

CONTACTS: Donna Schorr
(215) 599-0772, donna@visitphilly.com
Daniel Davis
(267) 546-0758, daniel@visitphilly.com
Tweet Us: [@visitphillyPR](https://twitter.com/visitphillyPR)

Tweet It: 'Tis the season! Here's how to get festive in @visitphilly: <http://vstphl.ly/2DLz11V>

'TIS THE SEASON: HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS IN PHILADELPHIA
The Region Celebrates With Lights, Trees, Parades, Fireworks

PHILADELPHIA, November 12, 2018 – As temperatures drop in the history-rich, tradition-steeped city of Philadelphia, holiday spirit spills from shops, theaters, restaurants and parks. Every must-do holiday list includes visits to Macy's **Christmas Light Show**, the skating rink and carousel at **Philadelphia City Hall**, the Academy of Music for a performance of *The Nutcracker* and Broad Street for the New Year's Day **Mummers Parade**. These and dozens more traditions are part of the **Philly Holiday Festival** presented by Liberty One Observation Deck.

As always, the most wonderful way to enjoy the city over the winter holidays is the **Visit Philly Overnight Hotel Package**, offering overnight guests free hotel parking, tickets to the **Barnes Foundation**, ice-skating at the **Blue Cross RiverRink Winterfest** and more perks. It's bookable at visitphilly.com.

Here's a look at the holiday fun in Philly this year:

Thanksgiving:

- **6abc Dunkin' Thanksgiving Day Parade** – The nation's oldest parade—now a spry 99—kicks off the holidays. The annual event features collegiate marching bands, performances by Walt Disney World characters, giant balloons, floats and, at the end of it all, the Clauses accompanied by postal workers collecting letters to Santa. **November 22**. 20th Street & John F. Kennedy Boulevard to Eakins Oval on the Benjamin Franklin Parkway, 6abc.com/parade

Major Hubs For Holiday Happenings:

- **City Hall** – The heart of Center City surrounds itself with holiday popups, including the nightly **Deck the Hall Light Show** presented by Independence Blue Cross at Dilworth Park (**November 19-January 1**). Also at the park, the outdoor **Rothman Orthopaedics Ice Rink & Rothman Orthopaedics Cabin** offers ice skating, skate rentals, twinkling lights and an indoor space to warm up and fill up on snacks, cocktails, beer and hot drinks. Seasonal plants, lights and topiaries bring to life **Wintergarden** on the park's Albert M. Greenfield Lawn (**November 9-February 24**). Philly's official tree will overlook North Broad Street (lighting: **November 28**), as will **Craft Hall**, an indoor beer garden, bakery and barbecue featuring Lost Breads and smoked meats. Within the open-air courtyard, the carousel returns as part of **Winter Memories**, along with the Herrnhut stars-topped stalls of the **Made In Philadelphia Holiday Market** (**November 17-January 1**). 15th & Market Streets, dilworthpark.org

