

THE 7 MOST HAPPENING CHRISTMAS EVENTS IN L.A.

By Ally Boulas, Asst. L+A Editor

December is now upon us and while Christmas-themed commercials bombard our TV screens and "All I Want for Christmas is You" plays on loop in every Starbucks in sight, some of us are eager for even more holiday festivities to get in a jolly mood. Here are seven events in Los Angeles this season to help jumpstart your Christmas celebrations.

Marina del Rey Holiday Boat Parade - Dec. 8

Grab a blanket and some friends and head down to the Fisherman's Village in Marina del Rey to catch the free festive boat parade. Festivities kick off with a fireworks show at 5:55 p.m. followed by the parade, where dozens of boats are decorated in order to win prizes such as Best Theme, Best Lights, Best Band and more.

Ice Skate in Pershing Square - Until Jan. 21

What could be more festive than ice skating with your friends? Check out this outdoor skating rink in the heart of downtown to get into the holiday spirit (and practice your skating skills).

SANTA Monica Pub Crawl - Dec. 8

Join other party-going do-gooders to have a great night and give back to the Westside Food Bank all at the same time with the SANTA Monica Pub Crawl. Admittance is \$15 and grants you access to one of four pub crawl routes in Santa Monica. Be sure to dress up in your best Christmas-y costume and even join in on a scavenger hunt to earn a prize.

Enchanted: Forest of Light - Until Jan. 6

Descanso Gardens in La Cañada transforms into a magical land every winter, with stunning light displays and interactive art installations all throughout the

botanical gardens. You can purchase tickets ahead of time through the Descanso Gardens website.

L.A. Zoo Lights - Until Jan. 6

If botanical gardens aren't your thing, head to the Los Angeles Zoo for the annual L.A. Zoo Lights. Herds of glowing animals welcome you throughout the show, and don't miss out on the disco ball forest!

Mission Inn - Until Jan. 6

If you'd rather avoid nature altogether, and don't mind a little drive, head on over to the Festival of Lights at the Mission Inn in Riverside. This historic hotel completely transforms into a magical wonderland each year, and was also named one of the Best Public Lights Displays in the country by USA Today. Boasting horse-drawn carriage rides, the world's largest man-made mistletoe and even snow in Los Angeles, the Festival of Lights is a must-see.

Christmas at the Queen Mary - Until Jan. 6

Head down to the famous Queen Mary in Long Beach for some festive holiday fun, all while being aboard a historic ship. The Queen Mary will have carolers, Santa Claus meet-and-greets and even ice skating on one of the ship's decks.

Whether you would rather head to Santa Monica for cocktails or the zoo to see some reindeer, there is something for everyone to do this December. And above all else, have a very happy holiday season!

This is the opinion of **Ally Boulas**, a senior theatre arts major from Sacramento, California. Tweet comments to @LALoyolan or email comments to jcornblatt@theloyolan.com