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Holiday events just a train ride away

Take DART and TRE to area winter wonderlands

Looking to save money to feed your family of reindeer while enjoying the area's winter events? You can if you park your sleigh and ride Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART) Rail or the Trinity Railway Express (TRE).

Plan your trip by using the online DART Trip Planner at www.dart.org or call DART Customer Information at 214-979-1111. TRE information is at www.trinityrailwayexpress.org.

Parades

Nov. 28

The Parade of Lights kicks off the holiday season at 6 p.m. in Sundance Square with more than 100 brightly illuminated floats, bands, horse-drawn carriages, antique cars and characters decked out in their holiday best. The annual tree lighting follows, and Santa is on hand every weekend through Dec. 21 at his Nutcracker Village on Main Street.

Information: 817-255-

5700, www.sundancesquare.com or www.fortworthparadeoflights.org. Ride the Trinity Railway Express (TRE) to ITC Station, then the T's bus route 1 or 15. (Note: Last eastbound TRE train to Dallas Union Station departs ITC Station at 10:36 p.m. Monday through Friday. Last eastbound TRE train to Dallas Union Station departs ITC Station at 10:36 p.m. Saturdays. No TRE service on Sundays.)



Dec. 6

The Neiman Marcus Adolphus Children's Parade is fun for kids of all ages with colorful floats, giant balloons, bands, clowns, equestrian units and a visit by Santa. The parade begins at 10 a.m. at Austin and Commerce streets in downtown Dallas and continues on Commerce, Harwood and Young streets through City Hall Plaza to Akard Street. Watch the parade from the streets for free or reserve bleacher seats.

Information: 214-456-8383 or childrensparade.com. Take the DART Rail Red Line or Blue Line to Akard, Convention Center, Pearl, St. Paul, Union or West End stations.



Dec. 6

Holiday Extravaganza, Parade and Tree Lighting at downtown Irving's City Hall is a family favorite with something for everyone.

Information: 972-721-2600 or www.irvingtexas.com. Ride the DART Rail Red Line or Blue Line to Union Station, then take the TRE to South Irving Station.

Jan. 1, 2009

The Comerica Bank New Year's Parade will "Celebrate Dallas" and downtown's revitalization while welcoming visitors to the city for the AT&T Cotton Bowl Classic. The parade begins at 2:30 p.m. at Trammell Crow Center in the Arts District and concludes at American Airlines Center.

Information: www.comericabankparade.com. Enjoy the DART Rail Red Line or Blue Line to Pearl Station or West End Station. DART Rail shuttle trains will operate between Pearl and Victory stations every 20 minutes beginning at 2 p.m. and ending at 6 p.m.



Holiday Events

Nov. 28

Highland Park Village Tree Lighting Ceremony is a 32-year tradition at the renowned shopping center at Mockingbird Lane and Preston Road. Festivities begin at 5 p.m. with music, Santa and his sleigh, the lighting of more than a million lights on the Christmas tree and throughout the center, and carriage rides through the decorated neighborhoods.

Information: www.hpvillage.com. Take DART's Red Line or Blue Line to Cityplace Station, then Bus Route 36.

Dec. 4

Christmas on the Square in downtown Garland features the city's official tree lighting, holiday entertainment, delicious treats, crafters, carriage rides and of course, Santa. Come celebrate the season from 5:30-9:30 p.m.

Information: www.christmasonthesquare.com. Ride the DART Rail Blue Line to Downtown Garland Station.



Dec. 5

Dickens in Historic Downtown Plano transforms the brick streets into a Charles Dickens-style winter wonderland with holiday music, Santa, sleigh rides, tasty treats, shopping and more. The merriment begins at 6 p.m. and continues till 10 p.m. Ride DART and receive a coupon when you arrive redeemable at food vendors and the children's amusement area.

Information: 972-941-PARK or www.planoparks.org. Hop onboard the DART Rail Red Line to Downtown Plano Station.

Dec. 6-21

Santa's Village at the Richardson Civic Center has winter weekend fun for the whole family. Enjoy rides, visit booths sponsored by businesses and civic groups, meet Mrs. Claus, visit the village pets and make an ornament. The village is at 411 W. Arapaho Road and is open Thursday through Sunday.

Information: www.cor.net/parks/calendar. Ride the DART Rail Red Line to Arapaho Center Station, then board Bus Route 361 (Thurs.-Sat. only).



Dec. 6

Christmas in the Stockyards is a holiday celebration as only found in Cowtown, with cowboys, carolers, storytellers, animals, games, demonstrations and Santa in the Historic Stockyards from 2-6 p.m.

Information: 817-625-9715 or www.fortworthstockyards.org. To get there take the Trinity Railway Express (TRE) to the Fort Worth Intermodal Transportation Center (ITC Station), then board the T's bus route 1. (Note: Last eastbound TRE train to Dallas Union Station departs ITC Station at 10:36 p.m. Monday through Friday. Last eastbound TRE train to Dallas Union Station departs ITC Station at 10:36 p.m. Saturdays. No TRE service on Sundays.)

Dec. 7

Celebration of Lights is a holiday event for the entire community on the main quad at SMU in University Park. Beginning at 6:30 p.m. there'll be caroling and lighting of the university Christmas tree, followed by a reception with music and treats in the Hughes-Trigg Student Center. Information: www.smu.edu/sf. Enjoy the DART Rail Red Line or Blue Line to Mockingbird Station, then take the free Bus Shuttle.

Dec. 13-14

Fair Park Holiday Lights will bedazzle you with thousands of lights, music, carriage rides, holiday markets, kid crafts, tubing down a real snow hill, outdoor movies in the Cotton Bowl, Dallas Wind Symphony concerts, plus free admission to the museums and more from 3-8 p.m. at Fair Park. The family-friendly event features the official City of Dallas tree lighting ceremony at 6 p.m. on Dec. 13. Information: www.fairpark.org. Take the DART Rail Red Line or Blue Line to Union Station, then Bus Route 60, or take the DART Rail Red Line or Blue Line to Cityplace Station, then Bus Route 409.



Dec. 13-14

KwanzaaFest is a family cultural celebration at Fair Park's Automobile Building, 1010 First Ave. There are national recording artists, exhibitors from across the country, cultural entertainment, computer technology, health screenings, children's activities, car shows, educational forums and a poster/poetry contest. The festival is open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday and 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday. Information: www.johnwileyprice.com. Ride the DART Rail Red Line or Blue Line to Union Station, then Bus Route 60. From Cityplace Station take Bus Route 409.

Dec. 14

The 5th Annual Posada Dallas at the Latino Cultural Center, 2600 Live Oak St., is a traditional representation of Mary and Joseph journeying to Bethlehem. Processioners sing traditional Latin American carols while seeking "shelter" until finally arriving at a place where they are welcomed with matachines and mariachi music. The festivities are from 4-8 p.m. Information: 214-671-0045 or www.dallasculture.org/latinoculturalcenter.cfm. Board the DART Rail Red Line or Blue Line to Mockingbird Station, then Bus Route 1, or from the Central Business District East Dallas Transfer Center, take Bus Route 1.