

Holiday events and Christmas activities in Baton Rouge & Beyond

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Baton Rouge Moms

Your complete guide to holiday and Christmas events and happenings. Whether you're looking for a Christmas parade, holiday-themed performance, Santa visit, or lights display, there's the cornucopia of Baton Rouge holiday events this year. If you have something to add, leave it in the comments!

This year we decided to include holiday events taking place in Baton Rouge and beyond. We're sharing events within a 60 mile radius of Baton Rouge. This years list is the most comprehensive list of holiday events with over 35 events! Be sure to print out your Holiday Bucket List and fill it up with memory making fun, a great activity to do with the kids!

Holiday events and Christmas activities in Baton Rouge & Beyond

2014 HOLIDAY EVENTS BATON ROUGE & BEYOND



The most comprehensive list of holiday
events in Baton Rouge & Beyond!
OVER 30 LOCAL HOLIDAY EVENTS!
BatonRougeMoms.com

Cortana Kiwanis Christmas Parade

The 64th Annual Cortana Kiwanis Downtown Christmas Parade will roll through Downtown Baton Rouge

Saturday, December 13th at 5:30 p.m. Every year, more than 70,000 people watch the parade live and thousands more enjoy it on television through the holiday season. The Parade is a celebration and a great way to connect with the community. The parade is open to everyone. Typically the parade includes about 80 entries. These entries are a mix of marching bands, celebrities, dance troupes, non-profit organizations, and local businesses in seasonal themes.

ZooLights 2014

November 28 – December 30 Closed Christmas Eve & Christmas Day Open 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. This years will ZooLights will include a mile-long trail through the Zoo, more than 50 illuminated display sculptures of animals and traditional holiday displays.

Special Activities:

November 28: Coca-Cola Truck @ ZooLights

November 29: Ornament Decorating

November 30: Ornament Decorating

December 5: Pictures with Santa

December 6: Pictures with Santa

December 11: Art Gone Wild Exhibit

December 12: Art Gone Wild Exhibit

December 13: Art Gone Wild Exhibit

December 14: Art Gone Wild Exhibit

December 19: Pictures with Safari Santa

December 20: Pictures with Safari Santa

December 26: Ornament Decorating

December 27: Ornament Decorating



A Rural Life Christmas

December 7th – Ring in the Christmas season with a 19th century Louisiana celebration. Musical groups, demonstrating artisans, storytellers, and costumed re-enactors will be promise to set the holiday spirit. This event will conclude with a bonfire and a visit from Papa Noel. Admission fee: \$8.00 seniors 62 years and above, \$9.00 adult 11 years to 61 years and children under 10 free.

“Holiday Skating on the River”

Will be taking place at the Baton Rouge River Center from Friday, December 19th through January 4th. The Baton Rouge River Center presents Ice Skating on the River, a holiday tradition, which will kick off the ice skating season on Friday, December 19, 2014 with a FREE Opening Night session sponsored by WAFB. For one night only, the Coca-Cola Santa Truck will be at the Baton Rouge River Center, spreading the joy of the season.



Festival of Lights

December 5, 4:30pm – 8:00pm Join an evening under downtown’s historic oaks to commemorate Baton Rouge’s oldest holiday tradition. Transforming the winter sky into a wonderland, the Mayor will light North Boulevard with half a million sparkling lights. Experience the magic beneath the 35-foot Christmas tree in Town Square. Bethlehem Village with a real life village set in Biblical times where children can craft ornaments and decorations, plus a magical train ride on the Mansion Express at the Old Governor’s Mansion. Visit Santa’s Gift Shoppe and listen to holiday music during an evening of visual, culinary, and performing arts.

LASM Holiday Events

Special Holiday First Sunday
Sunday, December 7 | 1-4 PM

Holiday Ornament Workshop: 1-3 PM

Santa Claus & the Coca-Cola Holiday Caravan: 1-4 PM

Let It Snow: 3PM

Visit LASM on Sunday, December 7 for a special day of holiday activities! Get creative while participating in the annual holiday ornament workshop, where you and your family can make small seasonal decorations to cherish for years to come. The famous Coca-Cola Holiday Caravan will also stop outside LASM, bringing along a special guest – Santa Claus! Be sure to have your wish list handy when you meet Santa, who will be giving out candy canes as well. Not only are these activities free, but you can additionally enjoy free admission to explore all of LASM's galleries and a reduced admission of \$5 for adults and \$4 for children and seniors to the planetarium shows – including the new holiday music show Let It Snow.



Baton Rouge Little Theater's "A Christmas Carol"

December 12 – 21, 2014 This holiday tradition continues at TBR with the Charles Dickens classic, *A Christmas Carol*. Capture the magic and joy of the Christmas season as the ghosts of Christmas Past, Present and Future lead miserly Ebenezer Scrooge on a powerful journey of transformation and redemption. TBR's production celebrates the timeless spirit of Christmas and is a beloved holiday treat for the whole family. You won't want to miss this wonderful experience!

