Holidays at Universal Orlando Resort

Every park, every showtime Universal has actually published, the full Holiday Tour price calendar — and Epic Universe's first-ever Christmas.



The park Christmas tree and the Macy's star balloons on the Holiday Parade route at Universal Studios Florida. Photo: Universal Orlando

THE SEASON

14 Nov 2026 – 3 Jan 2027

51 days, resort-wide — and included with park admission.

THE HEADLINE

Epic Universe's first Christmas

First Snoggletog at Isle of Berk, festive SUPER NINTENDO WORLD, Christmas at the Ministry of Magic and a Celestial Park winter celebration.

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

Only two showtimes are published so far

The parade and the Who-liday Spectacular have real times. Everything else is app-only for now — this guide flags it honestly, page by page.

START HERE

What's new for 2026 — and the season essentials

The returning favourites are all back, but 2026 belongs to Epic Universe. Four of the five new additions sit in Universal's newest park; the fifth is a new parade balloon.

Snoggletog at Isle of Berk

The inaugural Snoggletog celebration in How to Train Your Dragon – Isle of Berk: festive décor, seasonal food and drink, and new merchandise. A Viking Christmas, done Berk's way.

SUPER NINTENDO WORLD festive décor

The land's first holiday overlay: colourful decorations, favourite characters and themed food.

Christmas at the Ministry of Magic

The Ministry of Magic land decked out for the season — the Wizarding World Christmas now spans all three parks.

Celestial Park winter celebration

Celestial Park becomes a cosmic winter wonderland: tree-lined walkways, dazzling lights and the nightly Universal Celestial Goodnight finale.

Plus — a new parade balloon: Earl the Squirrel debuts as a balloon in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade in New York on **Thursday 26 November**, then joins the Orlando parade in **early December**. No exact Orlando date is published — see page 3.

Season essentials

Dates	**Saturday 14 November 2026 – Sunday 3 January 2027**, every day
Where	Universal Studios Florida, Islands of Adventure, Epic Universe, CityWalk and the resort hotels
Cost	Included with a theme park ticket or Annual/Seasonal Pass (blockout dates apply). The Holiday Tour on page 7 is the one paid extra. Epic Universe: not on 1-day park-to-park tickets or any Annual/Seasonal Pass — included every day on 3–7-day park-to-park tickets.
Opening day hours Saturday 14 Nov 2026	Studios Florida **10:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.** (no Early Park Admission) · Islands **9:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.** (EPA 8:00 a.m.) · Epic **10:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.** (EPA 9:00 a.m.) · CityWalk 8:00 a.m. – 1:00 a.m. · Volcano Bay closed for the season

December hours — published through 30 December:

1–2, 4–9 & 11–15 Dec: all close 7:00 p.m.
17–18 Dec: Epic open until 9:00 p.m.
19–21 Dec: all close 9:00 p.m.
22 & 25 Dec: Studios/Islands 9–9, Epic 10–9
26 Dec: Islands open until 10:00 p.m.
27–30 Dec: Studios 9–9, Islands/Epic 9–10

31 Dec hours are not published yet — check the app (3 & 10 Dec too — not covered in the re-check).

What this guide covers

Universal Studios Florida 3
Universal Islands of Adventure 4
Universal Epic Universe 5
CityWalk, hotels & New Year's Eve 6
Universal Holiday Tour — prices & terms 7
Plan your visit, checklist & sources 8

PARK 1 OF 3 · UNIVERSAL STUDIOS FLORIDA

The parade park: Macy's balloons, Diagon Alley and Earl



Earl the Squirrel, ready for his meet and greet — and, from early December, his own Orlando parade balloon. Photo: Universal Orlando



A float in Universal's Holiday Parade featuring Macy's, nightly at 5:30 p.m. Photo: Universal Orlando

Parade steps off 5:30 p.m. nightly **Included with admission** **New Earl balloon from December**

Universal's Holiday Parade featuring Macy's

- **Steps off at 5:30 p.m.** nightly across the season — one of only two published times in the whole event.
- Larger-than-life Macy's balloons, floats and favourite characters, park-wide.
- **New for 2026:** an Earl the Squirrel balloon debuts in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade in New York on Thursday 26 November, then joins the Orlando parade in early December (no exact Orlando date published).
- No street-by-street route is published — pick a spot on the main streets early; the 5:30 start means daylight fading into lights, which is the parade at its best.

Earl the Squirrel meet and greet

- Earl appears in his best holiday attire for photos — daily at Studios Florida, and Friday–Sunday at CityWalk, 20 November–3 January.
- No times published — check the Universal Orlando app on the day.

