

Upcoming Events to do over

Winter Break 2021

| Legend | |
|--------|---------------------|
| \$ | Cost to participate |
| ◆ | In-person option |
| 📺 | Virtual option |
| ➔ | To-go option |



- **[15th Annual Elf Market](#)** ♦
December 4, 10:00 am – 5:00 pm
 - The Elf Market is The ArtsCenter’s annual holiday craft market which raises funds for The ArtsCenter’s Youth Education Scholarships. Vendors from Carrboro, Chapel Hill, and the Triangle area gather to sell handmade goods such as clothing, body products, food items, fine art, children’s toys, ceramic pieces, and jewelry. Elf Market is the place to shop local for your holiday gifts! This event is family-friendly and free to attend.
- **[Miracle on Market Street: Tree Lighting in Southern Village](#)** ♦
December 4, 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm
 - Southern Village is hosting a tree lighting on the Village Green. Come out for pictures with Santa, hot chocolate, and stay to watch the movie, How the Grinch Stole Christmas.
- **[Light up the Night Parade and Tree Lighting](#)** ♦
December 5, 4:00 pm
 - Hillsborough/Orange County Chamber of Commerce is excited to announce this beloved annual event will take place on Sunday, December 5th. This year's theme is "Joy", and we asking participants to "Light Up the Night" with their "Joy" by adding lights to your float. The parade kicks off with the traditional Running of the Elves at 4pm, followed by the Tree Lighting ceremony at 6pm.
- **[Chapel Hill-idays Outdoor Market](#)** ♦
December 5, 12 & 19, 12:00 pm – 4:00 pm
 - We are hosting Chapel Hill-idays Downtown Markets the first 3 Sundays in December on Franklin St. to meet all your remaining holiday shopping needs! Join us on the 400-500 W. Franklin St. block on Sunday Dec. 5, Sunday Dec. 12, & Sunday Dec. 19. Stop by one of our more than 20 open shops along Franklin St., plus shop multiple additional vendors at pop-up shops along the sidewalk!
- **[Carrboro Town Tree Lighting](#)** ♦
December 10, 6:00 pm
 - Come to Carrboro Town Hall as we welcome our community to gather and celebrate the festive season! We welcome all community members to join with our group of local schoolchildren and the Find Your Own Voice community singing group as we officially kick off the season with music and the lighting of the community tree.
- **[Glassblowing Workshops & Holiday Open House at Sunshine Lavender Farm](#)** \$♦
December 10 & 11
 - Get a glimpse of the farm when the lavender is snoozing in the field and the sweet scent of lavender prevails on the small family farm. Decorated for the holidays, sample lavender goodies, sip lavender hot chocolate, visit with farm hosts and lavender lovers from near and far. Sign up to be a glassblower for the day to create your very own custom holiday ornament. Space is limited, so don’t delay and register today.

- [Light-a-Luminary at Southern Village](#) \$◆
December 11, 1:00 pm – 10:00 pm
 - Celebrate the holiday season with your neighbors and friends while showing your support for the families of children at the Ronald McDonald House of Chapel Hill presented by UNC Hospitals. We will light beautiful luminaries throughout our Southern Village Neighborhood on December 11th, 2021.
- [Hand Lettering & Holiday Tag Workshop – Carolina Inn](#) \$◆
December 12, 2:00 pm
 - Come and enjoy an afternoon of Hand Lettering with All She Wrote Notes! Looking for a fun holiday event to do with your friends this season? Enjoy an afternoon of Hand Lettering with All She Wrote Notes in a relaxed atmosphere. A longtime friend of The Carolina Inn, Maghon’s traditional hand lettering class will allow you to take home customized holiday tags that will undoubtedly add a creative flair to your holiday gift giving. We will have plenty of sweet and savory goodies for you to nibble on and of course the inn’s signature holiday mimosas. No experience necessary. Reservations can be made at <https://destinationhotels.com/carolina-inn/chapel-hill-event-calendar>
- [Winter Wonderland at Spring Haven Farm](#) \$◆
Wednesday through Sunday, November 17 – December 31 10:00 am – 6:00 pm
 - Spring Haven Farm is back to welcome you all with more farm festivities. From November 17-December 31, we'll have Fresh Christmas Trees and Wreaths for sale, our Polar Express Tractor Train Ride, the Snowflake Barn with sweets, treats, and Letters to Santa, the South Pole and Santa's Workshop with Ornament Making, our Festive Wonderland Barn full of glimmering lights, and of course, all of our Goats, Cows, Pigs, and Other Animals! Get your tickets online in advance. Tickets can be purchased [here](#).
- [Voices: 2021 Holiday Concert](#) \$◆
December 17 & 18
 - Come see Voices in their annual holiday concert! The concert will be held at University United Methodist Church. Masks are required and social distancing is encouraged.
- [Solstice Lantern Walk](#) ◆
December 21, 5:45 pm
 - Each December, the Winter Solstice marks the beginning of the winter season in the Northern Hemisphere, and the longest night of the year. This astronomical event is significant to many cultures, religions, and traditions, for many different reasons. We encourage creativity and community participation! Individuals are asked to bring a handmade lantern that lights up the night, to guide all of us along the walk. Participants will gather at the Eno River Farmer’s Market Pavilion and be led on a procession through River Park, to the River Walk, and ending back in downtown Hillsborough.
- [Homes for the Holidays: Gingerbread Competition](#) ◆
December 3 – January 2
 - Come shop, dine, and stroll as you view all of the beautiful gingerbread creations in storefront windows of businesses in downtown Historic Hillsborough. This year’s theme is “Favorite structure from around the World”.

