

HOUSTON  CHRONICLE

GALVESTON

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New shows, attractions among holiday events in Galveston

GALVESTON ISLAND CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU

From train rides to the North Pole on the authentic Polar Express to new laser light shows downtown, a 2-million-pound Ice Land and a world-renowned Victorian festival, Galveston offers no shortage of holiday fun with 50-plus days of holiday attractions and events.

The Polar Express Train Ride at the Galveston Railroad Museum offers an opportunity for kids (and adults) to experience, first hand, the magic of the classic children's tale. The ride will be open on weekends and select dates through Dec. 29.

www.galvestonrrmuseum.org/polar-express.

Ice Land at Moody Gardens: On Nov. 16, Moody Gardens opens its 28,000-square-foot Ice Land attraction (made from 2 million pounds of ice) with an all-new "Christmas Around the World" theme as well as its annual Festival of Lights.

www.moodygardens.com/holiday_season/.

Festival of Lights at Moody Gardens: Also opening Nov. 16 is the 18th annual edition of this festival, where visitors can enjoy one of the largest holiday lighting events on the Gulf Coast. At 5 p.m., Santa will parachute in and at 6 p.m., he will flip the switch that turns on the mile-long Festival of Lights trail, showcasing more than 100 sound-



Courtesy of Galveston Island Convention & Visitors Bureau

The Historic East End Holiday Homes Tour is set for Dec. 6.

enhanced animated light displays. www.moodygardens.com/holiday_season/.

Downtown Lasers & Lights: Nov. 22 through Dec. 31, Galveston's historic downtown district will host Downtown Lasers & Lights featuring new laser shows, a magical display of lights and other holiday-themed attractions in Saengerfest Park – and beyond. New this year, four-hour holiday laser shows synchronized to music will be projected on the American National Insurance Company Building from 6-10 p.m. on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays through Dec. 22.

Galveston Holiday Lighting Celebration at Hotel Galvez: The annual celebra-

tion will kick off at 6 p.m., Nov. 29, to celebrate the start of the Christmas season. This free event will feature live performers, including the Galveston Ballet, visits with Santa and the lighting of the city's official 35-foot Christmas tree. www.hotelgalvez.com.

Historic East End Holiday Homes Tour: The 30th annual tour will be held from 5:30-9:30 p.m. Dec. 6, featuring five private homes that will open their doors to the public for one night. Each home will be decked out in festive decor. www.eastendhistoricaldistrict.org.

Dickens on The Strand: From Dec. 6-8, the iron-front buildings found in Galveston's historic downtown district will make the ideal backdrop for the 46th annual Dickens on The Strand. This holiday street festival transforms the area, particularly Strand Street, into the Victorian London of Charles Dickens complete with costumed characters, street performers and vendors, parades, holiday food and drink, Victorian-inspired crafts, and more. Each year, descendants of Charles Dickens travel from London to be a part of the festivities, and all attendees are encouraged to join in the fun by dressing in period costumes. www.dickensonthestrand.org.

Victorian Holiday Tours at Moody Mansion: During the holidays, guests can tour this home, completed in 1895, while it is dressed up for the season with festive trim-

mings and elaborately adorned Christmas trees throughout its 20-plus rooms. www.moodymansion.org.

Holiday Shows at The Grand 1894 Opera House: Here you can catch shows like *Merry Christmas from the Doo Wop Project*, *Dickens' A Christmas Carol*, *The 5 Browns Holiday*, *Rudolph The Red-Nosed Reindeer* and more. www.thegrand.com.

The Santa Hustle: If you've never seen 5,000 Santas racing along the beach, you'll have your chance Dec. 15 when Galveston hosts a wacky holiday race: the Santa Hustle 5K, half marathon and Kids Dash. This unique race event will be a "jolly good time" as participants receive a lightweight performance Santa hoodie, Santa hat and beard to wear while running. <https://santahustle.com/galveston>.

Cirque Joyeux Dinner and Show: You can experience "Christmas Around the World" at the Cirque Joyeux Dinner & Show coming to the Moody Gardens Hotel Dec. 20-30. This one-hour Christmas spectacular features a performance from a cast of international circus and a variety of talents plus a sumptuous holiday dinner. <https://moodychristmasshow.com>.

For more information on holiday events in Galveston, visit www.galveston.com/holidaymagic.

Relive magic of the story aboard The Polar Express

BY VALERIE SWETTEN | CORRESPONDENT

The Galveston Railroad Museum will be delivering riders on The Polar Express Train Ride to the North Pole beginning Nov. 15.

Passengers will have the opportunity to relive the magic of the story as they're whisked away on The Polar Express experience with multiple dates slated through Dec. 29. All dates for these rides are currently sold out.

This is such a popular event that 30,000 tickets were sold in eight hours, a record for an inaugural launch in the franchise. Tickets for next year's event will go on sale July 1, 2020.

Families are encouraged to wear their pajamas for the ride. James Rosengren, executive director, Galveston Railroad

Museum, said visitors will ride a mile of track for the theatrical recreation on Harborside Drive. The magical story comes to life when the train departs the museum for a 60-minute round-trip journey to the North Pole.

"This is a theater production on a rolling train," said Rosengren. "It's a tremendous theatrical team with historic railcars. That part is really exciting. It's going to be a lot of fun."

Once on board, hot chocolate and treats are served as passengers read along with the classic children's book, *The Polar Express* by Chris Van Allsburg.

Santa and his helpers greet passengers at the North Pole and then board the train, where each child is given the first gift of Christmas — a silver sleigh bell.

Attendants aboard each car lead passengers in singing Christmas carols on the ride back to the Galveston's historic depot.

