



# DOWNTOWN *Holiday Guide*



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RISE**

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# Holiday Happenings

Events that will delight the entire family.

## Inner Harbor Ice Rink

November 9–January 20

INNER HARBOR AMPHITHEATER

Lace up your skates and glide under the stars with waterfront views of Baltimore's neon-lit skyline at the Inner Harbor Ice Rink, and twirl amongst Downtown's breathtaking architecture.

## Christmas Village in Baltimore

November 23–December 24

WESTSHORE PARK, INNER HARBOR

Explore a European holiday market without booking a flight! With thousands of holiday lights, the big Gluhwine Pyramid, and the delicious smell of waffles and gingerbread, this German style Christmas market is sure to delight.

## The Magic of Merryland

November 23

ALICEANNA STREET, HARBOR EAST

A new tradition is taking over Harbor East. The Magic of Merryland begins on November 23rd with an iconic celebration filled with live music, holiday treats, and festive fun for the entire family. From enchanting train rides to memorable pet photos with Santa, the neighborhood will be bursting with cheer. And don't miss the inaugural Merryland Tree lighting!

## The Polar Express Train Ride

November 29–30, December 1, 6–8, 12–15 & 18–22

B&O RAILROAD MUSEUM

Climb aboard The Polar Express™ for a Christmas memory you'll cherish forever! Dressed in your pajamas, kick-off this two-hour immersive experience with a live performance of the Hot Chocolate song and dance, and receive the first gift of Christmas, a silver sleigh bell, from Santa. Upon your arrival at the North Pole, his helpers will greet you and invite you to enjoy crafts, make s'mores, shop for themed goodies and have your picture taken with Santa!

## The Holiday Shoppe

November 29–December 22

LORD BALTIMORE HOTEL

Fleurtopia is happy to present the "Holiday Shoppe" once again—a local artisan's handcrafted boutique located in the Lord Baltimore Hotel. Located on the Mezzanine Level of the hotel, the shoppe will feature local artists & businesses with a variety of gifts for you to choose from.

## Charm City Lights

November 30–January 1

DRUID HILL PARK

Open nightly from 5:30-9:30PM, Charm City Lights takes guests on a one-mile, drive-thru adventure that features more than 250,000 holiday lights. This dazzling winter spectacle is sure to illuminate the hearts of residents and put them in the holiday spirit.

## Breakfast with Santa & Friends

December 2024, various dates

THE MARYLAND ZOO

Join The Maryland Zoo for yuletide cheer and celebration this holiday season!

Enjoy a breakfast or brunch buffet on the Zoo's Mansion House Porch before settling in to create unique seasonal crafts. Then get ready to meet one of Santa's feathered

friends (think penguins). When you hear the bells begin to jingle, Kris Kringle is on his way! Finish your magical morning with a visit from Santa and tell him about your wishes for the holiday season.

## Holly-Days

December 2024, various dates

THE MARYLAND ZOO

Celebrate the magic of the season with Holly-Days at The Maryland Zoo! Enjoy this experience during the weekends in December for a jolly good time filled with holiday crafts, photo ops, special appearances, and so much more. Don't miss out on the merry memories waiting to be made!

## Holly Jolly Trolley Tours

December 2024, various dates

THE ROYAL SONESTA HARBOR COURT BALTIMORE

All aboard! The Holly Jolly Trolley Tours are back this holiday season. Take in the stunning holiday lights, charming decorations, and the joyful atmosphere that fills the city during this special time of year. Whether you're a local or visiting Baltimore for the first time, this experience is perfect for families, friends, and anyone looking to embrace the holiday season. So, mark your calendars, grab your loved ones, and get ready to make memories that will last a lifetime!

## Couture Tree Display

December 1–31

LORD BALTIMORE HOTEL

View an impressive display of over 20 highly designed trees, from both seasoned and new designers across Downtown Baltimore. Stroll through the historic lobby of the Lord Baltimore Hotel, take in this season's designs and sip on a warm (or cold) cocktail to ring in the holiday season!

