

Merry AND Bright

Rockford Area Convention & Visitors Bureau



Merry & Bright Events

Festival of Lights

Nov 25 - Dec 25 @ Sinissippi Park

The annual Holiday Festival of Lights has become a Stalene family tradition, with over 50 holiday-themed lighted displays. Santa will be on site each weekend night so you can hand deliver your letters to him.

Stroll on State

Nov 26 @ Downtown Rockford

Stroll on State returns for a 4th year to get you in the holiday spirit. Come see Santa, go ice skating and witness the magical tree lighting ceremony of the official City Christmas tree.



All Aglow Display

Nov 26 - Jan 8 @ Nicholas Conservatory & Gardens

Come see sparkling holiday lights and beautiful floral displays inside the warm tropical conservatory. Outdoor grounds are also lit up and decorated for the season.



Rockford IceHogs Hockey 300 Elm St.

Hockey loving locals and visitors alike love to go "hog wild" over the IceHogs, the local American Hockey League Affiliate of the Chicago Blackhawks.



Winter Activities

Gateway Parks at Alpine Hills 4402 Larson Ave.

Enjoy tubing, skiing and snowboarding for riders of all abilities. Snow making equipment covers the park in fresh powder daily.



Rocktown Adventures 313 N. Madison St.

This specialty outdoor retailer hosts snowshoeing tours throughout various Rockford Park District facilities and Rock Cut State Park.



The Nutcracker

Nov 26 - 27 @ Rockford University

Rockford Dance Company's annual performance of The Nutcracker has amazing new choreography by Monica Isla from the Milwaukee Ballet.

Rockton Christmas Walk

Dec 3 @ Downtown Rockton

The 32nd annual event includes the Candy Cane Craft Fair, Lighting of the Park, Lighted Parade, horse drawn wagon rides, Santa and Christmas carolers.

A Local Holiday Market

Dec 10 @ Rockford University

This annual event helps you support and shop at your favorite local homegrown, grass roots businesses, all in one convenient location!



..... 12 Bars of Christmas

Dec 17 @ Downtown Rockford

Holiday cheer and a bit of revelry will be on display during this second annual pub crawl where you can wind your way through downtown to 12 local bars and restaurants.

Holiday Pops Concert

Dec 17 - 18 @ Coronado Performing Arts Center

Celebrate the holiday season as the Mendelssohn Chorale joins the Rockford Symphony Orchestra to bring you the best music of the season, from popular to traditional and sentimental to serious.

Countdown to Fun

Dec 31 @ Discovery Center Museum

Design a party hat, create a noise maker, and get showered with confetti as we find out where in the world it's midnight each hour and countdown to fun!

Illinois Snow Sculpting Competition

Jan 18 - 21 @
Sinnissippi Park

Teams from around the state compete for the right to represent Illinois in the 2018 U.S. Nationals Snow Sculpting Competition.



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For more info about these events and locations, visit gorockford.com/meryandbright.

Holidays Around the World



Christmas Heritage Exhibits

Nov 27 - Dec 18

@ Ethnic Heritage Museum

See ethnic Christmas heritage traditions in six ethnic galleries: African American, Irish, Italian, Hispanic, Lithuanian and Polish.

Julmarknad

Dec 3

@ Trinity Lutheran Church

Julmarknad is a fun filled day full of Swedish foods, vendors, and more. Enjoy breakfast with Tomte (Swedish Santa) and children singing Swedish and English songs.

Victorian Holiday Celebration

Dec 10 - 11

@ Midway Village Museum

Enjoy the sights of 1800s decorations on several of the historic buildings in the Victorian Village and take a sleigh ride in the horse-drawn wagon.

New Year Around the World

Dec 31

@ Burpee Museum

Visit displays of authentic items from other cultures, watch performances of folk dances from different countries, and join the hourly countdown to ring in 2017.

