

'Tis the Season

There's a reason why they call it *the best time of the year*. Winter officially begins in December, ushering in warm moments of togetherness and cheer. Main streets come alive with twinkling lights and festive décor, making chilly evening walks nothing short of magical. Arts and culture thrive with holiday performances and special exhibits, sweet treats make an appearance in a big way, and shoppers flock to markets and stores in search of the perfect gift. We hope you revel in the seasonal delights of December 2016 in Massachusetts! Plan your visit at massvacation.com



GARDENS AGLOW at HERITAGE MUSEUMS & GARDENS
photo credit: ©Lance Keimig Photographics



ZOOLIGHTS
photo source: zoonewengland.org



EDAVILLE USA



BRIGHT NIGHTS
photo source: brightnights.org

HOLIDAY LIGHT DISPLAYS

Remember the ol' days of piling into the car with the family and driving around in search of the biggest, most impressive light displays? We've done the hard part, now it's your turn! Whether you're exploring on foot, or plan to feast your eyes on the glow from your warm car, enjoy these incredible holiday light displays!

Gardens Aglow at Heritage Museums & Gardens in Sandwich
Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays through December 18th, 2016
heritagemuseumsandgardens.org/gardens-aglow

Bright Nights at Forest Park in Springfield
Daily through January 1, 2017 | brightnights.org

ZooLights at Stone Zoo in Stoneham
Daily through January 1, 2017 (closed on Christmas Day)
zoonewengland.org/engage/zoolights

Edaville USA Christmas Festival of Lights in Carver
Daily through January 1, 2017 (closed on Christmas Day)
edaville.com/events/christmas-festival-lights

Festival of Trees at Berkshire Museum in Pittsfield
Daily through January 1, 2017 (closed on Christmas Day)
berkshireremuseum.org/support/festival-of-trees

Winter Lights on the Greenway in Boston
Daily through the winter season
rosekennedygreenway.org/events

Neighborhood illuminations that will knock your socks off...

- > Pleasant Street, Belmont
- > Arborway, Jamaica Plain
- > Rockvale Road, Tewksbury

COOKING CLASSES and DESSERT CLASSICS

Mix it up! Try out fabulous new recipes by taking a seasonal cooking or baking class. Plus, classic sweet treats and where to find them!

GET YOUR KITCHEN ON

Gingerbread House Workshop at Taste Buds Kitchen

14 High Street in North Andover
tastebudskitchen.com/northandover

Cool Beans (and Grains) at Helen's Kitchen

3 Ingleside Rd in Natick | helenrennie.com/kitchen/classes.php

Holiday Noshing: Jolly Good Food & Wine at Boston Center for Adults Education | 122 Arlington Street in Boston | bcae.org

Kids in the KITCHEN at The KITCHEN (Boston Public Market)

100 Hanover Street in Boston | bostonpublicmarket.org/kitchen

Simple and Dazzling Chocolate Desserts at The Baker's Pin

34 Bridge Street in Northampton | thebakerspin.com

TREAT YOURSELF TO SOMETHING SWEET

Sticky Buns from A&J King Artisan Bakers

48 Central Street in Salem | ajkingbakery.com

Sugar Cookies from Sugar Buff Bake Shop

2 Dock Square in Rockport | sugarbuff.com

Milk Hot Chocolate from Hot Chocolate Sparrow

5 Old Colony Way in Orleans | hotchocolatesparrow.com

Indian Pudding from Durgin Park

340 Faneuil Hall in Boston | arkrestaurants.com/durgin_park

Brown Butter Cinnamon Rolls from Flour Bakery

Cambridge and 3 Boston locations | flourbakery.com

Peppermint Bark from Hilliards Chocolates

Easton, Norwell, and Mansfield | hilliardscandy.com

Eggnog from Crescent Ridge Dairy

355 Bay Road in Sharon | crescentridge.com

For an adult version of the creamy holiday drink, try the Monkey Business cocktail from *The Hawthorne*, located at 500 Commonwealth Avenue in Boston | thehawthornebar.com

Farmer Willie's Ginger Beer Donut from Kate's Donuts

Saugus and Boston | kanesdonuts.com

HOLIDAY SHOPPING

There's no shortage of shopping destinations in the Commonwealth. From artisan purveyors to entire streets lined with a melange of stores, picking a gift for someone special this holiday is a cinch. And while you're at it, find a little something for yourself, too!

