

2026 HOLIDAY GUIDE · GALVESTON TO CONROE

Houston Christmas Events

Festivals, walk-through lights, holiday shows and Santa, plus one day trip worth the drive.

22 events **8** free to get into **3** regions

SCAN FOR THE LIVE MAP
filters, directions and updates

FESTIVALS, MARKETS & TREE LIGHTINGS — 7 events

Dickens on The Strand

GALVESTON · SOUTH & COASTAL

DATES Dec. 4 to 6, 2026
HOURS Fri 5 to 9 p.m.; Sat 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Sun noon to 6 p.m.
COST Friday free. Sat/Sun $20 adult, $13 ages 7 to 12, 6 and under free, before Nov. 20; prices go up $5 after that
WHERE Historic Strand District, 2002 The Strand, Galveston, TX 77550

Victorian-themed festival with parades, vendors, performers and activities.

EVENT INFO & TICKETS ›

Sugar Land Christmas Tree Lighting

SUGAR LAND · CENTRAL & WEST · FREE

DATES Nov. 20, 2026
HOURS 5 to 8 p.m.
COST Free
WHERE Sugar Land Town Square, 2711 Plaza Dr, Sugar Land, TX 77479

Live entertainment, holiday activities and the tree lighting.

TIP Free shuttle from Mercer Stadium.

EVENT INFO ›

City Lights Kick-off Party

HOUSTON · CENTRAL & WEST · FREE

DATES Nov. 20, 2026
HOURS 5:30 to 8 p.m.; tree lighting at 6:15 p.m.
COST Free
WHERE Avenida Plaza, Downtown Houston, TX 77010

Downtown holiday kick-off and tree lighting.

EVENT INFO ›

Home for the Holidays, Old Town Spring

SPRING · NORTH · FREE

DATES Nov. 14 to Dec. 24, 2026; festivities on weekends
HOURS Activities and shop hours vary
COST Free to browse; shopping and activities extra
WHERE Historic Old Town Spring, Spring, TX 77373

Decorated shops, Santa photos and live entertainment.

TIP Tree lighting is Nov. 14.

EVENT INFO ›

Lighting of the Doves

THE WOODLANDS · NORTH · FREE

DATES Nov. 21, 2026

HOURS 3 to 8 p.m.; Santa, the dove lighting and fireworks around 7 p.m.

COST Free festival; snow-area wristband $5

WHERE Town Green Park, 2099 Lake Robbins Dr, The Woodlands, TX 77380

Music, crafts, snow play, Santa's arrival and fireworks.

EVENT INFO ›

Tomball German Christmas Market

TOMBALL · NORTH · FREE

DATES Dec. 11 to 13, 2026

HOURS Fri 6 to 10 p.m.; Sat 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.; Sun 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

COST Free admission and parking

WHERE Downtown Tomball, TX 77375

German-themed market with vendors and entertainment, plus a Saturday parade at 10:30 a.m.

EVENT INFO ›

Baytown's Holiday Hangout

BAYTOWN · SOUTH & COASTAL · FREE

DATES Dec. 3, 2026 to Jan. 5, 2027; closed Dec. 24, Dec. 25, Dec. 31 and Jan. 1

HOURS Mon to Thu 4 to 9 p.m.; Fri to Sun 2 to 9 p.m.

COST Free; roller skating $5 per person

WHERE Baytown Town Square, 213 W Texas Ave, Baytown, TX 77520

Christmas lights, evergreen trees and photo spots fill Town Square, with a full-size outdoor skating rink, a hay maze, yard games and a toddler zone.

EVENT INFO ›

WALK-THROUGH LIGHTS & HOLIDAY PARKS

10 events

Holiday in the Gardens, Moody Gardens

GALVESTON · SOUTH & COASTAL

DATES Nov. 21, 2026 to Jan. 2, 2027

HOURS Hours vary by attraction and date

COST Paid; ticket type and price vary

WHERE 1 Hope Blvd, Galveston, TX 77554

Walk-through lights, ICE LAND, ice skating and seasonal attractions. A walk-through, not a drive-through.