- [Winter in the Garden at North Carolina Botanical Garden](#) ♦ 
Recurring through December
 - Enjoy the peaceful holiday splendor of the Garden as we celebrate the end of the year with a craft market, guided tours, and more throughout the season.
- [FRANK Holiday Art Show](#) ♦
Recurring through December
 - Stop in to see a lot of wonderful artwork in various media from a wide array of local and regional artists! Please join us in the gallery on December 4th from 1-3 pm to get a personalized, impromptu poem by none other than the Poetry Fox while enjoying some hot chocolate provided by Epilogue Books.
- [Twelve Days of Christmas at The Carolina Inn](#) ♦
Recurring through December
 - The Twelve Days of Christmas at The Carolina Inn is an absolute must-see holiday tradition in Chapel Hill. Come see the enchanting decorations inspired by the traditional holiday song.
- [Walking Tours of Chapel Hill](#) ♦
Ongoing
 - A 1-1/2 hour tour to show you this charming University town. We start at the expansive Morehead Planetarium and Sun Dial, travel down the main street seeing the town's oldest buildings, site of 1960's protests, several of the outdoor murals for which the town is famous. We will delve into the history of UNC (the oldest public university in America) as we travel along one of the college's main roads. It's a lovely, easy, barrier-free tour.
- [Self-Guided Tour of Carolina](#) ♦ 
Ongoing
 - Print off the self-guided tour map and navigate the landmarks of our campus at your own pace or take the Zoom tour of UNC campus.
- [Sense of Place Tour](#) ♦
Ongoing
 - This hour-long, in-person tour introduces campus history and traditions as well as some of the University's current endeavors in research and innovation. We believe Carolina is a very special place, and we look forward to sharing it with you. Please note that this is NOT an admissions tour. Our tours are limited to 15 guests.
- [The Carolina Story: A Virtual Museum of University History](#) 
Ongoing
 - This virtual museum is established similarly to physical museums, with texts and images arranged in a series of roughly chronological exhibits. Along the way, there is much for the university's friends to take pride in, and other truths that are now painful to remember, but serves as an open eye to the past of Carolina.
- [Self-Guided Mural Tour](#) ♦
Ongoing
 - Known for its appreciation and cultivation of the arts, Orange County is famous for dozens of murals that brighten the walls of our local establishments, alleys, and parking lots. Plan your day of exploring these 17 works of art beginning with coffee at Open Eye Cafe and the Coffee Bean Fields Mural.

- [Ackland Art Museum](#) ♦ 📄

Ongoing

- Since 1958, The Ackland Art Museum has been one of North Carolina’s most important cultural resources. We serve broad local, state, and national constituencies as a unit of The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. The Museum’s permanent collection consists of more than 19,000 works of art, featuring North Carolina’s premier collections of Asian art and works of art on paper, as well as significant collections of European masterworks, twentieth-century and contemporary art, and North Carolina pottery.

Beyond Chapel Hill/Orange County

- [North Carolina Chinese Lantern Festival](#) \$ ♦

Recurring, November 19 – January 9

- North Carolina's Premier Holiday Event Returns to Koka Booth Amphitheatre in November for the 6th Year! Purchase your tickets at <https://boothamphitheatre.com/events-tickets/events/chinese-lantern-festival>

- [Bull City Holidayz](#) ♦

Recurring through December

- Durham Parks and Recreation (DPR) is excited to provide free, festive fun to the Durham community this holiday season! Bull City Holidayz will offer holiday-themed events in December. All events are free, but preregistration is required.