In addition to the scheduled performances, the Galveston Railroad Museum is also devoting a train ride to families with children with sensory difficulties on Dec. 13. This is also sold out.

Exact dates, fares and excursion times are available by



Courtesy of Galveston Island Convention & Visitors Bureau

At The Polar Express, the magical story comes to life when the train departs the museum for a 60-minute round-trip journey to the North Pole.

calling 320-244-0213, or by visiting www.galvestonrrmuseum.org/polar-express. Ticket prices per person range from \$27 to \$75, depending on date and class of service.

Dickens on The Strand welcomes author's descendants to island

BY MEL JIMENEZ
CORRESPONDENT

On Dec. 6-8, the Galveston Historical Foundation will usher in the Christmas season with Dickens on The Strand, an island tradition that takes guests back to the Victorian era through themed events, live entertainment, costume contests, daily parades, and food and crafts vendors.

For Dickens descendants Lucinda Dickens Hawksley, Jane Dickens Monk and Oliver "Ollie" Dickens, the weekend goes beyond the festivities and costumed revelers. Dickens on The Strand is a celebration of their heritage and ancestor's legacy.

"Many people have a strange belief that Charles Dickens invented Christmas," said Hawksley, the author's great-great-great granddaughter. "What my great-great-great grandfather did, when he wrote *A Christmas Carol*, was to make celebrating the holiday in style."

An award-winning author, historian and lecturer whose works include several books about her famous ancestor, Hawksley said she knew she wanted to be a writer since she was a little girl. She and Monk will be available for book signings at the event, and both are also happy to sign copies of Charles Dickens's books.

Monk, great-great-granddaughter of Dickens, worked to complete and publish the memoirs of her father, Cedric Dickens, after his death. *My Life* featured photos and anecdotes about life with the Dickens name.

London-based actor Oliver "Ollie" Dickens, great-great-great grandson of Charles Dickens, will also join Hawksley and Monk at the event this year to perform readings of Dickens' timeless story of Christmas.



Courtesy of Galveston Historical Foundation

Lucinda Dickens Hawksley (left) and Jane Dickens Monk are descendants of the famous author.

The cousins will also participate in the parade, as well as in various activities throughout the weekend.

"Every year, I look forward to coming to Galveston for sunshine in December," said Hawksley, who has been a special guest at the event for the past decade. "Being at Dickens on The Strand is amazing, and it's truly a great, fun start to the Christmas season."

Dickens on The Strand begins Friday, Dec. 6 and continues through Sunday, Dec. 8. Tickets purchased before Dec. 2 are \$13 for adults and \$7 for children 7-12 for Saturday and Sunday. Admission is free on Friday evening. Tickets purchased at the gate are \$15 for adults and \$9 for children. Discounted tickets are available for members of the Galveston Historical Foundation. Attendees in Victorian costume are admitted for half price.

For more information and event updates, follow @DickensOnTheStrand on Facebook or visit galvestonhistory.org.

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Galveston's City National Bank Building: A piece of W.L. Moody's big dream

BY ALICE ADAMS
CORRESPONDENT

After graduating from Virginia Military Institute in Lexington, Virginia, studying law for a short time at The University of Texas and seeking more education in Germany with brother Frank, W.L. Moody Jr., returned to Galveston and convinced his father — William Lewis Moody — to open a private bank, which he did, in 1889. The name was W.L. Moody and Company.

After founding American National Insurance Company in 1905, young Moody founded City National Bank — receiving its charter from the Controller of Currency in 1907. Operating in leased space in the Trust Building (2228 E. Avenue E), Moody served as president of City National Bank until his death in 1954. The year before, the bank's



Courtesy of Illumine Photographic Services

The 1920 City National Bank Building was part of the 2017 Galveston Historical District's annual historic homes tour.

name was changed to Moody National Bank as a tribute to this visionary Galvestonian.

Following its charter and during the next two decades, plans were underway to build an architectural showplace in downtown Galveston, a bank that featured the latest in banking services and unsurpassed banking convenience as well as a building befitting of Moody Jr.'s vision.

Designed by Chicago Banking Architects Weary & Alford, the bank's amenities and other details were reported by *The Galveston Daily News* on Page 1 in the May 7, 1919 edition:

"The contract for the building to be occupied by the City National Bank — the construction of which will begin almost immediately, was let yesterday — according to Vice-president W. L. Moody III. The new building will cost approximately \$150,000, and the first floor will be occupied entirely by the City National Bank."

"It will be erected at 2221-23 Market Street, the present site of the bank. The new building will extend 120 feet to the alley rather than terminating at the half-way mark. The floor level of the new build-

ing will be fixed at a grade of 16 feet above mean low tide, which will place it well above the high-water mark on the island. The present elevation of Market street is 6.5 feet.

"The contract was let to M. C. Bowden, general contractor, and construction work will start immediately.

"The building will be one of the most modern and elegant in the entire South," Mr. Moody said, "and will have a much larger floor space than our present quarters. Our business is expanding rapidly and the building must be made to conform to our needs."

With the devastation of 1900 hurricane still on Moody's mind, the new bank conformed with the City of Galveston's new regulations. From the sidewalk there were three steps leading to the first landing or level. Another series of steps led into a portico.

Inside the building, fixtures were of bronze and marble, the marble finish extending to 20 feet above floor level. An arched ceiling reached skyward, approximately 30 feet above the floor. A mezza-

New continues on H8



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Nostalgia draws antique treasure hunters to historic Galveston

BY CHERYL P. ROSE
CORRESPONDENT

Trends may come and go, and your trash may become someone else's treasure, but one thing stays the same in the antiques business: customers are looking for something unusual and special. Holiday shoppers can find multiple antiques purveyors in Historic Downtown Galveston, which is a good thing for customers, according to Frances St. John, owner of St. John Antiques.

