

# Celebrating the Holiday Season in Seattle

There's nothing quite like a Pacific Northwest holiday season and there's certainly something for everyone.

1. Macy's Holiday Parade
  - a. Just steps from Charter Hotel on the day after Thanksgiving watch floats, marching bands, and drill teams, and more fill the streets of Seattle with the spirit of the holidays. The parade starts at 7th Avenue and Pine, goes two blocks to 5th Avenue and makes a left, continues on 5th Avenue from Pine to University, makes a right onto University and continues for one block, makes a right onto 4th Avenue and continues to Westlake Center where the parade finishes. (TripSavvy.com)
2. Gingerbread houses at the Sheraton
  - a. The Gingerbread Houses at the Sheraton first appeared in 1992 and are now firmly established as a Seattle holiday tradition. A ten minute walk from Charter Hotel, the display of elaborate gingerbread houses are created by area chefs, architects, and children and is free and open to the public. Any and all donations collected are directed to the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation and support the cure for Type 1 diabetes.
3. Christmas Tree Lighting at Westlake Center
  - a. For over 30 years, Westlake Center has played host to countless PNW holiday traditions, including the annual tree lighting. Two blocks from Charter and slated for the day after Thanksgiving, guests can join the crowd of thousands who enjoy the music and (sometimes) fake snow.
4. Macy's Holiday Star Lighting
  - a. Taking place on the same block as Westlake Center's Tree Lighting is the lighting of the Macy's star. Formerly a tradition of the Bon Marche that started in 1957, the Macy's Holiday Star Lighting now also includes a fireworks display. The star is 161 feet high and contains more than 3,600 bulbs.
5. Macy's Train Window
  - a. Formerly a holiday staple of the Bon Marche window at 4<sup>th</sup> and Olive, the Macy's Train Window is operational from the end of November through December. The elaborate train set moves around when your hand on the outside of the window, providing fun for the whole family and is just two blocks from Charter Hotel.
6. Holiday Carousel
  - a. Across the street from the Westlake Center Tree is the Downtown Seattle Association's Holiday Carousal. The classic ride spun in Westlake Park for its 31st year in 2018, delighting nearly 50,000 visitors. Give it a whirl!

7. The Fairmont Olympic
  - a. Ten minutes from Charter, every year the historic Fairmont Olympic hotel celebrates the winter season with a fancy dinner, caroling, an impressive display of decorated trees in their lobby, and a teddy bear suite. 2018 events raised a grand total of \$565,000 to benefit Seattle Children's! Guests wishing to attend the Festival of Trees Gala pay a hefty ticket price but the trees are on display for anyone to view starting November 23, 2019. The Teddy Bear Suite, also free to view, opens November 29, 2019.
8. Seattle Men's Chorus
  - a. 'Tis the Season Featuring The Supertones is among the best ways to kick off the holidays. SMC comes a-caroling with a rocking and rolling celebration for the jolliest time of year. It's everything you know and love about this naughty and nice annual tradition, including "Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree," "Good King Wenceslas," and "Santa Claus Got Stuck in My Chimney." Just a few blocks from Charter Hotel Seattle at Benaroya Hall, opening night is November 30 with shows continuing on most December Sundays ... Full schedule on [SeattleChoruses.org](http://SeattleChoruses.org).
9. Magic in the Market
  - a. Free to the public and just a few steps away from the Charter Hotel Seattle, Pike Place Market is home to local shops and restaurants all hosting various festivities like cookie decorating and artists creating small toy tops starting the day after Thanksgiving. Rumor has it that Santa occasionally drops by and there's a sasquatch who lives at the Market DownUnder.
10. Wildlights at the Woodland Park Zoo
  - a. Seattle's wildest holiday lights festival returns with sparkling lights, faux snowball fights, up close animal encounters, hot chocolate and family delights. Experience brand new wild and wonderful light displays that will be featured throughout the zoo including a holiday light spectacular at the zoo's south entrance. (Dates and prices TBD). Woodland Park Zoo is only 4 miles from Charter Hotel. Visit [Zoo.org/Wildlights](http://Zoo.org/Wildlights) for more information.
11. Winterfest at Seattle Center
  - a. Connect to a world of sparkling lights, child-sized amusements and spirited entertainment at Seattle Center Winterfest, Nov. 29 – Dec. 31, in Center venues and on the grounds. Events and shows include Ice Sculpting on Saturdays, Dickens Carolers, and the Winter Train and Village. Seattle Center is a 20-minute walk from the Charter Hotel Seattle and most events are free to the public, an exception being ice-skating.
12. Diving Santa
  - a. Come see Santa diving in the 120,000-gallon Window on Washington Waters exhibit. Bring your camera, take your picture with Diving Santa and stay perfectly dry! Or have your photo taken by our professional photographer so the whole

