2026 Holiday Family Fun Guide

Northern Virginia • Washington, DC • National Harbor | 25 festive experiences

Western Northern Virginia

Ice skating at Harris Pavilion | Manassas | Nov 20–Feb 28

Make a downtown afternoon of skating, hot chocolate and browsing independent shops. Official details

Santa Lights and Holiday Market | Manassas | Dec 4

Downtown tree lighting, seasonal treats and a visit with Santa. Official details

Greater Manassas Christmas Parade | Manassas | Dec 5, 10 a.m.

A longstanding community tradition celebrating its 80th year. Official details

Christmas carriage rides | Manassas | Dec 6, 13 & 20

A festive way to see historic downtown; check reservations. Official details

Warrenton Christmas Parade | Warrenton | Dec 4, 6 p.m.

Head to Main Street for floats, music and Santa. Official details

Festival of Lights and Carols | Fairfax City | Dec 5, noon–6 p.m.

Free family activities, Santa photos and a 5:30 p.m. tree lighting. Official details

Fairfax County & Alexandria

Reston Town Center skating | Reston | Seasonal; check schedule

Outdoor skating surrounded by shopping and restaurants. Official details

Meadowlark Winter Walk of Lights | Vienna | Nov 11–Jan 3

A stroller-friendly half-mile illuminated garden trail. Official details

Bull Run Festival of Lights | Centreville | Nov 14–Jan 3

A 2.5-mile drive-through light show, plus Holiday Village. Official details

Bright Nights at Cameron Run | Alexandria | Nov 14–Jan 3

Walk-through lights, mini golf, a maze and festive photos. Official details

Alexandria waterfront tree lighting | Alexandria | Nov 21, 6–8 p.m.

A waterfront kickoff with a special guest from the North Pole. Official details

Scottish Walk Holiday Parade | Alexandria | Dec 5, 10:30 a.m.

Bagpipes, tartan and a charming Old Town holiday tradition. Official details

Alexandria Holiday Boat Parade of Lights | Alexandria | Dec 5, 5:30 p.m.

Illuminated boats along the Potomac, with dockside festivities. Official details

Alexandria New Year's Eve fireworks | Alexandria | Dec 31, 8 p.m. and midnight

The earlier display is especially family-friendly. Official details

Washington, DC & Holiday Tea

A Christmas Carol at Ford's Theatre | Washington, DC | Nov 19–Dec 31

A music-filled classic recommended for ages five and older. Official details

The Washington Ballet's Nutcracker | Washington, DC | Nov 28–Dec 27

A DC-specific production at the Warner Theatre. Official details

The Nutcracker Tea Party | Washington, DC | Dec 6, 3 p.m.

A special ballet-inspired tea event; book ahead. Official details

The Hip Hop Nutcracker | Washington, DC | Nov 17–22

A contemporary family-friendly dance production. Official details

DowntownDC holiday market | Washington, DC | Check market calendar

Shop seasonal gifts while enjoying downtown festivities. Official details

Ritz-Carlton holiday afternoon tea | Pentagon City | Nov 27–Jan 3, Thu–Sun

Traditional tea ($84) and children's Teddy Bear Tea ($55), before taxes and gratuity. Official details

National Harbor

ICE! featuring The Grinch | National Harbor | Nov 14–Jan 3

Larger-than-life ice sculptures inside Gaylord National. Official details

Cirque: Frost | National Harbor | Holiday season; check showtimes

An acrobatic holiday show at Gaylord National. Official details

National Harbor tree light show | National Harbor | Nov 7–Jan 3, nightly

A 60-foot waterfront tree with synchronized light shows. Official details

National Harbor Saturday fireworks | National Harbor | Saturdays through Dec 26

Combine a waterfront stroll with evening fireworks. Official details

National Harbor Christmas Market | National Harbor | Saturdays through Dec 19

Shop rotating artisans and makers at American Way. Official details

Event schedules, ticket prices and availability can change. Check each organizer before visiting. Prepared November 9, 2026.

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