

Holiday Travel Ideas

Planning A Seasonal Getaway

(NAPSA)—Even if there is no place like home for the holidays, many families still love to get away during the holiday season. Fortunately, there's plenty to see and do at this time of year.

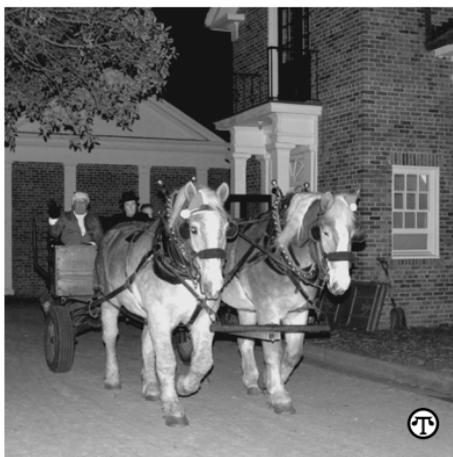
For instance, the charming Southern town of Tallahassee marks a joyous holiday tradition with an annual month of celebrations commemorating its prestigious "claim to fame"—Tallahassee bills itself as the site of the "first Christmas celebrated in North America" more than 450 years ago.

Amidst rolling hills, sweeping canopy roads and crisp, breezy nights, Tallahassee presents joyous festivities, including an historical 16th century encampment located at the site of the first Christmas observance, tours of sculpted gardens with blooming camellias, gracious candlelit plantation homes, the Victorian House that Rhymes, acres of giant moss-draped oaks glowing with thousands of twinkling lights—even a holiday cruise on the crystal-clear waters of Wakulla Springs.

A Southern Spin

Tallahassee adds a distinctly Southern twist to the time-honored traditions of the holiday season. Mission San Luis—a National Historic Landmark and 2006 Preserve America Presidential Award recipient—honors the Spanish Missions of Florida during a Commemorative Mass, celebrating Tallahassee's place in history by combining Spanish beginnings with Southern heritage and spirit.

Thousands of lights create illuminated canopies over downtown parks and the streets of Tallahassee during the Winter Festival for the



Historic Holidays—Vacationers can visit an area said to be the site of the first Christmas celebrated in North America.

Celebration of Lights and Jingle Bell Run. Scents of cinnamon and spice waft from the nearly 200-year-old grounds of Goodwood Museum and Gardens, while little tykes listen to old-fashioned story time.

The Tallahassee Museum's Market Days gives visitors to the North Florida Fairgrounds a chance to spend the day discovering one-of-a-kind gifts for friends and family just in time for the holidays. With approximately 300 artists and craftsmen showcasing their work, visitors enjoy a variety of items.

The holidays wrap up with the Hernando de Soto Winter Encampment at the authentic 1539 Spanish site. An entourage of 16th century-garbed soldiers and priests with tents and firearms relive the atmosphere where America's first Christmas Mass took place.

For more information, see www.VisitTallahassee.com or call the Tallahassee Area Convention and Visitors Bureau at (800) 628-2866.