The Snow Queen, or When Christmas Freezes Over

Dec 20, 2014 – Dec 21, 2014 Come meet the Snow Queen in the Regional Premier of *The Snow Queen, or When Christmas Freezes Over*. Based on the original fairy tale by Hans Christian Andersen, this play is adapted for young audiences. Though Elsa and Anna won't make an appearance, this classic tale served as the inspiration for the Disney film *Frozen*.

Tickets are \$20 for Adults and \$15 for Children (ages 2 – 11) and can be purchased at PlaymakersBR.org. For more information, contact artistic director Anthony McMurray at Anthony@playmakersbr.org or (225) 578-6996. Show dates are: Friday, December 12 at 7pm, Saturday, December 13 at 11am and 2:30pm, Sunday, December 14 at 2:30pm, Saturday, December 20 at 11am and 2:30pm, and Sunday, December 21 at 2:30pm.



The Living Nativity -

The 4th Annual Drive Through Live Nativity takes place on the parking lot of FBBC. Load up your family and journey back to the first Christmas as represented through 12 different scenes. December 12, 13th 7-9 PM



LSU HOLIDAY SPECTACULAR 2014

LSU Holiday Spectacular-

LSU will hold its annual Candlelight Celebration on Tuesday, December 2nd, from 5-8 p.m. to honor the holiday traditions of Christmas, Kwanzaa and Hanukkah. The celebration will include student, faculty, and staff music and dance performances; enjoying Staff Senate's Holiday on Campus for children of LSU community members; and counting down to the LSU Christmas tree lighting. The event is free and open to the public. Classic

USS Kid Classic Christmas Celebration

Dec. 6th through Jan. 5th – Classic Christmas movie viewings and holiday celebrations.

Baton Rouge Symphony Orchestra

- This years holiday BRSO events will include:

- [Christmas Brass](#) at Hemingbough on Fri, December 5, 7pm – 9pm
- [Home for the Holidays](#) Thursday, December 4 at 7:30; at River Center Theatre for the Performing Arts Sunday, December 08, 2013, 3:00pm Begin the festive season with a celebration of holiday music for entire family. A heartwarming evening of seasonal favorites and orchestral renditions of holiday classics! Dan Borne returns for a second year with his crowd-pleasing narration of "A Visit From St. Nicholas."
- [Baton Rouge Ballet Theatre Presents: The Nutcracker, A Tale from the Bayou](#) at River Center Theatre for the Performing Art December 20, 2:00pm & 6:00pm December 21st 2:00pm & 6:00pm – Make your Christmas season one to remember with the Baton Rouge Ballet Theater production of The Nutcracker, A Tale From the Bayou. This is a southern twist on the classic ballet featuring world-class guest artists alongside local dancers.

Manship Theatre Holiday Events

- Twas the Night Before Christmas – Sunday December 7, 2014 – 2pm, Dec. 8th 9:30am & 11:30am
- The Muppet Christmas Carol – Sunday December 7, 2014 – 6:00pm
- Preservation Hall Creole Christmas – Monday December 8, 2014 – 7:30pm Join the Preservation Hall Jazz Band as they celebrate the Winter Holidays New Orleans style with their wildly popular holiday presentation "Creole Christmas". An annual must-see production for families since 2005, 2011 marks the eighth year that this venerable group has taken their infectious holiday spirit on the road. Seasonal favorites to be performed will include the likes of "Blue Christmas," "Swinging In A Winter Wonderland," "Bells Will Be Ringin," and "The Dreydel Song." Treat your family to a New Orleans-style Holiday Tradition and a seasonal celebration they'll never forget.



Kansas City Southern Holiday Express Train Is Coming to Baton Rouge!

All Aboard the Holiday Train! Come to this family friendly and free event on Friday afternoon, November 28th. The Kansas City Southern Holiday Express Train will be rolling into the Baton Rouge Train Station, located at 1401 Foss Street (next to Memorial Stadium.) Doors will open at 4:00 p.m. and close when the last guests have gone through the train. Meet Santa and receive a wonderful holiday treat bag! For more information, download the Kansas City Southern Holiday Express Train app from the iTunes store.

At each scheduled stop, The KCS Charitable Fund makes a contribution of gift cards to the local Salvation Army to provide warm clothing and other necessities for children in need. Over the past 11 years, thanks to the generous contributions of KCS' employees, vendors and friends, the Holiday Express has donated over \$1 million in gift cards to this cause.

