

'Tis the season to be in Kissimmee

KISSIMMEE, FL (Winter 2013) - Kissimmee is adding extra sparkle to a holiday vacation this year by offering a wide variety of things to see and do throughout the popular Central Florida destination. Attractions and resorts alike are getting in to the holiday spirit and want visitors to do the same by staying and playing in Kissimmee.

At Walt Disney World Resort's Magic Kingdom Park, the enchanting Mickey's Very Merry Christmas Party begins Nov. 8 and is featured on select nights through Dec. 20. Enjoy the Mickey's Very Merry Christmas Parade and fireworks spectacular at this special after-hours party showcasing a sleigh full of merriment that also includes an enchanting Cinderella Castle shimmering with Castle Dream Lights.

Also, enjoy a joyous and inspiring telling of the Christmas Story at Epcot's Candlelight Processional, narrated by a variety of celebrity guests accompanied by a choir of hundreds and an orchestra, from Nov. 29-Dec. 30.

Gaze at buildings blanketed in sheets of multi-colored lights, twirling carousels, heavenly angels and even Santa and his reindeer at **The Osborne Family Spectacle of Dancing Lights** at Disney's Hollywood Studios, Nov. 8 - Jan. 4. This breathtaking display features millions of glittering lights perfectly synchronized to holiday music.

Grinchmas at Universal's Islands of Adventure transforms Seuss Landing into the whimsical world of the Grinch starting Dec. 7 - Jan. 4. See characters come to life, as Whos from Who-ville stroll through Seuss Landing, ready to say hello and spread good cheer. Get the Grinch's autograph, shake his hand and have a photo taken with the mean, green one for a one-of-a-kind holiday memento.

Macy's Holiday Parade at Universal Studios will make the streets come alive from Dec. 7 – Jan. 4 with balloons and floats beyond imagination! There are plenty of delicious treats to eat and drink plus festive music everyone will enjoy! Adding to the celebration is the return of a holiday favorite, Mannheim Steamroller. Don't miss their live performances on select Saturday and Sunday nights!

Waves of holiday spirit splash over the park during SeaWorld's Christmas Celebration, creating a wintery, watery wonderland from Nov. 23 - Dec. 31. Journey to the North Pole on THE POLAR EXPRESS Experience, then share a smile with a playful penguin in the park's newest attraction, "Antarctica: Empire of the Penguin!" With everything from Santa to Shamu, presents to penguins, and elves to Elmo, this Christmas Celebration is where the season meets the sea.

LEGOLAND Florida Christmas Bricktacular brings in the holiday season with a 30-foot tall LEGO Christmas tree made of 270,000 LEGO bricks. Every night a family will be chosen to help light the Bricktacular tree and for the first time this year, visitors will have an amazing photo opportunity with a life-size LEGO Santa Claus. Christmas Bricktacular festivities take place every Sat. and Sun. in Dec.

The theme parks aren't the only ones spreading holiday cheer! Some dinner shows are celebrating the season, too. **Arabian Nights Holiday Show,** "Amirah's Wish," is the only holiday celebration performed on horseback and begins Dec. 1 – Jan. 2. When Prince Raswan is called away, Khadri the genie and Santa Claus himself must work together to distract Princess Amirah with gifts and good cheer.

Also, the colorful characters in **Capone's Holiday Show** celebrate the holidays 1920s Chicago style, Nov. 28 – Jan. 1. Bring the gang to Capone's Dinner & Show on Dec. 24 or 25 and all paying guests receive a free 14 oz. souvenir glass.

Join Frosty, everyone's favorite snowman, and his friends on their quest to the North at ICE! at Gaylord Palms. Walk among more than two million pounds of hand-carved ice sculptures, including four ice slides, beginning Nov. 23. New in 2013, enjoy "Artisans in Action," a LIVE ice carving zone! Journey through Frostbite Factory and watch as a masterful ice carver from Harbin, China creates amazing sculptures.

Tis the season to be in Kissimmee! Nothing evokes the holiday spirit quite like live caroling and a tree lighting ceremony. Historic downtown **Kissimmee's Festival of Lights parade** spreads small town holiday cheer beginning at 7 p.m., Dec. 14.

Dreaming of a white Christmas? That may seem impossible in Florida, but it's not. **Now Snowing** in the town of Celebration, Nov. 30 - Dec. 31, adds something special: snow! Central Florida's premier "Snowing" event is a Winter Wonderland with an ice rink, strolling Charles Dickens Carolers, photos with Santa, horse drawn carriages, Celebration Express train, and nightly snowfall every hour from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Enjoy an Old Fashioned Christmas at The Red Christmas Barn at Green Meadows Petting Farm, Nov. 28 – Jan. 1. Stroll through a barn filled with the smallest barnyard critters and nostalgic holiday treasures. A toy train set, a hobby horse and beautiful dolls are only some of the items that will inspire fond childhood memories. The tour is included with admission. Children ages 1 - 12 get a free toy from Santa's bag!

This holiday season choose among Kissimmee's more than 46,000 total accommodations to include luxury resorts, comfortable and well-known hotels and motels, a large collection of vacation home rentals, villas and more. For places to stay and holiday discounts, visit ExperienceKissimmee.com.

###

MEDIA CONTACT: Experience Kissimmee, Media Relations, 407-742-8211, media@experiencekissimmee.com