

# Winter Funderland

Your guide to all of the magical winter fun that awaits in Katy and Houston this season

*Written by Ashley Lancaster*

With the holidays and winter break right around the corner, keeping the kids entertained can seem like a full-time job. Not to worry, *Katy Magazine* has uncovered the best events in the area that are sure to leave behind a memory or two.

## Festival of Lights

MOODY GARDENS  
ONE HOPE BLVD. | [MOODYGARDENS.COM](http://MOODYGARDENS.COM)  
ADMISSION: \$10.95 (INCLUDES ICE SKATE ADMISSION)

More than one million spectacular lights within 100 sound-enhanced animated light displays and nightly live entertainment await. You can also skate around on the area's only outdoor ice skating facility. The event runs through January 10.



Courtesy of Moody Gardens

## Zoo Lights

HOUSTON ZOO  
6200 HERMANN PARK DR., HOUSTON  
[HOUSTONZOO.ORG/ZOOLIGHTS](http://HOUSTONZOO.ORG/ZOOLIGHTS)  
ADMISSION: CHILDREN 1 AND UNDER ARE FREE;  
AGES 2 THROUGH 12, \$12; AGES 13 THROUGH 64, \$15;  
SENIOR CITIZENS ARE FREE

While the wonderful animals of the zoo settle in for their long winter's nap, you can step into a world decorated with over two million beautiful lights! The event runs through January 9.



Courtesy of Houston Ballet

## The Nutcracker – The Finale

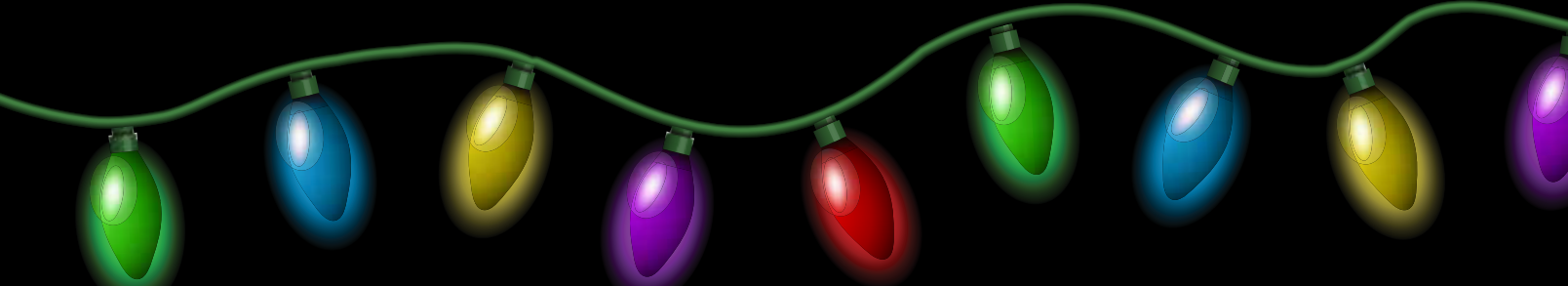
WORTHAM CENTER  
501 TEXAS AVE. AT SMITH ST.  
[HOUSTONBALLET.ORG/THEUTCACKER](http://HOUSTONBALLET.ORG/THEUTCACKER)  
ADMISSION: \$44 - \$149 (DEPENDING ON AVAILABILITY)

Don't miss out on the last 34 performances of artistic director Emeritus Ben Stevenson's *The Nutcracker* during its final season at the Houston Ballet. Children as young as 3 years old are invited to attend. The event runs through December 27.

## Ice Skating at "The ICE"

DISCOVERY GREEN  
1500 MCKINNEY, HOUSTON | [DISCOVERYGREEN.COM/ICE](http://DISCOVERYGREEN.COM/ICE)  
ADMISSION: \$14

The ICE at Discovery Green uses recycled water from Kinder Lake to create a 7,716-square-foot ice skating surface, making it the largest outdoor skating rink in the Southwest. The ICE at Discovery Green hosts a variety of winter programming during the winter season. The event runs through early February.



Courtesy of Houston Zoo and Stephanie Adams

## A Christmas Story: The Musical

THE HOBBY CENTER  
 800 BAGBY ST., HOUSTON | THEHOBBYCENTER.ORG  
 ADMISSION: TICKET PRICES START AT \$30

Think pink bunny suit, a Red Ryder air rifle, and the most heartwarming Christmas story ever told. With its timeless scenes, quirky innocence, and nostalgic warmth, this musical will take you down memory lane. The show runs through December 20.

## A Christmas Story and Breakfast with Santa

410 BAGBY ST., HOUSTON | AQUARIUMRESTAURANTS.COM  
 ADMISSION: ADULTS, \$45 YOUTH, \$35

Kids will love chatting with Santa over a hot breakfast, and afterward enjoying full-day passes to the Aquarium's rides and attractions to the new aquarium exhibit. This also includes 10% off of a ticket to a 2 p.m. matinee TUTS performance of *A Christmas Story* on Saturday, December 19.



Courtesy of Houston Zoo and Stephanie Adams



Courtesy of Moody Gardens

## Magical Winter Lights

SAM HOUSTON RACE PARK  
 7575 N. SAM HOUSTON PKWY. W. | SHRP.COM  
 ADMISSION: ADULTS, \$27 CHILDREN, \$16  
 (CHILDREN UNDER 4 ARE FREE)

Take in the beauty of holiday lights patterned after Chinese lanterns, transformed into larger-than-life displays. The event will also feature themed sections like Dinosaur Land, America, and Magical Europe, and will run through January 10. Displays will be open Monday through Thursday from 5 to 10 p.m., Friday and Saturday from 1 to 11 p.m., and Sunday from 1 to 10 p.m. **KM**

*ASHLEY LANCASTER is a kid at heart who still gets giddy over Santa.*

*Please visit websites to verify information, as times and admission fees may have changed since time of print.*