



San José Holiday Season Offerings

San José is the Bay Area's Holiday Destination

A Very San José Holiday Overview

This holiday season, San José comes alive with an array of events designed to spread joy and create memorable experiences for all. Highlights include the **Downtown Winter Wonderland**, featuring a festive arcade with a 60-foot ferris wheel, a giant gondola, and a classic carousel, along with a new winter gift market and **Christmas in the Park**, which transforms Plaza de Cesar Chavez into a magical wonderland with over 40 animated displays and the iconic 50-foot community giving tree.

Signature Holiday Events

Christmas in the Park Nov. 21 - Jan. 1, 2025

A beloved San José tradition for over 44 years, transforming Plaza de Cesar Chavez into a holiday wonderland with over 40 animated displays, sparkling lights, and the towering 50-foot Community Giving Tree. This free, family-friendly event features decorated trees, nightly entertainment, festive treats, and photos with Santa. Free and open to the public.

194 South Market Street (Between San Carlos and San Fernando) | christmasinthepark.com

Downtown Winter Wonderland Nov. 29 - Jan. 1, 2025

The Downtown Winter Wonderland brings holiday cheer to San José with a festive arcade of rides, a 60-foot Ferris wheel, a Giant Gondola, and a Classic Carousel. New this year is a Winter Gift Market on weekends along Paseo de San Antonio and food trucks on Market Street, along with buskers, photo ops, and holiday shopping in partnership with Culture Night Market. Free and open to the public.

1 Paseo De San Antonio, San José | winterwonderlandsj.com/

Downtown Ice Nov. 15 - Jan. 1, 2025

A San José holiday favorite since 1994, Downtown Ice opens November 15 underneath the palm trees at the Circle of Palms Plaza, nestled between the San José Museum of Art and Signia by Hilton San José. 90 minutes of free parking is available nearby via ParkSJ.org.

Circle of Palms Plaza, 120 S. Market Street, San José | [Tickets
sjdowntownice.com/](http://Tickets.sjdowntownice.com/)

Festive Light Displays & Attractions

[Enchant San Jose](#) Nov. 22 - Dec. 29

Enchant Christmas features the World's Largest Christmas Light Maze. Follow the enchanting Reindeer Games story as you search for missing bells among 80,000 square feet of stunning light sculptures. Enjoy the ice skating trail, seasonal treats, Santa visits, and a Ferris wheel offering spectacular holiday views.

PayPal Park - 1123 Coleman Ave, San José | [Tickets](#) | enchantchristmas.com

[Sonic Runway at City Hall](#) Nov. 1 - Jan. 1, 2025

A mesmerizing light-art installation at City Hall that visualizes the speed of sound. Lights and music come alive nightly from 5 PM to midnight, featuring regional performers in the Experiments in Sound series. Free and open to the public.

200 E Santa Clara St, San José | sjdowntown.com/event/sonic-runway/

[Christmas in the Park Drive-Through Light Show](#) Nov. 21 - Jan. 1, 2025

Drive through more than a mile of holiday magic at History Park San José's Christmas in the Park Light Show! From November 21 to January 1, experience over 200,000 lights, festive tunnels, and giant candy canes all synchronized to classic holiday tunes.

History Park - 635 Phelan Ave., San José | [Tickets](#) | christmasinthepark.com

San José Theaters: Seasonal Performances & Shows

[A Christmas Carol: CMT's Rising Stars](#) Nov. 15 - Nov. 24, 2024

Festive production featuring talented young performers ages 11-15.

Runs from November 15-24 with six performances.

Montgomery Theater - 271 South Market St., San José | [Tickets](#)
sanjosetheaters.org/event/a-christmas-carol-cmt-rising-stars/

[Mannheim Steamroller Christmas by Chip Davis](#) Nov. 26

The beloved holiday show features Grammy-winner Chip Davis's Christmas classics, performed by a talented ensemble with dazzling multimedia effects.

