



Jingle Falls going virtual in 2020

From Destination Niagara USA:

In light of current events, Jingle Falls USA will not be able to take place this year as you have known it for the past three years.

However, there are still plenty of socially distant holiday activities and shopping opportunities during the month of December in downtown Niagara Falls, New York.

Join us throughout the month of December 2020 for smaller in-person and online activities for the whole family.

Jingle Falls USA Activities and Events

•**Festival of Slice – online** | Friday, Dec. 4: Join the virtual Festival of Slice “Pizza Party” by dining in, or ordering take-out from your favorite Niagara County pizzeria. There are chances to win prizes, too.

•**“Breakfast with Santa” at the Rainforest Cafe** | Saturdays, Dec. 12 and 19: Reserve your space now at one of two “Breakfast With Santa” events at the Rainforest Cafe, inside the Sheraton Niagara Falls. Served 9-11 a.m. Call for more information, pricing and to register, 278-2626.

•**“Lunch with Santa” at Hard Rock Café, Niagara Falls USA** | Saturday, Dec. 19: Santa will visit via Zoom to meet with the kids! Olaf will be in-person and will be practicing social distancing. Enjoy holiday music, cookie decorating and a coloring contest. There is no cost for the event, just pre-purchase lunch here.

•**Holiday lights and tree illuminations along Old Falls Street, USA** | Dec. 1-31: Drive or walk down Old Falls Street, USA, to enjoy three blocks of illuminated trees, a 24-foot Christmas tree, illuminated snowflakes and the new Cataract Commons.

•**Cards & crafts at Niagara Falls State Park** | Dec. 1-31: Visit the Niagara Falls State Park Visitor Center and drop off a holiday card for a local nursing home resident and receive a free holiday kid craft! Available from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. daily.

•**Cave of the Winds winter experience** | Dec. 1-31: The Cave of the Winds is not just for summertime anymore! Experience the thrills and chills of this amazing place and get up close and personal to Niagara Falls from

Festival of Slice plans unique celebration on Dec. 4

The virtual pizza party must go on!

Due to the pandemic, the Festival of Slice Pizza Celebration is unable to take place as an in-person festival this year. Instead, pizza lovers are invited to participate in the Festival of Slice “Virtual Pizza Party” on Friday, Dec. 4. Customers are encouraged to purchase directly from their favorite Niagara County pizzerias.

Anyone who purchases a pizza (either in-person or delivery) from a Niagara County pizzeria on Dec. 4 and posts a picture of it on



Facebook or Instagram with the hashtag #FestivalofSlice will be entered for a chance to win a variety of prizes. One lucky pizza lover will be chosen at random to win a \$100 Visa gift card.

The Festival of Slice team, along with festival mascot Señor Slice, will visit various Niagara County pizzerias throughout the day on Dec. 4 for photos and giveaways.

For more information, visit www.FestivalOfSlice.com or follow the Festival of Slice on Facebook.

one of the two open observation decks. Bundle up and celebrate winter on this abbreviated journey under the falls. Open 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. daily. Pricing: \$7/adults and \$5/youth.

•**Niagara Falls Mural self-guided trail** | Dec. 1-31: Downtown Niagara Falls is host to many colorful public murals with more on the way. Experience these works of art in person while visiting many restaurants and attractions throughout the district.

This is a self-led activity.

•**Snowshoeing at Niagara Falls State Park** | Dec. 1-31: Borrow a pair of snowshoes to explore the park in style! Visit the “Cave of the Winds: The World Changed Here” pavilion to grab one. Weather-permitting, this runs from 10 a.m. until 2:30 p.m.

•**Overnight hotel packages** – Sheraton’s “Christmas on Third Street” | Dec. 11-12 or 18-19: This package includes a two-night stay (Friday and Saturday), holiday

movies, a tree lighting ceremony and breakfast with Santa. Single-night packages are available. For additional information, call 285-3361.

Visit <http://www.JingleFallsUSA.com/> for more information on Jingle Falls.

Event times and performances are subject to change. Outdoor activities are weather-dependent. Some registration and fees apply. Masks are required!

IN THE NEWS

Maid of the Mist earns ‘Boat of the Year’

American Ship Review has named the new all-electric, emission-free Maid of the Mist vessels as “Boat of the Year.”

“To be the first to accomplish something like this in the United States is quite rewarding and to be recognized by the marine industry is very gratifying,” Maid of the Mist President Christopher M. Glynn said. “When we started

this project, we knew we were doing something very special.”

The cover story in Professional Mariner magazine, (Niagara Falls tour operator leads industry toward all-electric future) said: “The iconic Niagara Falls Maid of the Mist tour company made history of its own last fall when it took delivery of the first zero-emission passenger vessels built in the United States.

“James V. Glynn and Nikola Tesla are relatively simple vessels above the hull. They are built with two observation decks. The enclosed pilothouse is forward on the main level, the staircase to the upper level is roughly amidships and the ADA-compliant head is located aft along the centerline.

Each vessel operates with six crew.”

The boats can accommodate 600 guests.

The two vessels began passenger service on Oct. 6, ferrying guests to the base of Niagara Falls through Nov. 8, when the 2020 season ended.

ABB Marine & Ports supplied a comprehensive integrated power and propulsion solution for the newbuild vessels, including lithium-ion battery packs and an on-shore charging system, enabling sustainable operation with maximum reliability.

“A highlight of my career is being part of the new all-electric Maid of the Mist vessels,” said Ed Schwarz, ABB Marine & Ports

vice president of sales and execution, new builds. “This is truly an American story of passion and commitment for the future. Maid of the Mist is leading the way with the first all-electric vessels built in the United States. Seeing the hard work being recognized as Ship of the Year by the American Ship Review, a special edition of Professional Mariner is deeply gratifying. It also solidifies what we at ABB have seen all along: The electrification of ferries is here to stay.”

The 2021 Maid of the Mist season will begin next spring, once the ice pack from Lake Erie clears Niagara Falls and the Lower Niagara Gorge.

‘Bids for Blessings’ auction underway

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virtual auction began accepting bids at 5 a.m. Wednesday. The auction features an enticing variety of items, including many that would be unique holiday gifts. Bidding will continue until 11:59 p.m. Sunday.

Up for bid are such items as a wine tasting trip to Napa Valley, a Goo Goo Dolls autographed guitar, Niagara University college credit, designer handbags, a Geoffrey Zakarian autographed cook book, a three-night stay in Jackson Hole (Wyoming), a Kentucky bourbon trail trip for two, jewelry and original artwork.

All the items can be viewed and bidding takes place at www.airauctioneer.com/bids-for-blessings.

To support the auction without bidding on items, a \$100 pledge for patient care can be made by texting the message “4NFMMC \$100 Your Name” to 41444.

Proceeds from “Bids for Blessings” will directly benefit the new Golisano Medical Oncology Center, a member site of the Roswell Park Care Network located on Memorial’s downtown campus. NFMMC said, “The center is a tremendous leap forward for area residents who can now receive Roswell Park’s world-class care closer to home.”

For more information on “Bids for Blessings,” call the Memorial Medical Center Foundation at 278-4605.

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