



PRESS RELEASE

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### Celebrate the Holiday Season in Illinois with Lights Festivals, Parades and Shopping

**CHICAGO** – 'Tis the season to spread holiday cheer with friends and family near and far. Celebrate old traditions and make new memories with these festive holiday events across Illinois.

#### Holiday Lights Festivals

- [Illumination at the Morton Arboretum](#), **Lisle**: This magical experience transforms you into a winter wonderland surrounded by innovative lights and music, November 17 through January 1.
- [Night of the Luminaria](#), **Galena**: Stroll through downtown Galena as more than 5,000 candle-lit luminaries line the streets, December 9.
- [Lincoln Park ZooLights](#), **Chicago**: Bring the entire family for a fun night of holiday activities and sparkling light displays at the zoo, late November through January 7.
- [Christmas Wonderland Holiday Light Display](#), **Alton**: Drive through Rock Springs Park to view more than 2 million lights, including cascading waterfalls then visit Santa Claus in the Enchanted Forest, November 24-December 27.

#### Holiday Parades

- [BMO Harris Bank Magnificent Mile Lights Festival Parade](#), **Chicago**: Watch Mickey Mouse and Minnie Mouse light one million lights along North Michigan Avenue, November 18.
- [Stroll on State Parade](#), **Rockford**: Celebrate Stroll on State's 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary at The Merry & Bright Holiday Parade with festive floats, music and characters, November 25.
- [Parade of Lights, Downtown Campaign](#): Celebrate the season with Santa Claus during the "Miracle on Neil Street" parade then watch the annual Christmas tree lighting, November 25.



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### Holiday Markets

- **Christkindlmarket, [Chicago](#), [Naperville](#), [The Park at Wrigley](#):** Celebrate German and European holiday traditions with food, drinks, shopping and entertainment at the magical Christkindlmarket at Daley Plaza in downtown Chicago, starting November 17 and The Park at Wrigley & Naperville, November 24 through Christmas.
- **[Native American Holiday Market, Cahokia Mounds State Historic Site](#):** Visit the 14<sup>th</sup> annual Native American Holiday Market and shop from 30 different American Indian artists, craft persons and vendors, November 25-27.
- **[ChristKindl Market, Quincy](#):** Inspired by German tradition, this open air market includes unique shopping and music in downtown Quincy's historic Washington Theater, Dec. 1-3
- **[Julmarknad, Bishop Hill](#),** Prepare for the holidays by attending Julmarknad, or Christmas Market, in Bishop Hill. The attractions include Swedish folk characters, traditional Swedish holiday decorations, and Christmas gifts for sale, November 24- 26 and December 2-3.

[Click here](#) to learn more about these can't miss holiday events:

- 130<sup>th</sup> Annual Santa Claus Parade, Peoria, November 24
- Wonderland Express, Chicago Botanic Garden, November 24-January 7
- Fifth Third Bank Winter Wonderfest, Chicago Navy Pier, December 1-January 7
- Christmas Lights Trolley Tour, Oglesby, Utica, December 16-23
- Way of Lights, Belleville, November 17-December 31

To plan your holiday visit go to [EnjoyIllinois.com](http://EnjoyIllinois.com).

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*The Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, Office of Tourism manages industry efforts that result in sustainable and significant economic and quality-of-life benefits for Illinois residents.*



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