## Fells Point Olde Tyme Christmas

December 7

BROADWAY SQUARE

Did you hear sleigh bells and a tugboat horn? That's right! Santa's flying...or gliding into Fells Point on a tugboat. Enjoy the charm of Baltimore along with classic traditions including the lighting of the neighborhood tree.





**Dec. 5  
5-8pm**

## *Downtown* **MONUMENT LIGHTING**

**Now on its 52nd year**, the Monument Lighting is the unofficial opening of the holiday season in Baltimore. The event will be hosted by the Mount Vernon Place Conservancy, with Mercy Medical Center as its lead sponsor. Over 20 local food vendors will provide food options from sweet to savory, and the Conservancy's beverage concessions will provide local beer, mead, wine, and hot spiked cider. On stage will be local musical favorites, and fireworks will go off at 8PM. This year's Monument Lighting will assist the Conservancy in raising awareness about what the organization does every day for the city by maintaining, restoring and revitalizing Mount Vernon Place. [mountvernonplace.org/monument-lighting](http://mountvernonplace.org/monument-lighting)

neighborhood to the next and stroll along the waterfront to take in the magnificent spectacle to start the holiday season. Looking to elevate your experience? The Sagamore Pendry Hotel is offering exclusive tickets to take in the experience in their heated suites.

### **The 51st Annual Mayor's Christmas Parade**

**December 8**

**HAMPDEN & MEDFIELD**

Experience the annual holiday celebration that captivates thousands along a 2.5-mile route through Hampden and Medfield. The parade boasts colorful floats, local personalities, Darth Vader, the Boumi Shriners, lively bands, and culminates with Santa Claus, offering a delightful experience for the whole family!

### **Jingle Bell Run**

**December 14**

**RASH FIELD PARK**

The Arthritis Foundation's original Jingle Bell Run is a festive way to get decked out and be merry, while racing to raise funds and awareness to cure America's #1 cause of disability. Wear your favorite holiday attire and jingle all the way to a cure!

### **Holiday Gifting Market**

**December 15**

**SAGAMORE PENDRY HOTEL**

Join us in the Courtyard for a social hour sip and shop featuring local Baltimore retailers and complimentary cocoa. Our holiday gifting market pop-up includes a selection of festive gifts, stocking stuffers and locally crafted goods.

### **New Years Eve at the Harbor**

**December 31**

**INNER HARBOR AMPHITHEATER**

The countdown to 2025 is on with games, music and fireworks lighting the sky above Downtown Baltimore's picturesque harbor. Enjoy this family friendly event, where individuals of all ages can ring in the new year together.

### **Harbor Point Winter Festival**

**January 2025**

**CENTRAL PLAZA, HARBOR POINT**

Watch talented artists use chainsaws and chisels to create spectacular ice sculptures right before your eyes. Enjoy a family friendly day downtown and stick around for hot drinks, cool tunes, and plenty of icy fun.

### **3rd Annual Fed Hill Frosty Fest**

**December 7**

**42ND EAST CROSS STREET**

Kick-start your holiday season with the entire family at Federal Hill's Frosty Fest. Featuring a variety of local street vendors offering unique stocking stuffers, small gifts, and handmade treasures, it's the perfect place to shop for everyone on your list while supporting local businesses. In addition to shopping, guests can warm up with hot cocoa, enjoy live music performances, and meet Santa Claus for a magical photo opportunity.

### **Holiday Makers Market**

**December 7-December 8**

**HARBORPLACE:  
LIGHT STREET PAVILION**

Immerse yourself in the holiday spirit with festive decor, a dazzling light sculpture, interactive art exhibits, vintage vendors, artisanal crafts, and a variety of delicious food options. Harborplace is transformed into a vibrant holiday market that's not to be missed by locals or visitors!

