6 PM	FREE

The *parade* weekends

DATE	EVENT	TIME	COST
Parade *weekend* *Dec 5 – 6*			
Sat, Dec 5	**Shop Local Holiday Market + free Santa photos** · Nashville Farmers' Market	10 – 2	FREE
Sat, Dec 5	**Breakfast with Santa, three ways** · Hendersonville Parks, Sumner CASA, Miracle Park (p. 18)	8:30 – 11	BOOK
Sat, Dec 5	**A Merry Little Christmas Market** · Gallatin square, Santa 10 – 11	10 – 2	FREE
Sat, Dec 5	**Old Fashioned Christmas** · Bell Buckle, sleigh rides with Santa	11 – 4	FREE
Sat, Dec 5	**Franklin Christmas Parade** · Downtown Franklin	1 PM	FREE
Sat, Dec 5	**White House Christmas Parade** · Ends at Municipal Park	3 PM	FREE
Sat, Dec 5	**Goodlettsville Christmas Parade** · "Dolly's All-American Christmas!"	4 PM	FREE
Sat, Dec 5	**Yulefest** · Historic Mansker's Station, Goodlettsville	5 – 8	FREE
Sat, Dec 5	**Portland Christmas Festival & Parade** · Hwy 109, Portland	5:30	FREE
Sat, Dec 5	**Deck the Hulls Boat Parade** · Old Hickory Lake, Hendersonville	5:30	FREE
Sat, Dec 5	**Columbia Christmas Parade & Tree Lighting** · Columbia, TN	6 PM	FREE
Sat, Dec 5	**Nashville Nights Under Lights** · Drone show, Riverfront Park	8 PM	FREE
Dec 5 – 20	**Santa Claus Express** · Kentucky Railway Museum, weekends	Varies	$28–33
Sun, Dec 6	**Hendersonville Christmas Parade + Tree Lighting** · Main St to Memorial Park	2 PM	FREE
Sun, Dec 6	**Dogwood Park Tree Lighting** · Cookeville, light shows nightly after	6 PM	FREE
Sun, Dec 6	**Caring Santa (sensory-friendly visits)** · Opry Mills	Book ahead	PHOTOS
Gallatin's *turn* *Dec 12 – 13*			
Sat, Dec 12	**Christmas on the Square** · Lebanon Public Square	10 – 4	FREE
Sat, Dec 12	**Mt. Juliet Christmas Parade** · "A Holly Dolly Christmas"	11 AM	FREE
Sat, Dec 12	**Cookies with Santa** · Big Sky Farm, Portland · ages 2–10	11:30	TICKETED
Sat, Dec 12	**Gallatin Christmas Parade** · Downtown Gallatin	12 – 2	FREE
Sat, Dec 12	**Visit with Santa** · Portland Parks · time to be posted	TBA	WATCH
Sat, Dec 12	**Old Fashioned Christmas** · Bell Buckle	11 – 4	FREE
Sat, Dec 12	**Nashville Nights Under Lights** · Drone show, Riverfront Park	8 PM	FREE
Dec 12 – 13	**Dickens of a Christmas** · Downtown Franklin	All day	FREE
Dec 12 – 24	**Daytime Santa at Cheekwood** · Historic Stable	Daytime	TICKETED

Christmas week *to* *New Year's Day*

DATE	EVENT	TIME	COST
The big *shows* *Dec 14 – 20*			
Dec 14 – 23	**Amy Grant & Vince Gill: Christmas at the Ryman**	7:30 PM	TICKETED
Dec 18 – 20	**Handel's Messiah** · Nashville Symphony	Evening	TICKETED
Sat, Dec 19	**Old Fashioned Christmas, last Saturday** · Bell Buckle	11 – 4	FREE
Dec 19 – 20	**"An American Christmas"** · Belmont Mansion	Sat 7 · Sun 2:30	TICKETED
Christmas *week* *Dec 21 – 27*			
Wed, Dec 23	**Last North Pole Limited** · Chattanooga · and Rock City's last Santa night	Evening	TICKETED
Thu, Dec 24	**Santa's last night at Glow Wild** · and his last day at Opry Mills and Cheekwood	5 – 9	TICKETED
Fri, Dec 25	**Christmas Day** · Cheekwood closed · call ahead anywhere else	—	
Sun, Dec 27	**Last Nutcracker** · and last day of Holidays Under the Peaks, TN Aquarium	—	TICKETED
New *Year's* *Dec 28 – Jan 3*			
Thu, Dec 31	**Library noon countdowns** · Nashville & Murfreesboro branches	Late morning	WATCH
Thu, Dec 31	**New Year's Eve Live: Nashville's Big Bash** · Bicentennial Mall	Gates 5:30	FREE
Fri, Jan 1	**First Day Hikes** · Tennessee State Parks, incl. Bledsoe Creek	Morning	WATCH
Sat, Jan 2	**Last night of ICE!** · Gaylord Opryland	—	TICKETED
Sun, Jan 3	**Last night of Cheekwood LIGHTS & Glow Wild**	—	TICKETED

✦ STILL TO BE ANNOUNCED · WATCH THESE

Christmas by Candlelight at Cragfont and Wynnewood (last year: Dec 6 & 13 and Dec 19) · **Hendersonville Festival of Lights** home-tour map (last year: Dec 5 – 31) · **Sumner County Tree Lighting with Santa** in Gallatin (last year: Dec 4) · **Westmoreland Christmas Parade** (last year: Dec 6) · **Christmas on the Cumberland** in Clarksville (last year: opened Nov 22) · **The Reindeer Farm** in Bowling Green. I'll post updates in my stories as they land.

✦ *Put any of these on your phone, one at a time or all at once, at carissamovesnashville.com/holiday. Subscribe there and new events show up on their own.*

✦ PRINT THIS PAGE · PUT IT ON THE FRIDGE

Our 2026 holiday *bucket list*

Let the kids pick. Check them off as you go.

- [ ] Watch a Christmas parade from the curb
  Six in Sumner County alone
- [ ] Be there when a town tree lights up
  Portland, Monthaven, Goodlettsville, Hendersonville
- [ ] Ride in a carriage
  Yulefest · Dec 5
- [ ] Visit Santa somewhere free
  Page 17 lists them
- [ ] Ice skate under Broadway
  Rink Under Broad
- [ ] Run (or walk) on Thanksgiving morning
  Indian Lake Loop
- [ ] See a historic house by candlelight
  Cragfont or Wynnewood
- [ ] Shop a holiday market for teacher gifts
  Gallatin, Nashville or Lebanon
- [ ] Count down to noon on New Year's Eve
  For the early-bedtime crowd
- [ ] See boats covered in lights on the lake
  Deck the Hulls · Dec 5
- [ ] Walk through a candy cane village
  Goodlettsville City Hall
- [ ] Ride a sleigh with Santa
  Bell Buckle · Dec 5, 12, 19
- [ ] Ride a Santa train
  Book early
- [ ] Hear a room full of tubas play carols
  TubaChristmas · Dec 1
- [ ] Drive the neighborhood lights in pajamas
  Bring cocoa
- [ ] Find your favorite light show
  Cheekwood, Glow Wild, ICE! or FrankTown
- [ ] Take a day trip to a small-town Christmas
  Pages 21 – 22
- [ ] Take a First Day Hike on January 1
  Bledsoe Creek State Park