9 ways to celebrate holidays Texas-style

Culture comes out in San Antonio during these seasonal events

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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. Details: www.thesanantonioriverwalk.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. Details: www.thesanantonioriverwalk.com.


Dec. 8-10: Holiday Arts & Crafts Show. Local and regional artists, craftspeople and jewelers sell from booths that line both sides of the River Walk Expansion near the Chamber of Commerce. 10 a.m.-11 p.m. Details: www.thesanantonioriverwalk.com.

Dec. 17: La Gran Posada. San Fernando Cathedral, founded in 1731 by 15 families from the Canary Islands at the invitation of King Philip V of Spain, is host of the re-enactment of the biblical account of Mary and Joseph's search for lodging in Bethlehem on the eve of Jesus's birth. The procession begins at Milam Park and ends at the cathedral on the city's Main Plaza. Details: www.sfcathedral.org.