

Holiday Happenings That Illuminate Seattle + Make the Season Merry and Bright



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Seattle is a city that likes to celebrate the good things in life—any season of year (and no special occasion needed). Events and festivals pack the schedule year-round, and the indoor ambience at cafes, bars and restaurants (think white twinkly lights strung from rafters and exposed brick walls) tend to be cozy and inviting, even in the dead of summer.

Yet when winter does finally roll around, Seattle seems to emit even more of an enchanting glow. Holiday happenings in November, December and well into January help ring in the season and the New Year. Residents and visitors alike delight in joyous gatherings of food and drink that feature music and merriment, fireworks and family-friendly fun.

In addition, while local venues stage holiday-focused events in cozy spaces, popular attractions open their doors during unlikely hours. For example, the Woodland Park Zoo opens its gate at nighttime and gets illuminated with a bounty of lights. And as part of a beloved annual tradition, the city's omnipresent waterways fill with glowing boats during the annual Christmas Ship Parade. New Year's Eve brings even more pizzazz, as the city shoots off fireworks from tall buildings and barges, lights bonfires along beaches and releases enchanting paper lanterns from shores around the city.

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SALISH LODGE AND SPA

SAMMAMISH



Photo courtesy of Salish Lodge & Spa

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A scenic 30-minute drive from Seattle brings you to the charmingly rustic Salish Lodge & Spa, which offers Old-World ambience and modern elegance. Get out and enjoy nature near the lodge, whether hiking around the rushing cascades or trying activities like snoeshowing. Back at the cozy venue, dine on award-winning Northwest cuisine, while enjoying romantic views of Snoqualmie Falls. Attend a festive tree lighting ceremony on December 2 at 5 p.m. (think hot chocolate, holiday tea and cookies, live music from the Snoqualmie Valley Girls' Choir); afterward, head into The Country Store to begin your holiday shopping. Other delights throughout the season include the lodge's Holiday Tea sessions (reservations required) and Merry Adventures (culinary adventures in the Chef's Studio).