

An island of holiday pleasures

BY LAUREN DALEY | GLOBE CORRESPONDENT

When you think “winter island getaway,” Nantucket may not be the first one that comes to mind. But that’s what makes it so

perfect. No intimidating crowds. No long lines. No waiting an hour for a restaurant table. And, on the whole, room rates are cheaper than in high season.

Of course, the quaint shops, restaurants, and gorgeous scenery remain, now cloaked in late autumnal or winter beauty. Plus, there’s just so much to do on Nantucket during the holiday season.

Dive into Thanksgiving Day at the 14th annual **Cold Turkey Plunge** at Children’s Beach on Nov. 26 at 10 a.m. Hundreds typically arrive to watch or brave the icy waters — some in costume — to raise money for the island’s **Weezy Library for Children**. Past plungers include Vice President Joe Biden, who has, for decades, made a Thanksgiving pilgrimage to Nantucket with family. You just may win the prize

NANTUCKET, Page M7

for Best Costume or Farthest Traveled. Advance online registration \$30. Day-of \$50 for adults, \$30 for children 12 and under. Rain or shine event. Harbor View Way. 508-228-1110, firstgiving.com/nantucketatheneum/14th-annual-cold-turkey-plunge

Then dig into Thanksgiving dinner with all the trimmings in the grand ballroom of **The Nantucket**, the island’s luxury resort. Give thanks for the live music and buffet of caramelized butternut squash bisque, imported cheeses, salamis, and dried fruits, thyme-roasted turkey, bourbon, maple, and brown sugar-glazed ham, sweet potato casserole, country sausage bread stuffing . . . OK,

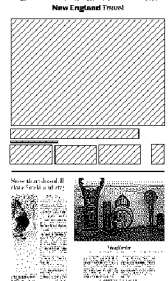
we’ll stop there. After pie and coffee, get some fresh air on an antique fire engine ride. You need not be a guest of the hotel. Seatings from 2 to 6:30 p.m. \$62 per adult; \$29 for ages 5 to 12; free under 5. Reservations required. 77 Easton St. 508-228-4730. thenantuckethotel.com

Celebrate Nantucket’s **annual tree-lighting** on Main Street at dusk on Nov. 27. Head to the Nantucket Whaling Museum for the **Festival of Wreaths**, a silent auction of some 80 handcrafted-on-Nantucket wreaths. (Nov. 25, 27-29, 13 Broad St. 508-228-1894, nha.org/specialevents/fow.html) The museum also hosts the similar **Festival of Trees** throughout December. nha.org/specialevents/fot.html

There is a ton packed into the 42d annual **Christmas Stroll Weekend**, Dec. 4-6, including talking trees, live folk music, a scavenger hunt, and various walking tours. (nantucketchamber.org)

Events kick off Dec. 4 with a guided 2.4-mile **Cliff Walk** past Nantucket’s famed historic mansions and views of Nantucket Sound. (8:30 a.m., corner of Federal and India streets. \$15, cash only, no reservations. 508-332-0953) Check the decked halls on a Holiday House Tour of historic homes decorated to the nines. (Dec. 4, 4-7 p.m. \$45, 508-228-5269, fonps.org) Here you go a-wassailing on a guided tour of **Cisco Brewers, Nantucket Vineyard and Triple 8 Distillery**. (Dec. 4, 4 p.m., 5 Bartlett Farm Road. \$20 per person. 508-325-5929)

What sled? **Santa** arrives on Nantucket Dec. 5 at 12:15 p.m.



in a Coast Guard cutter at Straight Wharf, where he'll be met by the town crier. The jolly man will ride an antique whale boat in a parade up Main Street to the Jared Coffin House to hear wish lists and pose for photos. (29 Broad St. 508-228-2400)

Shop Nantucket's Christmas Market, the island's version of an open-air European market with handcrafted goods. (At the foot of Main Street, Dec. 5, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. 508-228-1700) Head to the **Christmas Stroll Craft Show** for Victorian carolers, artwork, jewelry, knits, pottery, ornaments, cards, woodwork and more, crafted by Nantucket artisans. (Dec. 4 and 5, 1-7 p.m. 11 Centre St. 508-332-0240)

Theatre Workshop of Nantucket performs "A Christmas Carol," based on Charles Dickens's classic. Nov. 20-Dec. 13. (62 Centre St. 508-228-4305, theatreworkshop.com)

Ring in 2016 partying like it's 1912 at the Titanic-themed **New Year's Eve Gala** in the Grand Ballroom at The Nantucket. Don you now your 20th-century apparel — if you choose — for dancing, live music, hors d'oeuvres, a dessert buffet, light bites, and a champagne toast. (21+, 9 p.m.-1 a.m. \$120 per person. 508-901-1296) Rooms from \$195 a night Dec. 26-30 and from \$295 on Dec. 31. Suites from \$275/\$395.

Before you board the RMS Nantucket, you have the option of joining the bon voyage dinner, a three-course holiday meal. 6:30 or 8:30 p.m. \$75 per adult. Reserve at 508-228-4730. There's a **supervised kids' New Year's Eve ball** from 8:30 p.m.-12:30 a.m. at the resort's kids club. Ages 3 to pre-teen. \$25 per child for ball only; \$50 per child for ball and

6:30 dinner. (866-807-6011. thenantuckethotel.com/new-years-ball)

Celebrate New Year's Day with a walk on a beach or, if you're up early, an 8 a.m. guided nature hike at **Gardner Farm** — an outwash of grasslands, pitch pine forest, and inlet on Hummock Pond. Pickup and drop-off at **The Handlebar Cafe**, 15 Washington St. \$40 per adult, \$20 per child. (508-422-7466, nantucketwalkabout.com)

Lauren Daley can be reached at ldaley33@gmail.com.



NANTUCKET HOTEL



**The Nantucket Hotel
has events planned
for Thanksgiving,
Christmas, and New
Year's Eve.**

NANTUCKET



NANTUCKET HOTEL

Thanksgiving brings the annual Cold Turkey Plunge at Children's Beach, where hundreds brave the cold to raise money for the library.