-more-

- **LOVE Park** – The German-style **Christmas Village** returns to JFK Plaza, also known as LOVE Park. For the 11th year, more than 80 wooden booths of local and international merchants display and sell Käthe Wohlfahrt trimmings, wintry apparel, handmade toys and all manner of edible and drinkable treats, while entertainment keeps things festive. **November 22-December 24**. 15th Street & John F. Kennedy Boulevard, (215) 268-7606, philchristmas.com
- **Old City** – The original city gets together for **Historic Holidays in Old City** with two new traditions: **Old City's Window Decoration Contest**, where shops, restaurants, galleries and more display their holiday flair (**November 29-January 1**), and a **Holiday Market** presented by Fezziwig's Sweet Shoppe, offering wreaths, trees and other unique gifts in the Clay Studio parking lot (137-139 N. 2nd Street) every Saturday and Sunday (**November 24-December 23**), plus First Friday (**December 7**). The Betsy Ross House courtyard is the site of the neighborhood's tree-lighting (**November 29**) and other special programming throughout the season, including chocolate-making demonstrations (**November 24, December 1**). (215) 592-7929, oldcitydistrict.org
- **Delaware River Waterfront** – The popular **Blue Cross RiverRink Winterfest** returns for year 25 as an outdoor rink with a spectacular view of the Ben Franklin Bridge. Newer additions continue to make it a popular place to visit: fire pits, an arcade, the cozy, chalet-style Lodge Restaurant and Bar, 12 nights of Christmas movies, sweets from Franklin Fountain Confectionery Cabin and hearty fare from Garces Group and Chickie's & Pete's. **November 23-March 3**. Columbus Boulevard at Market Street, (215) 925-7465, riverrink.com
- **Manayunk** – This quaint, independent Main Street community kicks off the season with a sundown tree lighting at Canal View Park (**November 24**), a series of shopping events featuring sweets, spirits and Santa (**November 29, December 6, 13 and 20**), the **Promenade of Trees**, wherein businesses debut 30 trees amid carols and prizes (**December 1**) and a **Rudolph Run** (**December 8**). (215) 482-9565, manayunk.com
- **Chestnut Hill** – This postcard-perfect Northwest enclave turns up the charm with **Holidays on the Hill**. Woodmere Art Museum's **Circle of Trees** lighting ceremony features caroling, cocoa, cookies, Santa and toy and book donations (**November 17**). The decades-old **Stag and Doe Nights** return on Wednesdays with evening shopping and snacking (**November 28, December 5, 12 and 19**). There's an adorable **Chestnut Hill Holiday Parade** (**December 15**). The **25th Annual Christmas Holiday House Tour** offers inspirational seasonal decor in five historic homes (**December 8**). December **Weekends with Santa** bring the big guy to the Market at the Fareway (Saturdays) and Laurel Hill Gardens (Sundays). (215) 247-6696, chestnuthillpa.com
- **Peddler's Village** – Bucks County's holiday hub kicks off the moment the Clauses switch on one million lights in the **Grand Illumination Celebration** (**November 16**), an event with carolers, warm apple cider and roasted marshmallows. Simultaneously, the Village Gazebo hosts the annual **Gingerbread Competition & Display** (**November 16-January 5**). The Village **Christmas Festival** fills a weekend with a pair of Santa parades and Victorian decoration (**December 1-2**). Routes 202 & 263, Lahaska, (215) 794-4000, peddlersvillage.com
- **Linvilla Orchards** – Everyone's favorite Delco farm gets into the spirit with more than 40,000 trees, available to cut down and take home beginning on **November 17**, and the ensuing **Christmas Around the Farm** (**November 23-December 23**). Every December weekend, Santa pops in. And on Saturday evenings, **Wassailing Caroling Hayrides** (**December 8, 15, 22**) gleefully tour the grounds. 137 W. Knowlton Road, Media, (610) 876-7116, linvilla.com

-more-

Lights, Lights, Lights:

