



STATE OF WASHINGTON

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY, TRADE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
TOURISM OFFICE

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For immediate release

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Washington State Invites Canadians to “Go Loonie” With Their Strong Dollars This Holiday Season

Washington Eager to Return Decades of Holiday Hospitality for Our Friends to the North

Olympia, WA – Dec. 11, 2007 – Money might not buy happiness, but the strongest Canadian dollar in years may allow Canadians to get pretty close. After years of graciously hosting Washington visitors, Canadians can affordably enjoy all the state has to offer through Boxing Day and beyond.

With Canadian currency at parity with the U.S. dollar for the first time in a generation, the Washington State Office of Tourism encourages our neighbors to the north in British Columbia and Alberta to take advantage of incredible shopping and culinary experiences, incomparable cultural and heritage adventures, and the state’s unparalleled attractions and events.

In Washington State, independent spirits will be rewarded with endless discoveries. Below is a sampling of some of the special promotions, unique shopping and one of a kind experiences Washington has to offer:

Sequim, Washington

Celebrate Christmas In Sequim

A short ferry ride from Victoria. Celebrate an old fashioned Christmas throughout December in Sequim. Featured events include: Dec.7, Girls Night Out, Dec. 15, Family Day Out, Dec. 21, Guys Night Out. Visit www.visitsun.com or www.sequimchamber.com.

Port Ludlow, Washington

The Resort At Port Ludlow Presents the Writers' Series Dinners

Mix and mingle with some of the Northwest's most renowned authors (Linda Costello, Earl Emerson, Dr. Pepper Schwartz) and also enjoy a five course dinner. Includes autographed book. Overnight packages available. Jan. 19, Feb. 23 and Mar. 22,2008, at 6:00pm. Visit www.portludlowresort.com

Leavenworth, Washington

Christmas Lighting Festival

The Ultimate Holiday Celebration chosen by Good Morning America as one of the top 5 in the United States for the “Light Up The Holidays Special.” Roasting chestnuts, food booths, live entertainment, sledding, and the most spectacular display of the lights anywhere! Dec. 7 – 9 & 14 – 16. Visit www.leavenworth.org

Bavarian Ice Fest

Winter play day for all ages with an invigorating grab bag of outdoor events. NW dog sled pulling competition, fireworks, dog sled rides, sleigh rides, snowmobiling, x-country skiing, snowshoeing. Jan. 19-20. Visit www.leavenworth.org

Arlington, Washington

Enjoy “Turn of the Century” horse drawn wagon rides down Olympic Avenue free to all downtown Arlington shoppers and a free photo with Santa on Dec. 8th and 15th.

Jan. 5, 2008 is Super Saturday! Shoppers receive a 20% discount from participating stores in downtown Arlington.

Edmonds, Washington

Downtown Edmonds Third Thursday Art Walk 5 - 8 pm, Dec. 20, 2007, 5 - 8 pm, January 17, 2008, www.edmondswa.com/Events/ArtWalk/index.html	Mini Holiday Bazaar of Northwest Artists Saturday, Dec. 15, 11am - 6pm, Saturday, December 22, 11am - 6pm, and Sunday Dec. 23, 12 - 4pm, www.ManyaVeeSelects.com
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Bellingham, Washington

28th Annual Holiday Festival of the Arts Downtown Bellingham, daily through Dec. 24, 10 a.m. – 7 p.m. daily, (closed Mondays) www.alliedarts.org	Adoramus Carolers Whatcom Museum of History & Art, downtown Bellingham Dec. 22, 2 p.m., www.whatcommuseum.org
Pacific Arts Holiday Market Downtown Bellingham, Dec. 14 – 16 & Dec. 21 – 24, 10 a.m. – 6 p.m., www.pacificartsholidaymarket.com	Celebrate Bellingham! Free New Year's Activities Locations throughout downtown Bellingham Dec. 28 – 31 http://www.cob.org/documents/parks/recreation/celebrate-bellingham-2007.pdf

Spokane, Washington

Ice Skating with Santa Riverfront Park Ice Palace - Join Santa for a unique holiday experience full of ice skating, food and fun. Dec. 15, 12-2:00 pm. Visit www.spokaneparks.org	Seasonal Events and Shopping Visit www.winterinspokane.com or www.visitspokane.com
Traditional Horse & Carriage Rides Downtown Spokane Free traditional horse and carriage rides through the heart of downtown Spokane. Nov. 23 – Dec. 24 Fridays 3-8:00 pm, Saturdays & Sundays 12-5:00 pm www.downtownspokane.net	Winter Carnival Fireworks Schweitzer Mountain Resort Enjoy fun games, live music, great food and activities throughout the weekend. Great for the whole family! Jan. 19-21, 2008, 6 pm www.schweitzer.com
First Night Spokane Various venues throughout downtown Spokane A family-friendly celebration of the arts in downtown Spokane featuring more than 100 different artistic presentations. New Year's Eve, Dec. 31, 2007, 3:00 – Midnight www.firstnightspokane.com	

