

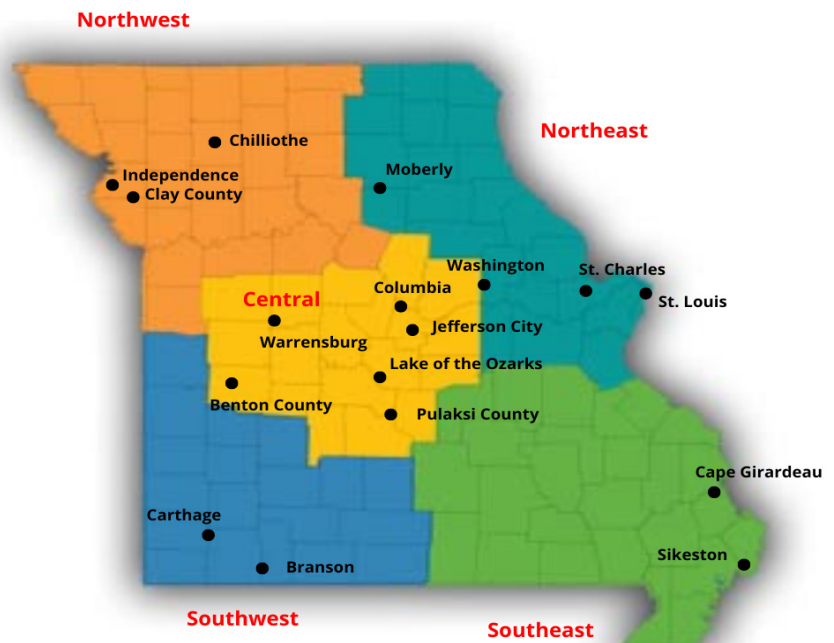
Missouri Itineraries: Holiday Lights

Provided in Partnership



Holiday Lights are a crowd favorite! Our MACVB Members have partnered together to offer personalized itineraries to meet group needs. Looking for the unique? We have it! Need an excursion for a few days? Missouri tourism professionals are here to help.

- Benton County
- Branson
- Cape Girardeau
- Carthage
- Chillicothe
- Clay County
- Columbia
- Independence
- Jefferson City
- Kansas City
- Lake of the Ozarks
- Moberly
- Pulaski County
- Sikeston
- St. Charles
- St. Louis
- Warrensburg



Christmas brings joy filled wonderment throughout Missouri with live shows and LOTS of LIGHTS. Join in the community pride of holiday festivities that can include dinner, light drive-throughs and other stops of interest to your group. Invite guests to sing along down a merry path full of color and inspiration for the season.

HOLIDAY LIGHTS



www.visitbentoncomo.com

VisitBentonCoMO.com
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Benton County Leave behind the hustle and bustle of city life and come down to historic Warsaw to enjoy the Christmas lights surrounding Drake Harbor – overlooking the beautiful Lake of the Ozarks. Beginning at dark from Thanksgiving through the first of January, take a stroll down the only Boardwalk on the Lake of the Ozarks or along the waterfront filled with 100,000 lights and one-of-a-kind displays such as the 26' Steamboat Harbor Belle, Penguin Party, or catch the Grinch stealing Christmas and flying off in his helicopter! You will also see Santa's house and the Mayors Tree shining bright over Drake Harbor! Be sure and plan your visit around the Christmas festivals found throughout Benton County, including Cole Camp's Christbaumfest and Christkindlemarket or Warsaw's Christmas on the Harbor or Warsaw's Kaysinger Christmas. For more information on dates, please visit www.visitbentoncomo.com!



ExploreBranson.com
Lenni Neimeyer, CTIS, CSTP
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Branson There is nothing like Christmas in Branson. When you visit America's Christmas Tree City during the holiday season, it is an unforgettable experience. For more than a quarter century, Branson has made its holiday lineup of events a treasured tradition. Celebrations run from the beginning of November through New Year's Day – there is no waiting for Thanksgiving to kick-off the holidays here! Branson is known for world-class live shows and performers. It is not called the Live Music Show Capital of the World for nothing! With an amazing lineup of special holiday performances and themed shows, a Christmas show in Branson is unlike any others. Christmas light displays can be found all throughout the Branson area. Driving tours such as Let There Be Lights! Branson's Lights of Joy and Trail of Lights are all great to explore. During the Christmas season, visitors can even experience light displays while walking down the Branson Landing. Silver Dollar City is home to the largest Christmas light display in this area during An Old Time Christmas. With Christmas in Midtown, you can find around 6.5 million lights across the park, see over 1,000 decorated Christmas trees, an eight-story Christmas tree with special effects and so much more.



