

# 2009 Holiday Events




*Come & Play*

Wilmington  Carolina Beach

Kure Beach  Wrightsville Beach

866-266-9690

[www.gocapefearcoast.com](http://www.gocapefearcoast.com)

 Celebrate the season coastal-style and experience the color and pageantry of Wilmington & North Carolina's Cape Fear Coast holiday events. A number of area accommodations and attractions have planned special events and weekend packages, so be sure to visit us online at [www.gocapefearcoast.com](http://www.gocapefearcoast.com) for package information or call us at 1-866-266-9690. You'll also find last minute travel discounts at [www.sunnysavers.com](http://www.sunnysavers.com). Start your own unique holiday tradition when you Come & Play in Wilmington & North Carolina's Cape Fear Coast!



November 14

**2<sup>nd</sup> Annual NC Holiday Flotilla 5K Run & Fun Loop Walk**

9am.

Kick off the Holiday Season with a run & walk around The Loop. Many categories; plenty of opportunity for whole family to join in. Awards ceremony and celebration follow the race.

Wrightsville Beach Park

321 Causeway Dr, Wrightsville Beach.

Registration fee \$25/\$20.

910-256-2120, [www.ncholidayflotilla.org](http://www.ncholidayflotilla.org).

November 14 & 15

**Holiday Open House at Blue Moon**

10am-5pm Sat, 12-5pm Sun.

Enjoy holiday tastings while browsing this showcase filled with unique gifts, handcrafted items and artwork from local talent.

Blue Moon Gift Shops

203 Racine Dr, Wilmington.

Free. 910-799-5793,

[www.bluemoongiftshops.com](http://www.bluemoongiftshops.com).

November 21

**Santa Arrives!**

9:30am.

Independence Mall welcomes Santa and special guests at main entrance in front of Ruby Tuesdays.

Independence Mall

3500 Oleander Dr, Wilmington.

Free. 910-392-1776,

[www.shopindependencemall.com](http://www.shopindependencemall.com).

[www.gocapefearcoast.com](http://www.gocapefearcoast.com)

November 22

**4<sup>th</sup> Annual Holiday Walk**

12-6pm.

Merchants of Carolina Beach welcome the holiday season with sales, open houses, specials & holiday merriment.  
Carolina Beach Business District.

Free. 910-458-0120, [www.snowscut.com](http://www.snowscut.com).

November 26

**5<sup>th</sup> Annual Turkey Trot**

7:30am registration.

Start Thanksgiving Day with the 2.4 mile trot around the Loop or the 1 mile Gobbler Family Fun Walk.

Wrightsville Beach Loop

Wrightsville Beach.

Registration fee. [www.wilmingtonturkeytrot.com](http://www.wilmingtonturkeytrot.com).

November 26-29

**Thanksgiving "Turkey" Drawn Tours**

11am-4pm Thur & Sun, 11am-10pm Fri & Sat.

Tours by "turkey" drawn carriage or trolley.

Departs foot of Market St. at Water St., Wilmington.

Admission charge. 910-251-8889, [www.horsedrawntours.com](http://www.horsedrawntours.com).

November 27

**Annual Christmas Tree Lighting on the Riverfront**

5pm.

Season of Celebration events kick off with this ceremony featuring special guests and Santa!

Riverfront Park @foot of Market St, Wilmington.

Free. 910-343-4114, [www.dbawilmington.com](http://www.dbawilmington.com).

November 27

**NC Holiday Flotilla Tree Lighting Ceremony**

5:45pm.

Lighting begins the weekend-long yuletide festivities. Bring your children to see Santa, Mrs. Claus and the elves.

Wrightsville Beach Park

321 Causeway Dr, Wrightsville Beach.

Free. 910-256-2120, [www.ncholidayflotilla.org](http://www.ncholidayflotilla.org).



New events are added throughout the season. For more events, visit [www.gocapefearcoast.com](http://www.gocapefearcoast.com) and click on the "Events & Announcements" button near the top of the home page.



**866-266-9690**

November 27 – December 31

***Island of Lights Festival***

Pleasure Island is home to an island-wide holiday festival featuring lighted displays around Carolina Beach Lake (nightly) along with businesses and residences decorated for the season. Signature events take place through December 31.

Carolina Beach and Kure Beach.