### **Parade of Lighted Boats**

**December 7**

**FELLS POINT TO INNER HARBOR**

Don't miss this year's creatively decorated vessels as they parade through the harbor in holiday style! Take the view from one

## A gift for the little ones.

### Movie Night: *Home Alone*

December 14

ENOCH PRATT LIBRARY

A mischievous 8-year-old who's picked on by his older siblings and ignored by his parents would rather be left alone. And that's exactly what happens when he gets accidentally left behind in a frenzied rush to the airport for a family vacation in Paris over the holiday season. After learning to fend for himself, the boy must protect his house against two bumbling burglars who are planning to rob it! Take in this holiday classic and enjoy complimentary snacks and beverages with the whole family.

### Cookies With Chef

December 19–24

SAGAMORE PENDRY HOTEL

Executive Chef Michael Grande brings his family tradition to you. Join us for a cozy afternoon decorating his house-made sugar cookies with all the sweet seasonal details you know and love.

### Snow Days at Maryland Science Center

December 21–January 1

MARYLAND SCIENCE CENTER

When school is out—science is in! Celebrate the wonders of winter this December with a flurry of science exploration. Enjoy activities like toboggan racing, frosty bubbles, snowflake symmetry, snowman engineering and even an indoor snowstorm all week long!

### Winter Break at Port Discovery

December 26–January 3

PORT DISCOVERY CHILDREN'S MUSEUM

'Tis the season for a winter break filled with fun and special educational activities from the public programming team! Port Discovery will be open for extended hours so that children and their caregivers can enjoy a variety of interactive and hands-on activities everyday leading up until their signature event: Noontime New Year!

## A gift for you, the adults!

### Whiskey Workshop in The Cannon Room

December

SAGAMORE PENDRY HOTEL

Sip in style this season. Pull back The Cannon Room's red velvet curtain to reveal its signature moody vibe elevated with extra holiday cheer welcoming you to The Whiskey Workshop. With our team of expert bartenders, settle in for the evening and explore our extensive whiskey selection and classic cocktails or dive into seasonal flavors with a specialty menu of festive cocktails—only available in December.

### Wine Tasting with Boordy Vineyards

December 5, 12 and 19

CHRISTMAS VILLAGE IN BALTIMORE, WESTSHORE PARK, INNER HARBOR

Looking for a seasonal and festive wine tasting in Baltimore? Indulge in a delightful evening of wine tasting and holiday cheer at the Christmas Village's Thirsty Thursday series. Taste a variety of exquisite wines while enjoying the festive atmosphere of Downtown Baltimore.

### Sagamore Spirit Tree Lighting

December 6

SAGAMORE SPIRIT DISTILLERY

Save the date for Sagamore Spirit's 6th annual Holiday Tree Lighting! Get into the holiday spirit with whiskey cocktails, distillery tours, complimentary custom bottle engravings, festive music, and local food and beverage vendors. Plus, the Visitor Center will be open for all your holiday shopping needs during the event. The lighting of this year's "tree" will be at 7PM.

### 4th Annual 12 Bars of Christmas Crawl

December 7

POWER PLANT LIVE!

The 4th Annual 12 Bars of Christmas Crawl® is coming to town Saturday, December 7 from 12–8PM! Put on your best holiday onesies, Santa suits, ugly sweaters and elf costumes. It's time for the most wonderful crawl of the year!

### Fells Point Krampuslauf 2024

December 7

THE SQUARE IN FELLS POINT

Calling all Krampus, Perchta, Winter and

## MAKE *Mount Vernon Marketplace* YOUR DESTINATION

### Where to go after the big event.

Did you know that Mount Vernon Marketplace is filled to the brim with various cultural cuisines and lots of local flare? Make the market your destination after the lighting and get toasty with the heat these local businesses provide:

- Mercy Seat Kitchen
- Last Call
- Munchin Burger
- Chung Chun
- GODAKK
- Poke 2U
- Brown Rice
- Cholitas Taco
- Fresh Monday's
- SmoQ-N-Meat BBQ
- Taps Fill Station
- Tigerlillyshop Jewelry





## SUPPORT *Charles Street* SHOP LOCAL

Downtown neighborhoods are home to dozens of small, local businesses. And while many of them are clustered in commercial districts like Fells Point and Federal Hill, there are several right in the heart of Downtown. This year, please consider sharing the holiday spirit with the businesses housed within the Charles Center neighborhood. Spread the love of local shopping and support these unique businesses by finding creative solutions to your gift giving needs!

