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Vancouver's longest-running holiday event with

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more than 15 acres of the garden decorated with one million lights. Highlights include Dancing Lights Show, roving Scandinavian gnomes, Santa, music and new this year, a holiday carousel.

There are no shortage of events to boggle the mind this holiday season. Here is a list to focus you on the festivities:



Christmas at Burnaby Village Museum

Enjoy thousands of lights, cedar boughs and other old-fashioned ornaments and decorations, plus traditional entertainment, demonstrations, hands-on activities and exhibits from the early 1900s. • Burnaby Village Museum, 6501 Deer Lake Ave., Burnaby • Until Jan. 2 • Free gate admission, carousel rides/\$2.60, 604-297-4565, burnabyvillagemuseum.ca/christmas

Canyon Lights

The suspension bridge, Treetops Adventure, Cliffwalk, the rainforest and canyon will be transformed into a world of festive lights and dazzling

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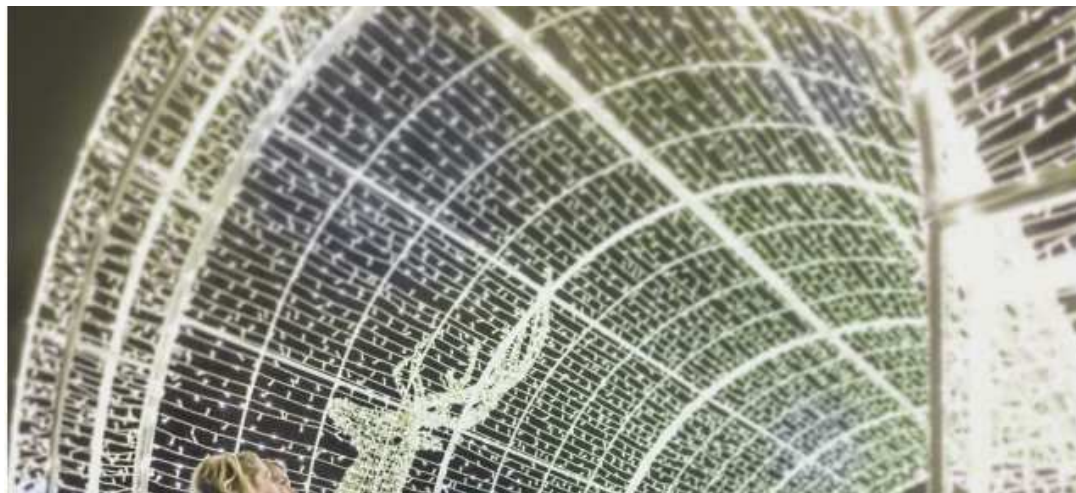
visual enchantment. See the world's tallest living Christmas tree and search for the glowing owls in the Snowy Owl Prowl. New this year: Fireflies – an interactive lighting display. Using magic flashlights, guests can awaken waves of tiny lights that twinkle like fireflies. • Capilano Suspension Bridge Park, 3735 Capilano Rd., North Van • Until Jan. 8, 11 a.m.-9 p.m., holiday activities form 4-9 p.m. • 604-985-7474, capbridge.com

Christmas at FlyOver Canada

FlyOver Canada will transform into a magical winter wonderland this Christmas season. Have fun helping Santa Claus search for his missing elves during an exhilarating flight across Canada and on to the North Pole. • Canada Place • Until Jan. 2 • flyovercanada.com

28th Annual Hi-Light Festival

This month-long Christmas celebration features a brilliant light display, live entertainment, and festive activities for the whole family. • The Family Friday Nights on Dec. 2, 9, 16 and 23, feature a variety of live entertainment and visits with Santa. • Park & Tilford, 333 Brooksbank Ave., North Van • By donation, proceeds support the North Vancouver firefighters, parkandtilford.com



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How to get your garden through the coming cold spell



Douglas Todd: Yes, Virginia, there has always been a 'war on Christmas'

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Enchant: Christmas Light Maze & Market

The world's largest Christmas light maze, made up of more than 55,000 square feet of illuminated sculptures. Includes a Christmas Market with more than 40 local vendors, 12 food trucks and a licensed eating area. • 1st and Crowe Street, Between Cambie St. Bridge and Olympic Village • Until Dec. 31, 4-10 p.m. • \$19.95/\$14.95, market only/\$5, enchantvancouver.com