910-458-6885, [www.islandoflights.org](http://www.islandoflights.org).

November 27

***Light Up Celebration at the Lake***

7pm.

Fun-filled ceremony begins month long Island of Lights Festival with lighted displays, luminaries and caroling. Local entertainment.

Carolina Beach Lake

Hwy. 421 & Atlantic Ave., Carolina Beach.

Free. 910-458-6885.

November 27 – December 22

***Enchanted Airlie***

Fri & Sat 2 sessions each night: 5-7pm & 7-9pm;

Also Thurs 17<sup>th</sup>, Mon 21<sup>st</sup> & Tues 22<sup>nd</sup>

Magical evenings of illumination and wonderment, there will be something special for all ages including Santa.

Airlie Gardens

300 Airlie Rd, Wilmington.

Advance pre-paid tickets required.

910-798-7700, [www.airliegarden.org](http://www.airliegarden.org).

November 27 – December 24

***Mayfaire's Winter Wonderland***

6:30pm.

One-of-a-kind event begins with lighting ceremony, marching band, fire trucks, Santa, holiday characters, carolers and REAL SNOW! Fun continues every evening until Christmas Eve with "snowfall" every weekend Fri-Sun from 7-8pm. Have your picture taken with Santa daily at the Santa Village on Main Street.

Front of Theatre 16, Mayfaire Town Center

900 Town Center Drive, Wilmington

Free. 910-256-5131, [www.mayfairetown.com](http://www.mayfairetown.com).

November 27 – December 25

***Island of Lights – Walking Tour of the Lake***

Dusk until...

One mile magical walk filled with lighted displays, luminaries and caroling every night through Christmas.

Carolina Beach Lake

Hwy. 421 & Atlantic Ave., Carolina Beach.

Free. 910-458-6885.

[www.gocapefearcoast.com](http://www.gocapefearcoast.com)

November 27 – January 1

***Christmas by the Sea***

5-8pm.

The Carolina Beach Boardwalk comes alive with holiday spirit at 8pm following the "Lighting at the Lake" on Nov 27. View Boardwalk decorations nightly. Family activities every Fri & Sat through Dec 19. Carolina Beach Boardwalk.  
Free. [www.boardwalkmakeover.org](http://www.boardwalkmakeover.org).

November 27-29 & December 4-6, 11-13

***"Santaland Diaries"***

7:30pm.

Celebrate the Christmas season with the sadistic stamp of David Sedaris in this hilarious tale that has become an "anti-holiday" cult classic.

City Stage

21 N. Front St., Wilmington.

Admission charge. 910-342-0272, [www.citystageatlevel5.com](http://www.citystageatlevel5.com).

November 28

***NC Holiday Flotilla & Day in the Park Festival***

Day begins with the Festival in the Park from 10am-4pm followed at 6pm by a mile long parade of boats decorated for the holidays and a fireworks display set to holiday music.

Wrightsville Beach Park

Causeway Dr. & along Banks & Motts Channel.

Free. 910-256-2120, [www.ncholidayflotilla.org](http://www.ncholidayflotilla.org).

November 28

***Dinner Cruise to view NC Holiday Flotilla***

3pm boarding.

You'll have the best view aboard the Royal Winner Princess II of the flotilla and fireworks. Dinner is served en-route to Wrightsville Beach. Dance the night away on the return route.

Winner Party Boats

Carolina Beach Marina, Carolina Beach.

\$45 adult/\$35 child. 910-458-5356,

[www.winnerboats.com](http://www.winnerboats.com).

December 3

***80<sup>th</sup> Annual Lighting of the World's Largest Living Christmas tree***

5:30pm.

Holiday entertainment followed by the lighting of the tree and the arrival of Santa at 6pm. Santa's visit is ONE NIGHT ONLY this year. Tree remains lit through holiday season.

Hilton Park

US Hwy 117, Castle Hayne Road, Wilmington.

Free. 910-341-7855, [ww.wilmingtonrecreation.com](http://ww.wilmingtonrecreation.com).



**866-266-9690**

December 4

***Island of Lights Christmas Parade***

7:30pm.

Extraordinary nighttime lighted parade. Festive fun and entertainment for whole family.

Lake Park Blvd/ Hwy 421 S, Carolina Beach.

