

# Be a tourist in your own backyard

## Get into the holiday spirit in Ozaukee County

Is it that time of year already? If you haven't started your holiday shopping, it's time to get serious - we're only weeks away from the most wonderful time of the year. Ozaukee County is beautiful year round, but it's also a great place to get into the holiday spirit. Whether you're shopping for gifts, partaking in holiday events or looking for something fun to do with the family, consider Ozaukee County first.



Cedarburg's Christmas Tree

If you love the magic of a small town Christmas tree lighting, mark your calendar for these events: Grafton's tree lighting is at 6 p.m. Nov. 18 in charming Paramount Plaza, where local businesses and community groups decorate the smaller trees surrounding the community tree; Cedarburg's Christmas Tree Lighting is Monday, Nov. 26 at the Cedarburg Community Center, and includes a Christmas concert, kids crafts, a visit from Santa and much more, starting at 5:30 p.m.; Mequon's Winter Wonderland is Dec. 2 from 4 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. in front of Mequon's City Hall; Saukville's Christmas tree lighting and visit from Santa Claus takes place

beginning at 6 p.m. Dec. 2 at Veterans Park; the village of Thiensville tree lighting will be held Dec. 7 in the Walgreens parking lot, where families can enjoy carols sung by a choir, complimentary hot cocoa, cookies and Santa arriving on a fire truck. The fun begins at 6 p.m.

The Shops of Cedar Creek Settlement celebrates Festive Friday Eves beginning Nov. 16. On each of the six Friday nights before Christmas, shoppers will find a free themed holiday event that includes live music, wine tasting, cookies and cider with a spotlight on ethnic traditions from different countries. For more information, visit [www.cedarcreeksettlement.com](http://www.cedarcreeksettlement.com).

Small Business Saturday is Nov. 24, so shop local by checking out the wonderful shops Ozaukee County has to offer. You'll find unique and inspiring gift ideas at places like Cedar Creek Settlement, the Cedarburg Art Museum Shop, Cedar Creek Pottery, The Gem Shop, Johnson's Gardens, Leap of Faith and the Pagoda Fine Jewelry in Cedarburg; East Towne Square in Mequon; Suburban Motors Harley-Davidson in Thiensville; and The Shoppes of Port Washington, The Chocolate Chisel and ZING Boutique in Port Washington. For more information, check out the shopping tab at [OzaukeeTourism.com](http://OzaukeeTourism.com).

How about gifting a cool experience in 2019 for the adventurer on your list? This year's fishing charter season concludes the end of October, but our fishing charter partners are booking for next year and are offering gift certificates. Companies like C & D Charters, Iverson Sport Fishing LLC and Reel Screamer Sportfishing can help make 2019 a trophy year for any fishing enthusiast.

Antique shopping on your list? Be sure to visit Antiques at Gordons in Grafton, with more than 5,000 pieces in general inventory, including furniture, porcelain, glass, jewelry and more.

Nov. 30 through Dec. 2, consider beautiful and unique gifts from local artists at the



Holiday Art Fair in downtown Cedarburg, where more than 40 Guild artists will showcase their works from bright and fanciful jewelry, beaded glass, felted wool, fabric sculptures, fiber and wearable art, punch needle and weaving, copper yard art, multimedia paintings, drawings, etchings, ceramics, birdhouses and more. Find more information at [www.cedarburgartistsguild.com](http://www.cedarburgartistsguild.com).

Give a gift of art made by you. How about a painted masterpiece at glaze Pottery Studio in Thiensville? Enjoy their themed classes, or create a custom piece for that special someone. And Thirsty Hammer in Cedarburg just released new fall décor designs and workshops for the woodworker in you.

Ozaukee County offers many wonderful activities for families on the go. Grafton's Christmas Parade is a must-see for many local families. The parade is Saturday, Nov. 24 and begins at 11 a.m. at the corner of Highway 60 and Sixth Avenue, continuing east down Washington Avenue into the heart of Grafton. Between 7:30 a.m. and 10 a.m., families are invited to enjoy Breakfast with Santa at Circle B before the parade. For more information, visit [www.grafton-wi.org](http://www.grafton-wi.org).



Grafton's Christmas parade



Left and above, Polar Express



Left and above, Polar Express

Belgium kicks off the season with its European Christmas Parade & Market Saturday, Dec. 1. The holiday lights parade starts at 4:30 p.m. on Main Street and concludes at the Village Square, where festivities continue with food, beverages, gift vendors, activities for the kids and a visit from St. Nicholas. Be sure to visit the Luxembourg American Cultural Society across the street from the Village Square for more shopping and fun.

Historic Port Washington is the perfect place to celebrate a hometown Christmas. Enjoy the annual Christmas on the Corner from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. Dec. 1 with live reindeer, an elf scavenger hunt, in-store promotions, photos with Santa, carriage rides and more. At 6:15 p.m., the Christmas parade marches through downtown, followed by the only winter fireworks display in the county.

Kids will love to jump on board the Polar Express for a magical journey to the North Pole Dec. 8. This is a joint journey with the Cedarburg, Grafton and Port Washington Parks and Recreation departments. This year's journey will be in Grafton. Tickets go on sale Nov. 12. For more information, visit [www.ci.cedarburg.wi.us/polar-express](http://www.ci.cedarburg.wi.us/polar-express).

After all that shopping, stop for a bite to eat or a night out at one of our partner restaurants. Visit our website for a list of wonderful dining and beverage establishments.

Be a tourist in your own town this holiday season. For information on all these activities and more, pick up a copy of the Ozaukee County Tourism Guide available at area chambers and visitor centers, visit [www.ozaukeetourism.com](http://www.ozaukeetourism.com) and follow the Ozaukee County Tourism Facebook page. On behalf of the Ozaukee County Tourism Council, thank you for helping to make Ozaukee County a wonderful place for all to live, work and visit.



Port Washington's Christmas on the Corner