EVENT INFO & TICKETS ›

Dickinson Festival of Lights

DICKINSON · SOUTH & COASTAL · FREE

DATES Nov. 28 to Dec. 30, 2026; closed Dec. 24 and 25

HOURS 6 to 8:30 p.m., weather permitting

COST Free admission, parking and shuttle

WHERE Paul Hopkins Park, 1000 FM 517 Rd. E., Dickinson, TX 77539

The 29th annual walk-through festival of lights, built and run by volunteers.

TIP Free parking in the park Monday to Thursday. Friday to Sunday, park free at Shrine of the True Cross Catholic Church, 300 FM 517 Rd. E., and ride the free shuttle.

EVENT INFO ›

Sugar Land Holiday Lights

SUGAR LAND · CENTRAL & WEST

DATES Nov. 20, 2026 to Jan. 3, 2027
HOURS 6 to 10 p.m.; New Year's Eve until midnight
COST Paid; 2026 admission depends on ticket selection
WHERE Constellation Field, 1 Stadium Dr, Sugar Land, TX 77498

Walk-through light installations, vendors and seasonal activities.

EVENT INFO & TICKETS ›

City Lights, Downtown Houston

HOUSTON · CENTRAL & WEST

DATES Nov. 21 to Dec. 31, 2026 (individual sites vary)
HOURS Hours vary by village
COST A mix of free experiences and paid activities
WHERE 12 holiday villages across Downtown Houston, including Market Square Park and Discovery Green

Holiday villages, lights, ice skating and entertainment across downtown.

TIP The map pin marks Market Square Park. The organizer's site has a map of all 12 villages.

EVENT INFO & TICKETS ›

Santa's Wonderland (day trip)

COLLEGE STATION · DAY TRIP

DATES Nov. 13, 2026 to Jan. 3, 2027
HOURS Open times vary by date; check the ticket calendar
COST Ticket prices vary by date and package
WHERE 18898 State Highway 6 S, College Station, TX 77845

Large Christmas park with hayrides, lights, Santa, live entertainment and shopping.

TIP About 90 minutes northwest of Houston, outside the Galveston to Conroe area.

EVENT INFO & TICKETS ›

Galaxy Lights, Space Center Houston

HOUSTON (CLEAR LAKE) · SOUTH & COASTAL

DATES Select dates, Nov. 14, 2026 to Jan. 3, 2027
HOURS Evenings on open dates; check the calendar
COST $19.95 to $27.95 per person over age 3, depending on the night; 3 and under free
WHERE 1601 E NASA Pkwy, Houston, TX 77058

A space-themed holiday light show on the Space Center Houston grounds.

TIP Not open every night. Sensory-Friendly Nights have discounted admission.

EVENT INFO & TICKETS ›

Zoo Lights, Houston Zoo

HOUSTON · CENTRAL & WEST

DATES Nov. 19, 2026 to Jan. 3, 2027; closed Dec. 9 and Dec. 24
HOURS 5:30 to 10:30 p.m.
COST Ticketed; buy ahead online. Seniors 65+ free with photo ID
WHERE 6200 Hermann Park Dr, Houston, TX 77030

An after-dark walk through the Houston Zoo along lit paths and animal-themed light displays, with hot chocolate, s'mores and churro fries along the way.

EVENT INFO & TICKETS ›

Radiant Nature, Houston Botanic Garden

HOUSTON · CENTRAL & WEST

DATES Nov. 20, 2026 to Feb. 21, 2027, on select nights
HOURS Timed entry every 30 minutes from 6 p.m.; last entry 9 p.m.; closes 10 p.m.
COST $26.50 adults, $24.50 ages 3 to 15, 2 and under free
WHERE 1 Botanic Ln, Houston, TX 77017

A Chinese lantern festival with larger-than-life lantern installations along an evening trail through the garden.

TIP Credit cards only. Leashed dogs are welcome on select dog nights (dog ticket $10).

