



The Spirit of Christmas

This one-day itinerary celebrates the holiday spirit in Greater Wilmington and the scenic Brandywine Valley and features visits to three decorated estates, dinner in a country inn and, of course, a little time for shopping -all within 10 miles. These activities are available from the day after Thanksgiving through Christmas Eve.

Hagley Museum and Library - Hagley.org

The day begins at Hagley Museum and Library, where the du Pont story began in 1802. Elegant decorations in the family's original home and elsewhere on the picturesque 235-acre riverside property will inspire you. From the explosive demonstrations of DuPont gunpowder to the fascinating stories of how the du Ponts made their fortunes, Hagley guides weave tales of holiday times in the Brandywine Valley.

Tax Free Shopping

Forty boutiques are just minutes from Hagley, in Greenville, Delaware and make for a great lunch stop. Standouts in Greenville Center, Geenville Crossing and Powder Mill Square include the elegant Pizza by Elizabeths, coffee and more at Brew Ha Ha! and grill fare at the BBC Tavern & Grill and Cromwell's American Tavern & Taqueria. After your fill, explore a the variety of shops and boutiques including the Enchanted Owl for fine gifts, Janssen's Market for gourmet foods and the Wilmington Country Store for sophisticated style. Also in these plazas: Apropos for stationery, Houpette for cosmetics, Something's Unique for furnishings and Chico's, Francesca's Collection, Lolita, Peter Kate for fashion, Cosi, Jos. A Bank, Talbots, Ten Thousand Villages, and White House / Black Market. And remember, Delaware has no sales tax.

Winterthur Museum, Garden and Library - Winterthur.org

After your shopping spree, head along scenic route 52 to arrive at Winterthur Museum, Garden and Library. Founded by Henry Francis du Pont, Winterthur is the premier museum of American decorative arts, reflecting both early America and the du Pont family's life. In the special Yuletide tour, visitors experience traditions of the past and dazzling holiday entertaining displays throughout the 175 room mansion.

Buckley's Tavern - BuckleysTavern.com

Then it's time for an early dinner at Buckley's Tavern, where Rolls Royces rub wings with pick-up trucks in the parking lot. The Buckleys started running the tavern in 1951, and today's menu features updated versions of classic dishes. A fireplace and wood paneling reflects the charm of the building, which dates to 1817.

Longwood Gardens - LongwoodGardens.org

Your final stop on this Christmas tour is Longwood Gardens, the former estate of Pierre S. du Pont, and home to 11,000 types of plants on 1,077 acres of formal gardens, idea gardens, meadows and woodlands. The four-acre Conservatory shelters 20 indoor gardens, including the Orchid Display, Indoor Children's Garden, Cascade Garden and Mediterranean Garden. The Christmas spectacular includes over 500,000 lights, dancing fountains that reach to the sky, the richest floral display imaginable and special performances throughout the holidays. *Note: The fountains at Longwood Gardens are currently closed for renovation.*

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