

WINTER *Funderland*

Breakfast with Santa

*Downtown Aquarium
410 Bagby St., Houston
aquariumrestaurants.com
Adults \$19.99, Children \$13.99*

Join Sharkey and Santa for a scrumptious breakfast buffet! Afterward, take advantage of full-day passes to the Aquarium's rides and attractions at the new aquarium exhibit. Reservations are required. Takes place December 17, 18, and 20 - 24.

Houston Ballet's The Nutcracker

*Wortham Center
501 Texas Ave. at Smith St.
houstonballet.org
\$44 - \$149 (depending on availability)*

The hit of the holiday season will once again be coming to Houston. Experience the timeless ballet featuring the ever-popular "Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy" and "Waltz of the Flowers." Children as young as 3 years old are invited to attend. Event runs through December 27.

A Christmas Carol

*Alley Theatre
615 Texas Ave., Houston
alleytheatre.org
\$35 - \$60*

Alley Theatre presents the seasonal favorite, Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol - A Ghost Story of Christmas*. Follow Ebenezer Scrooge on his journey with the three ghostly spirits who visit him on Christmas Eve. Show runs through December 29.

WinterFest

*Typhoon Texas
555 Katy Fort Bend Rd.
winterfest.typhoontexas.com
Adults \$24.95, Children 12 and under \$19.95, (Age 2 and under are free)*

Decked out in thousands of lights synchronized to holiday songs, WinterFest will feature a variety of wonderland fun including a Texas-sized outdoor ice rink and 4D holiday light show. The recurring, seven-minute show will be magically projected over the Typhoon Texas wave pool as it draws families into a holiday scene. Catch snow flurries Monday through Thursday from 6 to 11 p.m., and Friday through Sunday from 6 p.m. to 12 a.m. through December 31.

Houton Ballet's *The Nutcracker*



Alley Theatre's *A Christmas Carol*



Photo by John Everett

Your guide to magical winter fun in Katy and Houston this season

Winter is often a time to celebrate traditions, or create new ones. Grab the family, your mittens, a cup of hot chocolate, and head out to these winter-inspired activities that will have you in the mistletoe spirit in no time. From trails to lights to holiday classics, you're sure to find some snow-covered joy.

Written by Kirsten Cornell

Festival of Lights

Moody Gardens

One Hope Blvd.

moodygardens.com

\$10.95 (includes ice skate admission)

More than one million lights combined with 100 sound-enhanced, animated displays provide miles of live entertainment. Don't forget to try out the arctic slide, take pictures with Santa, and even ice skate. A unique attraction this year is ICE LAND: Ice Sculptures, A Caribbean Christmas where artists will carve towering ice sculptures out of two million pounds of ice for a spectacular aquatic adventure. The event runs through January 8.

Magical Winter Lights

Gulf Greyhound Park

1000 FM 2004, La Marque

magicalwinterlights.com

Adults \$27, Children \$16, Children under 4 are free

With awe-inspiring displays like Magical Wonderland, Holiday Market Square, Mystery of the East, Man and Nature, and Landmarks of the World, your family will have a blast. Don't miss out on other fun activities like carnival rides, games, live entertainment, food trucks, and photos with Santa. Event will run through January 8, and displays will be open Monday through Thursday from 5 to 10 p.m., Friday and Saturday from 3 to 11 p.m., and Sunday from 1 to 10 p.m.

Zoo Lights

Houston Zoo

6200 Hermann Park Dr., Houston

houstonzoo.org/zoollights

Members \$14.95, Non-members \$19.95, Children 1 and under are free

More than two million lights wind through trees along waterways, and

guide your path through the Houston Zoo. Your Texas kiddos won't be deprived of snow this year. Play to your heart's content in their manufactured flurries! Event runs through January 15.

Ice Skating at "The ICE"

Discovery Green

1500 McKinney, Houston

discoverygreen.com/ice

\$14 (includes skate rental plus tax)

Discovery Green utilizes recycled water from Kinder Lake to create a frosty 7,716-square-foot ice skating masterpiece, making it the largest outdoor skating rink in the southwest. There is even a separate ICE Box rink, for pint-sized skaters 45 inches or shorter below the age of 4. Warm up with treats like hot cocoa, cappuccino, caramel corncobs, and Belgian waffles. Event runs through February 7. **KM**

ICE LAND sculptures at Moody Gardens



Breakfast with Santa at Downtown Aquarium Houston



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