"I know that when I go shopping, I want to go where there are a lot of antiques stores, because it gives me a lot of places to go hunting for that special item or gift," she said.

Nostalgia is often what brings people into Christine Solis' shop, Somewhere in Time. Solis plays on that wistfulness for times past with a working Coke machine from the 1950s that dispenses glass-bottled beverages. Though it isn't for sale, it's the most expensive item in the shop.

"It's very popular with customers, just for the fun of it," Solis said.

At the holidays, people are often seeking original gift ideas, and The Strand and Historic District offer a backdrop unlike a typical shopping center.

"It's not a cookie cutter experience," said Tulisha Dampier of Hendley Market. "The holidays are a fantastic time to be here in Galveston."

Currently popular items among these

shops include vintage cameras and typewriters, pocket watches and timepieces, Victorian and estate jewelry, military memorabilia and World War II posters, sterling silver, and advertising signs. Being so close to University of Texas-Medical Branch, antique medical equipment is also popular. Holiday specialty items include vintage ceramic Christmas trees and various Santa figures from the 1900s-1960s at St. John Antiques and a selection of more than 200 nativities at Hendley Market.

"We love seeing high school-age young people in the store," St. John said. "They are buying classic books and they love the old vinyl records."

All three store owners consider their shops family-friendly, and Hendley Market is even dog-friendly.

"At our shop, it's OK to bring your dog, but leave your soda outside," Dampier said.

Hendley Market's most expensive antique is a 17th century Spanish *vargueño* traveling desk. Though it isn't for sale, customers admire it. An oddball category of antique the shop is known for is French glass eyeballs made in the 1800s.

"People go right to the back of the shop to look at these," Dampier said. "They are becoming hard to find. We've had both artists and doctors buy them."

Working in antiques and vintage items, St. John and her husband, Harry, consider themselves recyclers saving history. Solis has a similar philosophy.

"I enjoy the delight on customers' faces when they find an item of nostalgia or something they have been looking for," Solis said. "It's fun to know we found the proper home for these antiques to live on."

Popular items among antiques shops include vintage cameras and typewriters, military memorabilia and World War II posters, sterling silver, and advertising signs.



Courtesy of St. John Antiques



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HOUSTON CHRONICLE



Special events bring lots of holiday cheer to the island

BY MEL JIMENEZ
CORRESPONDENT

Year after year, Galveston offers a festive selection of special events for the holidays. Check out the top things to do at the “Winter Wonder Island” this season.

A Tuna Christmas: Runs through Nov. 30 at Island ETC, 2317 Mechanic St. Sunday matinees on Nov. 10 and 17. Laugh out loud as the citizens of Tuna struggle to bring merriment to the world with quick-change zaniness and brilliant one-liners. Tickets are \$30 for adults and \$25 for students and seniors. For more information, go to islandetc.org or call 409-762-3556.

The Polar Express Train Ride: Begins Friday, Nov. 15, and runs weekends through Sunday, Dec. 29, at 2602 Santa Fe Place. Brought to you by the Galveston Railroad Museum, the event offers a 60-minute train ride to the North Pole onboard The Polar Express. Tickets are \$27-75. For times and more information, go to galvestonRRmuseum.org/polar-express or call 409-765-5700.

Festival of Lights: From Nov. 16 through Jan. 12, Moody Gardens presents a one-mile trail filled with animated displays and two million twinkling lights. This attraction is part of Holiday in the Gardens, which also features Ice Land, Cirque Joyeux, ice skating, arctic slide and holiday 3-D films. For tickets and scheduling information, go to moodygardens.com/holiday_season or call 409-744-4673.

Vienna Boys Choir: Set for 8 p.m. Friday, Nov. 22, at The Grand 1894 Opera House, 2020 Postoffice St. Continuing a tradition that dates back to 1296 at Vienna’s Imperial Chapel, the choir will present *Christmas in Vienna*, with a repertoire that includes a selection of medieval, contemporary and experimental music. Tickets are \$25-\$75. For more information, go to thegrand.com or call 409-765-1894.

Thanksgiving Brunch at Hotel Galvez & Spa: Slated for Thursday, Nov. 28, at the hotel’s Galvez Bar & Grill, 2024 Seawall Blvd. With traditional Thanksgiving entrees and special features, this holiday brunch is one of the hotel’s most popular events of the year. Reservations are required. Call 409-515-2028 or go to hotelgalvez.com for details.

Dickens on The Strand: Held Friday, Dec. 6, through Sunday, Dec. 8, in historic downtown Galveston, this annual event takes guests back to 19th-century London. Victorian attire is encouraged. Enjoy live entertainment, caroling, parades and guest appearances

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34. The Bryan Museum

from descendants of Charles Dickens. Tickets are \$7-15, with free admission on Friday night. For details, go to galvestonhistory.org or call 409-765-7834.

Holiday Sing-along: 7-10 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 12, at The Tremont House, 2300 Mechanic St. Accompany the hotel’s Duo du Jour in singing holiday favorites. Guests can also enjoy winter drink specials and complimentary hors d’oeuvres. The event is free. For more information, call 409-763-0300 or go to thetremonthouse.com.

Holiday with the Cranes: Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 14-15, in various locations throughout Galveston, the event celebrates the return of the island’s wintering sandhill cranes with indoor and outdoor nature activities. For more information, go to galvestonnaturetourism.org or call 409-789-8125.

Rudolph, the Red-Nosed Reindeer: At 1 p.m. and 4 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 28, at The Grand 1894 Opera House, 2020 Postoffice St., audiences of all ages will enjoy a jolly cast of iconic characters who help Santa save Christmas. Tickets are \$25-\$65. For more information, go to thegrand.com or call 409-765-1894.