Reflections of the Season – West Baton Rouge

Get into the Holiday Spirit at the Reflections of the Season Christmas Light Display. This walk or drive through display is open to the public from December 6th – December 24th, Thursdays through Sundays. Closed Monday thru Wednesday. For just \$1.00 per person drive through the grounds of the West Baton Rouge Conference Center and view the spectacular lights. Thursday through Sunday nights come inside to visit “Trevor” the talking singing reindeer. Walk through the holiday decorated rooms. Enjoy carnival rides for the children or buy those last minute gifts from our crafters. Take your holiday pictures with Santa and his elves.

Special activities: Cuddle up in a blanket next to your friends and loved ones and take a ride through the

lights in a mule or horse drawn wagon for \$3.00 per person.

Dec. 6th & 7th there will be ice fishing from 6:00 – 8:30 pm, \$3.00 per child. Dec. 13th & 20th Have some cool fun in the snow!! Snow Patch is \$5.00 per person.

Bring your family and friends and make West Baton Rouge and “Reflections of the Season” part of your Christmas tradition.

Strands Christmas Tea December 7th



Mistletoe Market

This year the Mistletoe Market will have special guests for the whole family, including princesses, heroes and maybe even Santa! What started with 10 vendors, has now grown to over 120 vendors, and from just a handful of shoppers to now an expected 6,000 shoppers. Shoppers will have access to a multitude of vendors from boutiques, to chefs, to hand crafted work, all selling pieces for holiday purchases. Mistletoe Market always strives to provide the best shopping experience by creating a child-friendly environment with wide aisles for ease of shopping.



Mistletoe Market

annual shopping extravaganza

Saturday Nov 15th 9am-5pm
Sunday Nov 16th 10am-5pm



Mistletoe Market is a firm believer in giving back to the community. Each year, Mistletoe Market chooses a local charity, involved with children who have terminal illnesses, and donates a portion of admission prices. Last year, Mistletoe Market was able to raise over \$15,000!

Holiday Events Beyond Baton Rouge



Nottaway's Christmas Tree Lighting Festival – White Castle

Friday December 12th from 6 pm to 9:30pm: Holidays at Nottaway Plantation are absolutely breathtaking! Live music includes The Navy Band New Orleans Ceremonial Band, Church choirs will be performing throughout the grounds **and** food and Beverage stations will be open. **Enjoy the** Hand Bell Choir, Tree Lighting Ceremony, Fireworks on the Levee and Santas arrival. *Bring your camera and take photos of your kids with Santa on the front balcony of the Mansion!*

Oak Alley Plantation's Annual Christmas Bonfire Party

December 6, 2014 – 7pm – Midnight This year marks the 39th anniversary of this joyous event at Oak Alley. Celebrate the Christmas Season in one of the southland's most beautiful settings. The mansion will be dressed in fresh fruit, greenery and seasonal floral arrangements, reminiscent of Creole Christmases past. Delicious Cajun/Creole buffet, open bar, lively dance band, and plenty of good cheer combine to heighten the holiday spirit throughout the famous alley of oaks and the lovely antebellum mansion.



Celebration In The Oaks- New Orleans

November 28 – January 3 Closed: 12/1-12/4; 12/24 and 12/31

Celebration in the Oaks in City Park is one of the most spectacular holiday lights festivals in the country. This beloved annual celebration is fun for all ages and has become an enduring holiday tradition for families, who come to Celebration in the Oaks to ride the train or carousel every year. Visitors are treated to a wide range of attractions, from light displays to the walkways lined with dozens of Christmas trees decorated by local school groups. Perennial favorites include the two-mile train ride through glittering light exhibits, the animated *Cajun night before Christmas* display, and of course, New Orleans' iconic snowman Mr. Bingle.

Family Preview Party – New Orleans

November 23rd – Kids get the royal holiday treatment at their own Celebration in the Oaks Preview Party and – bonus! – mom and dad can enjoy this family experience without lifting a finger. Your little ones will feel like the kings and queens of the ball at this fun-filled party.

And special this year at the Celebration in the Oaks Family Party – we'll have the characters from FROZEN! That's right, Princess Anna, Queen Elsa, Kristoff and the lovable Olaf. They'll be walking around and will be ready to take photos with the kids (and those who are kids at heart, too). Don't forget your camera.



Krewe of Jingle Parade & More! – New Orleans

New Orleans' official holiday parade, the "Krewe of Jingle," will once again delight locals and visitors alike with authentic parade floats, marching bands, stilt walkers, Christmas characters and many more magical surprises!