The Peak of Christmas

Stroll through the Light Tunnel, lace up your skates for a spin around the 8,000 square foot ice skating pond, watch a Christmas movie, visit Elf Headquarters, have a visit with Santa and more. • Grouse Mountain, North Van • Until Jan. 2 • Free with lift ticket, grousemountain.com/peak-of-christmas

7th Annual Vancouver Christmas Market

This authentic German-inspired Christmas Market includes a mix of traditional food and beverage, unique gifts and downtown Vancouver's only Christmas carousel. • Jack Poole Plaza, 1055 Canada Place • Until Dec. 31, 11 a.m.-9 p.m., closed 6 p.m. Christmas Eve, closed Christmas Day • From \$8, under 6/free, Christmas Packages from \$20, vancouverchristmasmarket.com

The Polar Express

This train ride includes cookies and hot chocolate (just like the movie!) a visit by the hobo, entertainment, singing and a magical-40 minute ride to the North Pole. The visit at Santa's Village features crafts, Christmas-themed model railroads, Santa and Mrs. Claus and much more. • West Coast Railway Heritage Park, 39645 Government Rd., Squamish • Saturdays and Sundays until Dec. 17, various departure times • Coach Class/\$30, First Class/\$45, 604-898-9339, wcra.org



Bright Nights Christmas Train in Stanley Park

The Bright Nights Christmas Train and Plaza sparkle with millions of twinkling lights. Experience the lights, displays and live performers along the train route, or view the displays at the plaza. Proceeds benefit the B.C. Professional Fire Fighters' Burn Fund. • Stanley Park Miniature Railway • Until Jan. 1 • \$8-\$12, ticketleader.ca, vancouver.ca

Gulf of Georgia Cannery: Festival of Trees

Steveston merchants and community groups show off their creative talents by decorating festive Christmas trees displayed inside the historic

cannery. Bring a donation for the Richmond Food Bank to vote for your favourite tree. • Gulf of Georgia Cannery National Historic Site, 12138 Fourth Ave., Richmond • Until Dec. 31 • \$3.90-\$7.80, 604-664-9009, gulfofgeorgiacannery.org

Holidays at Britannia

In addition to the daily underground tours, interactive exhibits and gold panning, visitors can enjoy holiday story times, wreath making workshops, a screening of the holiday movie Elf (Dec. 16), visits from Santa and Mrs. Claus, a Dickens Village and North Pole displays. • Britannia Mine Museum, Britannia Beach • Until Dec. 31 • 604-896-2233, britanniamuseum.ca

RELATED

150+ events to get you into the holiday spirit

Timberline Country Christmas

Leave the busy city behind and enjoy the short trip to a 73-acre horse ranch that has been transformed into a Christmas wonderland. Be enchanted by holiday lights, Christmas trees, interactive scenes, music and activities including a wagon ride, petting zoo and cookie decorating. • Timberline Ranch, 22351 144th Ave., Maple Ridge • Until Dec. 20 • 604-463-9278, timberlinechristmas.ca

VanDusen Festival of Lights

More than 15 acres of the garden will be decorated with one million lights. The event includes the Dancing Lights show on Livingstone Lake,



roving Scandinavian gnomes, music, tasty treats and drinks, Santa and, new this year, a holiday carousel. A



ride on the carousel is included in every event admission. • VanDusen Botanical Garden, 5251 Oak St. • Until Jan. 2 • \$9-\$18.50, ticketstonight.ca, vancouver.ca/VanDusenFOL

Holidays at The Vancouver Aquarium

Drop by the Aquarium for some festive underwater fun with Scuba Claus, the electric eel Christmas tree, and more. Find plenty of holiday activities, shows and interactive displays to engage the whole family. • Until Dec. 24 • 604-659-3400, vanaqua.org/experience/feature/holiday

Festival of Trees Vancouver

This year's festival celebrates its 30th anniversary with an enchanted forest of decorated trees to raise funds for the most urgent needs at B.C. Children's Hospital. • Four Seasons Hotel Vancouver (791 W. Georgia St.) and the upper level of Pacific Centre Mall (650 W. Georgia St.) • Until Jan. 2 • Suggested \$5 minimum donation to vote for your favourite tree, bcchf.ca/events/event-calendar/festival-of-trees

SOS Children's Gingerbread Village

Vote for your favourite gingerbread creation and get your photo with Santa in his workshop. Proceeds benefit SOS Children's Village B.C.'s programs for local foster children and homeless youth. Presented by RE/MAX. • Grouse Mountain Chalet, 6400 Nancy Greene Way, North Van • Until Jan. 1, 10 a.m.-10 p.m. • 604-574-2964, sosbc.org/news-events/PoC