New Year’s Eve Dinner and Special Jazz Night: 7 p.m. at The Hotel Galvez, 2024 Seawall Blvd. This four-course dinner at the Galvez Bar & Grill features live jazz with Reg and Cary. Reservations are recommended by calling 409-763-0300 or through Open Table. For details, go to hotelgalvez.com.

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Galveston offers variety of top restaurant selections this season

BY EMILIA BENTON
CORRESPONDENT

If you choose to spend part of the holiday season in Galveston, you’ll quickly see how big of a theme food will be on the island. Galveston offers everything from acclaimed upscale restaurants to casual dining, and even special options at some of its most notable hotels. Read on to learn about a large selection of some of the offerings available on the island.

Hotel specials

Several of Galveston’s iconic hotels are known for being prime holiday spots for visitors. As such, many offer lavish holiday meals for patrons who don’t want to go far to enjoy a special meal with family. The following are a few of the most notable options:

- Every year, **Hotel Galvez** offers Thanksgiving brunches, in addition to other holiday brunches throughout the year. While they differ in price, these brunches are similar to its regular Sunday brunch, that offers everything from an extensive seafood station to made-to-order omelets and a waffle station, as well as a carving station with prime rib most

weeks and bourbon glazed ham, rack of lamb, or turkey, depending on the occasion. A popular item on the brunch menu is the hotel’s award-winning seafood gumbo. The hotel also offers a wide selection of desserts, as well as champagne, mimosas or choice of house red or white wine for the adults. Call 409-765-7721 to make a reservation.

- **The San Luis Resort’s Christmas brunch** provides holiday favorites including traditional selections, breakfast options and a variety of desserts. The brunch will take place Wednesday, Dec. 25, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Grand Ballroom. Adults tickets are \$65, seniors \$60, and children (ages 4 to 12) \$30. Call 409-744-1500 for menu details and to check availability.

- **Moody Gardens** does things a bit differently, offering up its Moody Foody holiday buffets. The Festival of Lights Buffet will take place inside the Visitor Center, where its Garden Restaurant provides casual dining with views of Offats Bayou. The buffet will be available from Sunday, Nov. 17, through Sunday, Jan. 5, from 5-9 p.m. The Holidays at Cafe in the Park

at the Moody Gardens Hotel, meanwhile, will offer a complete holiday buffet from Sunday, Dec. 22, through Wednesday, Jan. 1, with two menu options that will change daily. www.moodygardens.com/moody_foody/.

- **Galveston Restaurant Week** will take place from Saturday, Jan. 25, through Sunday, Feb. 9. The event will allow visitors and residents to try some of finest Gulf Coast seafood and some of Texas’ most acclaimed restaurants with special prix-fixe lunch and/or dinner menus. Two and/or three-course dinners will be priced between \$20 and \$35, and two-course lunches, breakfasts and brunches will cost between \$10 and \$20.

This year, all participating restaurants have committed to help Access Care of Coastal Texas provide weekly lunches to its clients, who have HIV or AIDS. Oftentimes, these are the only nutritious meals a client may have in a given day or week. Reservations are strongly encouraged during Galveston Restaurant Week. For a complete list of participating restaurants, visit www.galvestonrestaurantweek.com.

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Merry, bright activities abound in Galveston for the holidays

BY CHERYL P. ROSE
CORRESPONDENT

Galveston attracts visitors from all over the world to its beaches in the summer months, but the holidays on the historic island are packed with magical experiences as well. Bump into Scrooge or Tiny Tim at the 46th annual Dickens on the Strand festival or hitch a ride on the Polar Express. Catch performances of holiday favorites Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*, and *The Nutcracker* on stage at the Romanesque Revival-style Grand 1894 Opera House. And the lights twinkle from Moody Gardens to downtown.

"We are incredibly excit-

ed about our Christmas offering this year; downtown is a canvas that we've created Christmas on," said Trey Click, executive director of the Historic Downtown Galveston Partnership. "We love to provide this free spectacle for our community, as well as sharing it with all the visitors we have."

Beginning the Friday after Thanksgiving, Downtown Lasers and Lights will brighten the Strand and adjacent shopping areas with lighted rooflines and garlands suspended above the streets. At nearby Saengerfest Park, a sparkling 37-foot Christmas tree (the star on top is 5 feet by

itself) will represent the holiday season. Twice an hour from 6-10 p.m., visitors can view a holiday laser show projected on the American National Insurance Company Building on weekends through Dec. 22. This is a new exhibition, replacing the holiday lanterns of the past two years.

"The laser show will start on the hour and the half hour and lasts 12 minutes," Clerk said. "The show is synchronized to Christmas holiday music."

On Dec. 15, you can follow or join in with other walkers and runners decked out in their Santa gear for the Santa Hustle Half Marathon and 5K. You can register as late as the day of the event, with prices varying by race and date of sign-up. Each registered participant receives a Santa beard and hat, a red hoodie and a finisher medal. There is a dash for kids, too, though it's an early start at 6:45 a.m. A portion of race proceeds support the Galveston County Food Bank. The race begins at Moody Gardens.



Courtesy of Galveston Island Convention & Visitors Bureau

New building was ready in 1920

New from page H4

nine floor at both ends of the building was included in the architect's plan.

Until construction was completed, the bank moved into temporary quarters on Tremont Street between Avenues C and D, immediately across the street from the Red Cross canteen.

Banking operations began in the new building later in 1920 and continued until

1962, when a new building for Moody National Bank was built about one block from the original location.

From 1976 to 2008, the building — given to the Galveston Historical Foundation — was used as a museum and headquarters for the Foundation. However, when Hurricane Ike struck Galveston on Sept. 13, 2008, the building was seriously damaged (to that time, Ike had been the costliest storm, causing \$29.5 billion in damage), forcing the Historical Foundation to relocate to the County Courthouse.

