

## Spend Your Holidays at the State Museum

*November and December are filled with shopping, holiday shows and family-friendly activities*

**COLUMBIA, S.C., November 10, 2016** – The South Carolina State Museum will celebrate the holiday season with great shopping events, holiday shows, movies and family-friendly events taking place throughout the months of November and December. All holiday activities will be held at the State Museum, located at 301 Gervais St. in Columbia. The State Museum is open Monday, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.; Tuesday, 10 a.m. – 8 p.m.; Wednesday – Friday, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. and Sunday, 12 – 5 p.m.

“We always look forward to the holiday season,” said Willie Calloway, executive director of the State Museum. “This one of our busiest times of the year with much to experience and explore throughout museum. We look forward to continuing new family traditions with our planetarium and 4D holiday shows as we close out a successful 2016.”

**Second Shift Tuesday Shopping and Special Events:** The State Museum is open late every Tuesday and, in December, has a variety of evening events planned to celebrate the holiday season. Guests can also shop after-hours this holiday season at the State Museum’s store, the Cotton Mill Exchange. The store carries a variety of gifts representing every corner of South Carolina, including jewelry, clothing, throws, tote bags, table linens and glassware. The store is open until 8:00 p.m. for late shopping during Second Shift Tuesdays. General admission during Second Shift Tuesdays is 2 for \$10. Guests can explore the evening sky in the observatory, catch *THE POLAR EXPRESS 4D Experience* in the 4D theater, and experience some of your favorite holiday tunes choreographed set to a spectacular laser show in the planetarium.

### Other Second Shift Tuesday events include:

- **Tasting Tuesdays, Dec. 6, 13 & 20 (6 p.m. – 8 p.m.):**  
The museum is bringing back a new tradition celebrating South Carolina foodways, Tasting Tuesdays. Join the museum for the first four Tuesdays in December from 6 – 8 p.m. for free South Carolina-made food samplings by local companies and enjoy samples of local beer, wine and cider while you shop.
- **Bluegrass Jam Session Tuesday, Dec. 20 (6 p.m. – 8 p.m.):**  
Guests are invited to bring acoustic stringed instruments to jam with members of the SC Bluegrass and Traditional Arts Association.
- **Christmas Laser Fantasy: Mannheim Steamroller Christmas, Every Tues. in December (7 p.m.):**  
*Christmas Laser Fantasy: Mannheim Steamroller Christmas* is now playing in the BlueCross BlueShield of South Carolina Planetarium every Tuesday in December at 7 p.m. This 40 minute holiday laser light show features a colorful display of laser lights choreographed to popular Mannheim Steamroller Christmas music. Selling more than 30 million records, Mannheim Steamroller is known for their modern recordings of Christmas music and for their Fresh Aire albums that blend classical music and rock.

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**Now Open - Holiday 4D and Planetarium Shows:** Experience holiday shows and movies like never before in the museum's multisensory 4D theater and immersive planetarium.

- ***THE POLAR EXPRESS 4D Experience:*** You're invited on an extraordinary 4D adventure this holiday season on THE POLAR EXPRESS! When a doubting young boy takes an extraordinary train ride to the North Pole, he embarks on a journey of self-discovery that shows him that the wonder of life never fades for those who believe. *THE POLAR EXPRESS 4D Experience* is a 15 minute 4D movie and is playing now through Sunday, Jan. 1 in the Rev. Dr. Solomon Jackson, JR 4D Theater. Visit [scmuseum.org](http://scmuseum.org) for a list of showtimes.
- ***Star of Bethlehem:*** This full dome planetarium experience travels back in time to Bethlehem to investigate fascinating ideas about the "Christmas Star." The show presents historical and scientific facts to unravel this 2,000-year old mystery through a special audiovisual display featuring popular Christmas carols. *Star of Bethlehem* is a 25 minute show and is playing now through Sunday, Jan. 1 in the BlueCross BlueShield of South Carolina Planetarium. Visit [scmuseum.org](http://scmuseum.org) for a list of showtimes.
- **Laser Holidays:** The State Museum is giving a new meaning to "holiday lights" as it presents two holiday laser light shows, *Laser Holidays* and *Christmas Laser Fantasy: Mannheim Steamroller Christmas*. Both shows offer an exciting and unique way to celebrate the season through a display of colorful and dramatic laser lights choreographed to a mix of holiday music favorites. Each show is approximately 40 minutes and will play in the BlueCross BlueShield of South Carolina Planetarium. Visit [scmuseum.org](http://scmuseum.org) for a list of showtimes.