- **Elmwood Park Zoo** – Millions of LED lights illuminate the Montgomery County zoo’s 16 acres during the **Wild Lights Holiday Festival**. Guests can visit Santa’s Workshop and his reindeer, ride the vintage carousel and zoom down the zipline course on a holiday-lit harness. Open Thursday-Sunday, **November 16-December 9** and nightly **December 13-31**. 1661 Harding Boulevard, Norristown, (800) 652-4143, elmwoodparkzoo.org
- **Franklin Square – Franklin Square Holiday Festival** presented by Chase and **Electrical Spectacle Holiday Light Show** presented by PECO make this park twinkle, with free shows every 30 minutes between 4 and 8 p.m. on weeknights and 4 and 9 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays. Among the 75,000 lights set to music are a giant, illuminated kite and key. Festivities include #FranklinSquareFridays; Saturdays with Santa; Seasonal Sounds on Sundays; rides on the holiday train and carousel; treats such as make-your-own s’mores, hot doughnuts, local brews and hot beverages—served in a warming tent or around fire pits in the beer garden; and mini-golf. **November 15-December 31**. Franklin Square, 6th & Race Streets, (215) 629-4026, historicphiladelphia.org
- **Shady Brook Farm** – More than three million lights comprise this big, bright Bucks County spectacle that is Shady Brook’s annual **Holiday Light Show**. Visitors can drive or, if weather permits, ride in wagons through illuminated tunnels, past celebratory nighttime displays. Guests can also enjoy visits with Santa, cocoa by the bonfire and holiday shopping. **November 17-January 6**. 931 Stony Hill Road, Yardley, (215) 968-1670, shadybrookfarm.com
- **Longwood Gardens** – The theme “Tree Reimagined” elevates the Christmas tree to new heights inside Longwood Gardens’ heated, four-acre Conservatory, site of free and ticketed holiday performances during **A Longwood Christmas**. Outside, 500,000 lights glitter in the trees, and gloriously renovated fountains dance to seasonal music. Fridays through Sundays, plus Christmas Eve, Terrace hosts by-reservation breakfasts with Santa. **November 22-January 6**. 1001 Longwood Road, Kennett Square, (610) 388-1000, longwoodgardens.org
- **Macy’s** – The Grand Court in the National Historic Landmark Wanamaker Building has hosted its **Christmas Light Show** since 1956. The department store revives the tradition of sugarplum fairies, dancing snowmen and more with a 100,000-light show narrated by Julie Andrews and accompanied by the famed Wanamaker Organ. Free performances take place every two hours during store hours. Between shows, visitors often tour the second floor’s vintage Dickens Village, a setup of animated dolls retelling *A Christmas Carol*; each free walkthrough ends in a chance to meet and get photos with the real Santa. **November 23-December 31**. 1300 Market Street, (215) 241-9000, wanamakerorgan.com
- **Miracle on 13th Street** – A testament to South Philly’s neighborhood spirit, this one-block stretch of lighted row houses—affectionately known as **Miracle on 13th Street**—has become a national sensation. Each home features different decorations, with lights and signs spanning the street. **November 24-January 1**. 1600 S. 13th Street, facebook.com/themiracleonsouth13thstreet
- **Independence Seaport Museum** – The **Parade of Lights** along the Delaware River features illuminated working vessels, tugboats included, preceded by a day of visiting with Santa, building ornaments and gingerbread boats and learning how snow is made. **December 8**. 211 S. Columbus Boulevard, (215) 413-8655, phillyseaport.org

Festive Events & Exhibits:

- **Byers' Choice & Glencairn Museum** – The Bucks County maker of those famous handcrafted Caroler® figurines keeps its Christmas Museum and Creche Collection open year-round. But only
-more-

Page 3/Philadelphia Holiday Happenings

in the lead-up to the holidays are visitors greeted by a huge gingerbread house backdrop and props for a Dickensonian photo-op (**November 2-December 31**). Speaking of Dickens, Gerald Dickens, great-great grandson of Charles, performs *A Christmas Carol* solo (**December 7-8**). During **The Spirit of Christmas (November 17-18)**, Byers' Choice pairs up with **Glencairn Museum** for the **World Nativities** exhibition and the reservation-only guided tour **Christmas in the Castle**. Byers' Choice, 4355 County Line Road, Chalfont, (215) 822-6700, byerschoice.com; Glencairn Museum, 1001 Cathedral Road, Bryn Athyn, (267) 502-2600, glencairnmuseum.org