Holidays at the Sea to Sky Gondola

Features snowshoeing, tubing and guided headlamp hikes, winter walks, the decorated Spirit Trail and suspension bridge, holiday concerts and

carolling, and pancakes and pictures with Santa. • Sea to Sky Gondola, 36800 Highway 99, Squamish • seatoskygondola.com

Karaoke Christmas Lights Trolley

Take a ride on a festively decorated trolley and sing your way past the city lights of downtown before arriving at Bright Nights at Stanley Park, followed by a stop at VanDusen Botanical Garden's Festival of Lights. A donation to the Burn Fund is included in each ticket. • Picks up and drops off at Canada Place • Until Dec. 29, departs at 6:30 p.m. • \$40/\$25, 604-801-5515, vancouvertrolley.com



Carol Ships Parade

This traditional carol ship and shore side celebration has grown to more than 50 decorated boats decked out with 100,000 lights, plus community-based shore-side celebrations. The best nights for viewing

are: Dec. 2, 3, 9, 10, 16 and 18. See website for full schedule. • The waters off North and West Van, Port Moody, False Creek and Vancouver • Dec. 2-23 • carolships.org

2016 Vancouver Christmas Tree Lighting

Watch four holiday trees, one of which is 50 feet tall, come alive with hope and light. Includes live entertainment and music, free cookies and hot chocolate, local food trucks and fun activities for the kids. The trees will remain lit throughout the holiday season. • Robson Square • Dec. 2, 5-7 p.m. • Free, childrensfestival.ca

River District Drive-In Holiday Movies

Holiday-themed movies and tasty treats. Takes place rain or shine. • Dec. 2: Polar Express, 7 p.m. and Love Actually, 9:30 p.m. | Dec 3: Home Alone, 7 p.m. and Home Alone 2, 9:30 p.m. | Dec. 9: Elf, 7 p.m. and It's a Wonderful Life, 9:30 p.m. | Dec. 10: Christmas Vacation, 7 p.m. and Die Hard, 9:30 p.m. • 3650 East Kent Ave. South • Gates 5:30 p.m. • riverdistrict.ca/events/drive-in-movies

A Pitt Meadows Christmas

Join the community celebration. This free family fun event includes Santa's arrival, tree lighting, entertainment, food and ice sculpture. • Spirit Square, 12007 Harris Rd., Pitt Meadows • Dec. 2, 6-8 p.m. • Free, pittmeadows.bc.ca

VSO: Holiday Hooray!

Let Your Music Shine! with Lisa & Linda children's entertainers. Sing along to frosty favourites while you move-along with miniatures from The Nutcracker, Babes in Toyland and other sparkly holiday classics. Accompanied by a brass trio. • Dec. 2, 10 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.: Vancouver Playhouse Theatre | Dec. 3, 10 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.: Anvil Centre, New West • 604-876-3434, vancouverSymphony.ca

Balloon Winter Wonderland & Holiday Craft Fair

The Balloon Winter Wonderland features four familiar holiday scenes, made entirely from biodegradable, nitrogen-filled balloons. The Craft Fair includes offerings from more than 50 artisans, plus photos with Santa, festive music and more. • Wesbrook Village, UBC • Dec. 3 • Free, discoverwesbrook.com

Christmas at the Farm

Escape the hustle and bustle of the holidays and experience Christmas circa 1894. The heritage farmhouse is decorated in authentic Victorian style, complete with local greenery on the verandah and fresh baking from the wood stove. • Historic Stewart Farm, 13723 Crescent Rd., Surrey • Dec. 3-24 • 604-592-6956, surrey.ca/heritage

Light Up Bowen

Get into the spirit of the holidays – island style. Bring your lantern for the Light Up Bowen Parade led by the Black Sheep Morris Dancers. Includes caroling and a live nativity. Santa arrives by tug boat and the children will have a chance to sit on his lap. • 996 Dorman Rd., Bowen Island • Dec. 3, 6 p.m. • Free, 604-200-2399, tourismbowenisland.com/

A Christmas Carol

The classic tale of miser, Ebenezer Scrooge, gets the DuffleBag Theatre treatment: that means lots of laughs, improv, and audience participation. • Dec. 3, 3:30 p.m.: The ACT, 11944 Haney Place, Maple Ridge, \$15 at theactmapleridge.org | Dec. 11, 2 p.m.: Chilliwack Cultural Centre, 9201 Corbould St., \$10 at chilliwackculturalcentre.ca<http://www.chilliwackculturalcentre.ca/>

