Santa's Official Guide to Christmas in Bowling Green, Kentucky

OFFICIAL NORTH POLE ADVISORY: Reports indicate that Kentucky's third-largest city is experiencing elevated levels of holiday cheer. Reindeer activity is up, candles have been lit, local shops are stocking their shelves and cocoa reserves could run low (additional monitoring recommended).

Santa's seasonal scouting team has identified several stops in Bowling Green that are worthy of a spot on this year's holiday itinerary. Travelers are encouraged to review the following field notes and proceed directly to Bowling Green as the top source for holiday spirit.

Field Note #1: Reindeer Relations Level: Excellent

The Reindeer Farm

It's not every day that anyone other than elves gets to hang with some of Santa's most recognizable (and fuzzy) coworkers, but visitors can do it at this one-of-a-kind spot. At The Reindeer Farm, they can get up close with reindeer and other animals during encounters that are sure to earn a spot on the Nice List. North Pole personnel recommend allowing plenty of time for these encounters, plus writing letters to The Big Guy himself, watching Christmas movies, playing reindeer games and singing holiday karaoke. Sleigh bells? Check. Christmas magic? Confirmed. A very good reason to deck your halls and come to Bowling Green? Absolutely.

Details: Open Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays (November 15 – December 27), with additional dates and special events throughout the season



Field Note #2: Christmas Past Is Alive and Well — No Ghosts Here!

Riverview at Hobson Grove's Candlelight Tour

At Bowling Green's beloved historic home, visitors can step back in time during the annual Candlelight Tour, a free event during which Riverview's holiday atmosphere offers a glimpse of Christmas traditions from another era. With candlelight illuminating the historic interiors, the experience offers a quiet and nostalgic alternative to the season's bustling festivities. Just a reminder that some of the best Christmas magic doesn't require batteries or an instruction manual!

Details: December 12, 4:30 – 7:30 pm

Field Note #3: Gift Procurement Status: In Progress

Seasonal Holiday Markets

Attention, holiday shoppers! The North Pole's gift-wrapping department (you know, that one poor elf covered in tape and paper cuts) does not encourage last-minute shopping panic. Bowling Green provides several opportunities to get ahead of the rush. It's time to shop small, support local businesses and leave the chimney logistics to the professionals.

GypsyMoon Marketplace offers a place to browse distinctive finds and discover gifts that can't be made even in Santa's workshop. Seasonal vendor events at Jackson's Orchard and the new Storybook Café provide additional opportunities to shop local and uncover seasonal treasures.

Details: GypsyMoon Marketplace will be held November 5-7. Other event details TBD.

Field Note #4: Holiday Spirit Detected in the Streets

Christmas Parade

Even Santa may need a little help getting the word out that Christmas is coming. After all, he can't be the only one spreading cheer from a moving vehicle. Enter the Bowling Green Jaycees Christmas Parade. Now in its 70th year, the seasonal spectacle appeals to locals and visitors alike. Sleighs and jingle bells not required. Enthusiastic waving and unbridled joy? Strongly encouraged.

Details: December 5, 10 am – 12 noon in downtown Bowling Green

Field Note #5: Cocoa and Cookie Reserves Must Be Replenished

Bowling Green's Festive Food Stops

No holiday scouting mission is complete without a strategic snack break, and hot chocolate and other holiday treats are a matter of operational necessity at this time of year. After a day of shopping and seasonal adventures, travelers will need to replenish their cocoa reserves at places like Spencer's Coffee and Meltdown Ice Cream. Despite a December schedule that would make even the busiest elf break out into a sweat, the Jolly One is taking time to attend popular Breakfast with Santa events at Chaney's Dairy Barn, complete with pictures and story time. For those who prefer their holiday cheer by the scoop, Chaney's seasonal ice cream flavors are also worth investigating … with "Santa's Cookies" getting a special recommendation from at least one very reliable source.

FINAL DISPATCH: Bowling Green Is Cleared for Christmas

The North Pole's final recommendation? Make the plans and pack those mittens. Holiday cheer is expected to remain at extraordinarily high levels throughout the season, so visitors are advised to book their stays and report to Bowling Green fully prepared to be merry and bright. (Side effects may include excessive festive spirit and an irresistible urge to break into Christmas song.)

For more information about holiday events and planning a trip to Bowling Green, visit visitbgky.com.

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