EVENT INFO & TICKETS ›

Light Up the Park, Daikin Park

HOUSTON · CENTRAL & WEST

DATES Dec. 4, 2026 to Jan. 3, 2027
HOURS Evenings; see the schedule on the Astros site
COST Ticketed; ages 2 and under free
WHERE Daikin Park, 501 Crawford St, Houston, TX 77002

The Astros' downtown ballpark becomes a walk-through holiday light display, with lights and music.

EVENT INFO & TICKETS ›

Trail of Lights, Tomball Methodist Church

TOMBALL · NORTH · FREE

DATES Dec. 4 and 5, 11 and 12, and 18 and 19, 2026
HOURS 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.
COST Free
WHERE 1603 Baker Dr, Tomball, TX 77375

A free walking trail of Christmas lights on the acreage next to the church, with Santa on the trail.

TIP Open only six nights, all Fridays and Saturdays.

EVENT INFO ›

SHOWS, TRAIN RIDES & SANTA

5 events

The Polar Express Train Ride

GALVESTON · SOUTH & COASTAL

DATES Nov. 13 to Dec. 23, 2026
HOURS Departure times vary by ticket; allow about 2 hours
COST About $40 to $135 per ticket
WHERE Galveston Railroad Museum, 2602 Santa Fe Place, Galveston, TX 77550

Themed train trip with hot chocolate, a cookie and Santa.

TIP Advance reservations strongly recommended.

EVENT INFO & TICKETS ›

A Christmas Carol, Alley Theatre

HOUSTON · CENTRAL & WEST

DATES Nov. 15 to Dec. 27, 2026
HOURS Performance times vary
COST Ticketed; price varies by seat and date
WHERE Alley Theatre, 615 Texas Ave, Houston, TX 77002

Live stage production of the classic Dickens holiday story.

EVENT INFO & TICKETS ›

The Nutcracker, Houston Ballet

HOUSTON · CENTRAL & WEST

DATES Nov. 27 to Dec. 28, 2026
HOURS Performance times vary
COST Ticketed; price varies by seat and date
WHERE Wortham Theater Center, 501 Texas Ave, Houston, TX 77002

The traditional holiday ballet.

EVENT INFO & TICKETS ›

Breakfast with Santa, Downtown Aquarium

HOUSTON · CENTRAL & WEST

DATES Dec. 12, 13, 19, 20, and 22 to 24, 2026
HOURS Reservation seating times vary
COST Paid; check the aquarium for pricing
WHERE Downtown Aquarium, 410 Bagby St, Houston, TX 77002

Breakfast buffet and a visit with Santa.

TIP Reservations required.

EVENT INFO & TICKETS ›

Polar Palooza, Children's Museum Houston

HOUSTON · CENTRAL & WEST

DATES Dec. 19, 2026 to Jan. 4, 2027
HOURS Museum hours vary
COST Included with general museum admission
WHERE 1500 Binz St, Houston, TX 77004

Winter-themed hands-on activities at the museum.

EVENT INFO & TICKETS ›

The Move Live Love TX Team™

We live here too.

The Move Live Love TX Team™ is Peter and Vicky Royster, CB&A, Realtors. We grew up in Clear Lake and work from Galveston to Conroe. If a move is on your horizon, we would love to help: **(713) 805-6247**. If not, have a merry December.

Every date, price and hour was checked with the organizer on November 9, 2026. Schedules change and weather closes outdoor events, so check before you go. Know one we missed? Email homes@movelivelovetx.com. Want drive-through light shows? See It's All About The Lights at movelivelovetx.com/christmas-lights.

MAKE IT A GAME

Who can spot all 24?

Print our free **Christmas Lights Scavenger Hunt** for the back seat: 24 things to spot on your lights drive, from a reindeer to Santa on a roof. Find 10 and you are a Light Spotter, 18 a Light Expert, all 24 a Christmas Lights Champion.

PRINT IT FREE ›

RATHER STAY IN THE CAR?

It's All About The Lights

Our lights map has the drive-through light shows, free light displays and the Prestonwood Forest Nite of Lites, from Galveston to Conroe, with this year's dates, hours and cost.

SEE THE LIGHTS MAP ›