Christmas in Kerrisdale Village

Kerrisdale Village really knows how to celebrate the season of lights. Enjoy

free horse and carriage rides, Santa and his elf, Christmas Quartets, Tubas & Brass Bands, free village skating and more. Check website for full details. • Kerrisdale Village, West 41st Avenue • Dec. 3-23 • kerrisdalevillage.com

Magic of Christmas Parade

Features more than 50 entries consisting of festive floats, live music, decorated vehicles, dance troupes, and of course – Santa! • Fraser Highway, starts at 56th Ave. and travels to 207th St., Langley • Dec. 3, 6 p.m. • Free, city.langley.bc.ca

Merry Fishmas

Come celebrate Merry Fishmas with George the sturgeon and his riverine friends for fun-filled festivities for the whole family to enjoy. • Fraser River Discovery Centre, 788 Quayside Dr., New West • Dec. 3, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. • By donation, proceeds benefit B.C. Children's Hospital, fraserriverdiscovery.org/UpcomingEvents

New Westminster Santa Claus Parade

Come and enjoy the great floats and entertainment as this festive parade marches down historic Columbia Street. • Dec. 3, 11 a.m. • Free, newwestcity.ca

The Polar Express: Free Family Movie

This Tom Hanks film features Billy, a reluctant passenger on the ride of his life to the North Pole. His adventure pays off with a chance encounter with Santa. • Cineplex Odeon International Village, 88 W. Pender, 3rd floor • Dec. 3, 10 a.m. • Free, RSVP required, 289-242-1733, eventbrite.ca

The Shipyards Christmas Festival

The square will be transformed into a winter wonderland, filled with the sound of music and carols. Enjoy free, family-friendly activities followed

by the official lighting of the City's Christmas tree. • Shipbuilders' Square, Wallace Mews Rd., North Van • Dec. 3, 5-8 p.m. • Free, vancouvernorthshore.com/events/north-vancouver-christmas-festival



13th Annual Rogers Santa Claus Parade

This annual parade features marching bands, choirs, festive floats, community groups, and of course, the big man himself – Santa! Please bring a cash or food donation for the the Greater Vancouver Food Bank

Society. • Downtown Vancouver, Dec. 4, parade starts at noon • Free, rogerssantaclausparade.com

Bear Creek Christmas Train

Visit with Santa and receive a candy cane, enjoy holiday activities on the platform and take a train ride through the Christmas forest. • Bear Creek Park, 13750 88th Ave., Surrey • Dec. 4 until Jan. 3, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. • \$10, 604-501-1232, bctrains.com/christmas-train

Big Rigs for Kids Lighted Truck Parade

Truckers spend hours decorating their vehicles, turning them into beautiful representations of the holiday season. The trucks parade along University Drive, stopping in front of the Library from 7-8 p.m. for all to enjoy. Prior to the parade there will be live music and facepainters at City Hall Plaza. • 13450 104th Ave., Downtown Surrey • Dec. 4, 6:30-8 p.m. • Free, 604-580-2321, downtownsurreybia.com

Brighten Up! A Lantern Affair

A multicultural celebration of light, with inspiration taken from four of the main cultural groups that populate Coquitlam: English, Korean, Farsi and Mandarin. Includes lantern making activities, live music and performances, a lantern ceremony and more. • Place des Arts, 1120 Brunette Ave., Coquitlam • Dec. 4, 1:30-3:30 p.m. • placedesarts.ca

Burnaby Lake Regional Park: Christmas Open House

Enjoy crafts and complimentary refreshments, or join a guided nature walk. • Meet at the Nature House, 4519 Piper Ave., Burnaby • Dec. 4, 11 a.m.-2 p.m. • Free, 604-520-6442, metrovancover.org/events

Christmas Carol Sing-along

An afternoon of festive fun including sing-alongs in front of a yule log and a visit from Santa. • Minnekhada Lodge, Minnekhada Regional Park,

Coquitlam • Dec. 4, 1-4 p.m. • Free, 604-432-6359,
metrovancover.org/events


Santa Comes to Cammidge

Visit with Santa on his annual visit to Cammidge House. Surprises for children, refreshments for all. • Boundary Bay Regional Park, Cammidge House • Dec. 4, 1-3 p.m. • Free, drop by anytime,
metrovancover.org/events