Ice, lights, colorful events bring joy to the island

BY JAN BURNS
CORRESPONDENT

Galveston has much to offer visitors at all times of the year. Along with its miles of beaches, there are also many special events, holiday celebrations, and activities guaranteed to amuse and entertain.

NOV. 15

Salt + Sky: Rachel Wiley-Janota: 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Rene Wiley Gallery presents Rachel Wiley-Janota's seventh solo exhibition. Rene Wiley Gallery, 2128 Postoffice St. www.renewileygallery.com, 409-750-9077.

Jazz at Galvez: Jazz duo Reg and Cary perform on Fridays and Saturdays from 5-10 p.m. See website for other scheduled times. Galvez Bar & Grill, 2024 Seawall Blvd. www.hotelgalvez.com, 409-765-7721.

Live Music: Clay Howell on the Piano. 6 p.m. to midnight. Don't miss live music at the 23rd Street Station Piano Bar, featuring a live music lounge. See website for other performances and times. 1706 23rd St. www.23rdstreetstation.com, 409-443-5678.

Tremont Jazz Series: Every Friday and Saturday, 6-10 p.m., enjoy live jazz by Trio du Jour. See website for other scheduled times. The Tremont House, 2300 Mechanic St. www.thetremonthouse.com, 409-763-0300.

Ghost Bus Tours. 7-8 p.m. Ride and hear first-hand ghost stories and paranormal experiences. Galveston Experience Company, 1522 Seawall Blvd. www.galvestonexperience.com, 409-741-3400.

Island ETC Presents: A Tuna Christmas. 8 p.m. This is the hilarious sequel to *Greater Tuna*. Tickets: Adults \$30, students and seniors \$25. See website for more details. Island ETC, 2317 Mechanic St. www.islandetc.org, 409-762-3556

NOV. 15-DEC. 20

Polar Express Train Ride: Galveston Railroad Museum will offer a 60-minute round-trip journey to the North Pole onboard the Polar Express Train Ride. More information available at website. Galveston Railroad Museum, 2602 Santa Fe Place www.galvestonrrmuseum.org, 409-765-5700.

Gingerbread Polar Express. The Tremont House hotel is creating a special "Polar Express" themed gingerbread house in honor of The Polar Express Train Ride at the Galveston Railroad Museum. The Tremont House, 2300 Mechanic St. www.thetremonthouse.com, 409-763-0300.

NOV. 16

Holiday in the Gardens. See Moody Gardens transform into the coolest holiday destination in the Southwest. See ticket information at the website. Moody Gardens, 1 Hope Blvd. www.moodygardens.com, 409-744-4673.

Youth Sailing Saturdays. 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Children are taught by our highly skilled staff at a world class sailing facility. Cost is \$25. See website for other times and more information.

Sea Star Base Galveston, 7509 Broadway St. www.ssbgalveston.org, 409-572-2560.

Galveston Island Market. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. A free open-air market specializing in local arts and crafts, and more. 2300 Mechanic St. galvestonislandmarket@gmail.com, www.galvestonislandmarket.com

Once. 8 p.m. Winner of eight 2012 Tony awards, including Best Musical, *Once* is a truly original Broadway experience. The Grand, 2020 Postoffice St. www.galvestonsymphony.org, 800-821-1894.

Saturday Stories. 10 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Enjoy a story handpicked and read by a member of the Children's Department. See website for other scheduled activities and times. Rosenberg Library, 2310 Sealy Ave. www.rosenberg-library.org, 409-763-8854.

Adaptive Sailing Saturdays. 2-4 p.m. Their adaptive sailing team works to train disabled athletes from TIRR to be able to sail for pleasure. See website for other scheduled times. Sea Star Base Galveston, 7509 Broadway. www.ssbgalveston.org, 409-572-2560.

NOV. 17

Galveston's Own Farmer's Market. 9 a.m. to noon. Galveston's Own Farmers Market brings locally grown produce, prepared foods, and edible farm products to residents of Galveston and the surrounding areas. The Bryan Museum, 1315 21st St. www.galvestonsownfarmersmarket.com, 409-632-7685.

Artist Boat Kayak Adventure: East End Lagoon. 10 a.m. to noon East End Lagoon. An easy paddle in natural wetlands, the East End Lagoon offers an up-close view of the entry to the second largest port in the United States. Book online at kayak.destinationnext.com, 409-770-0722.

Bay Explorations. 10-11:15 a.m. Join one of the weekly explorations of the connections between the mainland and our island paradise. Free except \$5 entry fee for those 13 years and older. Galveston Island State Park, 14901 FM 3005. Lisa.Reznicek@tpwd.texas.gov, tpwd.texas.gov.

Holiday in the Gardens - Festival of Lights: 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Festival of Lights returns, bringing families together on Galveston Island for lifelong memories and festive enjoyment for all ages. Moody Gardens, 1 Hope Blvd. www.moodygardens.com, 409-744-4673.

Holiday in the Gardens - Ice Land: Christmas Around the World. 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. The world's most famous landmarks will become cooler than ever as Moody Gardens introduces Ice Land: Christmas Around the World. Moody Gardens, 1 Hope Blvd. www.moodygardens.com, 409-744-4673.

NOV. 22

Seaside Treasure Festival: 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Get your holiday shopping done in one stop and enjoy the live music while drinking

GIVE THE *Gift* OF
Grand ENTERTAINMENT!