family can be in the picture. (SeattleAquarium.org). Just a ten minute walk from the Charter Hotel Seattle, the Seattle Aquarium ranges from \$20-\$35 per person.

13. Lights at the Seattle Art Museum's Olympic Sculpture Park

- a. Take a 15-minute walk north of the Charter Hotel Seattle to SAM Lights at the Olympic Sculpture Park. Swing by the PACCAR Pavilion garage for a sweet bite and a warm drink. Savor your treat under the garage cover or enjoy as you walk through the park. Experience the wonder of iconic sculptures lit with the glow of luminaria. (Dates TBD, free to the public)

14. Enchant Seattle

- a. Back for its second year in Seattle at T-Mobile Park, Enchant is much more than the standard holiday light spectacles. The Mariners home base will be transformed into a magnificent winter wonderland complete with the "world's largest Christmas light maze" (which you can explore via an ice skating trail), seasonal concessions, live entertainment, and an artisan Christmas market. T-Mobile Park is only 1.4 miles from Charter. Tickets are between \$25-\$85 dollars and available at EnchantChristmas.com.

15. The Nutcracker at McCaw Hall

- a. Pacific Northwest's best-selling holiday classic is a fantastical combination of Ian Falconer's unique design, Tchaikovsky's beloved score, and the entire Company in show-stopping roles. A memory making tradition for generations of families and friends, Nutcracker fun includes McCaw Hall gloriously decked-out for the season's best photo ops. (pnb.org) The Nutcracker runs from November 23 – December 28, 2019 and is playing only 15 minutes from the Charter Hotel.

16. Holiday Pops at the Seattle Symphony

- a. A holiday tradition! Join conductor Jacomo Bairos and the University of Washington Chorale for this heartwarming program. Featuring seasonal classics, traditional favorites and that holiday cheer you love, this year's Holiday Pops spreads the heartfelt warmth of the season with humor and joy. (SeattleSymphony.org) Performances at Benaroya Hall start December 6 and run through the end of December and are an easy three block walk from Charter. The full schedule available at SeattleSymphony.org.

17. Jingle Bell Run

- a. On December 8<sup>th</sup> the Arthritis Foundation's Jingle Bell Run will be celebrating its 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary of "jingling races" through downtown Seattle. Just blocks from Charter Hotel Seattle, the Jingle Bell Run starts at Westlake Park and 100% of your registration fee and fundraising goes back to the cause. Depending on which race you sign up for, registration is between \$25-\$50. The run is especially fun and merry with runners dressing in their most festive gear.

18. A Christmas Carol

- a. It's ACT Theatre's 44th production of Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol, adapted by Gregory A. Falls. Directed by Kelly Kitchens, this celebrated adaptation follows

the original Dickens tale taking audiences along on Ebenezer Scrooge's transformational journey through time. Three ghostly visitors help Scrooge get into the holiday spirit, leading him on a trip through Christmases past, present, and future. ([acttheatre.org](http://acttheatre.org)) The production runs through the month of December 2019.

#### 19. Parade of Boats

- a. The 5th Annual Christmas Ship™ Parade of Boats will add a special twinkle to Seattle. On December 13, brightly decorated boats will convene in Lake Union and begin their promenade westward through the Fremont Cut. Catch the shimmery lights from aboard the Christmas Ship™, join the parade on your own decorated vessel, or gather at the viewing party for panoramic views of the flotilla. ([ArgosyCruises.com](http://ArgosyCruises.com))

#### 20. New Years at the Needle

- a. Top off your holiday season at Seattle Center for the traditional fireworks display at the Space Needle. Just a 15 minute walk from the Charter Hotel Seattle, you can take in the grandeur of the midnight display from the base of the Needle. Free to the public.