GREATER AUSTIN

Things to Do

DECEMBER 2026

Holiday shopping
Try to finish your shopping early this year, as shipping might take longer than normal. Many stores offer online ordering, pick-up, and curbside service to help you safely get the gifts you need.

Armadillo Christmas Bazaar
December 12–21, 2026, at the Palmer Events Center. A long-standing fine art and shopping destination featuring nearly 200 artists offering collectible art, heirloom items, and live music. armadillobazaar.com

Distant Worlds: Music from Final Fantasy
Enjoy music from the Final Fantasy video game series performed live at Bass Concert Hall. concerthallaustin.com/events

Buena Vista Social Club - December 1–6
See the Tony and Grammy-winning musical inspired by iconic Cuban music and the stories behind it. Performances are at Bass Concert Hall. austin.broadway.com/shows/buena-vista-social-club/

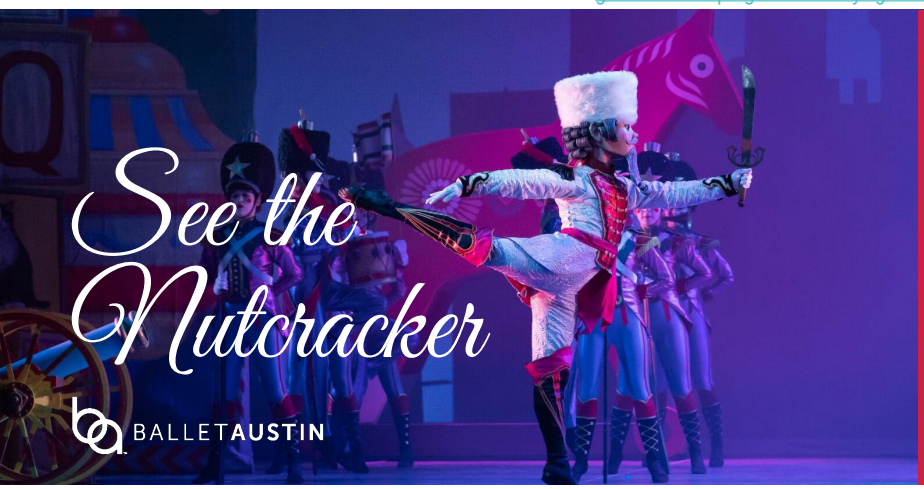
Support local artists
Visit the Blue Genie Art Bazaar to shop for gifts from over 200 talented artists. You'll find plenty of unique gifts there. bluegenieartbazaar.com

Perfect your gift-wrapping skills.
Learn some new gift-wrapping techniques with your kids or on your own. There are always new trends to try each year. goodhousekeeping.com/holidays/gift-ideas

Austin Trail of Lights
December 10–22, 2026, at Zilker Metropolitan Park. A beloved winter wonderland featuring over two million lights, 96 illuminated trees, live music, and holiday markets (with the Fun Run on December 5, 2026). austintrailoflights.org

Blue Genie Art Bazaar
Open throughout December, featuring original art, prints, and handmade gifts from local artists. bluegenieartbazaar.com

Make s'mores
As the weather cools down, there's no better way to enjoy a fire than by making some tasty s'mores. Try one of these unique s'more recipes! sharedappetite.com/recipes/15-creative-smores-recipes



Ballet Austin's 64th annual production of The Nutcracker is a dazzling spectacle filled with magic, wonder, and timeless charm.

The Long Center | Dec 14th - 23rd

balletaustin.org







Peppermint Parkway
November 20 – January 3. Celebrate Peppermint in The Park at COTALAND, located at Circuit of The Americas. Enjoy thrilling rides, sparkling holiday lights, festive entertainment, and special moments with Santa experience.
cotaland.com

Make glass candy
Make beautiful, sweet holiday treats by creating red and green glass candy for everyone to enjoy.
inthekitchenwithmatt.com/edible-sugar-glass

Miracle on 5th Street
Miracle is a Christmas-themed pop-up cocktail bar serving holiday drinks in a festive, nostalgic setting. Enjoy wall-to-wall Christmas decor, several bars, cheerful social experiences, and plenty of holiday spirit.
miracleon5thst.com

Decker Challenge
Try the Decker Challenge, a half-marathon road race in the Austin area. Check with the race organizer for registration and event details.
austinrunners.org/decker-challenge

Give back to the community.
Meals on Wheels is a great organization that could use extra help during the holidays. Let's help make sure everyone has a meal this season.
mealsonwheelscentraltexas.org

Movie night
Gather the family and rewatch your favorite holiday movie that always makes everyone smile.
goodhousekeeping.com/holidays/christmas-ideas

Mix up holiday cocktails.
Enjoy festive cocktails that you only get to have once a year.
delish.com/holiday-recipes/christmas

Get your 2027 calendar set up.
Start the new year early by adding important dates to your 2027 calendar. You might also set up a digital family calendar that everyone can access easily.
Calendar.google.com

Ring in the New Year at Auditorium Shores
This alcohol-free, family-friendly event celebrates the city's diversity and creativity with art installations, jugglers, storytellers, fire dancers, and other festive performances.
austintexas.org/events/new-years-eve

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