



HOLIDAYS HEAT UP **IN ST. PETERSBURG/CLEARWATER**

*From Snow on the Beach to Lighted Boat Parades,
Florida's Beach lets you Experience the Season and still go home with a Suntan*

Although St. Petersburg/Clearwater – Florida's Beach couldn't be much further from the North Pole, you'd never know it by the spectacular holiday events the area has to offer. It would seem Santa, himself, had a hand in planning these celebrations. Here are just a few of the festivities you will find in the area this holiday season. For more information, contact the individual event organizer or visit www.FloridasBeach.com/events.

Embrace the Earth Native Earth Music Festival...St. Petersburg

Date: 11/23/2003

Celebrate Native American Month & Thanksgiving at this free concert. Make a pledge for the Native Earth Cultural Center to help build a Dream Catcher and a permanent location. Featured artists include Red Heart's Fire, Warrior Bard & Band, Dawn, Heart's Journey, Doc Silverhawk, Wolf Heart's Lodge and Dreamtime Ensemble. Bring your drums and rattles to make a joyful noise at the evening Drumming Circle. Bring a chair or blanket. 727-821-8186 or 727-321-7845

Clearwater Beach FantaSea of Lights...Pier 60 Clearwater Beach

Dates: 11/27/2003 - 12/31/2003

This free holiday light display will encompass all of Pier 60 Park and will take place every day from two hours before sunset to two hours after. The celebration features local artisans and crafters and Key West-style street performers as well as special holiday events like Beach Santa photos, Snow Days where it will snow on the beach, caroling and children's activities. 727-449-1036 www.sunsetsatpier60.com

The Santaland Diaries...American Stage St. Petersburg

Dates: 12/5/2003 – 12/21/2003

Straight from Santa's Workshop comes this irreverent comedy about the darker side of Christmas. This wildly humorous and biting witty tale tells the story of an unemployed actor's turn as an elf at Macy's Santaland. **Please note this play contains strong language.* 727-823-PLAY www.americanstage.org

St. Petersburg/Clearwater Area Convention & Visitors Bureau

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St. Petersburg Boat Parade ...Throughout St. Petersburg**Dates: 12/06/2003**

One of the largest lighted boat parades in the area; St. Petersburg's annual event (which is always held the first Saturday of December) starts at sundown and goes from the Harborage Marina north past the Pier to the Vinoy Basin. The Pier and surrounding parks offer great spots for parade watching and feature a host of activities associated with the event. 727-821-6443

Seasonal Sensations...Heritage Village, Largo**Date: 12/06/2003**

Celebrate the holiday season with tours of the beatifically decorated Victorian and pioneer homes at Heritage Village, nature walks and exhibits at the Florida Botanical Gardens, train displays, a holiday craft sale at the Extension Service, a holiday film series at the Gulf Coast Museum of Art, multicultural exhibits, ornament making stations, storytelling, music, food and more. Most activities are 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. The holiday lighting ceremony starts at 6 p.m. at the Florida Botanical Gardens. 727-582-2123 www.pinellascounty.org/heritage

Gulfport Lighted Boat Parade....Gulfport**Date: 12/07/2003**

The city of Gulfport, just west of St. Petersburg, starts its lighted boat parade from the Boca Ciega Yacht Club. The route goes from the yacht club marina, past the city pier and municipal beach, and through several areas along Boca Ciega Bay. The 16th annual parade starts at 6 p.m. and ends at approximately 8 p.m. 727-321-7295

Dunedin's Happy Holidays Celebration... Edgewater Park, Dunedin**Date: 12/13/2003**

The annual Happy Holidays Celebration at Edgewater Park includes a boat parade and a tree-lighting ceremony. There will also be live entertainment, an arts and crafts show and children's activities from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. with the boat parade and tree lighting at 7:15 p.m. 727-298-3260

Bayou Lighted Boat Parade...Tarpon Springs**Date: 12/14/2003**

This evening lighted boat parade starts at 6 p.m. at the Sponge Docks and proceeds around Whitcomb Bayou to Spring Bayou where there will be caroling at Craig Park. 727-942-5628. www.tarponsprings.com

St. Pete Beach Lighted Boat Parade...Throughout St. Pete Beach**Date: 12/15/2003**

This long parade starts at the historic Merry Pier in the Pass-A-Grille section of St. Pete Beach and runs north past the historic Don CeSar Resort to the tip of the island. The parade starts at 6 p.m. and plenty of space is available for parade watching at the Merry Pier. 727-363-9245

Outback Bowl Beach Day...Clearwater Beach**Date: 12/29/2003**

This free event features performances and competitions by team bands and cheerleaders as well as a pre-football meeting of the players and coaches who will be facing each other in the New Year's Day bowl game. This beachside pep rally includes live music, skydivers, a tug-of-war and other contests from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Hilton Clearwater Beach Resort. 727-461-3222
www.outbackbowl.com

Swing into the New Year...Gulfport Casino Ballroom, Gulfport**Date: 12/31/2003**

This community New Year's Eve celebration for all ages features Swing Dance lessons from 8 to 9 p.m. and a Swing Dance and celebration from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. Vintage costumes are optional. Countdown and champagne toast at midnight. Free munchies, party favors and cash bar. "See and buy art" to benefit City of Imagination. Admission is \$15. 727-893-1070

Outback Bowl...Raymond James Stadium, Tampa**Date: 1/1/2004**

One of the premier college football bowl games and the first bowl game of New Year's Day, the Outback Bowl features two of the nation's top teams from the Big 10 and SEC plus national television coverage. The game is played at Raymond James Stadium in Tampa. A week-long series of events precede the big game including the Bowl Beach Day. Don't miss the halftime show which features more than 5,000 performers. Kickoff is scheduled for 11:00 a.m. (Gates open 9:30 a.m.). 813-874-2695 www.outbackbowl.com