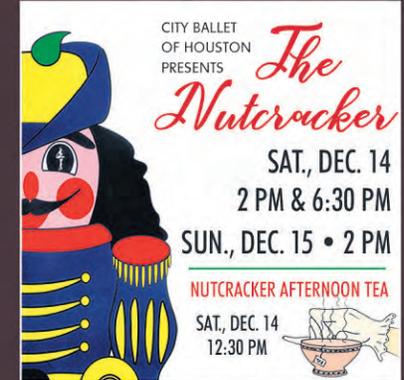
The Grand



1894 OPERA HOUSE
Galveston Island - Texas

TICKETS MAKE GRAND GIFTS!

CHRISTMAS WITH
THE 5 BROWNS
SAT., DEC. 21 • 8PM



VISIT US ONLINE FOR FULL PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE

TheGrand.com



409.765.1894 • 800.821.1894

2020 Postoffice Street, Galveston Island, TX 77550

Enjoy continues on H10

Enjoy sounds, flavors of the season

Enjoy from page H9

gourmet coffee. Moody Methodist Church, 2803 53rd St. www.moody.org, 409-744-4526.

Vienna Boys Choir — Christmas in Vienna: 8 p.m. The illustrious group of child musicians has been delighting music lovers across the globe for six centuries. The Grand 1894 Opera House, 2020 Postoffice St. www.thegrand.com, 800-821-1894.

NOV. 23
Jaston Williams' Blood & Holly — A West Texas Family Christmas: 8 p.m. In this latest hysterical offering from Jaston Williams, "Blood" in the title refers to his family bloodline. The Grand, 2020 Postoffice St. www.thegrand.com, 800-821-1894.

NOV. 25
Wild Things Zoofari Petting Zoo: 3-5 p.m. Visit with domesticated animals and some exotic species docile enough to touch and feed. Rosenberg Library, 2310 Sealy Ave. www.rosenberg-library.org, 409-763-8854.

NOV. 28
Thanksgiving Brunch at Hotel Galvez: This holiday brunch is the biggest of the year, featuring all of the traditional Thanksgiving entrees. Reservations are required. Hotel Galvez, 2024 Seawall Blvd.

NOV. 29
Galveston Holiday Lighting Celebration

at Hotel Galvez: 6-7:30 p.m. Hotel Galvez & Spa, a Wyndham Grand Hotel is hosting its Galveston Holiday Lighting Celebration. The Hotel Galvez, 2024 Seawall Blvd. www.hotelgalvez.com, 409-515-2145.

NOV. 30
Turkey Trot 5K Fun Run: 9-11 a.m. Get active this Thanksgiving weekend with the Resource & Crisis Center of Galveston County's (RCC) first Turkey Trot 5K Fun Run. Cost is \$50. This fee supports the services that RCC provides. More information at website. 45th and Seawall, Fort Crockett Park, 4604 Seawall Blvd. www.rccgc.org, 409-763-1441.

DEC. 6
Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol: 8 p.m. Charles Dickens' timeless tale of hope and redemption has enchanted audiences around the world since it was first published in 1843. The Grand, 2020 Postoffice St. www.thegrand.com, 800-821-1894.

DEC. 6-8
Dickens on the Strand: The annual holiday street festival based on 19th-century Victorian London, featuring parades, non-stop entertainment, strolling carolers, and more, at downtown locations. www.galveston.com, 409-765-7834.

DEC. 7
Trinity Episcopal Church Pipe Organ Extravaganza: 7:30 p.m. Galveston's Trinity Episcopal Church presents their annual Pipe

Organ Extravaganza. Trinity Episcopal Church, 22nd and Winnie Streets. https://trinitygalv.org, 800-821-1894.

DEC. 14
Family Day at the Ocean Star: An Off-shore Holiday: 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Ocean Star Family Days promote family learning and quality time at a reduced cost. Ocean Star, 1900 Harborside Drive. www.oceanstaroec.com, 409-765-7721.

The Nutcracker Afternoon Tea Presented by the Grand 1894 Opera House: 12:30 p.m. The Nutcracker Afternoon Tea is an annual tradition at The Grand. The Grand, 2020 Postoffice St. www.thegrand.com, 800-821-1894.

The Nutcracker Presented by City Ballet of Houston: 2 p.m. This holiday favorite will delight audiences of all ages. The Grand, 2020 Postoffice St. www.thegrand.com.

DEC. 14-DEC. 15
Holiday with the Cranes: Holiday with the Cranes provides opportunities for Gulf Coast winter birding. Various locations — Galveston. www.galvestonnaturetourism.org, 409-789-8125.

DEC. 15
Santa Hustle Half Marathon and 5K: 7-11 a.m. Run with thousands of Santas through the streets of Galveston and along the Gulf waters. Cost is \$80. Moody Gardens, 1 Hope Blvd. www.santahustle.com, 847-829-4536.

DEC. 20
Cirque Joyeux Dinner and Show: 6:30-8:30 p.m. Take a magical journey from There to Here in the company of musical and stage royal couple, the award-winning Texas thespians Linda Leonard and Bill Jenkins. Moody Gardens Convention Center, 7 Hope Blvd. www.moodygardenshotel.com, 409-741-8484.

DEC. 21
The 5 Browns — Holiday: 8 p.m. Performing individually or together in various combinations from duo to complex five-piano arrangements they deliver on their dream of waking up classical music. The Grand, 2020 Postoffice St. www.thegrand.com, 800-821-1894.

DEC. 25
Christmas Day Brunch at Hotel Galvez: Hotel Galvez is widely known for its Sunday brunch, and the Christmas Day brunch is bigger than ever and more popular. Advance reservations are required. Galvez Bar & Grill, 2024 Seawall Blvd. www.hotelgalvez.com, 409-515-2028.

DEC. 28
Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer: The Musical: 1 p.m. Following five successful years of touring and more than 500 performances, the "most famous reindeer of all" will fly into The Grand. Purchase tickets at tickets.thegrand.com. The Grand 1894 Opera House, 2020 Postoffice St. 800-821-1894, www.thegrand.com.