Center for the Performing Arts - 255 Almaden Blvd., San José | [Tickets](#)
broadwaysanjose.com

[Michael W. Smith's Every Christmas Tour](#) Dec. 5

Multi-Platinum singer-songwriter Smith, and his award-winning very special guest Riley Clemmons perform his most popular Christmas classics.

San José Civic - 135 West San Carlos St., San José | [Tickets](#)
sanjosetheaters.org/event/michael-w-smith/

[Holiday Spectacular](#) Dec. 7 & Dec. 8

Celebrate "The Most Wonderful Time of the Year" with Symphony San José, Symphony San José Chorale, Cantabile Youth Singers, New Ballet and special guests.

California Theatre - 345 South First St., San José | [Tickets](#)
symphonysanjose.org/attend/2024-2025-season/concerts/holiday-spectacular/

[The San José Nutcracker](#) Dec. 14 - Dec. 23

This unique take on the classic tale of Clara and the Nutcracker is set against the backdrop of 1905 San José, including its famous electric tower. Symphony San José is proud to join New Ballet for the first time to bring Tchaikovsky's score to life.

California Theatre - 345 South First St., San José | [Tickets](#)

symphonysanjose.org/attend/2024-2025-season/concerts/the-san-jose-nutcracker/

[Sarah Brightman: A Christmas Symphony](#) Dec. 14

World-renowned soprano Sarah Brightman brings her enchanting A Christmas Symphony tour to San José, accompanied by orchestra, choir, and special guests.

San José Civic - 135 West San Carlos St., San José | [Tickets](#)

sanjosetheaters.org/event/sarah-brightman-a-christmas-symphony/

[Derek Hough: Dance for the Holidays Tour](#) Dec. 22

Join Hough for a high-energy celebration filled with uplifting performances and an incredible cast of dancers and musicians performing beloved holiday tunes, from classic carols to modern hits, brought to life with stunning choreography by EMMY winners NappyTabs.

San José Civic - 135 West San Carlos St., San José | [Tickets](#)

sanjose.org/events/derek-hough-dance-holidays

Family-Friendly

[Celebrate Hanukkah with Menorahs and Miracles](#) Dec. 15, 9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m

Celebrate Hanukkah at the Children's Discovery Museum in partnership with Addison-Penzak JCC, PJ Library, and Yavneh Day School. Children and families can make celebratory candles, play a dreidel game, and enjoy traditional Hanukkah treats. Enjoy storytimes and festive performances, and don't miss the Miracle Scavenger Hunt, the Lunar Menorah display, and more.

Children's Discovery Museum of San José - 180 Woz Way, San José

cdm.org/celebrate/menorahs-miracles/

[Polar Play Days at The Tech Interactive](#) Nov. 23 - Jan. 5, 2024

This family-friendly event combines hands-on experiments and creative winter-themed activities that bring holiday magic to life. Visitors can explore "Snowstorm in a Jar" and build blizzard-resistant candy houses, join sock skating at the new indoor rink, and try out holiday crafts in the Merry Makerspace. Kids can even don Arctic explorer gear and discover how real-life explorers brave extreme conditions.

The Tech Interactive - 201 S Market St, San José | [Tickets](#)

thetech.org/explore/upcoming-events/polar-play-days

[Fiesta Navideña at the Mexican Heritage Plaza](#) Dec. 14, 5:30 - 9:30 p.m.

This family-friendly event brings together holiday cheer, culture, and community spirit in the heart of the La Avenida Cultural District. Enjoy live music by Grupo Bella, folkloric dance from Los Lupeños de San José, a theatrical performance Teatro Alebrijes, holiday-themed arts and crafts, traditional Mexican treats like atole and café de olla, and shop unique items from local artisans. Registration recommended.