Surrey's Santa Parade of Lights

This traditional Santa Parade features a collection of lighted fire trucks, ambulances, horse drawn carriages, vintage vehicles, floats, community group, dance groups, mascots, and of course, Santa! • Parade starts at 176A St. and 60th Ave., ending at Holland Park • Dec. 4, 5 p.m. • Free, accepting donations for the Surrey Food Bank and the Surrey Christmas Bureau, 604-576-3155, cloverdalebia.com





Canyon Lights

The suspension bridge, Treetops Adventure, Cliffwalk, the rainforest and canyon will be transformed into a world of festive lights and dazzling visual enchantment. See the world's tallest living Christmas tree and search for the glowing owls in the Snowy Owl Prowl. New this year: Fireflies – an interactive lighting display. Using magic flashlights, guests can awaken waves of tiny lights that twinkle like fireflies. • Capilano Suspension Bridge Park, 3735 Capilano Rd., North Van • Until Jan. 8, 11 a.m.-9 p.m., holiday activities from 4-9 p.m. • 604-985-7474, capbridge.com

26th Annual Christmas in Williams Park

Celebrate the holidays with your family and friends in the magical setting of Williams Park. View the spectacular show of lights from the comfort of your vehicle as your drive through the park. • 6595 238th St., Langley • Dec. 5-17, scenic drive 5:30-9 p.m. • Free, tol.ca

Winter Hayrides

Hop aboard for this old-time favourite experience that includes a sing-along and viewing of local holiday displays. • Steveston Community Centre, 4111 Moncton St., Steveston • Dec. 8 and Dec. 9, 5:30-8:30 p.m. • \$7, registration recommended, 604-238-8080, richmond.ca/steveston

Christmas Light & Wine Tour

Get into the spirit of the season with wine tastings, a winery tour, transportation and a look at some of the best Christmas lights in the Fraser Valley. • Departs from Vanilla Clothing, 6-8880 202nd St., Langley • Dec. 9 and Dec. 10, 6:30-10 p.m. • \$65, 604-371-0071, vanillacllothing.ca/events

North Pole B.C.'s Festival of Christmas

Lots of holiday family fun, carnival games, Santa and his elves, a village market, Christmas characters and much more. • TRADEX, 1190 Cornell St., Abbotsford • Dec. 8-23, doors 10 a.m. • northpolebc.com

Holiday Heights at Bloedel

Experience a winter wonderland inside the Bloedel Conservatory with magical lights, festive music, a holiday scavenger hunt and much more. This year's event will take you to new heights with a holiday Ferris Wheel. • Bloedel Floral Conservatory, Queen Elizabeth Park, 4600 Cambie St. • Dec. 9-Jan. 2, 4-9 p.m. • \$3.25-\$6.75, vancouver.ca/HolidayHeights

Frosted Forest

Celebrate the holiday season with entertainment, art activities a Christmas Market and more. Includes The Snowdrop Holiday Story, adapted from Hans Christian Andersen's classic tale, at 4 p.m. and 6 p.m. Accepting donations to the Burnaby Christmas Bureau. Please bring an unwrapped gift. • Shadbolt Centre, 6450 Deerlake Ave., Burnaby • Dec. 10, 3-7 p.m. • Activities/free, Snowdrop Show/\$5, 604-205-3000

Aldergrove Christmas Light Up Parade

Aldergrove Elks Children's Christmas Celebration at the Aldergrove Legion from 3:30-5:30 p.m., the Light Up Parade at 6 p.m., plus a Community Christmas Parade After Party. • Starts at Fraser Highway & Old Yale Road, finishes at Fraser Highway at 273rd Street • Dec. 10, 3:30-8 p.m. • AldergroveFair.ca

White Rock Sail Past

Decorated boats sail past the White Rock pier for this annual holiday lights event. (Weather permitting). • Dec. 10, 5 p.m. • whiterockcity.ca

Historic Stewart Farm: Christmas Open House

Celebrate an old-fashioned Christmas at the Stewart Farm. Sing along with classic carols played on the piano, indulge in sweet Victorian treats baked in the woodstove, and craft old-time Christmas décor for your tree. • 13723 Crescent Rd., Surrey • Dec. 10, noon-4 p.m. • Free, 604-592-6956, surrey.ca/heritage

Xmas in Whoville Skate

A Whoville-themed holiday skate. Regular drop-in admission applies. • Ladner Leisure Centre, Dec. 10, 3:45-5 p.m. | Sungod Recreation Centre, Dec. 15, 6:45-7:45 p.m. • 604-952-3177, delta.ca

