

2025 HOLIDAY EVENTS



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GALVESTON 

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11 BEST WINTER WONDER ISLAND EVENTS

THE POLAR EXPRESS™ Train Ride Nov. 14 – Dec. 23

1

The Galveston Railroad Museum invites you to embark on a magical one-hour journey to the North Pole aboard THE POLAR EXPRESS™ Train Ride. Meet Santa and enjoy a theatrical recreation of the sights, sounds, and enchantment of this timeless children's tale.

The Grand 1894 Opera House Holiday Season Nov. 14 – Jan. 16

2

Celebrate the holidays with entertainment at Galveston's historic theater featuring performances such as, Menopause The Musical 2, Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol, A Prairie Home Companion Christmas, The Nutcracker and more!

Holiday in the Gardens at Moody Gardens Nov. 22 – Jan. 3

3

Enjoy ICE LAND: Christmas Around the World with towering ice sculptures, a giant ice slide and Shivers ice Bar. Be dazzled by the Holiday Lights experience with over 2 million lights sparkling off Galveston Bay, plus an Ice Rink, Arctic Slide, Scrooge 4D, Rudolph 4D and other holiday films. Don't miss Breakfast with Santa, New Year's Palooza family celebration, the NYE party and more.

Downtown Holiday Shopping Nov. – Jan.

4

Experience Galveston's Historic Downtown District! Enjoy unique outdoor shopping surrounded by Victorian architecture and find one-of-a-kind gifts. Explore exclusive boutiques, art galleries, and antique stores, then take a break to savor Gulf-fresh seafood at one of the many restaurants.

Miracle Pop Up Bar at Daiquiri Time Out Nov. 25 – Dec. 31

5

Miracle is a Christmas-themed pop-up cocktail bar where you can enjoy holiday cocktails in a festive atmosphere. Decked out with fun holiday decorations and serving expertly crafted cocktails, Miracle is guaranteed to bring the holiday spirit even to the grumpiest of grinchers.

Galveston's Official Tree Lighting in Downtown Nov. 29

6

Kick off the holiday season with the official tree lighting ceremony in Saengerfest Park. Join Santa arriving by trolley along with music, entertainment and the twinkling lights throughout downtown.

East End Historical District's Holiday Homes Tour Dec. 5

7

Experience nostalgia while listening to carolers and touring beautifully decorated Victorian-era homes. If you're lucky, you might even catch a glimpse of Santa Claus!

52nd Annual Dickens on The Strand Dec. 5 – 7

8

Step into the enchanting world of Dickens on The Strand, celebrating 52 years of this beloved festival. Experience parades, live entertainment, costumed vendors serving holiday delights, festive decor, Victorian-inspired arts, and much more in downtown Galveston's transformed Victorian London!

Holiday Delights: A Boot-Scootin Bash Dec. 7

9

Join The Bryan Museum for their annual Holiday Festival. Enjoy photos with Santa, a petting zoo, food trucks, crafts, music, storybook readings and more!

Holiday with the Cranes Dec. 13 – 14

10

The Galveston Island Nature Tourism Council invites you to celebrate the return of majestic 4-foot-tall Sandhill Cranes for the holidays with a variety of special indoor and outdoor nature activities, including bird watching, and nature talks.

Santa Hustle Half Marathon and 5K Dec. 21

11

Join thousands of Santas as they run through the streets of Galveston and along the Gulf waters. Experience festive music, extravagant holiday decorations, and receive awesome swag. This isn't just a race; it's a truly magical experience!