**Special Holiday Events:** Get into the holiday spirit with a variety of fun, family-friendly events.

- **Holiday Table Trimmings, Nov. 15:**  
The South Carolina State Museum will give guests a one of a kind experience with nationally recognized silver expert Dawn Corley, known as the "Charleston Silver Lady," from 7 until 9 p.m. Corley will give talks and live demonstrations on how to make any table the talk of the holiday season. Guests will also get to see two special table tops designed by Corley herself with pieces dating back to the 18th century. Tickets are \$50 for general public and \$40 for members and include light refreshments. Visit [scmuseum.org](http://scmuseum.org) to purchase tickets.
- **Holidays Around the World, Dec. 17:**  
Kick off the winter break at the State Museum during Holidays around the World from 11 a.m. until 4 p.m. This special event will focus on international holiday celebrations like Kwanza, Hanukkah, Christmas and more. Enjoy international crafts, food and more. This event is free with general admission.
- **Visits with Santa-, Dec. 17 – Dec. 23**  
Get your cameras ready for a special visitor from the North Pole! During the week before Christmas, Santa will make several visits to the State Museum from 11 a.m. until 3 p.m. daily. Guests will also get to choose their own magical Santa setting for a family picture! Visits with Santa are included with museum general admission, Green Screen Santa pictures require an additional fee.
- **Bright Star Theater Plays, Dec. 22:**  
Guests will be delighted this year with two entertaining holiday plays for all ages to enjoy. "Holidays around the World" will start at 1 p.m. and "A Christmas Carol" will start at 11 a.m. This event is free with general admission. The Crescent Café will have hot chocolate and cookies available for purchase during the plays.

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- **Frozen Sing-A-Long, Dec. 28:**

The State Museum presents the second annual “Frozen Sing-A-Long,” a magical evening to spark young guests’ imagination from 6 p.m. until 9:30 p.m. on Wednesday Dec. 30. During the event, guests will watch a special Sing-A-Long version of Disney’s “Frozen,” meet and greet with their favorite “Frozen” characters and enjoy crafts and activities. There will be light snacks and refreshments. “Frozen” costumes are highly encouraged. “Frozen Sing-A-Long” tickets are \$18 per person and \$15 for museum members. Space is limited, advance ticket purchase is recommended by visiting [scmuseum.org](http://scmuseum.org) or by calling (803) 898-4999. Tickets are on sale now at [scmuseum.org](http://scmuseum.org).

**New This Year - Winter Break Camps, Dec. 19 – 23; Dec. 26 - 30:**

The South Carolina State Museum is excited to offer a new line of camps for winter break 2016 for children aged 6 – 14 years old. Each day will focus on a different subject matter and even include a special Polar Express Day. Campers may register for the entire week or for individual days. Every day of camp features: morning social time with other campers, museum exploration time, hands-on and interactive activities, snack time and lunch time. For non-museum members registration is \$50 per camper per day or \$200 for the entire week. For members registration is \$40 per camper per day or \$160 for the entire week. To learn more visit [scmuseum.org](http://scmuseum.org) or contact the Group Visits Department by phone at 803.898.4999 or submit any questions about camps by email at [group\\_visits@scmuseum.org](mailto:group_visits@scmuseum.org).

The State Museum offers special combination tickets for guests to customize their adventure, starting with Explorer 1 (\$11.95 - \$13.95), Explorer 2 (\$14.95 - \$16.95) and Master Explorer (\$17.95 - \$19.95). The museum’s best value is Master Explorer, which includes admission to the museum, as well as the planetarium, 4D theater and blockbuster exhibit. General admission to the museum is \$6.95 for children 12 and under, \$7.95 for seniors and \$8.95 for adults. Visit [scmuseum.org](http://scmuseum.org) to learn more.

***About the South Carolina State Museum:*** *As the state’s largest and most comprehensive museum, the South Carolina State Museum, offers a unique, entertaining and educational experience to visitors throughout its 225,000 square foot facility located in the heart of downtown Columbia’s Congaree Vista. The State Museum is housed in one of its greatest artifacts, an 1894 old textile mill full of character and charm. In addition to beautiful meeting spaces throughout the facility, guests can explore outer space in one of the largest planetariums in the Southeast, watch an interactive 4D movie and look through a vintage telescope in a one-of-a-kind observatory. These exciting opportunities are all in addition to the four floors of South Carolina art, cultural history, natural history and science/technology that guests can experience. For more information about the museum, visit [scmuseum.org](http://scmuseum.org).*

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