



# 7 Festive SEASONAL TOURS

by Tamara Muldoon

This season, give your holiday spirit a boost by taking your loved ones, and yourself, on one of these family-friendly tours that are certain to drive out the Scrooge from anyone.



The Candy Cane Tunnel at The Oregon Garden

### Umpqua Valley Festival of Lights, Roseburg OR

Bundle everyone into the car and make tracks to this Southern Oregon sparkle-fest. One of the Northwest's largest drive-through light displays, the Umpqua Valley Festival of Lights shines with a half-million lights, including 90 animated figures. Make the event even more memorable by touring the light show in a horse-drawn wagon instead of your car, enjoying the slower pace and crisp night air.

At the Holiday Village, grab some refreshments, browse the arts and crafts booths and enjoy holiday music. Don't miss the World's Largest Nutcracker, more than 40 feet tall and with a working jaw, hand-crafted from fallen Northwest coastal redwood, sequoia and western red cedar logs.

Operated by the Rotary Club of Roseburg and community volunteers since 1993, the Festival of Lights supports scholarships for graduating high school seniors in Douglas County. Attracting about 30,000 visitors annually, the Festival begins the Sunday prior to Thanksgiving and runs through January 1. For detailed information, go to [umpquavalleyfestivaloflights.com](http://umpquavalleyfestivaloflights.com). See [visitroseburg.com](http://visitroseburg.com) to learn about the community.



Setting up for the Umpqua Valley Festival of Lights

### Christmas in the Garden, Silverton OR

Experience The Oregon Garden in a different light—actually more than 400,000 colorful lights—as you stroll the paths of its Rediscovery Forest. Among the whimsical vignettes you'll find are 22-foot-tall flowers, giant shooting stars, Santa's sleigh, a replica of South Falls from nearby Silver Falls State Park, and a 100-foot walk-through candy cane tunnel. Last year, more than 22,000 people enjoyed this award-winning event.

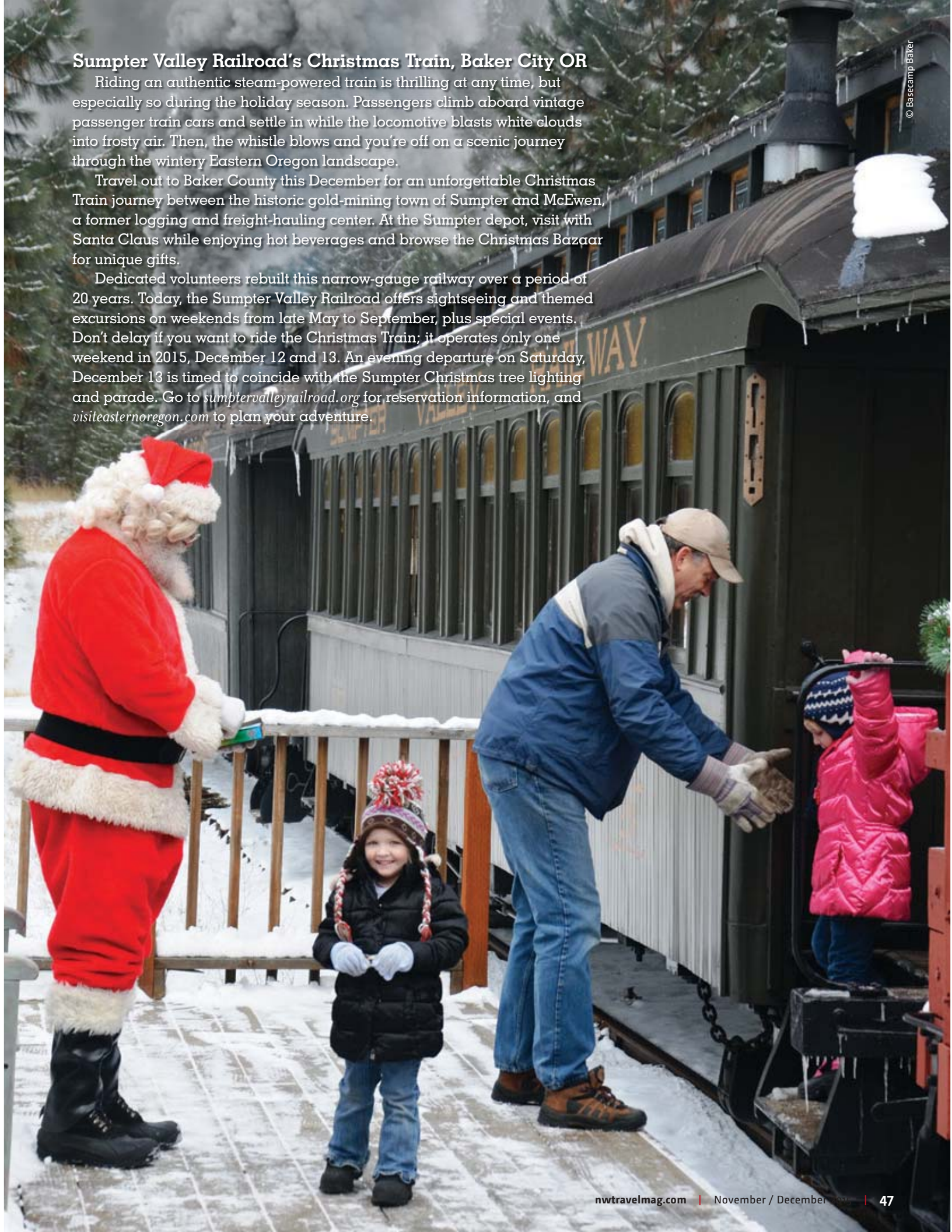
Warm yourself inside and out at the German-style Christmas Market, featuring quality Oregon hand-crafted

