

December 2011

# SAN DIEGO **family**

FREE

Everyone's  
Favorite  
Map of  
Christmas  
Lights

**12** Days of  
Giveaways!

[SanDiegofamily.com](http://SanDiegofamily.com)

What Moms  
Really Want

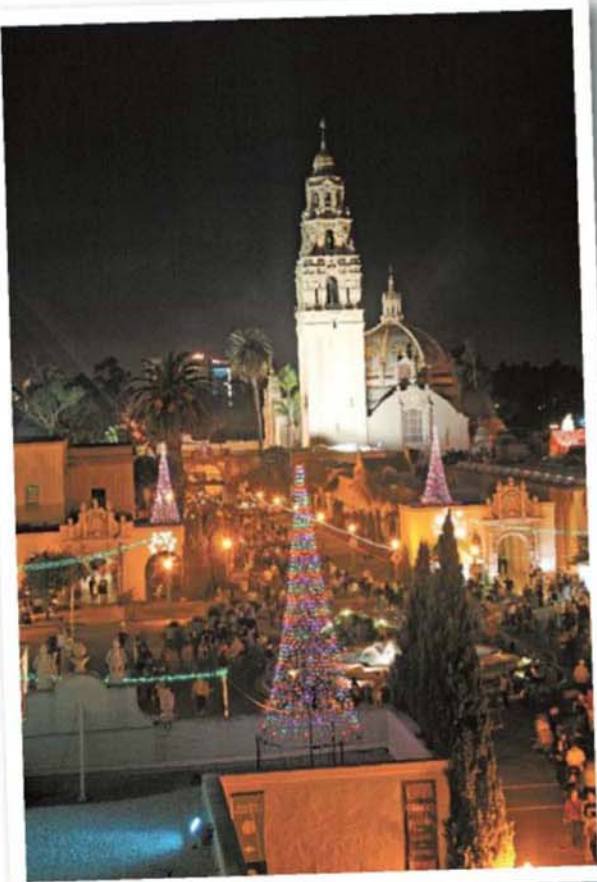
Tons of Toys  
for tots to teens

Oh  
Christmas  
Tree

How lovely are thy branches ...

## *From Home to Home and Heart to Heart*

Where to take your visiting  
family and friends

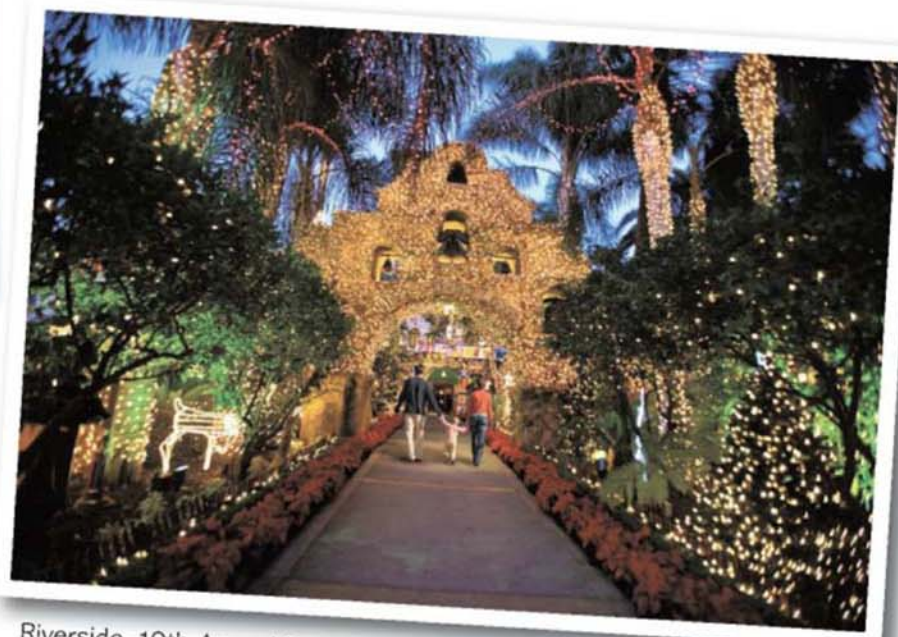


San Diego-- Balboa Park December Nights

Your kids are out of school for a few weeks and family members are arriving at the airport in an hour. The halls are decked. The tree is trimmed. The sugarplums are ... well ... dancing in heads. You are more than ready! But what are you going to do with everyone after they're here?

We've got you covered—far from the frenzy of the mall. Take a look at the following holiday events and festivities, and you'll find wintery fun close to home. If you're in the mood to pack up the "family sleigh" and get away for a few days, visit these less-traveled spots in San Diego County or nearby mountain towns.

Create new traditions and lasting memories in the heart of the season.



Riverside--19th Annual Festival of Lights at The Mission Inn Hotel & Spa

## Day Trips & Weekends Away

### *Big Bear*

#### **Christmas in the Village & Bear Valley Tour of Lights**

Big Bear Lake; [www.bigbearlakevillage.com/events.html](http://www.bigbearlakevillage.com/events.html)

Drive “up the hill” to Big Bear and enjoy winter’s chill and the warm glow of lights. On Friday, November 25, 2011 at 4:30 pm, on the corner of Pine Knot and Village Drive, watch the lighting of the Big Bear Christmas tree with Santa. During weekends throughout December, enjoy the Bear Valley Tour of Lights.

### *Julian*

#### **Julian Country Christmas**

The Julian Chamber of Commerce  
760-765-1857

[www.julianca.com/events](http://www.julianca.com/events)

Throughout the month of December, you’ll have ample opportunity to spread the holiday cheer in the charming town of Julian. View a Living Nativity on December 3, 10, and 17 starting at 5 pm at the Cider Mill. Dine with Santa on December 11 from 9 am – 1 pm at the Pine Hills Lodge. Hear Handel’s Messiah performed by the Julian Community Choir on December 18, 7 pm at the Town Hall.

### *Riverside*

#### **19th Annual Festival of Lights at The Mission Inn Hotel & Spa**

Friday, November 25, 2011 through January 8, 2012

3649 Mission Inn Avenue, Riverside  
951-784-0300, [www.missioninn.com](http://www.missioninn.com)

The Festival of Lights begins the day after Thanksgiving in a celebratory lighting ceremony—you’ll see more than 3.6 million twinkling lights illuminate this stunning Southern California landmark. You won’t want to miss the horse-drawn carriage rides, “freshly fallen snow” and chance to meet Santa. ❖

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*Ronni Rowland is a mother of two and freelance writer.*