

Events Calendar

For a list of ongoing activities and events offered at our major attractions, please contact them directly or go to crystalcoastnc.org/events.

- **Beaufort Historic Site**, 728-5225
- **Cape Lookout National Seashore**, 728-2250
- **Core Sound Waterfowl Museum**, 728-1500
- **Fort Macon State Park**, 726-3775
- **History Museum of Carteret County**, 247-7533
- **North Carolina Aquarium at Pine Knoll Shores**, 247-4003
- **North Carolina Maritime Museum**, 728-7317

Flags of Fort Macon and the Confederacy. December 3, January 7; 10 a.m. Meet at the visitor center to learn about the wide range of flags used by the Confederacy during the Civil War. Future dates: February 4, March 4.

Fort Macon Musket Firing Demonstration. December 5, 12, 19; January 2; 10 a.m. Learn about a Civil War-era musket's history, loading procedures and firing. Meet at the fort. Future dates: January 9, 16, 23; February 6, 13, 20, 27; March 6, 13, 20, 27.

Gingerbread Festival. December 7-9 at the Crystal Coast Civic Center in Morehead City. Normally the primary fundraising event for the SECU Crystal Coast Hospice House in Newport, the hospice house has decided to make this a fundraiser for hurricane relief this year. Visit crystalcoasthospicehouse.org or call 808-2244 for more details.

Caviar Farm Tour and Tasting. December 8; 10:30 a.m.-noon. Marshallberg Farm, 811 Straits Road in Smyrna, is the largest producer of Russian sturgeon caviar in the country, with the capacity to produce up to three tons of caviar per year. Following the guided walk among 40 indoor recirculating aquaculture tanks that team with sturgeon and span 54,000 square feet of building space, there will be a caviar and smoked sturgeon tasting and a chance to purchase products.

Morehead City Christmas Parade. December 8, 11 a.m.-noon, along Arendell Street in downtown Morehead City. Floats, community groups, bands, entertainment and Santa will be featured. Visit downtownmoreheadcity.com for more information.

Pine Knoll Shores Flotilla. December 8, 5:30-7 p.m. Flotilla begins at Brock Basin and ends at McNeill Park.

Candlelight Christmas Celebration at Tryon Palace. December 8 & 15, 4:30 p.m. This famed North Carolina tradition returns to Tryon Palace with beautiful, new decorations and heartwarming holiday vignettes illuminated by the magical glow of candlelight. Visit with historic characters in period clothing, witness holiday vignettes spanning two centuries, and experience black powder fireworks on the South Lawn. This is a site-wide event for Tryon Palace that includes tours of the Governor's Palace, Stanly House, Dixon House, Commission House, and numerous activities on the grounds. Event is held rain or shine. Call 639-3524 for tickets (adult, \$25; youth, \$15).

Sledding and Shopping Sunday in New Bern. December 9, 1-4 p.m. Downtown stores open their doors while snow machines work to keep the sledding lounges going. Sledding will be on the corner of Craven and South Front streets. Bounce houses and crafts will also be available. Bring coats, gloves and holiday spirit to this fun event.

Fort Macon Bird Hike. December 10, 9 a.m. Meet at the visitor center and take a leisurely hike to identify birds native to the area. Future dates: January 14, February 11, March 11.

Chase the Chill on the Crystal Coast. December 15, 9 a.m. at Shevans Park in Morehead City. We will meet to tag and hang scarves and hats to be taken by those who need them. If it is raining, we will take the items to Hope Mission so they can distribute them to those who need them most. If you can come to the event or if you wish to contribute hats and scarves (handmade or store bought items are welcome), contact Amy Hahn at amyhahnc@gmail.com.

Pine Knoll Shores Christmas Parade. December 15, 10 a.m., starting at Garner Park. Dress in your Christmas finery and bring the entire family (including pets) to join in the fun. Hot chocolate and cookies will be served at Garner Park after the parade.

Free Concerts in New Bern. Christ Church, 320 Pollock Street in New Bern. Upcoming concerts include Lessons and Carols, December 16, 5:30 p.m.; Taizé Service, December 30, 5:30 p.m. Call the church at 633-2109 for more information.

Pine Knoll Shores Christmas Caroling. December 16, 4:45 p.m. at Garner Park. All are welcome; dress in festive holiday attire and join in to bring some Christmas cheer to those who need it most (and get a dose of it for yourself). Contact Susan Toms at witoms@hotmail.com to suggest names of those to be visited by the carolers or Kathy Falandys Tilyard at katcoast@gmail.com or 247-7221 for more information.

Natural Side of Fort Macon Hike. December 20, 10 a.m. Meet at the visitor center. The hike will cover both trail and beach. Future dates: January 17, February 21, March 21.

Downtown Morehead City Countdown. December 31, beginning at 5 p.m. Join in the fun, featuring activities for all ages. Kids' activities will take place 5-6 p.m., including the kids' crab pot drop, at Big Rock Landing. Local businesses and restaurants will provide activities and bands throughout the evening, and the night will end at midnight with the big crab pot drop and fireworks show. For more details, visit downtownmoreheadcity.com.

Fort Macon New Year's Eve Cannon Blast. December 31, 6 p.m. Celebrate the New Year with a blast. Enjoy live entertainment at 6 p.m.; cannons will go off at 7 p.m. to correspond with midnight UTC (Universal Time Coordinated). Feel free to bring a folding chair and picnic meal.

First Day Hike at Fort Macon. January 1, 2 p.m., beginning at the Fort Macon visitor center. Two ranger-led hikes are offered: one a short nature hike on the Yarrow's Loop trail and inlet beach covering 3/4 mile, and one along the 3.2-mile Elliott Coues Trail.

Penguin Plunge. January 1, 1 p.m., at the Atlantic Beach Circle. This year's proceeds will benefit Mile of Hope. Visit penguin-plunge.org for pre-registration information and more details.

Astronomy at Fort Macon. January 11, 6 p.m. Meet at the bathhouse to view space through a telescope and learn more about our universe. Future dates: February 8, March 1.



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