

2024 Program

CHRISTMAS in Perpignan



PERPIGNAN
LA RAYONNANTE

Detailed program available on mairie-perpignan.fr and the Perpignan la Rayonnante app



A JOURNEY TO THE HEART OF CHRISTMAS

In Perpignan, the magic of Christmas comes alive in the heart of the city. With parades, festivities, and traditions, the Christmas season promises delightful surprises to enchant everyone.

Festivities Kick-Off

Saturday, November 30, 2024, from 6 PM

Let the magic of Christmas in Perpignan begin!

From 6 PM, Mayor Louis Aliot invites you to the opening ceremony with the festive illumination launch from the Pont de Pierre. This will be followed by a grand parade at 6:30 PM.

Highlights: The Christmas Parades

Saturday, November 30, 2024: The Christmas Parade, 6:30 PM

Step into the magic of Christmas. Everyone is invited to enjoy a one-of-a-kind procession where dreams and reality meet. Colorful costumes, illuminated floats, dancers, performers, and artists will parade through Perpignan to the rhythm of music. Schools and dance associations from Perpignan will also participate. Experience an unforgettable journey with the Grand Christmas Parade!

Route: Boulevard Wilson, Place de la Résistance, Parvis des Galeries Lafayette, Pont Magenta, Quai Sadi Carnot, Rue Alsace Lorraine, Rue de la Barre, Rue des Marchands, Rue Louis Blanc, Place de la Victoire, and back to Boulevard Wilson.



Saturday, December 7, 2024: The White Christmas Parade, 6:30 PM

This year, the second parade will be themed «White Christmas in Perpignan.» Inspired by polar landscapes, this procession will feature dance troupes, acrobats, jugglers, stilt walkers, snow-covered floats, and ballerinas from the Synopsis dance school. Want to join in the fun? Just wear a white hat and harmonize with the enchanting atmosphere of the White Christmas Parade!

Route: Place Catalogne, Place Jean Payra, Place Bardou Job, Rue du 4 Septembre, Place Péri, Place Arago, Quai Sadi Carnot, Place de la Victoire, Place de la Résistance, Boulevard Clemenceau, and back to Place Catalogne.



White Christmas PARADE

Saturday, December 7, 6:30 PM

Place Catalogne

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The Magic of Christmas

Santa's Chalet

Place de Verdun, from Saturday, November 30, 2024, to Saturday, January 4, 2025.

• Wednesdays, Sundays, and school holidays: 4 PM to 7 PM

- Saturdays: 4 PM to 8 PM; on parade nights: 4 PM to 9 PM

Santa's Chalet will be located at Place de Verdun, near the Castillet by the Notre-Dame Passage. Drop your letter in Santa's mailbox and perhaps meet him in person! Don't forget the magical mirror that allows you to leave with a photo souvenir, offered by the City Hall.

Also, due to the generosity shown by Perpignan residents last year, Santa's kind elf will return to the chalet to collect toys that will be distributed to sick children in hospitals.

La Fabrica de Noël d'Antan

Fully booked, a victim of its success!

Hôtel Pams, Rue Émile Zola, Saturday, December 14, and Sunday, December 15, 2024.

Free (reservation required at my.weezevent.com/la-fabrica-de-noel-dantan).

Set in a distinguished English Christmas ambiance at the Hôtel Pams, characters inspired by the tales of Charles Dickens and the Brothers Andersen will captivate children and adults alike. Explore the grand rooms of the venue and meet iconic figures of British literature. Expect music, singing, dancing, and theater performances, with over 70 actors and musicians bringing to life La Fabrica de Noël d'Antan.

Christmas Market

Quai Vauban, from Friday, November 22, 2024, to Sunday, January 5, 2025.

Open daily: 10 AM to 8 PM. Fridays and Saturdays: 10 AM to 9 PM.

Discover the traditional Christmas market along Quai Vauban, featuring over 22 artisan chalets and stalls offering sweet treats and roasted chestnuts. Gourmet chalets will also be set up in Perpignan's main squares: Rigaud, Arago, République, Gambetta, Cayrol, and Victoire.



The Pessebres 2024

Once again, visitors and locals can admire the traditional Catalan Christmas Nativity Scenes (Pessebres):

- At the Town Hall, attracting many curious onlookers each year.
- A second *Pessebre* will be displayed along the Quai de la Basse, in a Catalan boat floating on the water.

Children's Rides

Friday, November 22, 2024, to Sunday, January 5, 2025.

