Nearby Adventures

SKI OR SNOWBOARD AT CATALOOCHEE
With 50 skiable acres, runs up to 3500 feet and a vertical drop of 750 feet, Cataloochee Ski Area offers fun for skiers and snowboarders of all levels. Lift packages and equipment rental rates are available online, as are lesson times, special ski events (such as “Ski with Santa”), and times for twilight and night skiing. Cataloochee is about 25 minutes from Lake Junaluska. Follow US 19 S for seven miles, heading towards Maggie Valley. Turn right onto Fie Top Road, where you’ll see a sign for Cataloochee Ranch and Ski Area. After about three miles, you’ll turn left onto Ski Lodge Road. For hours, visit cataloochee.com or call 828-926-0285

TUBE THE SLOPES IN MAGGIE VALLEY
Tube World offers an easy, fun adventure in the heart of Maggie Valley. Slopes are gentle, and you ride the carpet lift back up to the top. Owned by Cataloochee Ski Area, Tube World snow is maintained (and supplemented, when needed) to ensure a fun time for all visitors. Only Tube World equipment may be used. Minimum height of 42 inches; Wee Bowl Snowplay Area is available for smaller children. Located on US 19 S about 10 minutes from Lake Junaluska. Mid-December through early March, weather permitting. www.Cataloochee.com/tubing, 828-926-0285

ATTEND DOWNTOWN WAYNESVILLE HOLIDAY EVENTS
Check calendar listings in local newspapers or www.DowntownWaynesville.com for parades, artist studio holiday open-houses and demonstrations, live nativities and special shopping experiences incorporating sleigh rides and hot cider.

BIRDWATCH AT LAKE JUNALUSKA
Lake Junaluska is a wintertime haven for birds, particularly waterfowl, making it a birdwatcher’s paradise. Ruddy ducks, buffleheads, mergansers, and grebes are plentiful, with occasional sightings of Bonaparte’s gull, common goldeneye, scaup and many more. Winter residents also include brown creeper, pine siskin, winter wren and fox sparrow. A checklist is available at the Bethea Welcome Center. The best views are near the pool, the parking lot near the Memorial Chapel, the cross at Inspiration Point, a pull-off across the dam where North Lakeshore Drive meets South Lakeshore Drive, and the boat ramp.

CUT YOUR OWN CHRISTMAS TREE
Boyd Mountain Tree Farm allows you to choose your own Frasier Fir and cut it yourself or have the Boyd staff do it for you. Staff will also truss your tree and secure it to your vehicle while you enjoy hot cocoa, a wagon ride, a hike through four miles of trails or maybe a glimpse of Santa. Follow US 19 S, then turn right on US 276 N. After 2.5 miles, turn left on Hemphill Road, then left on Boyd Farm Road. Visit boydmountainchristmastreefarm.com or call 828-926-8888 for hours and tree availability.

The mission of Lake Junaluska is to be a place of Christian hospitality where lives are transformed through renewal of soul, mind, and body.
Asheville Adventures

SEE BILTMORE ESTATE DRESSED FOR THE SEASON

Completed in 1895, George Vanderbilt’s 250-room chateau houses more than 60 elaborate hand-decorated Christmas trees (including a 35-foot Fraser fir in the Banquet Hall), thousands of poinsettias, miles of garland and lights, and live music. Stop by the main house first to get timed-entry tickets, then explore Antler Hill Village and the Winery, the Conservatory, and the winter gardens and ponds. You may hike or rent bicycles to tour the extensive grounds. Of particular interest during this time are the evening candlelight tours, when a 55-foot Norway Spruce towers over the front lawns and the house is aglow with hundreds of hand-lit luminaries. Christmas at Biltmore runs early November through early January. Open holidays. Pre-purchase of tickets and reservations for on-site restaurants are highly recommended: www.BiltmoreEstate.com, 800-411-3812

WALK THROUGH WINTER LIGHTS AT THE ARBORETUM

Winter Lights is a three-acre nightly walking tour of The North Carolina Arboretum’s gardens, including animated displays and lighting produced by former Walt Disney World designer Jerry Stripling. Family-friendly activities are hosted on site. Mid-November through early January, 6-10 p.m. nightly. To get to there, take 40E to 26E. Turn left off exit 33/Hwy 191S and follow brown signs to NC Arboretum. All tickets must be purchased in advance: 1-800-514-3849

VIEW THE GINGERBREAD HOUSE WINNERS

Grove Park Inn’s annual National Gingerbread House Competition draws competitors and visitors with winning entries shown on television’s Good Morning America each year. Guests are welcome Sunday afternoon through Thursdays, mid-November through early January. A portion of the $10 parking fee per vehicle is donated directly to local charities. Reservations for golf or spa packages must be made in advance, but visitors are welcome to walk through the walled gardens. Follow 40E to 26E and take the Charlotte Street Exit to the left. In 0.7 miles turn right on Macon Avenue. The Grove Park Inn entrance will be one mile ahead. For more details, visit groveparkinn.com or call 828-252-2711

Adventure Tips

- Some events require advance tickets or reservations. Please check listings carefully.
- In case of inclement weather, call venue to check for early closings.