

ENTERTAINMENT | THINGS TO DO

Glide, twirl on festively decorated local ice rinks

An Advertising Feature

By Jeanne Cooper, Freelance Travel Writer Dec 11, 2024









Skate on the environmentally friendly, nonfrozen surface at Winter Wonderland at the Marin Art and Garden Center. Marin Art and Garden Center

Whether they use real or synthetic ice, the Bay Area's seasonal outdoor skating rinks provide more experiences than just a spin on blades. Lighted trees and other holiday decorations illuminate everything from a skating lesson with Kristi Yamaguchi to drag performances, a silent disco, an art show and a K-Pop night, just to name a few. Most rinks also offer the opportunity to book private sessions to create your own parties on ice.

Here are highlights listed by county:



The Safeway Holiday Ice Rink Presented by Kaiser Permanente has a towering Christmas tree Westin St. Francis

San Francisco

Safeway Holiday Ice Rink Presented by Kaiser Permanente

Festive lights, a towering decorated Christmas tree and, beginning Dec. 25, a lighted Menorah add to the holiday cheer of the Union Square skating rink. For beginners under 48 inches tall, rent a "skate helper" (\$6) that looks like a polar bear or penguin.

Open: Now through Jan. 20.

Price: \$20 ages 9 and older, \$15 for younger, for 60-minute session; online booking required.

Special events: Skate to classical music by KDFC radio Sunday mornings through Jan. 19 and '80s hits in the evening on Flashback Fridays Dec. 20 and Jan. 17. Wear a special headset to enjoy dance tunes during the Silent Disco Dec. 12 (\$30). Experience chills and thrills on New Year's Day by wearing beach attire to the Polar Bear Skate.

Off the rink: Facing the rink, the Westin St. Francis hosts the Dollie+Me Holiday Tea at 1 p.m. Dec. 14-15 (\$130). Children and adults can enjoy afternoon tea and doll crafting, and kids receive a doll crafting goodie bag.

Details: Union Square, 333 Post St., San Francisco, 415-295-1588



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