

Christmas in the City Meets Red Rose Holiday Tour December 3rd in Lancaster, SC

Hold on to your toboggans and grab your reindeer reins, when the Red Rose City ushers in the holiday season with a flurry of fun in the Cultural Arts District of historic downtown Lancaster, SC. From north to south, east to west, and all points in between, holiday revelers will be transported throughout the Cultural Arts District by old-fashioned trolley cars, courtesy of L & C Railway. Hop aboard and disembark at Santa's Workshop, Winter Block Party, Artisans Holiday Market, Historic Springs House, L & C Railway Museum, Native American Studies Center, and local businesses hosting Holiday Open Houses.

Scenes in downtown Lancaster, SC will be reminiscent of the North Pole, with Santa visits and letter drop-off at City Hall where Sugar Plum Fairies play amidst delectable "Ugly Christmas Sweater" Gingerbread Houses competing for prizes. At Santa's Workshop, the little ones will be captivated with balloon and ornament making, face painting, and a winter wonderland carousel. Older children and teens will be busy with plenty of free games, while everyone's favorite characters lead activities, mingle, and pose for photos. Don't be surprised if you see the Gingerbread Man, Santa's Elves, Winnie the Pooh, Elsa, and Grinch enjoying the festivities with Lancaster's very own Rosie Rabbit. Just across the street, kids will be treated to stories with Mrs. Claus, candy canes, cookies, and hot cider courtesy of Blackmon Insurance Group.

When all of this holiday excitement makes you work up an appetite, head to downtown restaurants offering special Christmas in the City prices and menus. Or round up the family and head to the Winter Block Party for outdoor dining at the Food Truck Food Court, where live on-stage performances include Mike Faulkenberry and the Whiskey Prophets, The Marshalls, Mikey McCorkle, and the cast of A Charlie Brown Christmas. Shoppers will enjoy perusing the aisles of outdoor vendor tents, shopping for just the right gift for everyone on their holiday shopping lists.

Train enthusiasts, history-lovers, and children of all ages will clamor to trolleys making a stop at the L & C Railway Museum. Look for Lancaster County First Steps to be entertaining with tales from The Polar Express and giving out gifts to the little ones. The Historic Springs House will also be a favorite stop for history buffs, as well as art collectors. The 1800's home will be decorated to the hilt and visitors will enjoy holiday refreshments, artisans gift gallery, live music, jewelry trunk show, special exhibits, and mini art workshops.

At another of Lancaster's treasures, the Historic Courthouse, those who loves original, handcrafted gifts will find the annual indoor Artisans Holiday Market. Shoppers will delight in unique treasures by artists and craftsmen from throughout the Carolinas with pottery, jewelry, paintings, woodcarvings, handcrafted toys, baskets, textile art fashions and accessories, sculpture, and more at this art collector's paradise. A short hop, skip, and jump to the Native American Studies Center will land you in the middle of an annual Native American Arts and Crafts Show and Sale. Spend a little time in the galleries to enjoy new exhibits in this unique Main Street location that boasts the world's largest collection of Catawba pottery and artifacts. Native American artists will be on hand selling traditional arts and crafts and demonstrating techniques.

Local businesses are joining in the holiday fun with open houses throughout downtown. Bob Doster's Backstreet Studio, Ray's Flowers, The Preppy Pineapple, Purple Rooster Gift Shop, and Women's Enrichment Center Humble Abode are opening their doors with refreshments and holiday specials.

To end this perfect day of old-fashioned holiday fun, visitors will want to have pet photos made at PetSense to benefit the Lancaster SPCA, enjoy Lancaster Chamber Choir's "Let It Snow" Concert at the Cultural Arts

Center, or see a live performance of “A Charlie Brown Christmas” by Lancaster Community Playhouse at Barr Street Auditorium.

The events of December 3rd are featured as part of a countywide promotion of holiday happenings in December, Red Rose Holiday Tour. Beginning December 1, with See Lancaster, SC’s Annual Tree Lighting and new Ugly Christmas Sweater contest, visitors will enjoy almost-daily activities to celebrate the “most wonderful time of the year”. One of Main Street’s newest businesses, The Preppy Pineapple will host holiday open house and paint party from December 1-3. Humble Abode, newly located across the street from them opens its doors on December 3rd with local artwork, home décor, and refreshments. Black Stone Massage hosts its annual open house on December 1-2, Janice Mathis State Farm and Hayne’s Full Circle Benefits are planning holiday open houses on December 2, and Lancaster Performing Arts presents Kansas’ Leftoverture Tour on the evening of the 2nd. “A Charlie Brown Christmas” opens on the evening of December 2nd and runs through December 4th. After the downtown holiday extravaganza, Christmas in the City, on December 3rd, visitors will enjoy the Garden Clubs’ Holiday Home Tours on Sunday, December 4th. December 10th will be a busy day with the Resolute Reindeer Run to benefit Habitat for Humanity beginning at 8am, followed at noon by Van Wyck Community Parade, and wrapping up with City of Lancaster’s “Ugly Christmas Sweater” Parade at 6pm. Van Wyck Community hosts its annual “Lighting on the Way” on December 11th and Lancaster County Council of the Arts hosts Celtic Christmas Concert on December 15th at the Cultural Arts Center at the Olde Lancaster Presbyterian Church. All in all, a wonderful way to spend December! To see a full listing with complete details, please visit www.lancastercitysc.com Community Calendar or <https://www.facebook.com/seelancastercity>.