SoWa Holiday Market | December 10-11

Exceptional goods and crafts by independent New England makers
41 Berkeley Street in Boston | sowaholidaymarket.net

Cultural Survival Bazaar | December 10-11 and 15-16

Featuring works by indigenous artists and cultural performances
Cambridge and Boston | bazaar.culturalsurvival.org

Derby Street Shoppes | Open year-round

Diverse collection of 65 stores, restaurants, boutiques and cafes
98 Derby Street in Hingham | thederbystreetshoppes.com

Yankee Candle Village Store | Open year-round

400,000+ candles in a fun and interactive, fairy tale setting
25 Greenfield Road in South Deerfield | yankeecandle.com



PASTRIES from A&J KING ARTISAN BAKERS



PEPPERMINT BARK
photo source: hilliardscandy.com



INDIAN PUDDING from DURGIN PARK
photo credit: Michael Piazza



MONKEY BUSINESS
photo source: bostoncommon-magazine.com



DONUT ASSORTMENT
photo source: katedonuts.com

#sweettreatMA

If you're anything like us during the holidays, you've got a bit of a sweet tooth. Gingerbread cookies, cranberry crisp, chocolate cake... what's your fancy? We want your take on all the best Massachusetts-made goodies! Follow us on Twitter and Instagram at @visitma then tag your photos #sweettreatMA to share!

Vineyard Artisans Annual Holiday Festival | December 10

Showcasing fine arts & crafts made on Martha's Vineyard
1059 State Road in West Tisbury | vineyardartisans.com

Grafton Country Store | Open year-round

Family run shop offering a unique selection gifts made in the USA
2 Grafton Common in Grafton | graftoncountrystore.net

Newbury Street | Open year-round

Eight blocks in the heart of Boston with salons, boutiques and dining
From Massachusetts Ave. to Arlington St. in Boston | newbury-st.com

MarketStreet Lynnfield | Open year-round

Open-air shopping with over 80 shops and restaurants
600 Market Street in Lynnfield | marketstreetlynnfield.com



CHRISTMAS BY CANDLELIGHT
photo source: osv.org



FESTIVAL OF TREES and SNOW VILLAGE
photo source: facebook.com/massachusettshorticulturalsociety

'TIS THE SEASON HAPPENINGS 2016

Christmas Stroll on Nantucket (Dec. 2-4) | christmasstroll.com

Christmas in Salem House Tour (Dec. 2-4) | christmasinsalem.org

Nantucket Historical Assoc.'s Festival of Trees (Dec. 2-31) | nha.org/specialevents

Christmas by Candlelight (Dec. 2, 9, 16, and 23) | osv.org/event/christmas-by-candlelight

Fitchburg Historical Society's Annual House Tour (Dec. 3)

facebook.com/FitchburgHistoricalSociety

Rockport Christmas Stroll (Dec. 10-11)

capeannvacations.com/event-cal/rockport-christmas-stroll-weekend

Scituate North Pole Express (Dec. 11) | scituatenorthpoleexpress.com

Festival of Trees and Snow Village (thru Dec. 11) | masshort.org/Festival-of-Trees

A Christmas Carol (Dec. 16 - 23) | thehanovertheatre.org/acc2016

Sugar Plum Fairy Tea (Dec. 18) | clarkart.edu/ImportedEvents/864-26745

Winter Solstice Celebration at the Old Manse (Dec. 18)

thetrustees.org/things-to-do/greater-boston

The MAAH and H+H present the First Night Jubilee Concert (Dec. 31) | maah.org

Mayor's Holiday Special (month of Dec.) | mayorsholiday.com

Holiday Pops: Boston Symphony Orchestra (month of Dec.) | bso.org

Winter Reimagined at Tower Hill Botanical Garden (month of Dec.)

towerhillbg.org/winter-reimagined/

Sandwich Glass Museum Glassblowers' Christmas, Special Exhibit (month of Dec.)

sandwichglassmuseum.org

The Polar Express Train Ride (select dates in Dec.) | capetrain.com/polar-express-train-ride

Blink! Light & Sound Show (month of Dec.) | faneuilhallmarketplace.com/blink

Boston Ballet: The Nutcracker (month of Dec.) | bostonballet.org/nutcracker

An Alcott Christmas Stocking (select dates in Dec.) | louisamayalcott.org

A Christmas Celtic Sojourn (select dates in Dec.)

wgbh.org/listen/christmascelticsojourn.cfm



GLASSBLOWERS' CHRISTMAS
photo source: sandwichglassmuseum.org



POLAR EXPRESS
photo source: capetrain.com

Like free stuff? Don't miss out on **Wicked Free Winter Fun**, a collection of hundreds of totally free happenings all winter long from the Berkshires to the islands. Start planning at massvacation.com/freewinter