Christmas in Diagon Alley

- Festive décor throughout The Wizarding World of Harry Potter – Diagon Alley, with the Gringotts dragon overhead.
- **Celestina Warbeck and the Banshees** perform a holiday set. No times published — app-only.

Holiday Tribute Store

- Returns for 2026, themed **"A Tribute to Holiday Treasures"** — this year's store honours the 100th Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade.
- No dedicated detail page, opening times or dates beyond the season are published yet.

Food, drink & New Year's Eve

- Seasonal food booths and festive drinks throughout the streets of New York.
- Universal's 11 November press release names around 20 seasonal items — Earl's hazelnut dot cake at the New York kiosks and a second "Puerto Rican Holidays" kiosk among them. Prices not published yet.
- A New Year's Eve celebration is confirmed for this park — details not yet published.

> **CTP tip — build the evening around 5:30:** Soak in Diagon Alley's décor first, then settle for the parade. If you are on the Holiday Tour (page 7), your reserved parade viewing area is optional — decide before the day whether you will use it or watch from the street.

UOAP note: the free Earl button is at The Tonight Shop in this park, park open to close, all season — full details on page 6.

Grinchmas, the Whos and Christmas at Hogwarts



The Grinch in Seuss Landing — the star of Grinchmas. Photo: Universal Orlando



Hogwarts Castle at dusk — home to the evening projection show (times app-only). Photo: Universal Orlando

Who-liday Spectacular: 8 shows a day | Included with admission

Grinchmas Who-liday Spectacular

The season's best-published show. The live retelling of the Grinch story, with music recorded by Mannheim Steamroller, runs **eight times a day** in Seuss Landing (times spot-checked for 14 Nov, 25 Dec and 31 Dec — identical on all three):

PUBLISHED SHOWTIMES

10:15 a.m. · 11:15 a.m. · 12:15 · 1:15 · 3:30 · 4:30 · 5:30 · 6:30 p.m.

The 2:15 p.m. gap is the midday break — plan lunch or the Tree Lot then, not a show dash.

Meet the Grinch & the Whos

- Grinch meet and greet in Seuss Landing.
- Who character appearances throughout Seuss Landing all day.
- No times published for either — the app is the source on the day. Max and Santa meets are guaranteed only via the Holiday Tour (page 7).

Who-ville Tree Lot

- A display of playful, bright, quirky Christmas trees in Seuss Landing — an easy, no-queue photo stop between shows.

Christmas in Hogsmeade

- Seasonal décor across The Wizarding World of Harry Potter – Hogsmeade.
- **Frog Choir** performs seasonal melodies. No times published — app-only.
- **The Magic of Christmas at Hogwarts Castle** — the evening projection show on the castle. No times published; the park page directs guests to the app.

Also in this park

- Limited-time seasonal food, drink and merchandise.
- New Year's Eve celebration confirmed — details not yet published.
- Jurassic Park River Adventure is closed until 17 December 2026.
- UOAP Earl button pick-up at the UOAP Lounge in Toon Lagoon, 11:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. (page 6).

Grinch & Friends Character Breakfast

- Circus McGurkus Cafe Stoo-pendous, Seuss Landing — select mornings **14 Nov 2026 – 3 Jan 2027**, seatings 8:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. (Wednesday–Sunday, plus select Mondays/Tuesdays around Thanksgiving and Christmas). Seatings from 8:00 a.m. run before the park's 9:00 a.m. opening — breakfast guests are admitted early for their reservation.
- **$64.99** adults (ages 10+), **$38.99** children (ages 3–9), plus tax — prices include an automatic 20% gratuity; separate park admission required. One plated entrée + one non-alcoholic drink included; the Grinch and Who friends visit your table.
- Reservations are open now; capacity is limited. **Sold out as of 6 Nov: 14 & 15 Nov, 5, 12 & 19 Dec** — plus 7 further mornings whose dates could not be established. **No breakfast 31 Dec or 1 Jan.**

PARK 3 OF 3 · UNIVERSAL EPIC UNIVERSE

Epic’s first Christmas — all four worlds dress up



SUPER NINTENDO WORLD gets its first festive overlay. Photo: Universal Studios Hollywood

First ever Epic holiday season | Included with admission | All-new for 2026

Snoggletog at Isle of Berk

- The inaugural Snoggletog at Isle of Berk.
- Festive décor, seasonal food and drink, new merchandise.
- Seasonal food and drink — Epic items in all five worlds, per Universal’s 11 November press release; prices not published yet.

SUPER NINTENDO WORLD

- First holiday overlay: colourful decorations, favourite characters and themed food.

Christmas at the Ministry of Magic

- The Wizarding World of Harry Potter – Ministry of Magic decked out for the season.
- Wizarding Christmas now spans three parks. No Epic showtimes published.