DEC. 31
New Year's Eve Dinner and Special Jazz Night: Celebrate New Year's Eve with a romantic four-course dinner at Galvez Bar & Grill followed by live jazz with Reg and Cary. Advance reservations are suggested. The Hotel Galvez, 2024 Seawall Blvd. 409-515-2145, www.hotelgalvez.com.

JAN. 5
Happy New Year, Vienna Style! 4 p.m.



Courtesy of The Grand

The Grand presents Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer: The Musical.

The Galveston Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Trond Saeverud, performs quality classical music. The Grand, 2020 Postoffice St. www.galvestonsymphony.org, 800-821-1894.

JAN. 11
The Greatest Love of All: A Tribute to Whitney Houston starring Belinda Davids: 8 p.m. Whitney's musical legacy is brought to life in this critically acclaimed tribute show described as "Mind blowingly spot on." The Grand Opera House, 2020 Postoffice St. 800-821-1894, www.thegrand.com.

JAN. 18
The Oak Ridge Boys: 7:30 p.m. The Oak Ridge Boys return to The Grand for their annual concerts featuring four-part harmony. The Grand Opera House, 2020 Postoffice St. 800-821-1894, www.thegrand.com.

JAN. 25 - FEB. 9
2020 Galveston Restaurant Week: Home of the finest Gulf Coast seafood and some of Texas's most delectable restaurants, Galveston Island proudly welcomes visitors to Galveston Restaurant Week. See website for more details. Various locations. www.galvestonrestaurantweek.com.

FEB. 1
Finding Neverland: 8 p.m. A heartwarming theatrical event full of beautiful music that tells the incredible story behind Peter Pan. The Grand 1894 Opera House, 2020 Postoffice St. www.thegrand.com, 800-821-1894.

FEB. 9
Galveston Symphony Orchestra: Trond Plays Paganini: 4 p.m. This very special classical masterworks concert program includes Paganini's *Violin Concerto No. 1* featuring GSO Conductor Trond Saeverud, violin; and Howard Hanson's "Symphony No. 2 "Romantic." The Grand, 2020 Postoffice St. www.galvestonsymphony.org, 800-821-1894.

FEB. 14-25
Mardi Gras! Galveston: If you are looking for a unique Mardi Gras experience in 2020, grab some beads and hit the beach. www.mardigrasgalveston.com.

Offshore Adventure

Come Explore the Ocean Star Offshore Drilling Rig Museum

Enjoy three floors of exhibits, theater, videos and interactive displays in a unique learning experience.

www.OceanStarOEC.com

Pier 19, Galveston Harborside Drive at 20th St.

Open Daily 10 am — 5 pm

409-766-STAR (7827)



SUPPORTED BY HOTEL MOODY TAX DEDUCTIONS

Moody Gardens is ready for holiday season

BY VALERIE SWEETEN
CORRESPONDENT

Visitors will get into the holiday spirit with unique ice carvings to Christmas decor, Santa and festive sights at Moody Gardens Galveston Island.

Ice Land: Christmas Around the World and Festival of Lights, both open on Nov. 16 and will run through Jan. 12. These are just two of eight holiday attractions at Moody Gardens' Holiday in the Gardens.



Courtesy of Moody Gardens

The Festival of Lights is set to deliver a Christmas wonderland.

"This year, Moody Gardens is providing a bigger and better holiday experience than ever before with Holiday in the Gardens. The Festival of Lights now features two million lights, creating a beautiful lighted trail to walk along the backdrop of the iconic Moody Gardens pyramids," said Kevin Aguilar, public relations coordinator at Moody Gardens Galveston Island.

This holiday destination has something for everyone.

Take a spin around the area's only outdoor skating rink and enjoy concession areas with hot chocolate and festive food, live entertainment and more.

Guests can travel from Russia and Egypt to China and beyond and see how other cultures celebrate the season at Ice Land: Christmas Around the World.

Visitors will see landmarks such as the Alamo, Big Ben, Sydney Opera House, and the Great Wall of China. These are hand-carved out of two million pounds of ice inside a 28,000-square-foot insulated tent

structure chilled and maintained at 9 degrees. Try the giant ice slide that takes guests from the top of the Eiffel Tower to the Arc de Triomphe. Shivers Ice Bar is on site featuring ultra-cool holiday spirits.

The Festival of Lights is set to deliver a Christmas wonderland. Start with Noel: the Dancing Tree of Light, a four-story digital Christmas tree, then stroll a mile-long trail featuring new scenes as well as favorites such as the Nutcrackers, a train, a toy factory, and plenty of animals.

Other holiday attractions include Cirque Joyeux Dinner & Show, Rudolph 4D, 3D films, an Arctic Slide and train rides. Hotel packages and group pricing are also available.

Further details

For information, including a calendar of Super Value Days, Value Days, and ticket options including the Evening Pass for all attractions, visit www.moodygardens.org/holiday_season.



Courtesy of Moody Gardens

Guests can travel from Russia and Egypt to China and beyond and see how other cultures celebrate the season at Ice Land: Christmas Around the World.



