CHRIS TRIANA OFFICIAL / TRAVEL & ADVENTURE

2026–27 HOLIDAY EDITION

Christmas Across America

Eight festive cities. Eight different ways to make the holidays memorable.

FIND YOUR HOLIDAY ESCAPE

New York City
Big-city Christmas

Orlando
Theme park magic

Las Vegas
Lights & entertainment

Miami
A tropical holiday

Boston
Historic winter charm

Chicago
Markets & culture

Washington, D.C.
American traditions

Los Angeles
California festivities

A seasonal companion to the Essential City Travel Guides

Event information checked November 28, 2026. Always confirm your dates, opening hours and ticket availability with the official organizer.

Explore travel guides & booking resources

www.christrianaofficial.com

NEW YORK CITY

NEW YORK

The classic Christmas escape

Midtown sparkle, neighborhood markets and a show under the lights.

THREE SEASONAL HIGHLIGHTS

Rockefeller Center

December

Admire the famous tree, browse the shops and book a skating session if it fits your budget.

Radio City Christmas Spectacular

Nov 4 – Jan 4, 2027

Reserve a performance of the Rockettes before your preferred show time sells out.

Shine Bright at Hudson Yards

Nov 16 – Jan 7, 2027

See the illuminated complex and combine it with a walk on the High Line, weather permitting.

A FESTIVE DAY, AT YOUR PACE

- Morning: Rockefeller Center and Fifth Avenue windows.
- Afternoon: Bryant Park area, a warm lunch and a museum or Broadway matinee.
- Evening: Radio City or Hudson Yards; reserve dinner in advance.

PLAN SMART

Choose Midtown for a short holiday visit, or stay near a subway station for better value. Avoid trying to cross Manhattan repeatedly during peak evening crowds.

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Official event information: NYC Tourism + Conventions
More seasonal details

Browse my destination tours and experiences

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ORLANDO

FLORIDA

Christmas with the whole family

Theme parks, festive shows and sunshine instead of snow.

THREE SEASONAL HIGHLIGHTS

EPCOT International Festival of the Holidays

Nov 27 – Dec 30

Explore holiday food and entertainment inspired by traditions around the world.

Universal Orlando holiday celebrations

Nov 14 – Jan 3, 2027

Check the park calendars for seasonal shows and entertainment.

Dazzling Nights at Harry P. Leu Gardens

Select dates, Nov 20 – Jan 3, 2027

Make a separate evening outing for the illuminated garden trail.

A FESTIVE DAY, AT YOUR PACE

- Morning: Choose one theme park and arrive early.
- Afternoon: Take a seated lunch and a break from crowds.
- Evening: Enjoy holiday entertainment or plan a separate Disney Springs visit.

PLAN SMART

Reserve park days and verify exact ticket requirements before committing to a hotel. Compare on-property transport with off-property lodging, parking and rental-car costs.

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Official event information: Visit Orlando
More seasonal details

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LAS VEGAS

NEVADA

Holiday lights, shows & desert skies

A festive getaway with entertainment and plenty to do away from the casino floor.

THREE SEASONAL HIGHLIGHTS

Bellagio Conservatory

Nov 14 – Jan 2, 2027

See the resort’s elaborate holiday botanical display; it is free to view.

Ethel M Holiday Cactus Garden

Holiday season

Venture off the Strip to see desert plants illuminated for the holidays. Check the venue’s ticket calendar.

Enchant at Las Vegas Ballpark

Holiday season

Consider this immersive lights experience for a family evening away from the Strip. Check available dates.

A FESTIVE DAY, AT YOUR PACE

- Morning: Bellagio Conservatory and a leisurely Strip stroll.
- Afternoon: Explore a museum, shopping district or desert lookout.
- Evening: Reserve a show, or make time for a separate holiday lights excursion.

PLAN SMART

Resort fees, parking and event-day rates can change the total price significantly. If visiting for New Year’s Eve, verify street closures and transportation plans before booking.

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Official event information: Bellagio & Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority
More seasonal details

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MIAMI

FLORIDA

Trade snow boots for sandals

Tropical gardens, beaches, family lights and warm-weather adventures.

THREE SEASONAL HIGHLIGHTS

A Very Merry Garden at Fairchild

Nov 13 – Dec 24

Stroll the garden’s holiday trails; check the schedule for family programming.

Nights of Lights Miami

Select dates, Nov 27 – Dec 31

Discover the holiday lights and family attractions at the fairgrounds. New Year’s Eve has separate ticketing.

Winter Festival at The Berry Farm

Nov 27 – Jan 3, 2027

Explore the seasonal farm activities; check evening hours and Christmas Day closure.