Celestial Park winter celebration

- A cosmic winter wonderland: tree-lined walkways and dazzling lights.
- **Universal Celestial Goodnight** — the nightly fountain-and-fireworks finale — is the centrepiece. No showtimes published — app-only.



The Wizarding World of Harry Potter – Ministry of Magic. Photo: SYFY Wire (Universal-supplied)



Constellation Carousel, Celestial Park. Photo: Disney Food Blog

Why Epic matters most: other parks refine a proven formula — Epic’s season is all firsts, and Celestial Park after dark is 2026’s postcard shot.

Opening day: Sat 14 Nov, 10:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. (EPA 9:00 a.m.). **Monsters Unchained** (Dark Universe) closed 11–15 Dec 2026. **New Year’s Eve:** celebration confirmed — details not published yet.

CityWalk, hotels, Passholder perks & New Year's Eve

Haus Noël — CityWalk

- The seasonal club returns as **Haus Noël** — an alpine pub and Christmas market, serving coquito, spiked hot chocolate and the Pecan Pie Tai.
- Serving signature cocktails, mocktails, beers, wines and soft drinks.
- Alcohol is 21+ with valid photo ID.

Resort hotels

- Festive stays and seasonal décor across the resort hotels — no hotel-specific events, menus or prices published for 2026 yet.

Food, drink & merchandise — resort-wide

- Themed treats and cocktails are promised at select locations across the parks and CityWalk.
- Universal's 11 November press release names ~20 seasonal items — Earl's hazelnut dot cake (USF New York kiosks), a second "Puerto Rican Holidays" kiosk, and Epic items in all five worlds. Prices not published yet.
- Seasonal merchandise and holiday photo opportunities round out the offering. Hashtag: #UniversalHolidays.

UOAP EXCLUSIVE

Earl the Squirrel button — "YOU'LL GO NUTS"

- Free specialty button for Annual Passholders, starring Earl.
- **All season:** 14 November 2026 – 3 January 2027.
- **UOAP Lounge, Toon Lagoon** (Islands of Adventure): 11:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.
- **The Tonight Shop** (Studios Florida): park open to park close.

31 DECEMBER 2026

New Year's Eve — what's confirmed

- Celebrations confirmed in **all three theme parks and CityWalk**.
- Universal promises "live entertainment and midnight countdowns" — more details will be revealed soon.
- **Not published:** times, in-park locations, pricing — and NYE park hours. Every park page says details are coming.

How a resort-wide day fits together

MORNING

Islands of Adventure

Who-liday Spectacular at 10:15 or 11:15 a.m., Grinch meet, Tree Lot.

EVENING

Studios Florida

Diagon Alley décor, then the parade at 5:30 p.m. (park-to-park ticket needed to hop).

AFTER DARK

Epic or CityWalk

Celestial Park's lights and Universal Celestial Goodnight, or Haus Noël at CityWalk.



New York street, Studios Florida. Photo: Orlando Informer



Diagon Alley at dusk. Photo: Orlando Informer

Honest planning note: Epic is a bus ride across the resort — give it its own day or evening, not a quick hop.

THE ONE PAID EXTRA

Universal Holiday Tour — every price & term

A guided daytime tour covering both Studios Florida and Islands of Adventure on select dates, **14 November 2026 – 2 January 2027**. About **2.5 hours**, up to **12 guests** per tour (parties grouped together).

INCLUDED

- Reservations required
- Meet and greet with **the Grinch**
- Meet and greet with **Max**, the Grinch's dog
- Meet and greet with **Santa**
- Reserved seating for the Grinchmas Who-liday Spectacular
- Reserved viewing area for the Holiday Parade (optional)

TERMS THAT MATTER

- **Admission is NOT included** — every guest needs a valid **park-to-park** ticket.
- **Cancellation:** 48 hours' notice for a full refund.
- Passholders: **$10 off per ticket, up to 6 spots**.
- Runs in regular park hours; subject to availability.
- **Not published:** start time and check-in location.

Price calendar — per guest, as shown on Universal's booking store

Tour prices and availability read from Universal's live booking calendar, 14 Nov 2026, 8:06 a.m. EST. Headline "from $69.99"; calendar prices rounded to the nearest dollar (exact prices end in .99), **$70–$120** by date. Prices can move — check before you book.