- **Brandywine River Museum of Art** – The old grist mill filled with Wyeths, perched on the river and surrounded by countryside transforms each winter, adding one of the country's largest O-gauge model railroad displays and thousands of Critter ornaments handmade from objects in nature (**November 23-January 6**). The special exhibition *Holidays & Snowdays: Illustrations for Three Children's Books* is a great accompaniment to the regular holiday display (**November 3-January 6**). 1 Hoffman's Mill Road, Chadds Ford, (610) 388-2700, brandywinemuseum.org
- **Sesame Place** – Elmo, Abby, Oscar and friends are part of **A Very Furry Christmas**. Wee ones tour the Twiddlebugs' Gingerbread Cookie Factory, meet Lightning, the reindeer from *Elmo Saves Christmas*, take in holiday productions and enjoy the Neighborhood Street Party Christmas Parade. **November 17-January 1**. 100 Sesame Road, Langhorne, (215)-752-ELMO, sesameplace.com
- **One Liberty Observation Deck** – **A Very Philadelphia Holiday** transforms the 360-degree platform at the top of the skyscraper to honor three great local traditions. The Mummers, the Pennsylvania Ballet and the Miracle on 13th Street each display costumes and decorations in a quadrant of the attraction—and combine their festive forces near the giant replica of Benjamin Franklin's head. Special visits from the Sugar Plum Fairy and The Grinch round out the holiday offerings. **November 20-January 1**. 1650 Market Street, (215) 561-3325, phillyfromthetop.com
- **Comcast Center** – A massive, high-resolution LED display shows **The Comcast Holiday Spectacular**, 15-minute features of dancers from Pennsylvania Ballet and a magical sleigh soaring through Philadelphia's skyline. Daily, 10 a.m.-8 p.m. (except 5 p.m. on weekdays). **November 22-January 1**. 17th Street & John F. Kennedy Boulevard, comcastcorporation.com
- **Morris Arboretum** – Amid the evergreens, the **Holiday Garden Railway** showcases a miniature winter wonderland complete with a quarter-mile of model-train track, seven loops and tunnels, 15 rail lines and model trains that cruise past scaled replicas of historic monuments and Philadelphia landmarks adorned with thousands of twinkling lights. Evening viewings are offered on Fridays and Saturdays in December; advanced tickets required. **November 23-December 31**. 100 E. Northwestern Avenue, (215) 247-5777, morrisarboretum.org
- **Phoenixville** – **Firebird Festival**, a day-to-night tradition in its 15th year honors the town's namesake. By day, food and craft vendors and dozens of performers take over Veteran's Park. Come nightfall, a community-made wooden phoenix transforms into a grand bonfire. **December 8**. 192 Mowere Road, Phoenixville, firebirdfestival.com
- **Philadelphia Zoo** – Santa, more than anyone, knows the value of the day's first meal. For three weekends, he enjoys breakfast amid friends and an ample buffet in the atrium of the Rare Animal Conservation Center of America's first zoo during **Breakfast With Santa**. **December 8-9, 15-16, 22-23**. 3400 W. Girard Avenue, (215) 243-1100, philadelphiazoo.org

Holiday Tours:

- **Tippler's Tour: Yuletide Cheers & Beers** – A little history, a little beer and a lot of fun are served up during Historic Philadelphia Inc.'s Tippler's Tour, when a Redcoat soldier recalls life in British-occupied Philadelphia in 1777 while guiding the over-21 crowd through four cozy pubs
-more-

Page 4/Philadelphia Holiday Happenings

in two hours. Winter brews, festive libations and delicious snacks are included in the holiday-time-only tour. Thursdays, **November 15-December 27**. Departs from Independence Visitor Center, 599 Market Street, (215) 629-4026, historicphiladelphia.org

- **Center City Holiday Tour** – Philly Urban Adventures gives visitors a taste of how Philadelphia does the holidays with a twice-daily three-hour sightseeing trip. The tour visits the Christmas Light Show featuring the Wanamaker Organ at Macy's, the Comcast Center's Holiday Spectacular and the holiday pop-ups at City Hall. Tours are by reservation. **November 23-December 31**. 15th & Market Streets, (215) 280-3746, urbanadventures.com

Historic Places & Happenings:

- **Pearl S. Buck House** – For the 40th year, the beautiful stone farmhouse that belonged to Pulitzer- and Nobel Prize-winning author Pearl S. Buck transforms into the **Festival of Trees**. Twenty-nine designers and artists from across the region add traditional and international touches through holiday decorations adorning the bathroom to the bedroom—all with an eye toward the writer's work and social mission (**November 13-December 30**). The **Holiday Craft Show** (**November 23-December 2**) sells handmade decorations, jewelry, apparel and more. 520 Dublin Road, Perkasio, (215) 249-0100, pearlsbuck.org
- **Pennypacker Mills** – This Colonial Revival mansion, onetime home to a Pennsylvania governor, decks its halls in grand style, runs free guided tours and offers classic treats such as Wilbur Buds and clear toy candies in the gift shop. **November 20-January 6**. 5 Haldeman Road, Schwenksville, (610) 287-9349, montcopa.org/pennypackermills
- **Elfreth's Alley** – The nation's oldest continuously inhabited street shares the story of Christmas in America with **Making Christmas**, an exhibit retelling how German immigrants brought over traditions that transformed into a national holiday (**December 1-2, 8-9, 15-16, 22-23**). On **December 1**, the Alley's inhabitants welcome the public to tour their 18th- and 19th-century homes during **Deck the Alley**. This festive day includes carolers, refreshments and appearances by Ben Franklin and a 19th-century Santa Claus. Elfreth's Alley, (215) 627-8680, elfrethsalley.org
- **Fairmount Park** – Five decked-out 18th- and 19th-century park mansions—Historic Strawberry Mansion, Cedar Grove, Laurel Hill, Lemon Hill and Woodford—open their doors for holiday treats and performances during **A Very Philly Christmas**, a cooperative program of Fairmount Park Conservancy and Philadelphia Parks & Recreation. **December 1-2, 6-9, 13-16, 20-21**. (215) 685-0274, holidaysinthepark.com
- **Fonthill Castle** – At Fonthill Castle, the reservation-only **Winter Wonderland: Holiday Decorations Tours** mean Victorian décor, elegant evergreens and, on select nights, candlelight among 15 rooms of Henry Mercer's intricately designed showplace. **December 1-31**. E. Court Street & Route 313, (215) 348-9461, mercermuseum.org
- **Pennsbury Manor** – The bucolic, riverside recreation of William Penn's 17th-century domain welcomes guests to join craftspeople, carolers and re-enactors for **Holly Nights**. The yearly tradition features candlelit tours through the house, blacksmith shop and barn—and gathering

around a Yule log for wassailing songs and hot mulled cider. **December 6-7.**

400 Pennsbury Memorial Road, Morrisville, (215) 946-0400, pennsburymanor.org

Washington Crossing the Delaware River – General George Washington leads a surprise attack on the British during the 67th annual reenactment of the famous Christmas Day Revolutionary War event. More than 200 re-enactors don Colonial army uniforms to recreate the daring trek at Washington Crossing Historic Park. Families and history buffs can join in Colonial-era games, demonstrations and activities during the two crossing reenactments: The first is a ticketed, full dress rehearsal, followed by activities in the village. The Christmas crossing is free.

December 9 and 25. Routes 32 & 532, (215) 493-4076, washingtoncrossingpark.org

-more-

Page 6/Philadelphia Holiday Happenings

Shows & Performances:

- **Winter Wonderettes** – In this sassy holiday musical, the Winter Wonderettes land a gig as the featured entertainment at the 1968 Harper’s Hardware Christmas Party, and while the performers may not be perfect, they do know how to infuse humor into the holidays as they sing their versions of seasonal favorites, part of Walnut Street Theatre’s Independence Studio on 3. **November 13-December 30.** 825 Walnut Street, (215) 574-3550, walnutstreettheater.org
- **Nutcracker 1776** – The Rock School for Dance Education, one of the nation’s most renowned pre-professional ballet training programs, puts a Colonial spin on a holiday classic with its student-populated, undeniably professional-grade *Nutcracker*. **November 23-24**, Merriam Theater, 250 S. Broad Street, (215) 893-1999, kimmelcenter.org; **December 8-9**, Centennial Hall, Haverford School, 450 E. Lancaster Avenue, (215) 551-7010, therockschool.org
- **Rejoice** – For three days at the Prince Theater, the 120-voice **Philadelphia Gay Men’s Chorus** celebrates the members’ diverse cultural backgrounds with holiday song selections from around the world. **November 29-December 1.** 1412 Chestnut Street, (215) 422-4580, pgmc.org
- **A Philly POPS Christmas** – At the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts, Broadway legend Todd Ellison takes the baton to lead the Philly POPS in a beloved holiday concert featuring *Hamilton*’s Mandy Gonzalez, organist Peter Richard Conte, the Philadelphia Boys Choir, the Philly POPS Festival Chorus and the African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas Gospel Choir. **December 1-22.** Broad & Spruce Streets, (215) 893-1999, phillypops.org
- **A Christmas Carol** – The historic Walnut Street Theatre invites children to an adaption of Charles Dickens’ famed tale of Ebenezer Scrooge and the ghosts of Christmas past, present and future. **December 1-23.** 825 Walnut Street, (215) 574-3550, walnutstreettheatre.org
- **Philadelphia Orchestra** – This “Big Five” orchestra offers spirited performances throughout December in the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts’ Verizon Hall. Broad & Spruce Streets, (215) 790-5800, kimmelcenter.org. Among them:
 - **Messiah** – The players play, and the Westminster Symphonic Choir sings the Handel stunner. **December 6, 8-9.**
 - **Christmas Kids’ Spectacular** – This always-popular performance gives little ones a taste of the classics (*Sleigh Ride*, selections from *The Nutcracker*), encourages singing along and provokes gasps of joy when St. Nick arrives. **December 15.**
 - **The Glorious Sound of Christmas** – Bramwell Tovey conducts this tradition inspired by the 1962 album by legendary conductor Eugene Ormandy. **December 20-23.**
- **George Balanchine’s The Nutcracker®** – The **Pennsylvania Ballet** returns to the grand Academy of Music for an elegant (yet kid-friendly) Philadelphia dance tradition. Tchaikovsky’s iconic score pairs with lavish sets, lavish costumes and enchanting performances—by the dancers, members of the Pennsylvania Ballet Orchestra and Philadelphia Boys Choir. **December 7-31**, with