29th Annual Christmas Wish Breakfast

One of Canada's largest toy drives where the public is asked to bring a new, unwrapped toy to donate to the Lower Mainland Christmas Bureau for families in need. As a thank you to everyone who makes a donation, the hotel offers a free hot buffet breakfast. • Pan Pacific Hotel, 999 Canada Place • Dec. 13, 6-9 a.m. • panpacific.com

29th Annual Christmas at Canada Place

Take an outdoor stroll along The Canadian Trail and enjoy the historic Woodward's Windows, a 15 foot snow globe, Rudolph's Theatre featuring classic Christmas movies, the Avenue of Christmas Trees, arts and crafts and more. • Canada Place West Promenade • Dec. 16-30 • Free, canadaplace.ca/events/christmas



Christmas in the Village

A special Christmas Farmers Market themed after the Charles Dickens book, A Christmas Carol. • Fort Langley Community Hall, 9167 Glover Rd. • Dec. 16-18, doors 10 a.m. • [facebook.com/events/901911929938515](https://www.facebook.com/events/901911929938515)

CP Holiday Train

The Canadian Pacific Holiday train hits the rails again this year collecting food and money for local Food Banks. Features a box car stage with performances by Dallas Smith and Odds. See website for full details. • Dec. 16, 5:05 p.m.: Agassiz | Dec. 16, 7:30 p.m.: Haney-Maple Ridge | Dec. 16, 8:45 p.m.: Pitt Meadows | Dec. 17, 4:20 p.m.: Port Moody | Dec. 17, 6 p.m.: Port Coquitlam • Free, cpr.ca/holiday-train

9th Annual Winter Ice Palace

Experience a winter wonderland at Cloverdale Arena and skate across the old fashion pond. • Cloverdale Ice Arena, 6090 176th St. • Dec. 17-Jan. 2 • \$4.50, 604-502-6410, surrey.ca

Discovery Saturday: Very Vintage Christmas

Enjoy seasonal song and dance while you make vintage decorations and visit with Santa Claus. • Surrey Museum, 17710 56A Ave. • Dec. 17, 1-4

p.m. • By donation, accepting donations for the Surrey Food Bank, 604-592-6956, surrey.ca/heritage

Heritage Holiday at the Fort

Create magical holiday memories in the old-fashioned fort setting. Taste chestnuts by the open fireplace, do holiday crafts and participate in the Twelve Days of Heritage Holiday scavenger hunt. • Fort Langley National Historic Site, 23433 Mavis Ave. • Dec. 17-Jan. 2 • \$11.70/\$6.30, 604-513-4777, pc.gc.ca/fortlangley

Whistler Holiday Experience

An indoor family fun zone that provides entertainment for kids and parents alike during the holiday season. Enjoy a mini putt course, table games, bouncy castles, crafts and video games free for 14 days over Christmas and the New Year. • Whistler • Dec. 17-30 • tourismwhistler.com

A Child's Christmas in Wales

Celebrate the holidays with an afternoon of Dylan Thomas by the fireplace. Paul Toolan will read the festive favourite 'A Child's Christmas in Wales,' followed by mulled drinks, mince pies and merriment. • Roedde House Museum, 1415 Barclay St. • Dec. 18, 4-5:30 p.m. • \$15/\$12, brownpapertickets.com, roeddehouse.org


Winter Wonderland Skates


See the ice arenas transformed into twinkling winter wonderlands and enjoy skating and holiday cheer with friends and family. • Dec. 18-23 and Dec. 27-29: 10 a.m.-noon, 1:30-5 p.m. and 6-8 p.m. • North Delta Recreation Centre & South Delta Recreation Centre, Delta • Regular drop-in admission applies, 604-952-3177, delta.ca

23rd Annual Winter Solstice Lantern Festival

This annual festival illuminates the longest night of the year with lanterns, lanterns, fire, singing, drumming, music and dancing.


The event begins at 6 p.m. with lantern processions in each neighbourhood followed by multicultural performances and activities in a variety of indoor venues. • Yaletown, Granville Island, and Chinatown/Strathcona • Dec. 21, 6 p.m. • Free, secretlantern.org


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[Shivani](#) this looks so pretty, have you been?

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Shivani Khan Mustedanagic

No I haven't but we should go! I know Erin also wanted to check it out. Looks beautiful

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