- An Die Musik
- DifferentRegard
- Doll House Boutique
- Elite Secrets Bridal
- Lumiere Candle Studio
- Luxury Nail & Spa
- NKV Skin
- Stem & Vine
- The Charles Theater
- Viva Books
- Walters Art Museum

Magical Creatures! All are welcome to join this year's 5th Annual Fells Point Krampuslauf. There will be games, prizes and merriment for everyone. All are welcome to participate or to watch this amazing spectacle right in the heart of Fells Point.

### **Festive Floral Designs**

**December, 8**  
SAGAMORE PENDRY HOTEL

Our lush Courtyard is the perfect place to feel inspired by nature and the changing of the seasons. Join us and our partners at WildFlower Stem + Sundry for a hands-on floral design class this festive season and take newfound design knowledge and your floral creations home with you.

### **Adult Craft: Snowman and Hot Cocoa Jars**

**December 14**  
ENOCH PRATT LIBRARY

Create a cozy winter scene this December with two Mason Jar crafts for adults. Bring a friend and fashion a cute snowman with embellished decorations. Once finished, you'll fill your creation with delicious hot cocoa mix to take home and enjoy with a loved one this holiday season.

### **Holiday Drag Brunch**

**December 21**  
LORD BALTIMORE HOTEL

Experience Baltimore's only exclusively live drag show hosted by former champion and

judge of "The Voice of Baltimore" Virya Shavasana. Known for her powerful vocals and sensational stage presence, Virya and her friends will present a one-of-a-kind performance with no lip-syncing—just pure talent. The December performance will be a special holiday-themed show, and the LB Tavern will offer a special brunch menu during the performances.

### **NYE Live!**

**December 31**  
POWER PLANT LIVE!

Ring in 2025 in style at NYE Live! Baltimore's biggest and best New Year's celebration. Enjoy live music, electric DJ performances, laser shows, dancing and of course, a massive midnight celebration featuring the Times Square ball drop on the big screen.

### **New Year's Celebrations**

**December 31 & January 1**  
SAGAMORE PENDRY HOTEL

Enjoy a dazzling New Year's at Sagamore Pendry Baltimore. Begin the evening with New Year's Eve dinner at Rec Pier Chop House featuring specials for one night only and end in the Lounge and The Cannon Room with a complimentary celebratory champagne toast at midnight, all set to live music throughout the evening. Celebrate the start of the new year on January 1 with brunch in Rec Pier Chop House, 9AM-3PM.

# Live Performances

## Black Nativity

November 30 – December 22

CENTER STAGE

Fresh from its sold-out run of *Cinderella*, ArtsCentric returns to BCS with this warm-hearted, holiday classic! Using a heart-stopping fusion of blues, soul, jazz, spirituals, jubilant dance, and the powerful words of Langston Hughes, *Black Nativity* is the joyous retelling of how Jesus came into this world, seen through a unique African American kaleidoscope. This holiday season, gather your family, friends, and loved ones and experience together the show that "spreads joy!" (*The New York Times*).

## A Christmas Carole

November 30 – December 23

CHESAPEAKE SHAKESPEARE COMPANY

Gregory Burgess returns to the stage as

Ebenezer Scrooge for his 10th year performing *A Christmas Carol!* Set in 19th-century Baltimore, this fresh take on the classic story follows a miser's journey to discovering the real meaning of the holidays. CSC Company Member Séamus Miller brings new life to Laura Rocklyn's script, giving this beloved Charm City tradition a vibrant update.

