

The Peak of the Holiday Season is Salem Christmas at Old Salem



WINSTON-SALEM, NC - On Saturday, December 21, 2002, from 1:00 to 7:00 p.m., the holiday season at Old Salem will reach its peak when the 37th annual Salem Christmas is celebrated. Salem Christmas has been selected as one of the Southeast Tourism Society's Top 20 Events for December, as it was in 2001.

Although the holiday season is recognized and interpreted by the costumed guides at Old Salem from November 23 through December 31, Salem Christmas is a concentrated day of activities that displays the full gamut of a Moravian backcountry Christmas celebration as it would have been lived out in the late 1700s and early 1800s.

It also marks the only day of the year when, for a short spell between nightfall and 6:30 p.m., the historic buildings that date back to 1769 are open to the public for candlelight tours.

Included in the exciting day's events are specially-decorated rooms representing Christmas and Hanukkah at the Museum of Early Southern Decorative Arts (MESDA), (open from 9:30 a.m. to last entry at 6:00 p.m.). Traditional music will also be presented several times during the afternoon in the MESDA Auditorium. MESDA is located at 924 South Main Street near the south end of the historic district.

Audiovisual programs and a variety of historic interpretations of the normal day-to-day activities and Christmas decoration (in the simple, understated methods of the Protestant Moravian religious community) are presented throughout the day.

Visitor tickets are required for most Salem Christmas events. Visitors can check at the Old Salem Visitor Center (Old Salem Road at Academy

Street) for details, or call about purchasing advance tickets for the event. For the full day (limited activities first begin at 9:30 a.m.), adult tickets are \$15 and children ages 5-16 are \$8. The new Toy Museum at Old Salem will also be open on the 21st.

Information on Old Salem and Salem Christmas is available by calling 1-888-OLD SALEM (653-7253) or by visiting the Old Salem web site (www.oldsalem.org).

To inquire about buying advance tickets for Salem Christmas, visitors can call the Old Salem Visitor Center at 336-721-7350 during operating hours, or write to Sue Miller, Old Salem Visitor Center, PO Box F Salem Station, Winston-Salem NC 27108.

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