Free. 910-458-5507, [www.islandoflights.org](http://www.islandoflights.org).

December 4 – January 6

***Holiday Lighting of the Battleship NORTH CAROLINA***

Enjoy nightly dusk to 11pm.

A naval tradition continues as the Battleship is dressed in lights from the bow up to the masts and down to the stern.

Best view from downtown Wilmington.

Free viewing from exterior.

910-251-5797, [www.battleshipnc.com](http://www.battleshipnc.com).

December 4-6

***The Nutcracker***

7pm Fri & Sat, 3pm Sun.

Wilmington Ballet Company, professional dancers and youth from the Wilmington School of Ballet present a full-length version of the traditional Christmas classic.

Minnie Evans Art Center

605 Halyburton Memorial Pkwy, Wilmington.

\$25. 910-343-3664, 800-523-2820, [www.thalianhall.com](http://www.thalianhall.com).

December 4-6

***Holiday Time with Emile Pandolfi***

7:30pm Fri, 7:30pm & 9:30pm Sat, 3:30pm Sun.

One of America's most popular piano artists, Pandolfi's local appearance is a most welcomed seasonal gift.

Thalian Hall Rainbow Room

310 Chestnut St, Wilmington.

Admission charge. 910-343-3664, 800-523-2820,

[www.thalianhall.com](http://www.thalianhall.com).

December 5

***Colonial Christmas Open House***

10am-4pm.

Visitors can view Colonial Williamsburg inspired holiday décor, taste colonial holiday goodies, guided tours, musical entertainment, interpretive colonial clothing.

Brunswick Town State Historic Site

8884 St. Phillip's Road SE, Winnabow.

Free. 910-371-6613, [www.nchistoricsites.org/Brunswic/](http://www.nchistoricsites.org/Brunswic/)



[www.gocapefearcoast.com](http://www.gocapefearcoast.com)

December 5

***Tuba Christmas!***

12pm & 2pm.

Celebrate the holidays and sing along with Port City Tubas & Friends at two locations.

12pm at Independence Mall

3500 Oleander Dr., Wilmington.

2pm at Brightmore

2324 S. 41<sup>st</sup> St., Wilmington.

Free. 910-392-1776.

December 5

***Island of Lights Holiday Flotilla***

6pm.

Fishing boats and pleasure craft are electrically decorated with thousands of lights in a spectacular display.

Intracoastal Waterway

Snows Cut to Carolina Beach Boat Basin, Carolina Beach.

Free. 910-458-0211, [www.islandoflights.org](http://www.islandoflights.org).

December 5 & 6

***Annual Holiday Pottery Show/Sale***

10am-4pm.

Coastal Carolina Clay Guild will show and sell functional as well as sculptural items. Benefits The Empty Bowls Project and DREAMS.

Hannah Block Historic USO

120 S. Second St., Wilmington.

Free. 910-341-7860.

December 5 & 6

***Old Wilmington by Candlelight Tour***

4-8pm Sat, 2-6pm Sun.

Holiday candlelight tour of the most elegant historic homes and sites in downtown Wilmington.

Purchase tickets at the Latimer House

126 S. Third St, Wilmington.

\$25. 910-762-0492,

[www.latimerhouse.org](http://www.latimerhouse.org).

December 5 & 6

***Wilmington Symphony Annual Holiday Concert***

8pm Sat, 4pm Sun.

Steven Errante conducts the orchestra in seasonal holiday classics.

UNCW Kenan Auditorium

601 S. College Rd., Wilmington.

\$23/\$21. 910-962-3500,

[www.uncw.edu/kenan](http://www.uncw.edu/kenan).



**866-266-9690**

December 5, 6, 12, 13 & 19

***Polar Express Program***

4:30pm & 6:30pm.

Annual favorite for families. Special reading of "Polar Express" story, visit from Santa, "first gift" for kids, hot cocoa & more.

Wilmington Railroad Museum

505 Nutt St, Wilmington.

\$5, advanced reservations required.

910-763-2634,

[www.wrrm.org](http://www.wrrm.org).

December 6

***Wilmington Holiday Parade***

5:10pm.

Annual parade in historic downtown. Area bands, community groups and businesses will participate.

Downtown Wilmington.