## Agatha Christie's And Then There Were None

December 1 – January 5

EVERYMAN THEATRE

Adapted for the stage by the Queen of Crime herself, this famous murder mystery masterfully weaves suspicion and intrigue to deliver a shocking tale of suspense. A mysterious host who knows everyone's

secrets lures ten strangers to a mansion on a secluded island. One by one, they start to disappear, eerily mirroring the deaths in an old 1600s nursery rhyme displayed in the house. With no way to escape and a killer among them, tension rises as they attempt to uncover the identity of the murderer before none are left to tell the tale.

## Love Actually in Concert

December 6

BALTIMORE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Featuring an all-star cast, the film has become a cult-classic and holiday favorite. The BSO will perform the hit soundtrack with the film being projected on the big screen. Make sure you kick-off the holiday season by experiencing Love Actually like never before!

## DOWNTOWN PARTNERSHIP'S Peppermint Pop-Up

For one-weekend only, Downtown Partnership introduces it's first Peppermint Plaza Pop-Up and presents Downtown Baltimore as your holiday destination. Join us at 100 Light Street's Plaza and take in the stunning waterfront architecture through this exclusive ticketed event. Enjoy:

- Fabulous, heated igloos strung with twinkling holiday lights accented with cozy décor.
- An on-site DJ that brings the heat to this outdoor winter dance party.
- An interactive bar experience where you'll learn how to craft your own peppermint swirl cocktails.
- A customization station to make your own sweet peppermint treat including smore's, spiked (or not) hot chocolate, and more.
- 360-degree glam-cam to capture the evening's festivities.

- Photo-ops with winter stilt walkers, penguins and SANTA!
- The opportunity to support local businesses for all of your holiday shopping needs.
- And on the way out, don't forget to visit our hydration station to help you forgive yourself the next morning.

### SPECIAL "THEMED" DATES INCLUDE:

- **December 12** | Girls Night Out
- **December 13** | Not So Silent Night
- **December 14** | Family Night

Learn more at [GoDowntownBaltimore.com/peppermint-pop-up](http://GoDowntownBaltimore.com/peppermint-pop-up)



## Spirit of the Season: Bach, Corelli and Vivaldi

December 7–December 8

BALTIMORE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Nicholas McGegan, a titan in the field of early music interpretation, guides the BSO and a team of all-star vocalists through Bach's Christmas Oratorio, followed by one of the composer's most beloved orchestral works. Corelli's concerto, written for Christmas Eve, contemplates the wonder and quiet splendor of the night before, while Vivaldi's setting of the hymn, "Gloria in excelsis Deo," welcomes the vocalists back to deliver some of Baroque music's most iconic and inspired melodies.

## Mariah Carey's Christmas Time

December 7

CFG BANK ARENA

The queen of Christmas and best-selling female artist of all-time with over 200 million records sold is returning to CFG Bank Arena. It will make you want to sing "All I want for Christmas is...tickets to Mariah Carey's highly anticipated annual Christmas extravaganza in Baltimore!" Whoops, did you sing that out loud?

## Holiday Brass

December 11

BALTIMORE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

The BSO Brass Section ushers in the holidays with fanfare and flair, breathing warmth and resonance into classical and popular favorites alike. Join the BSO for this not-to-be-missed event, bringing the spirit of the season to life.

## Cirque Nutcracker

December 13–December 15

BALTIMORE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

The most anticipated event of the holiday season returns! The sensational Troupe Vertigo will join the BSO to present a new and exciting rendition of Tchaikovsky's

beloved *The Nutcracker*, complete with jaw-dropping acrobatics and astonishing choreography.

## Nutcracker! Magical Christmas Ballet

December 16–17

THE HIPPODROME THEATER

The beloved family tradition is back: Nutcracker! Magical Christmas Ballet. Gather your loved ones for the warm-glow-nostalgia of America's favorite Christmas celebration. Experience the extraordinary international cast and Ukrainian Principal Artists performing at the peak of classical European Ballet. Be transported by the magic of jaw-dropping acrobatics, larger than life puppets and stunning hand-crafted sets and costumes. Don't miss this chance to experience the wonder of *Nutcracker*.

