



Experience Fall Fun and Holiday Cheer at Dollywood Parks & Resorts

Pigeon Forge, Tennessee (September 14, 2026) – Over the next several months, [Dollywood Parks & Resorts](#) will transform to match two of its guests' favorite seasons – fall and the holidays. Beyond their award-winning festivals, the beloved East Tennessee theme park and resorts are introducing new events, dinners and experiences to enjoy during this colorful and joyful time of year. Below is a snapshot of notable offerings to put on your radar to end 2026.



Great Pumpkin LumiNights at Dollywood's Harvest Festival.

Credit: The Dollywood Company

- [Dollywood's Harvest Festival](#) (September 14 to October 31)
The 165-acre theme park is nestled within the foothills of the Great Smoky Mountains, which put on a vibrant display of autumnal colors. In addition to its awe-inspiring location, Dollywood showcases more than 12,000 pumpkins, including elaborate glowing displays during its Great Pumpkin LumiNights, as well as more than 700 live performances of musical talent, including bluegrass, Southern gospel, jazz, country and more. Creative culinary items, accomplished artisans, colossal pumpkins and more than 50 rides and attractions – including the park's newest addition, [NightFlight Expedition](#) – make this a picture-perfect time to enjoy Dollywood.

NEW in 2026: Guests can experience a nightly dance party and newly decorated area called Apple Jack's Market at the Dollywood Express train depot, featuring décor and special culinary offerings that celebrate all things apples including fried apple pies and apple fritters, apple dumplings, apple cider flights, skillet-cooked apples, and sliced apples and caramel.

- **[Run Dollywood](#)** (September 25 to 27)

This new three-day race weekend lets runners “fall” in love with the beauty of Dollywood and the Smoky Mountains during its Harvest Festival. Racing events include a Friday-night 5k that takes place through the illuminating glow of Great Pumpkin LumiNights; a 10k and a 1-mile Kids Fun Run on Saturday; and the headline Half Marathon on Sunday. Runners will receive an exclusive finisher medal, event-specific T-shirt and race bib. Additional race features include on-course entertainment and character interactions, mid-race cinnamon bread stations, and opportunities to go on rides.

- **[Harvey's Boo Bash](#)** (October 16, 23 and 30)

This new after-hours, separately ticketed event offers guests an evening to enjoy the park with fewer crowds and sweet treats. Attendees can enjoy candy-collecting stations (with allergy-friendly options), dance parties, exclusive themed snacks, access to select rides and attractions under the stars, and character encounters with Harvey and his friends. Guests are encouraged to dress up in their favorite family-friendly costumes (guidelines are available at [Dollywood.com/BooBash](https://www.dollywood.com/BooBash)). Admission to the event is from 9 p.m. to midnight and includes a complimentary candy bag, commemorative souvenir cup, free Coca-Cola fountain drinks (with use of cup), and complimentary kettle corn.

- **[Harvest Festival Chef's Dinner](#)** (October 24)

[Dollywood's HeartSong Lodge & Resort](#) invites guests to participate in its Harvest Festival Chef's Dinner featuring a fall-inspired menu curated by chefs from Dollywood and both Dollywood resorts. Guests can indulge in a five-course meal set outdoors under the Smoky Mountain sky with wine pairings, hors d'oeuvres, cocktails and live entertainment. The dinner takes place at 6 p.m. Room packages and event-only tickets are available [here](#).



Dollywood's Smoky Mountain Christmas.
Credit: The Dollywood Company

- [Dollywood's Smoky Mountain Christmas](#)** (November 6, 2026, to January 3, 2027)
This award-winning holiday festival features more than 6 million twinkling lights, towering Christmas trees, heartwarming holiday shows, festive flavors, seasonal shopping, and (of course) a visit with Santa. Guests can also enjoy breathtaking weekend fireworks shows that dance in tandem with holiday classics, an immersive winter wonderland in the park's kid-friendly Wildwood Grove area (complete with snow!) and an opportunity to ride Dollywood's newest indoor adventure coaster, NightFlight Expedition.
- [Midnight in the Smokies at Dollywood's HeartSong Lodge & Resort](#)** (December 31)
Celebrate the new year at Dollywood's HeartSong Lodge & Resort with a new event experience for adults 21 and older. Book an exclusive ticketed New Year's Eve celebration as part of a stay that includes a chef-curated dinner buffet, passed appetizers, handcrafted cocktails, live music by the Kim Kelly Orchestra, dancing and a champagne toast at midnight. Learn more [here](#).
- [Celebrating Dollywood's Dreamer-in-Chief, Dolly Parton](#)**
Dollywood Parks and Resorts guests can feel connected to its Dreamer-in-Chief, Dolly Parton, through a variety of experiences and offerings. In Dollywood, you can learn about her life through The Dolly Parton Experience, explore a replica of her Tennessee Mountain Home and dine at Aunt Granny's restaurant (the name Dolly's nieces and nephews called her). At [Dollywood Resorts](#), you can be inspired by the Great Smoky Mountains at [Dollywood's HeartSong Lodge & Resort](#), like Dolly was, or book a stay on her tour bus, [Suite 1986](#), or the Dolly Parton Suite at [Dollywood's DreamMore Resort and Spa](#). Dollywood is also planning a variety of new additions and tributes to Dolly in 2027.

For more information about Dollywood Parks & Resorts and to book a trip, please visit [Dollywood.com](https://www.dollywood.com).

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About Dollywood Parks & Resorts

A highly awarded and widely recognized leader in the amusement industry, Dollywood Parks & Resorts consists of the 165-acre Dollywood theme park; the 35-acre Dollywood's Splash Country; and two award-winning resort properties: Dollywood's DreamMore Resort and Spa and Dollywood's HeartSong Lodge & Resort. As unique as its namesake Dolly Parton, Dollywood opened in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee, on May 3, 1986, and earned the theme park industry's highest accolade, the Applause Award, in 2010. Dollywood has earned 67 Golden Ticket Awards and 28 Brass Ring Awards for live entertainment. In 2022, 2024 and 2025, Dollywood was named by Tripadvisor as the #1 theme park in the country based on actual guest reviews. The park is located near Great Smoky Mountains National Park and has been recognized as a top U.S. theme park by *USA Today* on multiple occasions. Dollywood is open mid-March through early January and offers rides, attractions, shows and crafters inspired by and authentic to the East Tennessee region. Dollywood's Splash Country, recognized by the *Travel Channel* and *Tripadvisor* as one of the country's most beautiful water parks, operates from mid-May to mid-September. Dollywood's DreamMore Resort and Spa as well as Dollywood's HeartSong Lodge & Resort provide guests with spectacular mountain views and family-friendly amenities next door to Dollywood theme park and Dollywood's Splash Country. For more information, visit [Dollywood.com](https://www.dollywood.com). Operating days and hours vary.

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