a sensory-friendly performance on **December 27**. Broad & Locust Streets, (215) 893-1999, paballet.org

- **The Snow Queen** – The Enchantment Theater Company takes the Annenberg Center stage, and with the help of music, masks and puppets performs Hans Christian Andersen’s fairytale about a courageous young girl. **December 7-9**. 3680 Walnut Street, (215) 898-3900, annenbergcenter.org
 - **The Crossing@Christmas** – The Grammy® Award-winning chamber choir brings new compositions and angelic voices to their hometown with a performance at The Church of the Holy Trinity. **December 14**. 1904 Walnut Street, (215) 898-3900, annenbergcenter.org
- more-

Page 7/Philadelphia Holiday Happenings

- **A Dream is a Wish: Princess Holiday Concert** – This singalong by the Philadelphia Theatre Company joins Cinderella and other princesses with young theatergoers as they use their voices to perform popular holiday and movie-musical tunes at the Suzanne Roberts Theatre. **December 16**. 480 S. Broad Street, (215) 985-0420, philadelphiatheatrecompany.org
- **Dr. Seuss’ How the Grinch Stole Christmas! The Musical** – The Grinch with the heart “two sizes too small” tries to ruin the holidays for the Whos and instead discovers the true meaning of Christmas in this hit musical at the Merriam Theater. **December 19-December 29**, with a sensory-friendly performance **December 22**. 250 S. Broad Street, (215) 893-1999, kimmelcenter.org

More Seasonal Celebrations:

- **Philadelphia Museum of Art** – The museum has created a full holiday lineup that includes a tree-lighting with York Street Hustle (**November 21**); card-making station (Wednesdays, **November 21-December 26**); and Friday-evening celebrations like the Ultimate Ugly Sweater Party (**November 30**), a Hanukkah Party (**December 7**) and a Feliz Navidad Fiesta (**December 14**). 2600 Benjamin Franklin Parkway, (215) 763-8100, philamuseum.org/holidays
- **Please Touch Museum®** – All December, children can create wintry, cool-color art and weave a construction paper Mkekkas in the just-for-kids museum’s new Creative Arts Studio, which also hosts Holiday Storytime every day at 1:30 p.m. The museum celebrates **Chanukah** on First Wednesday (**December 5**), and Polar Express trains take over later in the month (**December 15**). 4231 Avenue of the Arts, (215) 581-3181, pleasetouchmuseum.org
- **Penn Museum** – The Penn Museum’s international collection of art and artifacts is the backdrop for the **Celebration of Winter Solstice**. Live performances, art-making, a winter market, storytelling and other activities connect the shortest day and longest night of the year with many cultures’ holiday traditions. Come nightfall, a celebration of light inspires curiosity for the ancient traditions of the winter solstice (**December 8**). Also, the Museum Shop Holiday Sale is always a favorite for visitors (**December 14-23**). 3260 South Street, (215) 898-4000, penn.museum
- **African American Museum in Philadelphia** – **Macy’s Family Fun Day** kicks off Kwanzaa with hands-on activities to introduce the celebration to all ages (**December 8**). The museum lights the kinara, representing Kwanzaa’s seven core principles (starting **December 26**). 701 Arch Street, (215) 574-0380, aampmuseum.org
- **National Museum of American Jewish History (NMAJH)** – Each year on Christmas, NMAJH opens its doors to families of all backgrounds for **Being _____ at Christmas**, a day of live music, games, dancing, crafts and more activities. **December 25**. 101 S. Independence Mall East, (215) 923-3811, nmajh.org