The long-awaited rides are back! The Ferris wheel and Christmas tree ride will be set up near the Castillet, while other children's attractions, bumper cars, and carousels will be located at Place Catalogne, Place Arago, Place Cayrol, and Place de la Résistance.

The Three Kings Caravan

Saturday, January 4, 2025

Departures: 4 PM and 6 PM, Place Gambetta.

For its second edition, follow the Three Kings' Caravan as they journey through the streets on their colorful, ornate camels, accompanied by drummers. Expect giant puppets, actors, musicians, and jugglers dazzling the crowd, creating unforgettable memories for all ages.



Christmas Activities at Casa Xanxo

• **Saturday, December 21, 2024, at 4 PM:**

Roussillon Christmas Traditions

A musical visit to Casa Xanxo celebrating Catalan Christmas traditions. Guided by a duo of a tour guide and musicians from Les Jutglars.

• **Monday, December 23, and Monday, December 30, 2024, at 3:30 PM:**

“Caga Tió” Christmas Workshop

The “Caga Tió” is a charming log with big eyes and a wide smile. A beloved Catalan tradition, children are invited to Casa Xanxo for a fun-filled visit and workshop to create their own *Caga Tió* and take it home as a unique Christmas creation!

Info:

Heritage Promotion Service

Casa Xanxo, 8 Rue de la Main de Fer

Free, limited places, reservations at perpignantourisme.com

Christmas Traditions



• November 29, 2024, to January 6, 2025

Crèche Exhibition at La Funerària

Open Tuesday to Sunday, 11 AM to 5:30 PM.

The Ballet Joventut presents a selection of stunning *Pessebres de Noël* created by talented and passionate ceramicists.

• Saturday, December 14

Living Nativity Scene (Pessebre Vivent) at the Cathedral

5 PM to 6:30 PM at Saint-Jean-Baptiste Cathedral.

A Nativity play combining biblical scenes, traditional songs, and depictions of old trades.

• Saturday, December 21

- “Tió de Nadal” Celebration

2:30 PM to 4:30 PM, Place de la Loge.

A fun-filled afternoon introducing children to this traditional Catalan celebration.

- Catalan Dance Show

5 PM to 6 PM, Place Gambetta.

A blend of tradition and modernity performed by Ballet Joventut and Esbart Gaudi of Barcelona.

- Christmas Concert

6 PM to 7:30 PM, Saint-Jean-Baptiste Cathedral.

Celebrate the magic of Christmas with Cobla Mil·lenària, an unforgettable musical experience!

Info:

Catalan Culture Service

Tel: +33 4 68 62 38 82

affaires.catalanes@mairie-perpignan.com

GOOD DEALS parking

Free parking on Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays.

Parking Saint-Martin: €2 from 12:00 to 14:00 and from 19:00 to 8:00.

2 on Saturdays from 8 a.m. to midnight.

Parking Arago: €2 from 12:00 to 14:00 and from 19:00 to 8:00.

Don't hesitate to use public transport to get around.

All information on sankeo.com

Unmissable Events

8th Edition of the Antiquaries' Christmas, Allées Maillol

Friday, November 22, 2024, to Thursday, January 2, 2025.

Open daily: 10 AM to 7 PM.

Browse unique treasures from 12 exhibitors.

Info: +33 6 11 41 70 52

Saint-Éloi Celebration, City Center

Saturday, December 14, and Sunday, December 15, 2024.

Celebrate exceptional craftsmanship in jewelry featuring Perpignan's Grenat.

Enjoy talks, costume parades, and dances.

Info: institutdugrenat.com

Telethon, City Center

Friday, November 29, and Saturday, November 30, 2024.

Local associations come together for the Telethon. Find all activities on the Facebook page Téléthon Pyrénées-Orientales - 66.

Info: AFM Telethon +33 4 68 35 55

Wine and olive oil market, Place de la Loge and Place Jean Jaurès

Saturday, December 14, 2024, from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Blessing of the Muscat and the boat, downtown

Blessing of the Muscat at the cathedral at 10:00 a.m. followed by the blessing of the boat at the stone bridge at 10:30 a.m. Wine and olive oil markets, saffron stand, snail farm sales and tastings.

Other festivities include: Giant parades with the Clairanencs, free tastings of Castillet chestnuts and tasting workshops by Les Maitres Tasteurs du Roussillon, parade of the Commanderie Majeure du Roussillon.

Information: 04 68 63 61 72



The Three Kings Caravan

Perpignan

Saturday, January 4, 2025

Departures: 4 PM and 6 PM,
Place Gambetta.



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