VisitCape.com
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Cape Girardeau Cape Girardeau has been welcoming visitors since its founding in the mid-1700s. Our community is dedicated to providing exceptional service and warm hospitality. We believe one of our strongest assets is our people who are ready to welcome your group to Cape Girardeau. Spectacular natural vistas, a picturesque downtown, and our historic past blend together to offer the perfect destination for tour groups of all ages and interests. We have a wide range of dining experiences, shopping, antiques, sightseeing, tour options, and entertainment sure to satisfy.

HOLIDAY LIGHTS



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Carthage Delight in a silent night. Christmas brings a variety of classic holiday events like craft shows, dinner theatre, and live performances. Stay late to enjoy the Way of Salvation Driving Light Tour at the Congregation of the Mother Co-Redemptrix, Mt. Moriah Musical Light Display, and Christmas at the Precious Moments Chapel and Gardens. The Carthage CVB offers Progressive Dinners, relaxing stops, and specialty tours for groups looking for small town charm. Christmas Home Tours are available every other year in the Historic Residential District.



VisitChillicothe.com
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Chillicothe There is no better experience than a small-town holiday season. From before Thanksgiving until after the New Year, Chillicothe is lit up all throughout town. The Downtown Historic Square and Main Street feature lights and decorations on every building. Don't miss the Memory Tree in Silver Moon Plaza. And no visit would be complete without a drive through the Festival of Lights. Our Simpson Park is transformed into a winter wonderland during the holiday season. Experience the greatest and brightest things this holiday season in Chillicothe.



VisitClayMO.com
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Clay County Jump into the holiday season this year with festive lights and merry fun! One of the best ways for a group to enjoy some of the dazzling decorations in Clay is to book a trip aboard the Excelsior Springs Chamber Trolley's Holly Jolly Tour! This family friendly tour takes you on a magical lighted journey of Excelsior Springs. The tour picks up at the Hall of Waters, and we recommend you step inside for a look around before boarding the trolley; the Hall of Trees display is a jolly hall of trees and lights put up annually in Excelsior Springs that you will not want to miss. Aboard the trolley, your tour will take you to the Lane of Lights and will drive past several local homes that



COLUMBIA, MO
WHAT YOU UNEXPECTED

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Columbia Every year, Columbians light up the town to spread holiday cheer to all around. Magic trees are a staple here in town during the holidays with three main ones in the Village of Cherry Hill, The Crossing church and one in The District. All three large trees are wrapped in multicolor lights that can be seen for miles and make great photo opportunities. Enjoy an annual evening in The District where retail and restaurant storefronts are transformed into live performances and visits with Santa. Shelter Insurance holds a tree-lighting ceremony every year and invites visitors to a walk through a Winter Wonderland of dazzling holiday lights. If you are feeling a little "Grinchy" and need a holiday pick-me-up, Columbia is the place to be!

HOLIDAY LIGHTS



VisitIndependence.com
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Independence Come experience the magic of the holidays in Independence, Missouri. Watch the windows come to life at our Living Windows event on the historic Independence Square. Catch a carriage ride to see the mile of Christmas lights on the Square, while enjoying some delicious hot chocolate from a local coffee shop. Need to do some last-minute holiday shopping? Stop by the Holiday Mart to pick up one-of-a-kind gifts for your loved ones. Once you are done shopping, we invite you to tour our historic homes to see them beautifully decorated for the holidays. You won't want to miss it!



VisitJeffersonCity.com
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Jefferson City Nothing is quite as magical as when the streets of Jefferson City come alive with sparkling lights and holiday décor. Winter traditions start the first week of December with the Mayor's Christmas Tree Lighting and continues with Downtown Living Windows, candlelight tours of the beautifully decorated Governor's Mansion and a massive holiday parade. Listening to the sweet sounds of caroling and symphonies in the Capitol's elegant rotunda and a driving tour through neighborhoods full of homes flaunting twinkling illuminations and unique Christmas displays are also great ways to celebrate the season. Visitors can join in on the holiday fun at Binder Park with a drive-thru display of choreographed lights synced to holiday music, stretching over a mile long.



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Kansas City Just like its iconic jazz and mouthwatering barbecue, Kansas City has earned a reputation for its impressive holiday light displays. A local tradition for 90 years, the Plaza Lights span 15-blocks on the famed Country Club Plaza, featuring thousands of glimmering, jewel-colored bulbs that accentuate every dome, tower and window of the Spanish-inspired shopping district. Other festive holiday displays include a festive drive-through display at Christmas in the Park, the 100-foot Mayor's Christmas Tree at Crown Center and Historic Union Station's festive displays that include a massive model-train display and KC's largest indoor holiday tree.