New Year's Eve:

- **Please Touch Museum**® – The kid-centric museum throws **Countdown2Noon**, a popular party for the early-to-bed set, complete with live music and two ball drops, at noon and 1 p.m. 4231 Avenue of the Arts, (215) 581-3181, pleasetouchmuseum.org
- **Franklin Square** – The home of the *Electrical Spectacle* hosts **Kids' New Year's Eve Countdown and Dance Party**, a family-friendly 6 p.m. celebration—with a “Square Drop” and a view of the first fireworks show (see below). 6th & Race Streets, (215) 629-4026, historicphiladelphia.org
- **Delaware River** – The **SugarHouse New Year's Eve Fireworks on the Waterfront** features two pyrotechnics displays over the Delaware River—one at 6 p.m. and another at midnight. The Blue Cross RiverRink Winterfest serves up entertainment, favors, outdoor seating and great views of the fireworks. Columbus Boulevard at Market Street, (215) 925-7465, riverrink.com

-more-

Page 8/Philadelphia Holiday Happenings

- **Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts** – The Philadelphia Orchestra offers a spectacular **New Year's Eve Concert** that finishes up well before midnight. Verizon Hall, Broad & Spruce Streets, (215) 790-5800, kimmelcenter.org
- **New Year at the Pier** – New this year, the indoor-outdoor Cherry Street Pier opens for a 21-and-up party, with music by Flygirrl, art-making, food, drink and great views of the midnight fireworks. N. Columbus Boulevard & Cherry Street, cherrystreetpier.com

New Year's Day:

- **Mummers Parade** – This only-in-Philadelphia New Year's Day tradition dates back to 1901 and includes thousands of adults and kids wearing feathers and sequins while dancing to music and parading along Broad Street from Philadelphia City Hall, site of competition among the Comic, Comic Wench and String Band divisions, to Washington Avenue. The indoor **Fancy Brigade Finale** competition at the Pennsylvania Convention Center consists of Broadway-inspired music-and-dance routines for prizes and bragging rights. The run-up to the indoor competition is an event in itself: Kid-friendly **MummersFest** gives visitors behind-the-scenes looks at set-building, rehearsals, with opportunities to craft and dress up for a \$5 fee (**December 28-31**) at the Pennsylvania Convention Center. phillymummers.com. Tickets for bleacher seating at City Hall and for the Fancy Brigades are available at the Independence Visitor Center, 599 Market Street, (215) 965-7676, phlvisitorcenter.com; tickets for the competition at the Convention Center are also available at (800) 298-4200, comcasttix.com

VISIT PHILADELPHIA® is our name and our mission. As the region's official tourism marketing agency, we build Greater Philadelphia's image, drive visitation and boost the economy.

On Greater Philadelphia's official visitor website and blog, visitphilly.com and uwishunu.com, visitors can explore things to do, upcoming events, themed itineraries and hotel packages. Compelling photography and videos, interactive maps and detailed visitor information make the sites effective trip-planning tools. Along with Visit Philly social media channels, the online platforms communicate directly with consumers. Travelers can also call and stop into the Independence Visitor Center for additional information and tickets.

Note to Editors: For high-resolution photos and high-definition B-roll of Greater Philadelphia, visit the Photos & Video section of visitphilly.com/mediacenter.