

# Unwrap Top Travel Experiences This Holiday Season These Might Just Make You Change Your Mind about Being Home for the Holidays

This year, people seem to have gotten a jump on hauling out the holly and decorating everything that's not moving ... but we suggest taking that holiday spirit on the road and having a few experiences that could result in the best gift of the season: memories made with family and friends. From reindeer prancing through Kentucky to a gingerbread display that hits it out of the park in New York, there's no shortage of merry and bright adventures waiting in some of MBPR's client destinations. Get ready to unwrap some one-of-a-kind happenings that will make your season extrabright this year.

#### Run, Run Reindeer

#### The Reindeer Farm in Bowling Green, Kentucky

It's the most wonderful time of the year, and what better way to embrace the magic than spending time with Santa's favorite critters? This hands-on farm experience lets you get close to a team of more than eight not-so-tiny reindeer, plus you can take a ride on a festive sleigh, stroll through holiday-themed displays and ice sculptures, and spend time with the jolly guy himself. New this year, the farm just added a zipline, so if the sight of these creatures playing reindeer games inspires YOU to really know how to fly ... have at it!

#### These Halls are Decked

#### Houmas House in Ascension Parish, Louisiana

"Let it snow" might not be the theme of a Louisiana Christmas, but that doesn't mean the holiday season is any less jolly here. At Houmas House Estate and Gardens, the Southern Christmas vibe is strong, with majestic oak trees draped in twinkling lights and a grand historic home decked out like something straight out of a classic holiday movie. Guests can stroll the beautifully lit gardens, have a cup of cheer and enjoy delicious culinary offerings.

#### Santa's Little Helpers

#### Storybook Holiday in Frostburg, Maryland

Frostburg, located on the Mountain Side of Maryland, is home to the nationally recognized Storybook Holiday event, complete with the ever-popular Elf Olympics, kid's activities, a Christmas market, shops, a featured children's author and a parade led by none other than Jack Frost himself. Fitting for a town named "Frost"-burg, Mr. Frost closes out the day's activities by hosting a town-wide snowball fight. The 21<sup>st</sup> annual Storybook Holiday is scheduled for Saturday, December

7. Even if you can't make it to town on that particular day, Frostburg is one of the most charmingly decorated holiday towns on the East Coast throughout the season.

# Have a Holly, Dolly Christmas

### Dollywood Resorts in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee

They say there's no place like home for the holidays, but what if you could enjoy all the cozy vibes without the food prep and dirty dishes, laborious set-up and take-down of decorations, and the ensuing stress? Have yourself a merrier little Christmas at Dollywood's DreamMore Resort and Spa or Dollywood's HeartSong Lodge & Resort. Cozy accommodations, carolers and holiday-themed packages (including one that features a tree in your room) will make your stay as sweet as sugar plums. And just in case your holiday barometer measures in this way: This part of east Tennessee was the set for a bonafide Hallmark movie, "Christmas at Dollywood," back in 2019.

#### **Better than Figgy Pudding**

## The Otesaga Resort Hotel in Cooperstown, New York

The Otesaga Resort Hotel is *the* place to stay during a visit to Cooperstown, home of the National Baseball Hall of Fame & Museum. Each year, The Otesaga's culinary team pulls out all the stops to create an amazing gingerbread creation that's proudly displayed throughout the holiday season. This time they've hit a home run by building a gingerbread replica of historic Doubleday Field. For nearly 100 years, this celebrated baseball stadium has seen everyone from Hall of Famers to lucky kids play America's pastime here in the village. Now it's been transformed into gingerbread and royal icing.

If you're dreaming of a merry and bright holiday season, gather your loved ones, pack your favorite holiday sweaters (ugly or not) and get ready to make memories that will last way longer than the extra pounds you pick up during this festive time of year.

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