

**2011 FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS – 85<sup>th</sup> Annual Event**  
**Schedule of Events**  
**November 19 – January 6, 2012**

Over 300,000+ Christmas lights and 100 plus riverbank set pieces are on every night at dusk through January 6, 2012. Downtown attractions include carriages tours through the historic district. Shops and restaurants open late. All events take place in the Landmark Historic District along the Cane River Lake. Visit [www.christmasfestival.com](http://www.christmasfestival.com) or call 1-800-259-1714 for a complete up to date schedule and news. \* All times are approximate at this time. Dates are subject to change.

**NOVEMBER EVENTS**

*Enjoy carolers on Front Street every Friday & Saturday evening through December 17 – except for Sat. Dec. 3 – sponsored by the Natchitoches Historic District Business Association*

**Saturday, November 19:**

All Day	“Turn on the Holidays!” – A Louisiana Main to Main Event – Children’s activities, entertainment & more.
Noon – 4:00 p.m.	<b>Children’s Festivities</b> - Downtown Riverbank, <b>FREE</b>
Noon – 8:00 p.m.	<b>Holiday Open House</b> – Historic District Business Association (Shops & attractions open late)
5:00 – 9:00 p.m.	<b>Musical Entertainment</b> – <b>FREE</b>
6:30 p.m.	<b>Festival of Lights Opening Night Ceremony</b> – downtown riverbank
7:00 p.m.	<b>Fireworks over Cane River Lake</b> ☺ <b>FREE</b>

**Friday, November 25:**

4:00 – 9:00 pm	<b>SNOW FEST – Louisiana Office of Tourism (Official Sponsor)</b> Experience Frosty’s Avalanche Slide – tubing down 110 ft of totally awesome winter fun** \$; plus other children’s activities and vendors. **42” height requirement, hosted by Historic District Business Association
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**Saturday November 26: Blues Christmas Weekend**

**SNOW FEST**

10:00 am – 8:00 pm	<b>Louisiana Office of Tourism (Official Sponsor)</b> Experience Frosty’s Avalanche Slide – tubing down 110 ft of totally awesome winter fun** \$; plus other children’s activities and vendors. **42” height requirement, hosted by Historic District Business Association
10:00 – 5:00 p.m.	<b>Fleur de Lis Arts &amp; Crafts Show</b> – Christmas crafts, jewelry, decorations & gifts. Natchitoches Events Center, 750 Second Street. <b>FREE</b>
5:00 – 9:00 p.m.	<b>Musical Entertainment</b> - <b>FREE</b>
7:00 p.m.	<b>Fireworks over Cane River Lake</b> ☺ <b>FREE</b>

**Thursday, December 1**

7:30 p.m.	<b>Natchitoches/Northwestern Christmas Gala</b> , A.A. Fredericks Auditorium NSU campus. \$
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**Friday, December 2:**

5:00 – 9:00 p.m.	<b>Entertainment on downtown riverbank stage</b> - <b>FREE</b>
7 & 9:00 p.m.	<b>Natchitoches/Northwestern Christmas Gala</b> , A. A. Fredericks Auditorium NSU campus. \$

**DECEMBER EVENTS**

**Saturday, December 3**

**85<sup>th</sup> Annual Christmas Festival, Louisiana’s premiere holiday event.**

Daylong celebration with live musical entertainment, arts, crafts and food vendors, two parades, a magnificent fireworks and laser show choreographed to holiday music over a state of the arts sound system. \*\*Admission to Front Street & Downtown Riverbank.

7:45 am	<b>Natchitoches “City of Lights” 5K</b>
10:00 am	<b>Opening Ceremony</b>
10:30 – Noon	<b>Entertainment</b>
11:00 am	<b>Junior Parade</b>
Noon – 1pm	<b>Entertainment</b>
1 – 2:30 pm	<b>Entertainment</b>
2:00 pm	<b>Christmas Parade sponsored by Encana</b>
4:00 – 6pm	<b>Entertainment</b>
6:00 pm	<b>Fireworks over Cane River Lake</b>
6:30 - 9:00 pm	<b>Entertainment</b>

**Tuesday December 6:**

7:30 pm	“Lesson & Carols” - Immaculate Conception Church, 613 Second Street. Free
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**Wednesday, December 7:**

5:00 – 8:00 pm	<b>Holiday Tour of Homes</b> , hosted by Natchitoches Historic Foundation \$ <a href="http://www.historicfoundation.org">www.historicfoundation.org</a> ☺ For Tickets Call: 800-259-1714
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**Friday, December 9:**

5:00 – 8:00 pm	<b>Holiday Tour of Homes</b> , hosted by Natchitoches Historic Foundation \$ <a href="http://www.historicfoundation.org">www.historicfoundation.org</a> ☺ For Tickets Call: 800-259-1714
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**Saturday, December 10: Cajun Christmas Weekend**

**Admission to downtown riverbank – beginning at 2pm - \$5 ages 12 & over**

9:00 am – 5:00 pm

**Fête de Hiver. Fort St. Jean Baptiste SHS**, Celebrate Christmas 18<sup>th</sup> century style with historians, re-enactors and period merchants. \$4 for persons over 12 & under 62.