## Sumpter Valley Railroad's Christmas Train, Baker City OR

Riding an authentic steam-powered train is thrilling at any time, but especially so during the holiday season. Passengers climb aboard vintage passenger train cars and settle in while the locomotive blasts white clouds into frosty air. Then, the whistle blows and you're off on a scenic journey through the wintery Eastern Oregon landscape.

Travel out to Baker County this December for an unforgettable Christmas Train journey between the historic gold-mining town of Sumpter and McEwen, a former logging and freight-hauling center. At the Sumpter depot, visit with Santa Claus while enjoying hot beverages and browse the Christmas Bazaar for unique gifts.

Dedicated volunteers rebuilt this narrow-gauge railway over a period of 20 years. Today, the Sumpter Valley Railroad offers sightseeing and themed excursions on weekends from late May to September, plus special events. Don't delay if you want to ride the Christmas Train; it operates only one weekend in 2015, December 12 and 13. An evening departure on Saturday, December 13 is timed to coincide with the Sumpter Christmas tree lighting and parade. Go to [sumptervalleyrailroad.org](http://sumptervalleyrailroad.org) for reservation information, and [visiteasternoregon.com](http://visiteasternoregon.com) to plan your adventure.



© Basecamp Baker

## 7 Festive Holiday Excursions

items that make great gifts. Sip hot cocoa or spiced cider. Indulge in a hot buttered rum or gluhwein, a hot spiced wine drink. Cozy up to one of the warming fires while listening to roaming carolers perform favorite holiday songs. Satisfy your hunger with traditional German foods such as sausage and sauerkraut, potato salad, and fondue with apples or soft pretzels.

New this year, a 3,500 sq. ft. tent-covered outdoor skating rink offers daytime and evening sessions. Bring your own skates or rent a pair on-site. The adjacent Oregon Garden Resort offers overnight packages that include entrance to the Christmas in the Garden event. Oregon Garden and the quaint town of Silverton are about 30 minutes east of Salem and about one hour from Portland. Learn more at [oregongarden.org](http://oregongarden.org) and visit [travelsalem.com](http://travelsalem.com) for area information.

### **Sleigh Rides at Red Tail Canyon Farm, Leavenworth WA**

Snuggle up under wool blankets as you dash through the snow in an open sleigh, over fields and through the woods, just like an old-time Christmas song. The jingle of harness bells and clomping of hooves only add to the magic of this winter outing in the Cascade Mountains foothills.

At Red Tail Canyon Farm, just three miles from the Bavarian-themed village of Leavenworth, Washington, take a 30-minute sleigh ride pulled by draft horses. Afterward, warm up with complimentary hot cocoa, take photos with the horses and learn about this working farm. Operating since 1984, this is Leavenworth's longest continuously-running sleigh-ride attraction.

