

For Immediate Release
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Make the Holidays Glow with an Island Escape

The approaching holiday season is a perfect time to get away from traffic-jammed parking lots and monotonous big-box stores. This year, savor the holiday spirit in the beautiful San Juan Islands with winter forest hikes, festive drinks by the fire, a great meal with stunning views, and nostalgic small-town traditions.

Holiday [gifts](#) mean so much more when they are made by someone you know. And in the San Juan Islands, it's easy to meet the artisans who create the art, crafts, foods and more. Shop for a cause at the Island Artisans Holiday Market on November 25th and 26th in Friday Harbor. Artists will donate 10% of sales to the Island Artisans non-profit group, which supports art scholarships to graduating seniors in the county.

Step back in time to a magical Old-Fashioned Holiday Market at the historic Brickworks building in Friday Harbor on December 9th, 10th, and 11th. Sparkling lights illuminate this indoor-outdoor crafts market, with local food vendors, farm products, live music, and tasty libations. Enjoy free activities for every age, including hay & pony rides, marshmallows by the fire, and visits from Santa!

Seek out the Solstice Mercantile pop-up shop at Orcas Island Winery on December 3rd and 4th and the Winter Artisan Market at the historic Oddfellows Hall on December 10th on Orcas Island with island artists, food, and wine.

From Thanksgiving through New Year's Day, a festive lineup of [Holiday Events and Specials](#) offer plenty of ways to keep friends and families busy, from holiday plays and concerts to wine tastings and dinners, special restaurant and lodging packages, and more. Three tree lighting ceremonies in Eastsound Village Green, Lopez Village, and Friday Harbor will brighten up the chilly nights, with carolers, cookies, hot cider, and good cheer. Escape the mainland's rush and discover island time.