- [Holidays in the Park at the Museum of Life + Science](#) \$ ♦

Recurring, December 1 – January 2

- Join us at the Museum as we light up the park in celebration of the holiday season! Enjoy a memorable stroll with your loved ones through some of our outdoor and indoor spaces on evenings in December. Follow shimmering pathways and glowing trees from our gardens to the Dinosaur Trail. Enjoy the tropical temperatures inside our Magic Wings Butterfly House or stop by Sprout Café for a night-time snack. Take an illuminating train ride on the Ellerbe Creek Railway, passing colorful light displays along the way!

- [Christmas Plugged](#) ♦

Recurring, November 19 – January 9

- Every night from November 26th, 2021, to January 3rd, 2022, Rose of Sharon Baptist Church, 4109 Guess Road, Durham, is presenting Christmas Plugged – Synchronized Light Show. The light display is synchronized to music for a total of nine songs. The public can view the display for free from their cars. The display lasts about 30 minutes and people can tune their car radios to 90.1 FM. The light display will be nightly from dusk until midnight each night.

- [Ice Skating at Red Hat Amphitheater](#) \$ ♦

December through January 1

- Come enjoy the thrill of ice skating in a winter wonderland created in the heart of downtown Raleigh! The Rink presented by UNC Health features a natural ice-skating rink with stunning views of the Raleigh skyline.

- [Downtown Raleigh Illuminate Art](#) ♦
December 3 – January 7
 - Downtown Raleigh comes to light with Illuminate, a light-based art walk. Returning December 3, this five-week activation takes place in Downtown Raleigh’s Fayetteville Street and Glenwood South districts. Illuminate will transform plazas and underutilized spaces with a large-scale interactive installation, light-based sculptures, and projection art. Installations will shine nightly from December 3 to January 7.
- [Movie Parties at Alamo Drafthouse Movie Theatre](#) \$♦
Multiple times in December
 - At an Alamo Drafthouse Movie Party, you can cheer for your heroes, boo the bad guys, shout out your favorite lines, and even sing along with the songs - all in a theater packed with fellow fans. The possibilities – and the fun – are endless. Come live your cherished movies along with us. ADH is offering five different holiday themed movie parties.

For the Children

- [Sundaes with Santa at Maple View Farm Ice Cream Store](#) \$♦
December 10, 17 & 20, 2:30 pm – 6:30 pm
 - Come to Maple View Farm Ice Cream Store to share a sundae with Santa and his friends from the North Pole!
- [Letters to Santa](#) ♦
December 11, 11:00 am – 1:00 pm
 - Santa and Mrs. Claus will be making an appearance at the Hillsborough Visitor Center on Saturday, December 11th from 11-1! Folks are able to drop off their letters to Santa in person. Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, there will not be any opportunities to sit on Santa’s lap. This is solely to drop off letters and say hello!
- [Christmas Cookie Workshop](#) \$♦
December 11, 11:00 am
 - There’s no doubt your kids love Christmas AND sweets. Have them join us at our kids workshop at The Travelling Café where they will show some holiday spirit by baking and decorating these fun cookies!
- [Kids, Cookies & Candy Canes](#) ♦
December 16, 10:30 am – 12:00 pm
 - A Holiday celebration for children of all ages! Bring the family to the Carrboro Century Center to enjoy some holiday fun! Join us for cookies, crafts, and a children’s show.
- [Winter Solstice Lantern Walk at the NC Museum of Art](#) ♦
December 18, 5:00 pm – 7:00 pm
 - Bundle up and come together as we honor the quiet beauty of the approaching winter season with a handmade paper lantern walk through the Museum Park. We are hosting a community-driven celebration inspired by the Hillsborough Arts Council’s annual Solstice Lantern Walk. Bring your own homemade lantern (no flames) or come early to make one with us. Group procession begins at 6 pm.

- [Gingerbread Jamboree at Marbles](#) \$◆
December 18 & 19
 - Enjoy creating a sweet treat masterpiece with friends and family, and leave the clean-up to us! Create special memories this holiday season with your very own keepsake gingerbread house.
- [Noon Year's Eve at Museum of Life + Science](#) \$◆
December 31, 11:00 am – 1:00 pm
 - Join us in celebrating the New Year at noon! Create a New Year's craft, dance to the music, and count down with us to a special ball drop at 12 pm.
- [Raleigh Night Market – Merry Moore Market](#) ◆
Recurring through December
 - Merry Moore Market is taking over Moore Square this holiday season! Join us for holiday fun with the whole family including crafts, carriage rides, live music, local vendors, and visits with Santa.
- [North Carolina Museum of History](#) \$◆📖
Ongoing
 - North Carolina's wonderful Museum of History has excellent exhibits to tour, as well as, virtual programs for kids and families. Some of the virtual programs include “Ships and Tar Heels” and “Tarheel Tales: Lighthouses and Shipwrecks”.