Owner, Ross Frank, fabricated the sleighs himself using original runners cast in the early 1920s. Each wooden sleigh holds up to 14 passengers. Sleigh tours run from December through February, weather permitting. Reservations are required. Extend your enjoyment of this serene mountain farm by staying overnight in the Log Guest House or Ranch Studio, just minutes away from all the holiday festivities at Leavenworth. To plan your visit, see the websites [redtailcanyonfarm.com](http://redtailcanyonfarm.com) and [leavenworth.org](http://leavenworth.org).

### **The Lights of Christmas, Stanwood WA**

This December, experience The Lights of Christmas at Warm Beach Camp and Conference Center, located about an hour's drive north of Seattle. Named among the American Bus Association's Top 100 Events in North America, this light display attracts more than 50,000 visitors annually. With more than one million lights, this is the largest holiday light display in the Northwest that also offers entertainment, a variety of children's activities, shopping and more.

Covering 15 acres, the dazzling spectacle features Northwest themes such as mountains, lighthouses, and animals as well as traditional holiday vignettes. Children love the "Polar Express" train ride, petting farm, pony rides, story-telling, crafts, visits with Santa and "Bruce the Spruce" talking Christmas tree. Adults are entertained by five stages featuring live music – everything from Victorian carolers to bluegrass.

Each December, Warm Beach Camp becomes a festive Christmas village. Multiple food and beverage



Sleigh ride at Red Tail Canyon Farm, Leavenworth, WA

© Red Tail Canyon Farm

## 7 Festive Holiday Excursions

Angels at The Lights of Christmas at Warm Beach Camp near Stanwood, WA



© The Lights of Christmas

### Summerland Christmas Express, Summerland B.C.

Take a ride on the Kettle Valley Steam Train this holiday season, all decked out as the Christmas Express. The restored 1912 steam locomotive pulls you along on this 90-minute round-trip journey through British Columbia's scenic Okanagan Valley. Travel over ten miles of historic railway from Prairie Valley Station to the Trout Creek Trestle Bridge and back, with wintry views of Okanagan Lake, vineyards and orchards.

The station and coaches twinkle with lights, while holiday music and a visit with Santa set the scene

outlets offer meals and refreshments. Shop for unique holiday gifts or make a commemorative ornament for your Christmas tree. Dinner theater, Sunday dessert matinees and overnight stays in holiday-themed lodges are also available. Visit [thelightsofchristmas.com](http://thelightsofchristmas.com) for event details and [snohomish.org](http://snohomish.org) for information about visiting the area.

### Clipper Vacations to Victoria B.C.

Holiday spirit literally twinkles and shines in Victoria, British Columbia. Clipper Vacations makes it easy to get there to enjoy the city's festivities and attractions. The 2.5-hour, Seattle-Victoria passenger-only ferry transports you on a scenic excursion to Victoria's Inner Harbour in the heart of the city. With an add-on, your trip includes a Butchart Gardens Holiday Lights Tour, a world-renowned light display throughout the expansive, historic gardens, a spectacle you'll want to return again and again to see.

Clipper Vacations offers other holiday excursions as well: Vancouver, B.C., via Amtrak to visit the Vancouver Christmas Market; Portland via Amtrak to take in the Christmas Ship Parade aboard the Portland Spirit or to enjoy a Portland Christmas Tour; or Leavenworth, Washington, via motor coach to brighten the night at the spectacular Leavenworth Christmas Lighting.

To book a holiday excursion with Clipper Vacations, visit [clippervacations.com](http://clippervacations.com).



© Clipper Vacations

Take the Clipper to many holiday destinations

for this enchanting experience. Children each receive a Christmas goodie bag to take home. With limited December departure dates, be sure to make your reservation early.

Operated by a non-profit organization, proceeds from the Kettle Valley Steam Railway go toward preserving the history and use of the only remaining section of the original railway built from 1910 to 1915, which played a vital role in the region's early development. The Christmas Express departs from Summerland, located about ten miles (16 km) north of Penticton, BC. See [kettlevalleyrail.org](http://kettlevalleyrail.org) for reservation information, and [visitpenticton.com](http://visitpenticton.com) to learn about the area. 🎅