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Lake of the Ozarks The City of Laurie presents the Enchanted Village of Lights at the Laurie Fairgrounds. The Enchanted Village of Lights is one of the largest drive-through holiday light parks in Mid-Missouri. There is no charge to drive through the Enchanted Village, but any donations are greatly appreciated. The Enchanted Village of Lights is scheduled to run from the weekend before Thanksgiving until January 1 each year.



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Moberly Visit Moberly to see the magical lights in one of the largest municipal-owned parks in Missouri, Rothwell Park. Altrusa's Lights in the Park will be sure to get you in the holiday spirit that up every day in the month of December. Afterwards, head to Moberly's Depot District to see the additional lighted display Downtown. Stop at Depot Park for the perfect selfie-spot with the decorations. More details are on our website moberly.com

HOLIDAY LIGHTS



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Pulaski County Pulaski County groups are welcome to join Pulaski County in celebrating the holidays. Plan your visit around area festivals and events, “ooh and ahh” over the lighting of historic Devils Elbow along Route 66, and enjoy a personalized route to top businesses, communities and residences competing in the annual Light Up Pulaski, held 3 weeks in December.



www.sikeston.net/tourism
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Sikeston Sikeston’s holiday season starts with the Downtown Holiday Open House on the 2nd weekend in November. Shop store discounts, enjoy carriage rides, and of course visits with Santa! The annual Downtown Tree Lighting and opening of Santa’s Village is held on the first Friday in December. Santa’s Village is free and open until New Year’s Day in American Legion Park. This kid’s size outdoor village features a candy shop, post office, public safety, library, utilities building, train depot, and of course Santa’s Workshop! New additions are made to the village each year. The holiday season is not complete without the annual Dashing Through Downtown Parade of Lights held the first Saturday in December. While visiting take a tour of the Depot Museum and find great deals at the Historic Downtown Sikeston shops and specialty boutiques.



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St. Charles For nearly half a century, Saint Charles Christmas Traditions® has helped create cherished memories for the young and young at heart. With a unique blend of storytelling, history, and fairy tale whimsy, visitors are transported to a world of yuletide nostalgia where reindeer fly, Victorian carolers share a cheerful tune, and sugarplums dance in your head. Close your eyes and listen to the sound of horses’ hooves on the brick street, and the sweet holiday music of the fife. Capture in your mind the essence, that time in America when life was simpler, and Christmas was elegant and magical.



ExploreStLouis.com
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St. Louis Don’t miss your chance to see one of the most popular Christmas light displays in the area. Winter Wonderland at Tilles Park for over 30 years has been making memories for families across the region. The Garden Glow at the Missouri Botanical Garden is a must see during the holiday season. Visitors have the opportunity to stroll through the Missouri Botanical Garden at night surrounded by a spectacle of unique light installations. Anheuser-Busch Brewery Lights. Experience the wonder of the Budweiser Clydesdales, s’mores roasting on an open fire, thousands of twinkling lights, and one monumental display of holiday spirit. Union Station is a wonderful stop in St. Louis all year long, however during the holiday season it has a little bit extra spirit. Don’t miss out on the Polar Express, the 3d lightshow in the Grand Hall and the opportunity to spend time with Santa just to name a few of the holiday experiences.

HOLIDAY LIGHTS

Warrensburg
MISSOURI

SMALL TOWN + BIG SOUL

Marcy Barnhart, Tourism Director

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Warrensburg Warrensburg's holiday season starts the first weekend of December with the Community Holiday Parade on Friday night. Warrensburg Main Street's Dicken's Christmas follows Saturday after Father Christmas arrives on the Amtrak's Missouri River Runner. Throughout the weekend you can attend a spectacular performance of the Nutcracker on the University of Central Missouri's campus by Center Stage Academy of the Performing Arts students. Throughout the holiday season, you can enjoy Powell Garden's Festival of Lights. The Gardens are located approximately twenty miles from Warrensburg. The twenty miles of lighted outdoor winter wonderland is worth the trip!



VisitWashMO.com

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Washington *It's a Wonderful Life* could have been filmed in Washington, MO at Christmas time! The beautiful historic downtown depicts the most wonderful of holiday traditions, with decorated shop windows and the street canopied in holiday swags and wreaths with lights galore. The season kicks off with the Holiday Parade of Lights, the Friday evening after Thanksgiving. The Sunday after Thanksgiving the downtown is alive with carolers, hot cider and cocoa, marshmallow roasting, cookie decorating, crafts, and Santa all at the Olde Fashioned Christmas event.

HOLIDAY LIGHTS