Mexican Heritage Plaza - 1700 Alum Rock Avenue, San José | [Register schoolofartsandculture.org/events/fiestanavidena](https://schoolofartsandculture.org/events/fiestanavidena)

Holidays at Santana Row

[Santana Snow Showers](#) Every Tuesday & Saturday in December
Experience the magic of snow every Tuesday and Saturday from 6-8 p.m. in December at Santana Row! Join family and friends for festive snow showers and holiday tunes every 30 minutes in Park Valencia, right in front of Maggiano's.
santanarow.com/experience/santana-snow-showers

[Santana Row: Spirit of the Row](#) Every Tuesday in December
Get in the Spirit of The Row every Tuesday in December from 6-8 p.m. Enjoy holiday performances by local entertainers on the main stage in Santana Row Park, along with festive snow showers in Park Valencia, Santa photos in the Oak Tree Lounge, balloons, and more holiday fun - and great holiday shopping.
SantanaRow.com/experience/spirit-of-the-row

[Santa Paws: Santana Row](#) Dec. 8
Bring your family and furry friends to Park Valencia from 10 AM to 1 PM for *Santa Paws*. Capture a festive photo with Santa Claus for a minimum donation of \$10, benefiting the Humane Society Silicon Valley.
SantanaRow.com/experience/santa-paws

Shopping & Artisan Markets

[Shop Local San José, Holiday San José](#): All season long
Discover the charm of San José's interconnected shopping districts. Explore new adventures, learn about the community's history, and support local retailers, restaurants, and service providers.
sieconomy.com/how-we-help/programs-and-services/holiday-san-jose

[SJMADE Winter Wonder Market](#) Dec. 14 & 15
San José Made is bringing the 2nd Annual San José Winter Wonder Market to downtown San José, featuring over 270+ makers, artists, designers, bakers, culinary minds and creative small businesses. Free and open to the public.
South Hall Convention Center - 150 W Carlos St., San José | sanjosemade.com/pages/events

San José Holiday Dining Experiences & Gifts

[Miracle on 1st Pop-Up Bar](#)
The holiday bar is popping up once again at Paper Plane! Enjoy festive, holiday-inspired cocktails in the decorated bar.
72 S First St. San José | paperplanesj.com/

[A Signature Tasting Menu with Views Over the Silicon Valley](#)

The GrandView Restaurant on Mount Hamilton offers an upscale dining experience with panoramic views of Silicon Valley. With a commitment to sustainability and “seed-to-table” practices, the restaurant sources produce, eggs, and grass-fed meats from its own farm. The five-course “GrandView Experience” tasting menu highlights Mediterranean-inspired California cuisine, with an optional wine pairing from their Santa Cruz Mountains vineyards.

15005 Mt. Hamilton Road, San José | grandviewsanjose.com/reservations

[Raise a Glass at San José's Only Whiskey Distillery](#)

10th Street Distillery, San José's sole whiskey distillery, offers tasting experiences and limited-edition releases available exclusively in California. Highlights include their award-winning “Dragon” whiskey and a special Holiday Edition Port Cask Finish, making a perfect gift for whiskey enthusiasts.

442 N 4th St, San José | 10thstreetdistillery.com/

[Solve a Mystery Over Dinner](#)

The Clue Collective presents interactive murder mystery dinners at various San José venues, or even in your own living room. Combine a delicious meal with an immersive mystery experience, customized to your group's size and needs.

thecluecollective.com/

[Perfect Your Chef's Skills](#)

A cooking class at Cucina Bambini is the perfect gift for someone who's eager to become the next great chef! Learn to make fresh pasta, pizza, and desserts. Group classes are available for adults and children, or book a private event.

1041 Lincoln Ave, San José | cucinabambini.com/

About Visit San José

Visit San José is the destination marketing organization (DMO) for the city to increase tourism's economic impact to San José through destination development and brand strategy. Its parent company, Team San José, is an innovative partnership unifying the San José Convention and Visitors Bureau, hotels, arts, labor and venues to deliver an exceptional visitor experience. TSJ manages the San Jose McEnery Convention Center, California Theatre, Center for the Performing Arts, San José Civic, Montgomery Theater and South Hall. For more information, visit sanjose.org.

Website	<u>sanjose.org/holiday</u>
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Photos	<u>Dropbox</u> photo credit: Visit San José
Contact	Frances Wong <u>fwong@sanjose.org</u> Beth Schnitzer <u>beth@spritzsf.com</u> Diana Silvestri <u>diana@spritzsf.com</u>