NOVEMBER 2026

Nov 14 · unavailable —	Nov 15 $120	Nov 16 $110	Nov 17 $110	Nov 18 $120	Nov 19 · sold out ~~$70~~
Nov 20 $100	Nov 21 $120	Nov 22 · sold out ~~$120~~	Nov 23 $120	Nov 24 $120	Nov 25 $120
Nov 26 $120	Nov 27 $120	Nov 28 $120	Nov 29 $120	Nov 30 $120	

DECEMBER 2026

Dec 1 $120	Dec 2 $120	Dec 3 $120	Dec 4 $120	Dec 5 $120	Dec 6 · sold out ~~$120~~
Dec 7 $120	Dec 8 · sold out ~~$120~~	Dec 9 $120	Dec 10 $120	Dec 11 $120	Dec 12 $120
Dec 13 $120	Dec 14 $100	Dec 15 $110	Dec 16 $110	Dec 17 $100	Dec 18 $110
Dec 19 $120	Dec 20 $120	Dec 21 $120	Dec 22 $120	Dec 23 $120	Dec 24 $120
Dec 25 $120	Dec 26 $110	Dec 27 $70	Dec 28 $100	Dec 29 $100	Dec 30 $90
Dec 31 $70					

JANUARY 2027

Jan 1 $70	Jan 2 $70

Tour ends Sat 2 Jan 2027. Jan 1–2 both $70, available. 14 Nov is no longer bookable online — check on the day.

CHEAPEST — $70

Sun 27 Dec · Thu 31 Dec · Fri 1 Jan · Sat 2 Jan

New Year's Eve at the lowest price — the calendar's surprise bargain.

PRICIEST — $120

15, 18, 21–30 Nov · 1–5, 7, 9–13, 19–25 Dec

Opening weekend and Christmas Day sit at the top of the range.

WORTH IT IF…

The meets matter most

Grinch, Max and Santa with no open-ended queues, plus reserved show and parade spots.

Checklist, what's still missing & sources

Before you go

- ☐ Pick your park days — give Epic its own day
- ☐ Book the Holiday Tour early if the meets matter
- ☐ Note the two published times: parade 5:30 p.m., Who-liday shows
- ☐ Passholders: plan an Earl button pick-up stop
- ☐ Check 31 December hours in the app before you travel
- ☐ Confirm you hold park-to-park tickets for a tour day
- ☐ Download the Universal Orlando app for all other showtimes
- ☐ Re-check the "not published" list below before you travel

Not published yet — as checked 12 Nov 2026

- Showtimes for the Hogwarts Castle show, Frog Choir, Celestina Warbeck, Universal Celestial Goodnight and all meet and greets (app-only).
- Holiday Tour start time and check-in location.
- Holiday Tribute Store detail page, dates and opening times.
- Seasonal food item prices (items were named in Universal's 11 November press release).
- 31 December park hours; NYE event specifics.
- An exact Orlando debut date for the Earl parade balloon (New York debut 26 Nov; Orlando "early December").

Follow along with CTP

- **Sunday 15 November 2026** — CTP Universal Holiday Celebration day, with live coverage on our socials.
- **Saturday 21 November 2026** — CTP Epic Universe Xmas day, Epic's first Christmas covered live.

Find both, plus every CTP guide, at ctpuniverse.substack.com.

The one-app rule: for anything in this guide marked "app-only", the Universal Orlando app on the morning of your visit is the authority — screenshots and last year's times are not.

Sources

1. @UniversalORL announcement post, X, 19 October 2026, and the Holidays at Universal pages on universalorlando.com (hub, Studios Florida, Islands of Adventure and Epic Universe holiday pages, Holiday Parade event page).
2. Universal Holiday Tour booking store (store.universalorlando.com) — inclusions, terms and the full price calendar; tour prices and availability re-checked against the live booking calendar, 14 November 2026, 8:06 a.m. EST.
3. Universal Orlando park-hours calendar — opening-day hours and December hours through 30 December, as checked 12 November 2026.
4. Earl the Squirrel balloon and UOAP button details: Universal Passholder flyer as posted by Ashley Carter (@AshleyLCarter1), X, 19 October 2026.
5. Grinch & Friends Character Breakfast 2026 (dates, seatings, prices, inclusions): WDW News Today and Theme Park Scope, reservations opened 27 October 2026.
6. Universal Orlando press release, 11 Nov 2026 (food, Earl balloon, Haus Noël).
   Ticket store — Epic admission rules, checked 12 Nov 2026.

Photos: Universal Orlando (parade tree & Macy's stars, parade float, Earl the Squirrel, the Grinch, Hogwarts Castle; SUPER NINTENDO WORLD courtesy of Universal Studios Hollywood); Ministry of Magic — SYFY Wire (Universal-supplied); Constellation Carousel — Disney Food Blog; Diagon Alley & New York street — Orlando Informer. CTP logo shown exactly as supplied. Universal's own disclaimer applies throughout: prices, times, dates, entertainment and experience details are subject to change or cancellation without notice. This is an independent CTP guide and is not produced by, endorsed by or affiliated with Universal Orlando Resort.