Free. 910-341-4602, [www.wilmingtonrecreation.com](http://www.wilmingtonrecreation.com).

December 6

***Plantation Christmas Open House***

Noon-5pm.

Take a self-guided tour, shop for handmade gifts & enjoy cookies and hot cocoa in the manor house decorated in its finest holiday Victorian splendor.

Poplar Grove Plantation

10200 US Hwy 17 N, Wilmington.

Free. 910-686-9518 x 26, [www.poplargrove.com](http://www.poplargrove.com).

December 6

***Circle of Friends Candy Land Christmas Celebration***

1-5pm.

Come visit Santa, enjoy caroling and making gingerbread houses and other crafts and goodies for the holiday.

The Children's Museum of Wilmington

116 Orange St., Wilmington.

\$20 members/\$30 non-members, free to parents/grandparents.

910-254-3534, [www.playwilmington.org](http://www.playwilmington.org).

December 10

***Breakfast with Santa***

9am.

Parents, bring your kids to have breakfast with Santa.

Independence Mall

3500 Oleander Dr, Wilmington.

Advanced tickets required.

910-392-1776, [www.shopindependencemall.com](http://www.shopindependencemall.com).

[www.gocapefearcoast.com](http://www.gocapefearcoast.com)

December 11

**14<sup>th</sup> Annual Cape Fear Holiday Men's Chorus**

8pm.

Cape Fear Chordsmen Barbershop Chorus augmented by men of good will and good voice join in this holiday concert benefiting The Salvation Army Christmas Fund.

Roland Grise Middle School  
4412 Lake Ave, Wilmington.

Admission charge. 910-329-1512.

December 11 & 12, 19 & 20

**Candy Cottages**

All day.

Build a fantasy candy cottage for your holiday decorations.

The Children's Museum of Wilmington  
116 Orange St., Wilmington.

\$10 members/\$20 non-members. 910-254-3534,  
www.playwilmington.org

December 11-23

**Holiday Lights Tour**

6pm & 7:30pm.

A festive trolley tour through several fantastically lit Wilmington neighborhoods.

Dock & Water Sts, Wilmington.

Admission charge. 910-763-4483, www.wilmingtontrolley.com.

December 12

**North Pole Cruise to pick-up Santa**

9:30am boarding

This annual holiday cruise aboard the Henrietta III benefits the Salvation Army.

Admission is 6 cans of non-perishable food per person.

Board at foot of S. Water St., Wilmington.

800-676-0126, 910-343-1611, www.cfrboats.com.

December 12

**Holiday Kids@CAM**

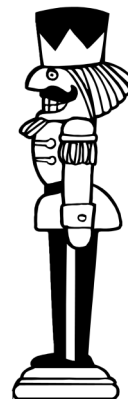
12-3pm.

Day of fun-filled holiday art activities; make gifts & decorations; visit with Santa as he gives out presents.

Cameron Art Museum  
3201 S. 17<sup>th</sup> St, Wilmington.

Children \$3 (members),  
\$5 (non-members)/Adults-free.

910-395-5999,  
www.cameronartmuseum.com.



**866-266-9690**

December 12

***First Annual 5K Jingle Bell Run***

8am registration, 9:30am race.

Join the race in celebration of Meyer

Cottage's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary. As this will be a celebratory, holiday event, race participants are encouraged to dress in holiday apparel (i.e. Santa costumes, antlers, snow men etc.).

Wrightsville Beach Museum

303 W. Salisbury St., Wrightsville Beach.

\$25 entry fee. 910-256-2569, [www.wbmuseum.com](http://www.wbmuseum.com).

December 12

***Moravian Candle Tea***

10am-2pm.

A Wilmington tradition for over 25 years. Experience beloved Moravian traditions, including the Putz, and purchase authentic Moravian sugar cookies and crafts.

Covenant Moravian Church

4126 S. College Rd., Wilmington.

Free. 910-799-9256.

December 12

***Island of Lights Holiday Home Tour***

4-9pm.

Visit area homes to enjoy holiday decorations and Southern hospitality at its best as the owners welcome you into the privacy of their homes for a self-guided tour.

Various homes on Pleasure Island

\$10 (includes map).

910-458-7116, [www.islandoflights.org](http://www.islandoflights.org).