A Civil War Christmas- 150th Anniversary Reenactment Battle of Alexander's Creek- St. Francisville

December 6th & 7th – Visitors will see a recreation of the sights and sounds of St. Francisville in 1864 during the American Civil War. Throughout the day walk through the soldiers camps and see Living History demonstrations of soldier life. You will hear black powder weapon demonstrations of both rifle and cannons. Each day will feature a small reenactment of the October 1864 Battle at Alexander's Creek which happened near the park. On Saturday night the plantation comes to life during the Holidays as it shows off its seasonal decorations. Costumed guides accompany the visitor in a trip into the past through the candlelit Oakley House. See the glow of the blacksmith at work, take a taste of what's cooking in the kitchen, or just enjoy the live period music. Included is our yearly Christmas dance and hot Christmas Punch. The program is free to all paying the park admission fee. For more information please contact Audubon State Historic Site in St. Francisville, La. at 1-225-635-3739.

Christmas in the Country St. Francisville

December 5, 6th and 7th. – Nothing says Christmas to an excited child more than a parade, especially a safe small-town one like St. Francisville's popular Christmas in the Country parade the first Saturday each December, complete with marching bands and decorated floats, Santa resplendent in his sleigh. Millions of tiny white lights trace soaring Victorian trimwork and grace gallery posts to transform the entire town into a veritable winter wonderland for Christmas in the Country, as special activities throughout the extensive National Register-listed downtown Historic District provide fun for the whole family at this celebration of the season, a joyful alternative to mall madness. View the full schedule of events here.

Christmas in the Village – Zachary

CHRISTMAS in the Village

**FRIDAY
DEC 12
6:00-9:00 PM**



- Food Trucks
- Live Music
- Tree Lighting
- Arts and Crafts
- Movie on the Lawn
- Village Home Tours
- Photos with Santa
- and much more



Zachary Historical District, Downtown Zachary, LA

Annual Zachary Christmas Parade

December 13th 5:30pm to 7:30pm Celebrate the sights and sounds of Christmas in Zachary. Enjoy this annual parade in the heart of town.

Denham Springs Christmas Parade

December 13 at 2:00pm Denham Springs Christmas Parade "Christmas at the Movies" Presented by: Kiwanis Club of Denham Springs.



Noel Acadien au Village 2014 "A Blue Christmas" – Lafayette

November 29 - December 23 ~ 5:30-9:00pm Nightly (weather permitting)

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LIVE NIGHTLY ENTERTAINMENT ~ LOCAL CUISINE ~ ARTS & CRAFTS**

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ATM Located in Cox Pavilion and Of Course We Accept:



at Gate & General Store.

Admission

Advance Ticket at any Acadiana Shop-Rite location..... \$8.00
 Gate Ticket \$10.00
 4 Years & Under..... FREE
 Active Military (w/ ID) FREE

24th Festival of the Bonfires – St. James Parish

- December 12, 13th & 14th Enjoy Christmas on the River...CAJUN STYLE! Enjoy great food, live entertainment, crafts, Santa's Very Merry Forest and carnival rides throughout the weekend. Each night will be highlighted with a single bonfire lighting! Experience a prelude to the famous Christmas Eve Bonfires: A tradition unique to St. James Parish and all the world!!

Christmas Past Festival: Old Mandeville

Saturday, December 13th from 9 am-3 pm The Christmas Past street festival with more than 40 vendors lining the west side of Girod Street will extend from near Woodrow Street which borders the Trailhead complex south to Madison Street and keeping with an international season theme. Each of the three blocks will highlight a different country. The 600 block between Woodrow and Livingston will be German themed and St. Nicklaus will appear in that block at 11:30 am; the 500 block from Livingston to Monroe Street will be English themed with Father Christmas appearing at 1 pm; and the 400 block from Monroe to Madison Street will be French themed with Papa Noel appearing at 2:30 pm.

A Children's Village will be operating from 9 am-3 pm during the festival on the grounds of the Samaritan Center and under the direction of members of the Northshore Roller Derby Lethal Ladies skating team and will feature miniature face painting and pop-corn stringing, all free.

Christmas Under the Stars – Slidell

December 5th and 6th from 6 to 9pm - The City of Slidell is celebrating the holiday season with *Christmas Under the Stars*, the city's 27th annual celebration of twinkling lights, festive decorations, visits from Santa and Mrs. Claus, live entertainment, the Parade of Trees, the return of the newly revamped Christmas Train and Village Display, Slidell Movie Nights and much more. Admission is free.

Be sure to print out your free bucket list to fill out with the kids!







Don't miss Forum 35's Reindeer Run & Jingle Bell Jog on Dec 5th
Join us at the 28th Annual Turkey Trot 5k and 1 Mile Fun Run
The following two tabs change content below.

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Baton Rouge Moms

Baton Rouge moms is the premier online destination for moms in Baton Rouge. Our goal is to connect and encourage Baton Rouge moms online via our website and our social media channels by providing up to date information on family friendly local events, parenting help, services and resources.



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- [5 Tips for Safe Trick or Treating](#) - October 30, 2014
- [Louisiana Chicken With Creole Couscous Recipe {Video}](#) - October 27, 2014