Everett, Washington

Everett Performing Arts Center New Years' Party Bounteous hors d'oeuvres and chilled glasses of champagne at the pre-concert reception, then join the Everett Symphony for the 13th Annual "Night Before New Year's Eve" Celebration. Sunday, Dec. 30, 6:30pm. Visit www.everettsymphony.org	Comedy Underground: New Year's Eve Comedy Gala The Everett Theatre celebrates its second annual stand-up comedy New Year's Eve show, featuring the top performers from The Comedy Underground, Seattle's longest running comedy club. Monday, Dec. 31, 8:00pm www.everetttheatre.org
Village Theatre Presents "The King and I" Set against a dazzling exotic backdrop, Rodgers and Hammerstein's Tony Award-winning classic is playing Jan. 11 – 27, evenings and matinees. Visit www.villagetheatre.org	Imagine Children's Museum Activities & Gift Store Innovative, holiday-themed programs and exhibits for kids. Throughout December, Tues, Wed, Sat 10am – 4pm; Thurs-Fri 10am – 5:30pm; Sun 11am – 5pm. Year round. Closed Mondays, Christmas Day and New Year's Day. Visit www.imaginecm.org

Snohomish, Washington

Open Late Till' 8:00! Shop and Dine Historic Downtown Snohomish! Participating shops will be open to greet you with treats and offer you wonderful holiday shopping at its finest! Enjoy dining, entertainment and wine tasting. Dec. 14, Friday 5:00-8:00pm www.saysnohomish.com	Candlelight Solstice Walk A peaceful candlelit walk along the Snohomish River trail adjacent to First St. in Historic Downtown Snohomish. A wonderful relaxing way to welcome Winter! Dine on NW fare and enjoy local entertainment! Kla Ha Ya Park, Dec. 21, 4:30-5:30pm. Visit www.yogacirclestudio.com/solstice .
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<p>Lodge Podge Silly Prices Sale! Save 20%-30% & more on Holiday Items Dec 17 - 23 Mon.-Sat.11am-5pm;Sun.12N-5PM. Visit www.shoplodgepodge.com</p>	
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Bothell, Washington

<p>Reindeer Rides at Country Village Shops Children of all ages will love riding on Santa's Reindeer at Country Village Saturday and Sunday, from 12-3pm. Dec. 15-16, 12-3pm. Visit www.countryvillagebothell.com.</p>	<p>The Magic of Christmas Party at The Weed Patch This weekend features sale prices on many products throughout the store, a special (secret!) Christmas Gift for a few lucky shoppers, contests, soup, dip, and hot cider samples throughout the day. December 15-16, Saturday 10am to 6pm; Sunday 11am-5pm. Visit www.theweedpatchstore.com.</p>
<p>Mrs. Claus and Santa's Reindeer are Back at Country Village Sample a free fresh baked cookie with Mrs. Claus, ride on Santa's "reindeer", or take a train ride around the Village while you enjoy shopping at any of our 40 unique specialty shops. Dec. 22-23, 12-3pm. Visit www.countryvillagebothell.com</p>	<p>New Years Eve Belly Dance Bash Join Ottoman Trading Company in welcoming the New Year with dinner, dancing, and much more! Tickets are \$40 per person. Dec. 31, 7pm - 1am. Visit www.ottomantradingco.com ;</p>

Whidbey and Camano Islands, Washington

<p>Historic Langley "Come Home for the Holidays", Mike's Place Creamery, Langley, Whidbey Island Enjoy picture taking with Santa and the magical holiday lights. Gingerbread House Baking & Sugar Cookie Baking, Langley Holiday Showcase & Sing-Along. Dec. 26 shops in Langley will be open. Visit www.visitLangley.com</p>	<p>Historic Greenbank Farm offers First Fridays at the Farm Holiday Market, Whidbey Island You'll find one of-a-kind handcrafted gifts for your loved ones! Enjoy savory foods, chocolate, spiced nuts, jewelry, glass & clay art, paintings, lotions, photography, woven creations, hand-carved wood art, fragrant soap and much more! events@greenbankfarm.com</p>
<p>Bayview FarmersMarket, Langley (on Second Street, behind North Star Trading next to City Hall), Whidbey Island. Open Saturdays and Sundays through December 23rd. There are wonderful vendors including great gifts and gorgeous baked goods! Visit www.bayviewfarmersmarket.com/</p>	

San Juan Islands

<p>Island Lights San Juan Island's Holiday Celebration San Juan Island will once again take on a magical air in December when the "Island Lights" holiday celebration begins. Friday Harbor & Roche Harbor, San Juan Island. Admission is free November 30, 2007 - December 31, 2007, www.sanjuanisland.org.</p>	<p>For more information on shopping and holiday specials, visit www.VisitSanJuans.com</p>
<p>Roche Harbor's Christmas Festival Featuring Santa and his elves, decoration-making for the kids, a lighted-boat parade, tree lighting and Christmas caroling. Festival is free, food and drinks at minimal cost. Dec. 15, 2007. Visit www.rocheharbor.com</p>	<p>San Juan Islands Audubon Christmas Bird Count Circle Saturday, December 15th for the Christmas Bird Count with San Juan Islands Audubon. This is when we crawl over trees, walk along shorelines and stand out in the field counting birds with our neighbors. Really fun! Visit www.sjiadubon.org</p>

To learn more about things to do in Washington State, visit www.experiencewa.com.

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