December 12 & 13

***Be a Child During the Holidays***

9am-5pm.

Visit the Aquarium for the child's rate of \$6 each. Enjoy holiday themed crafts, programs, games and movies on the big screen. See Scuba Santa in the big tank.

NC Aquarium

900 Loggerhead Rd, Kure Beach.

\$6, 910-458-8257, [www.ncaquariums.com/fort-fisher](http://www.ncaquariums.com/fort-fisher).

December 13

***"It's A Wonderful Life" Screening***

2pm.

A wonderful celebration featuring the classic movie.

UNCW Kenan Auditorium

601 S. College Rd., Wilmington.

Free and open to the public. 910-962-3500, [www.uncw.edu/kenan](http://www.uncw.edu/kenan).

[www.gocapefearcoast.com](http://www.gocapefearcoast.com)

December 13

***Pet Photo Night with Santa***

6-8pm.

Bring your dogs and/or cats to have photos taken with Santa.

Independence Mall

3500 Oleander Dr, Wilmington.

Admission charge. 910-392-1776,

[www.shopindependencemall.com](http://www.shopindependencemall.com).

December 16

***NC Symphony – Holiday Pops Concert***

8pm.

A holiday tradition featuring soprano, Rozlyn Sorrell and guest conductor, Sarah Hicks.

UNCW Kenan Auditorium

601 S. College Rd., Wilmington.

Admission charge. 800-732-3643, 910-962-3500,

[www.uncw.edu/kenan](http://www.uncw.edu/kenan), [www.ncsymphony.org](http://www.ncsymphony.org).

December 17

***Sounds of the Season: Music @ CAM***

7pm.

Ring in the holidays with the sounds of the season from the Wilmington Choral Society.

Cameron Art Museum

3201 S. 17<sup>th</sup> St, Wilmington.

\$5. 910-395-5999, [www.cameronartmuseum.com](http://www.cameronartmuseum.com).

December 18-24

***Caroling by "Reindeer" Drawn Trolley/Carriage***

7-10pm.

A very special holiday tour of downtown Wilmington.

Departs foot of Market St. at Water St.

Admission charge. 910-251-8889,

[www.horsedrawntours.com](http://www.horsedrawntours.com).

December 19 & 20

***Colonial Christmas Celebration***

10am-4pm Sat, 12-5pm Sun.

18<sup>th</sup> century Christmas tradition with musicians, carolers and

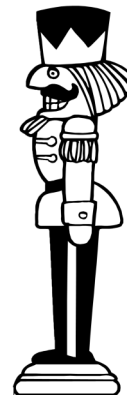
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Burgwin-Wright House Museum

224 Market St., Wilmington.

\$10. 910-762-0570,

[www.burgwinwrighthouse.com](http://www.burgwinwrighthouse.com).



**866-266-9690**

December 31

***New Year's Noon Countdown***

Join us as we count down the New Year at Noon! Noise makers, confetti and a good ole' fashion countdown.

The Children's Museum of Wilmington

116 Orange St., Wilmington.

Free with admission. 910-254-3534, [www.playwilmington.org](http://www.playwilmington.org)

December 31

***Island of Lights New Year's Eve Countdown Party***

9pm until Midnight.

A spectacular fireworks display follows the lowering of a giant beach ball to welcome in the New Year at midnight. The family evening festivities include entertainment featuring live music.

Carolina Beach Boardwalk

Cape Fear Blvd., Carolina Beach

Free. 910-458-5507, [www.islandoflights.org](http://www.islandoflights.org).

December 31

***New Year's Eve Cruise***

9pm-12:30am.

New Year's cruise down the Cape Fear River aboard the Henrietta III Riverboat with entertainment, dancing, hors d'oeuvres, party favors and champagne.

Departs from foot of S. Water St., Wilmington.

Advance Prepaid reservations required.

800-676-0126, 910-343-1611, [www.cfrboats.com](http://www.cfrboats.com).



Occasionally changes in times, dates and/or prices of events do occur. We recommend that you call the number listed before traveling any distance for a particular event.



*Wilmington/Cape Fear Coast  
Convention & Visitors Bureau  
24 North Third Street  
Wilmington, NC 28401  
1-866-266-9690  
[www.gocapefearcoast.com](http://www.gocapefearcoast.com)*