10:00 am – 5:00 pm **Les Amies Christmas Treasures Arts & Crafts Sale** – Natchitoches Events Center, 750 Second Street - FREE  
1:00 – 4:00 pm **Holiday Tour of Homes**, hosted by Natchitoches Historic Foundation. \$ [www.historicfoundation.org](http://www.historicfoundation.org) ☺  
For Tickets Call: 800-259-1714  
1:00 – 2:30 pm **Christmas Downriver**. Cane River Creole National Historic Park presents Creole Christmas with special tours, educational programs and musical events ☺ FREE  
1:00 – 3:00 pm **Children’s Christmas Party** – Natchitoches Parish Library, 450 Second Street ☺ FREE  
2:00 – 5:00 pm **Entertainment on downtown riverbank stage - Admission**  
6:00 – 9:00 pm **Entertainment on downtown riverbank stage - Admission**  
7:00 pm **Fireworks over Cane River Lake - Admission**

**Tuesday, December 13:**

7:30 pm **“Lessons & Carols” featuring NSU Choirs** – Trinity Episcopal Church, 533 Second Street ☺ FREE

**Wednesday, December 14:**

5:00 – 8:00 pm **Holiday Tour of Homes**, hosted by Natchitoches Historic Foundation. \$ [www.historicfoundation.org](http://www.historicfoundation.org) ☺  
For Tickets Call: 800-259-1714

**Friday, December 16:**

5:00 – 8:00 pm **Holiday Tour of Homes**, hosted by Natchitoches Historic Foundation. \$ [www.historicfoundation.org](http://www.historicfoundation.org) ☺  
For Tickets Call: 800-259-1714

**Saturday, December 17: Rocking Christmas Weekend**

**Admission to downtown riverbank – beginning at 2pm - \$5 ages 12 & over**

12:00 – 4:00 pm **Cane River Creole Christmas** at Badin-Roque House. The St. Augustine Historical Society hosts special tours and Creole holiday stories ☺ FREE  
1:00 – 2:30 pm **Christmas Downriver**. Cane River Creole National Historic Park presents Creole Christmas with special tours, educational programs and musical events ☺ FREE  
1:00 – 4:00 pm **Holiday Tour of Homes**, hosted by Natchitoches Historic Foundation. \$ [www.historicfoundation.org](http://www.historicfoundation.org) ☺  
For Tickets Call 800-259-1714  
2:00 – 5:00 pm **Entertainment on downtown riverbank stage - Admission**  
6:00 – 9:00 pm **Entertainment on downtown riverbank stage - Admission**  
7:00 pm **Fireworks over Cane River Lake - Admission**

**Saturday, December 24:**

7:00 pm **Fireworks over Cane River Lake** ☺ FREE

**Saturday, December 31:**

Midnight **Fireworks over Cane River Lake** ☺ FREE

**December 1 – 24**

**Christmas in the Park** – Rebel State Historic Park ☺ Marthaville, Louisiana  
Visitors are invited to drive or walk through the park. Photos with Santa every Saturday in December.  
FREE. For information (318) 472-6255

**December 5 – 23**

**Visit with Santa & Photos with Santa** on the south end downtown riverbank, 6-8:30 pm nightly.

**December 7 – January 31, 2012**

**"El Camino Real de los Tejas" Photo Exhibition** – Fort St. Jean Baptiste, SHS- Open Wednesday – Sunday, 9am-5pm  
155 rue Jefferson (318) 357-3101

El Camino Real de los Tejas National Historic Trail was designated by Congress in 2004 to commemorate the significant historic routes extending from the international border at the Rio Grande to the easternmost section of the Spanish province of Texas in Natchitoches Parish, Louisiana.

The traveling exhibition features 30 photographs taken by SFA Associate Professor of Art Christopher Talbot of sites along the historical El Camino Real, from Mexico to Natchitoches Parish.

**\*\*Natchitoches Area Chamber of Commerce** hosts the annual Festival of Lights – Contact 318-352-6894 regarding admission and entertainment.