A FESTIVE DAY, AT YOUR PACE

- Morning: Take a beach walk or explore the Art Deco district.
- Afternoon: Enjoy Cuban food in Little Havana or a tropical garden visit.
- Evening: Choose a holiday lights event, or reserve a waterfront dinner.

PLAN SMART

Pick a beach base for relaxation or Brickell/Downtown for a city-and-waterfront trip. Check cruise departure traffic and allow extra time for airport transfers.

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Official event information: Greater Miami Convention & Visitors Bureau

More seasonal details

The Berry Farm official tourism listing

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BOSTON

MASSACHUSETTS

Historic streets, winter lights

New England charm, timeless architecture and festive performances.

THREE SEASONAL HIGHLIGHTS

Boston Common tree lighting

Dec 3, 6 p.m.

Enjoy the official city tree lighting, then continue toward the Public Garden.

Light Up Seaport

Dec 4, 5 p.m.

Visit the waterfront neighborhood for the seasonal celebration.

Holiday Pops at Symphony Hall

From Dec 3

Plan a festive concert night. Consult the orchestra’s performance calendar for dates and tickets.

A FESTIVE DAY, AT YOUR PACE

- Morning: Walk Boston Common and the Public Garden.
- Afternoon: Follow part of the Freedom Trail and warm up in a café.
- Evening: See Commonwealth Avenue’s lights or attend Holiday Pops.

PLAN SMART

Stay in Back Bay, Downtown or near a convenient T station. Pack footwear with grip, check the weather and keep an indoor alternative ready.

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Official event information: Meet Boston
More seasonal details

Browse my Boston tours and experiences

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CHICAGO

ILLINOIS

A big-city winter wonderland

European-style market stalls, skyline views and cozy theater evenings.

THREE SEASONAL HIGHLIGHTS

Christkindlmarket at Daley Plaza

Nov 20 – Dec 24

Browse crafts and seasonal foods at the outdoor German-inspired market.

Joffrey Ballet's The Nutcracker

Dec 4 – 27

Book a performance at Lyric Opera House for a distinctive Chicago holiday tradition.

Winterland at Gallagher Way

Nov 20 – Dec 31

Visit the Wrigleyville holiday village, with skating and family activities.

A FESTIVE DAY, AT YOUR PACE

- Morning: See the Millennium Park tree and architecture nearby.
- Afternoon: Browse Daley Plaza's market, then visit an indoor museum.
- Evening: Reserve a performance or venture to Winterland in Lakeview.

PLAN SMART

Bring warm layers and plan short outdoor legs between indoor attractions. Check CTA service before heading out, especially around holidays.

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Official event information: Choose Chicago

More seasonal details

Family holiday events

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WASHINGTON, D.C.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

An American holiday tradition

National landmarks, seasonal gardens, holiday markets and festive history.

THREE SEASONAL HIGHLIGHTS

National Christmas Tree

Lighting Dec 3; display through Jan 1, 2027

The ceremony lottery has closed; visit the public display afterward and check access notices.

Season’s Greenings at the U.S. Botanic Garden

Nov 26 – Jan 3, 2027

See holiday plants and miniature landmarks made from botanical materials, plus model trains.

DowntownDC Holiday Market

Through Dec 23

Browse gifts and food in Penn Quarter before the market closes for the season.

A FESTIVE DAY, AT YOUR PACE

- Morning: Explore the National Mall and one museum that is open.
- Afternoon: Visit the Botanic Garden and a market, if operating.
- Evening: Admire the National Christmas Tree or reserve a holiday show.

PLAN SMART

Many museums and indoor attractions close on Christmas Day. Check Smithsonian and federal-site schedules, reserve required passes, and use Metrorail when practical.

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Official event information: Destination DC & U.S. Botanic Garden

More seasonal details

National tree ceremony and lottery

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LOS ANGELES

CALIFORNIA

A little Hollywood holiday magic

Light trails, entertainment, coastal air and Southern California winter adventures.

THREE SEASONAL HIGHLIGHTS

Sparkle DTLA at The Bloc

Nov 15 – Dec 31

See downtown’s recurring evening light show during its scheduled hours.

LA Zoo Lights

Nov 20 – Jan 10, 2027

Reserve a night for the illuminated displays at the zoo in Griffith Park.

Enchanted Forest of Light, Descanso Gardens

Nov 22 – Jan 9, 2027

Explore imaginative illuminated garden installations; book a timed ticket.

A FESTIVE DAY, AT YOUR PACE

- Morning: Explore a museum or Griffith Observatory area.
- Afternoon: Enjoy a local neighborhood or the coast if traffic and weather allow.
- Evening: Select one holiday light display close to your daytime route.

PLAN SMART

Los Angeles is spread out. Choose a hotel near your main activities and cluster outings by neighborhood; compare parking and car-rental costs before you reserve.

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Official event information: Discover Los Angeles
More seasonal details

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