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Special events in San Antonio

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You can park yourself in San Antonio from the day after Thanksgiving through New Year's Eve and sample just about every holiday event the Texas city has to offer. But if you've only got a weekend to spare, plan your visit around these events:

Nov. 24: Holiday River Parade and Lighting Ceremony. The Paseo del Rio Holiday Festival begins with the flip of a switch to turn on 122,000 lights that will illuminate the River Walk until New Year's Day. A one-hour lighted boat parade's theme is "A Traditional Christmas." Free viewing along the River Walk. Reserved seating \$10-\$20. 7 p.m. 210-227-4262, [www.thesanantonio](#)

[riverwalk.com](#).

Nov. 24-26: Feria de Santa Cecilia. Festivities at historic Market Square including lively mariachi music and the lighting of the square start the market's holiday celebrations. Free. 210-207-8600; [www.marketsquaresa.com](#)

Nov. 25-Dec. 17: Holiday Boat Caroling. More than 185 school, church, company and civic choral groups sing traditional carols on cruising boats. Diners at River Walk restaurant patios and passers-by often join in with impromptu singalongs. The eclectic mix also includes bell choirs, folk groups and Latino ensembles. 6:30-9:45 p.m. 210-227-4262, [www.thesanantonioriverwalk](#)

[.com](#).

Dec. 1-3: Hecho a Mano/Made by Hand. The 20th annual fine arts and fine crafts market is sponsored by the Guadalupe Cultural Arts Center at two locations, a festival marketplace, Plaza del Arte, in the enclosed parking area adjacent to the Galeria Guadalupe, 723 S. Brazos St., and at Guadalupe Theater, 1301 Guadalupe St. 210-271-3151, [www.guadalupecultural](#)

[arts.org/festivals.htm](#).

Dec. 1-17: Fiesta de las Luminarias. More than 2,500 candles in paper bags glow along the River Walk. Fridays-Sundays.

Dec. 2: 12th Annual Mariachi Vargas Extravaganza. The concert featuring Mariachi Vargas de Tecalitlán caps an eight-day music fest that includes group and vocal competitions and workshops. 7:30 p.m. Municipal Auditorium. Tickets, \$20-\$100; 210-224-9600 or [www.ticketmaster.com](#)

[/artist/755066](#). Information: [www.mariachimusic.com](#).