



COURTESY ASHLAND AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE


In Ashland, the children's performance of "The Nutcracker Suite" is a Christmastime treat. This year it runs December 2-4. Bottom: In Bayfield, an annual tradition is for Santa and Mrs. Claus to arrive via the Madeline Island Ferry, then meet with children at the Bayfield Lakeside Pavilion.


'Tis the Season – for Santa by Boat

One of the Christmas season's highlights in Bayfield surely must be the day that Santa and Mrs. Claus arrive on the Madeline Island Ferry.

This year it happens December 10, and the celebrity pair will be at the waterfront from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Everyone is urged to bring the kids to meet them at the Bayfield Lakeside Pavilion for pictures. Each youngster will get a bag of goodies from Mrs. Claus and lunch from the Bayfield Chamber of Commerce and Visitor Bureau. For more details, call 800-447-4094 or 715-779-3335, or go to bayfield.org.

Here's a sample of other holiday events in Wisconsin:

 December 3: Ashland merchants host Customer Appreciation Day, with high school carolers in stores, merchants offering refreshments and pictures with Santa at Movies on Main. Contact Ashland Chamber of Commerce at 715-682-2500, or check visitashland.com.


 December 3: Ashland's 49th annual Garland City of the North Christmas Parade on Main Street starts at 4:30 p.m. At one time, Ashland was known as the




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"Garland City of the North," and garland was strung across Main Street during the Christmas Season. The parade is the kickoff for the season, complete with lighted stars and garland on light posts.

Contact the Ashland Chamber of Commerce, 715-682-2500, or go to visitashland.com for more information.


 December 2-4: Also in Ashland, the annual children's performance of the "Nutcracker Suite" is at Ashland High School auditorium. More than 200 kids are taking part with dance costumes, music and colorful stage settings. Call 715-682-2455 for information.

 December 3: In Bayfield, the Holiday Spirit Gallery Tour is from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., with demonstrations, promotions and sales, featuring handmade jewelry, pottery, paintings and glasswork from local galleries.

 December 2-3: In Cable, a major event is the Festival of Trees, which includes the Enchanted Forest Tour & Silent Auction that starts Friday night, 6:30-8 p.m. at Cable Community Centre and continues through Saturday nights closing, 6-7:30 p.m. Bid on items such as a fully decorated tree, gift

basket or centerpiece. The project also accepts donations of children's clothing for the Keep a Child Warm Tree and raffle money that goes to C.A.R.E. (Cable Area Resources in Emergencies).


More information is at cable4fun.com or 715-798-3833.

 December 3: Other Cable events on this day include breakfast with Santa and hay wagon rides, 8-11 a.m. at Lakewoods Resort (pancake breakfast costs \$1 for children, \$3 for adults).

The Christmas in Cable Arts & Crafts Fair will run 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at Living Hope Community Church, with vendors selling soaps, candles, pottery, ceramics, wreaths, cards, blankets, wood carvings and other items. The Jingle Bell Winter Fun 3K Walk starts at 1 p.m. at St. Ann's Church parking lot, across from Cable Community Centre, with proceeds going to C.A.R.E.

At 5 p.m. in downtown Cable is the Love Lights Tree ceremony, then the Holiday Lighted Parade, which comes up Kavanaugh Road and turns onto Highway M to the UCC Church, where you can warm up with hot chocolate, cider and pictures with Santa. Love Lights are


purchased in honor or memory of someone special to one's family, and proceeds are donated to C.A.R.E. More information at cable4fun.com.

 December 10: The Iron River Christmas Bazaar will be at the Iron River Community Center. Local churches are having a "cookie walk." Call 800-345-0716 or 715-372-8558, or check visitironriver.com.



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In Ashland, don't miss the annual Garland City of the North Christmas Parade December 3.

 Through December: In Superior, Fairlawn Mansion & Museum offers several holiday events, including guided holiday tours.

The Children's Christmas will be December 4, with children's stories, holiday craft workshop and a

visit from the traditional Father Christmas. Young children must be accompanied by an adult. Free admission for story time, 1-1:30 p.m., but tickets are required to tour the house. Call 715-394-5712, or check superiorpublicmuseums.org.