## The Nutcracker—A Magical Tale in Mount Vernon

December 18–December 19

BALTIMORE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Get ready to be swept away by excerpts of this reimagined version of *The Nutcracker*, choreographed by Amy Hall Garner and set in the Baltimore neighborhood of Mount Vernon, featuring inspiration from many of our iconic community landmarks such as The Walters Art Gallery, Restaurante Tio Pepe, and even the fireworks from the Monument Lighting! Dancers from the Baltimore School for the Arts will be front and center as they perform to Tchaikovsky's timeless score and bring the magic all around us to the stage!

## A John Waters Christmas

December 19

BALTIMORE SOUND STAGE

It's a John Waters Christmas...and your eyes will pop right out of your head. Yep,

he's back, with Christmas lunacy throbbing in his veins. Cockeyed. Rabid. Ready to reinflect the lunatic fringe with holiday jeer. "The Pope of Trash," as William Burroughs once called him, is coming to your fair city on his annual festive home-invasion to slide down your chimney of burning gift-wrapped needs, igniting your lust for presents and sparking the desires of the newly perverted. It'll be a combustion of Christmasly-incorrect kindling that will blaze into a glorious nut-case Noel fire from hell. Go ahead! Knock over that tree! Stomp your presents! Manger Danger! A raging new critical theory that no PTA can ever stop. Scream! Scream again! It's a John Waters Christmas for Chrissake!

## Holiday Spectacular

December 20–December 21

BALTIMORE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

The esteemed Pops conductor Stuart Chafetz returns to the BSO to conduct the annual Holiday Spectacular. A perfect wintertime outing, this performance will feature special guest artists, audience sing-a-longs, and the ever-popular tap dancing Santas. Make this concert a part of your holiday family traditions!

## A Charlie Brown Christmas Live on Stage

December 20

THE LYRIC

*A Charlie Brown Christmas*, the Emmy and Peabody award-winning story by Charles M. Schulz, has warmed the hearts of millions of fans since it first aired on television over fifty-five years ago. Now the classic animated television special comes to life in this faithful stage adaptation that celebrates the timeless television classic. The whole family can join Charlie Brown, Snoopy, Lucy, Linus and the rest of the Peanuts characters in their journey to uncover the true meaning of Christmas. After the final bow, the show crescendos into a celebration of song as the audience is invited to join the Peanuts gang in singing traditional Christmas songs and carols.





# DISCOVERY DAYS & WINTER RESTAURANT WEEK

January 24–February 2

**This year,** Discovery Days and Winter Restaurant Week will be partnered together January 24–February 2. It is Downtown Partnership’s mission to establish Downtown Baltimore as a destination where residents, families and visitors can spend the day on the waterfront. Discovery Days will feature nearly two weeks of deals and discounts at several premiere attractions. Days, hours and offers will vary. Winter Restaurant Week will offer a dining experience for all ages and tastebuds now including lunch specials, family friendly offers and fine dining!

**For more information, visit [GoDowntownBaltimore.com](http://GoDowntownBaltimore.com).**

## SPECIAL OFFERS



### \$10 COMMUNITY DAY

**Port Discovery**

*December 2, 10AM–5PM*

Visit Port Discovery for just \$10 per person and enjoy 3 floors of fun, plus special performances and activities from their education team!



### HALF-PRICE FRIDAY NIGHTS

**National Aquarium, 5–9PM**

Enjoy the holidays at the National Aquarium. Explore award-winning exhibits for half the price of general admission during Half-Price Friday Nights, brought to you by M&T Bank.



### \$10 ADMISSION DAY

**B&O Railroad Museum**

On the second Wednesday of the month, stop by to see the birthplace of American railroading on a budget, with \$10 admission available all day.



### EXTENDED HOURS

**Baltimore Museum of Industry**

Enjoy hands on fun for the whole family on select dates from 9AM–8PM. The BMI participants in Museums for All, providing free admission to families receiving SNAP benefits. Free onsite parking. Located on the Charm City Circulator purple line.