Holiday

IN THE
GARDENS

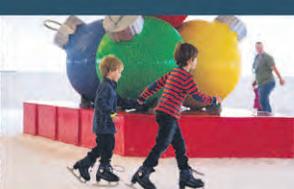
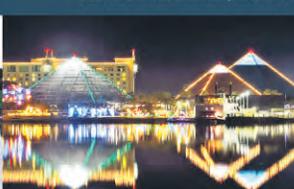
A TRULY ENCHANTING
HOLIDAY DESTINATION

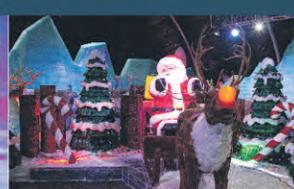
November 16 – January 12

Eight Holiday Attractions • One Venue

Ice Land • Festival of Lights • Cirque Joyeux PRESENTED BY THE PASTRY MUSEUM GALVESTON ISLAND • 3D Holiday Films • Rudolph 4D • Ice Skating • Arctic Slide • Train Rides • New Year's Palooza

*Plus Live Entertainment, Great Food, Group Rates, Free Parking and More!




Save Big: Super Value Days, Value Days
and Groups Schedule and Discounts:

Visit moodygardens.org/holidays for Value Days and Group Booking options



MOODY GARDENS
GALVESTON ISLAND

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NOVEMBER 15, 2019 - JANUARY 12, 2020

ONGOING HOLIDAY EVENTS

ISLAND ETC PRESENTS: A TUNA CHRISTMAS
Nov 8 – 30

GALVESTON RAILROAD MUSEUM PRESENTS THE POLAR EXPRESS™ TRAIN RIDE
Nov 15 – Dec 29

HOLIDAY IN THE GARDENS
Nov 16 – Jan 12

MOODY GARDENS ICE LAND: CHRISTMAS AROUND THE WORLD
Nov 16 – Jan 12

MOODY GARDENS FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS
Nov 16 – Jan 12

DOWNTOWN LASERS & LIGHTS
Nov 22 – Dec 31 **FREE**

HEATED INDOOR WATERPARK AT SCHLITZERBAHN GALVESTON
Nov 29 – Dec 29

MIRACLE® ON THE ISLAND CHRISTMAS-THEMED POP-UP COCKTAIL BAR
Nov 29 – Dec 25
(Held at DTO)

CIRQUE JOYEUX DINNER AND SHOW AT MOODY GARDENS
Dec 20 – 30

DAILY CALENDAR

ONCE AT THE GRAND 1894 OPERA HOUSE
Nov 16 – 17

AN EVENING WITH WILLIE NELSON & FAMILY AT THE GRAND
Nov 19

VIENNA BOYS CHOIR – CHRISTMAS IN VIENNA AT THE GRAND
Nov 22

JASTON WILLIAMS IN BLOOD & HOLLY – CHRISTMAS WEST OF THE PECOS AT THE GRAND
Nov 23 – 24

HOTEL GALVEZ HOLIDAY LIGHTING CELEBRATION
Nov 29 **FREE**

ARTWALK
Nov 30 **FREE**

MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM THE DOO WOP PROJECT AT THE GRAND
Nov 30

GALVESTON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA: MENDELSSOHN'S VIOLIN CONCERTO AT THE GRAND
Dec 1

46TH ANNUAL DICKENS ON THE STRAND
Dec 6 – 8

CHARLES DICKENS' A CHRISTMAS CAROL AT THE GRAND
Dec 6 – 7

VICTORIAN HOLIDAY HOMES TOUR
Dec 6

PIPE ORGAN EXTRAVAGANZA AT TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH
Dec 7

OLIVER'S ALLEY, AT DICKEN'S ON THE STRAND SPONSORED BY GALVESTON CHILDREN'S MUSEUM
Dec 7 – 8

FAMILY DAY AT THE OCEAN STAR DRILLING RIG MUSEUM
Dec 14
(**FREE** for Children)

THE NUTCRACKER AFTERNOON TEA AT THE GRAND 1894 OPERA HOUSE
Dec 14

HOLIDAY WITH THE CRANES
Dec 14 – 15

CITY BALLET OF HOUSTON PRESENTS THE NUTCRACKER AT THE GRAND 1894 OPERA HOUSE
Dec 14 – 15

HOLIDAY DELIGHTS: A LONE STAR CHRISTMAS AT THE BRYAN MUSEUM
Dec 15

SANTA HUSTLE HALF MARATHON & 5K
Dec 15

THE 5 BROWNS – HOLIDAY AT THE GRAND
Dec 21

DON'T DROP THE BALL! NEW YEAR'S CELEBRATION AT ROSENBERG LIBRARY
Dec 26

RUDOLPH, THE RED-NOSED REINDEER AT THE GRAND
Dec 28

HAPPY NEW YEAR, VIENNA STYLE! GALVESTON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA AT THE GRAND
Jan 5

12TH NIGHT CELEBRATION AT MOODY MANSION
Jan 6 **FREE**

THE GREATEST LOVE OF ALL – A TRIBUTE TO WHITNEY HOUSTON AT THE GRAND
Jan 11 – 12



GALVESTON
* ISLAND *

SANTA SIGHTINGS

PHOTOS WITH SANTA AT MOODY GARDENS
Nov 16 – Dec 24

SANTA AT THE GRAND 1894 OPERA HOUSE (EDNA'S ROOM HOLIDAY ART MARKET)
Nov 30 **FREE**

SUNDAY BRUNCH WITH SANTA AT HOTEL GALVEZ
Dec 1, 8, 15 & 22

FAMILY FREE NIGHT WITH SANTA AT THE GALVESTON CHILDREN'S MUSEUM
Dec 5

CHEER ON THE PIER! AT GALVESTON ISLAND HISTORIC PLEASURE PIER
Dec 7, 14 & 21

BRUNCH WITH SANTA AT ROSENBERG LIBRARY
Dec 14 **FREE**

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA AT THE SAN LUIS RESORT (BLAKE'S BISTRO)
Dec 14

SANTA ON THE STRAND
Dec 14 & 21 **FREE**

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA AT RAINFOREST CAFÉ
Dec 21 & 22

For a complete list of events and special offers, visit Galveston.com/holidaymagic