



Gingerbread Houses Build the Foundation for Holiday Fun *Here's a Taste of Some of the Nation's Most Fascinating Holiday Handiwork*

(November 29, 2018) – If you want to spice up this year's holiday coverage, we'd like to share a favorite recipe and suggest a sweet story about ... gingerbread houses!

We're not talking about just any old gingerbread houses – you know, the ones that fit on a little table in your family room and the kids pick apart when they think nobody's looking? What we're talking about are over-the-top creations that gingerbread-loving citizen chefs and pastry chefs at hotels, resorts and attractions across the country have been designing, developing, baking and building for the past several weeks (or, in some cases, months!).

Gingerbread has been a part of America's Christmas celebrations since colonial times, and after 250 years of practice, the country has mastered the art of crafting with gingerbread. The structures we're highlighting here are the perfect mix of culinary creativity and architectural achievement.

Yes, of course we have photos! Please let us know if you need images ... or any additional information about these gingerbread displays.

Candy and Cookie Village

[Chateau on the Lake Resort & Spa](#)

Branson, Missouri

November 1 – January 1

This legendary property nestled along Table Rock Lake in the Ozark Mountains takes a new twist on the classic gingerbread house, creating an entire village out of a variety of confections. The resort's culinary team has created a total of six buildings out of candy canes, cookies, Pop Tarts, jelly beans, licorice, malt balls, pretzels, graham crackers, candy bars, gummy bears and other sweet treats. The tallest of these confectionary structures is the sweet village's church, which boasts a bell tower that stands at five feet. The tasty town's Christmas trees are made from upside-down ice cream cones with green icing and chocolate-covered sunflower seeds; sleighs are crafted from candy canes and graham crackers; and the village's dogs are created from Frosted Mini Wheats and M&M's. Other sweet features include reindeer, benches, fire pits and snowmen ... all crafted from the sweet stuff found in the Chateau's award-winning kitchen. For those who want to partake in the full holiday experience in Branson, the resort offers a special ["Ozark Mountain Christmas" package](#) through December 30.

Christmas on the Potomac

[Gaylord National Resort & Convention Center](#)

National Harbor, Maryland

November 16 – January 1

Here in the small pocket of land and water where Maryland, Virginia and the nation's capital intersect, the population is well traveled and many of its residents have transplanted from other countries. It's the perfect place for a gingerbread masterpiece that features "Christmas Around the World." The Gaylord National Resort pastry team has created 17 sweet replicas of iconic monuments, buildings and memorials from 14 countries – the nations the pastry team has called home – including Australia, Bangladesh, China, England, France, Ghana, India, Japan, Mexico, the Philippines, Russia, South Korea, Sri Lanka and the United States. The pastry chefs used 200 pounds of gingerbread dough and 60 pounds of royal icing to create such landmarks as the Washington Monument, Sydney Opera House, Great Wall of China and Chichen Itza. It took the culinary team more than 1,000 hours to build, shape, bake and assemble the display, which measures 10 feet by 20 feet and can be admired as part of the resort's annual Christmas on the Potomac celebration. The centerpiece of that event is ICE!, the resort's signature holiday attraction. This year's theme is "A Charlie Brown Christmas," which uses 2 million pounds of ice sculptures and displays to share one of America's favorite holiday stories from yesteryear.

Hagley's Gingerbread House Contest

[Hagley Museum & Library](#)

Wilmington, Delaware

November 23 – January 1

On the banks of the Brandywine River, E.I. du Pont built his gunpowder works in 1802 and began his family's long and lucrative relationship with the region. Today the original DuPont operation stands as a testament to American industry and ingenuity, and the library furthers the study of business and technology in America. In short, this site pays tribute to the impact of business on society ... and honors those who invent and inspire. To that end, this year marks the site's first-ever gingerbread house contest, and individuals and organizations used their creativity to craft houses that are on display on the second floor of the Visitor Center. Guests can choose their favorites; votes will be tallied for two weeks and winners announced on December 8, but the houses will be on display through January 1. This is just one part of the holiday happenings at Hagley, where the du Pont family's ancestral home, Eleutherian Mills, is fully decorated for the holidays and focuses on the French traditions of Twelfth Night and exchanging gifts on New Year's Day. The home also includes "The Magic of Miniatures" exhibition, featuring a detailed dollhouse inhabited by miniature teddy bears.

Gingerbread Display, a Part of [Nights of a Thousand Candles](#)

[Brookgreen Gardens](#)

Murrells Inlet, South Carolina

November 27 – January 1

Along the South Carolina coast, south of Myrtle Beach and north of Pawleys Island, is the community of Murrells Inlet. It's known as the "Seafood Capital of South Carolina," but this is more than a fishing village. It's also home to Brookgreen Gardens, a site that combines a botanical garden, sculpture collection, Lowcountry history museum and even a zoo into one site that offers a serene respite from days at the beach or on the water. During the holidays, Brookgreen Gardens celebrates "Nights of a Thousand Candles." On select nights, guests who visit between 3 and 10 p.m. can stroll the gardens amidst the glow of more than 4,500 hand-lit candles and thousands of sparkling lights. All season long – not just on the nights the Gardens are open for the lights display – guests can step inside the Rainey Sculpture Pavilion to enjoy two seasonal exhibits. "Holiday Memories: Blasts from the Past," celebrates model trains, period Christmas trees, toys and other nostalgia from the 1860s

through the 1960s, and “A Light in the Darkness” honors Scandinavian holiday traditions. Within this gallery visitors will also find a full display from [The Gingerbread Ladies](#) of nearby Conway, South Carolina, who were recently featured on Food Network. They’ve been working together since 1991 and today make nearly 1,000 gingerbread houses each year. Each unique, hand-decorated house includes only edible components, all stuck together with signature peppermint royal icing. The houses on display at Brookgreen Gardens this year follow a Scandinavian theme to match the “A Light in the Darkness” exhibit.

Greenwood INN Gingerbread

[Inn on the Square](#)

Uptown Greenwood, South Carolina

December 2 – 25

Greenwood’s Inn on the Square annually celebrates the holiday season with a gingerbread display that pays tribute to Greenwood and generates plenty of community involvement. The hotel encourages residents and community organizations to recreate Greenwood’s landmarks in gingerbread; last year brought forth sweet versions of the Uptown Market and the former mayor’s house. The project was inspired by Inn owner Jim McGuinness, who simply adores Christmas ... and who also holds a degree from the Culinary Institute of America. He began building gingerbread houses with his own children when they were little and wanted to bring the tradition to his hotel. Working with the Bowers Rogers Children’s Home, the community comes together at the inn for a decorating contest while raising funds and collecting toys for the children’s home. This year, McGuinness will be creating a gingerbread version of the town’s Arts Center. Everyone is invited to turn out at the hotel on December 23 to show off their handiwork. The results will be on display in the inn’s lobby through Christmas Day.

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