Twinkling Tuesday Nights will be offered December 6, 13, 20 and 27 at 7 p.m., when you can enjoy the lavishly decorated mansion at your own pace and ask questions of costumed interpreters.

Hosts will share Victorian Christmas customs and stories. This year, Fairlawn will feature two privately owned toy collections. Hot cider and seasonal treats will be available.

The Fairlawn Holiday Sampler is December 7 from 5-8 p.m., with wine, gourmet buffet of holiday treats, music and silent auction. Reservations are recommended.

Fairlawn's Holiday Luncheon and Musicale is December 13 at noon.

The event features a concert of festive music by Michelle and Alia Gribbon. Enjoy a warming winter luncheon in the lavishly decorated mansion and a complimentary tour.

For any events at Fairlawn, call 715-394-5712, or log onto superiorpublicmuseums.org.

More Winter & Holiday Events in Wisconsin

Nov. 26 BAYFIELD

The holiday season officially begins when the town's Christmas tree is lit up at the Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony Saturday, November 26. Enjoy fresh pine garlands and LED holiday lights that will make Rittenhouse Avenue sparkle. Then warm up in the Lakeside Pavilion while listening to Christmas carols performed by the Rittenhouse Inn Singers. Bayfield Lakeside Pavilion. 4:30-6 p.m. 800-447-4094. bayfield.org.

Dec. 2 BAYFIELD

First Fridays in Bayfield brings extended shopping hours on the first Friday of every month, starting at 4 p.m. Shops feature sales, refreshments, door prizes and demonstrations while Bayfield's gourmet eateries offer dining specials. bayfield.org. 4-9 p.m.

Dec. 3 CABLE

Stop by Cable Natural History Museum to make your own natural or recycled holiday decorations. 715-798-3890. cablemuseum.org. 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Dec. 10 CABLE

Whether on foot or on snowshoes, you can join a Cable Natural History Museum naturalist to explore the winter woods and learn about the

animal signs you find in this Winter Tracking Workshop for all ages. Meet at the Forest Lodge Nature Trail at 1 p.m.; dress for the weather. Snowshoes are available for \$3 a pair, but only if you call the museum at 715-798-3890 by noon Friday, December 9. cablemuseum.org. 1 p.m.

Dec. 17 CABLE

For the Christmas Bird Count, volunteers are needed to assist the National Audubon Society in an annual winter bird census. Participants record and count birds and bird species within 15-mile diameter circles in the Cable and Hayward area from dawn to dusk. Bird feeders within the circles are also surveyed, so feeder counters are needed. Contact Cable Natural History Museum, 715-798-3890, go to cablemuseum.org, or email naturalist Katie Connolly at Katie@cablemuseum.org.

Jan. 13 SUPERIOR

"Friday the 13th Tour" at Fairlawn Mansion & Museum, in which visitors can tour the darkened house with flashlights and learn about the superstitious life of the Victorians. The tours are not recommended for children age 5 and younger. 715-394-5712. superiorpublicmuseums.org.

Jan. 14 ASHLAND

NorthWoods Harness Club presents the 19th Annual Sleigh & Cutter Rally at the Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center just west of Ashland, featuring 19th century costumes, antique sleighs and food served on the grounds. Hookup time is 11 a.m., with the exhibition at 1 p.m. Free admission. Bay Area Regional Transit (BART) is providing a shuttle between Ashland and the visitor center from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Pickup and drop-off is on Sandborn Avenue, at Midland Cenex and at Auto Value. 715-682-2256. visitashland.com.

Feb. 18 ASHLAND, WASHBURN

"Book Across the Bay" is a cross-country ski race and snowshoe trek across Chequamegon Bay, open to skiers and snowshoers of all ages and ability levels. The 10K course, groomed for both classic-style and skate skiing, starts in Ashland and ends in Washburn, and follows a route not on land, but over the frozen surface of Lake Superior, with the course lit by the stars above and up to 1,000 candles in ice luminaries that line the route. 715-682-2500, 800-284-9484. batb.org. 6 p.m.. start time.