

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 2006

Roam for the holidays

Stock photo



BILTMORE ESTATE

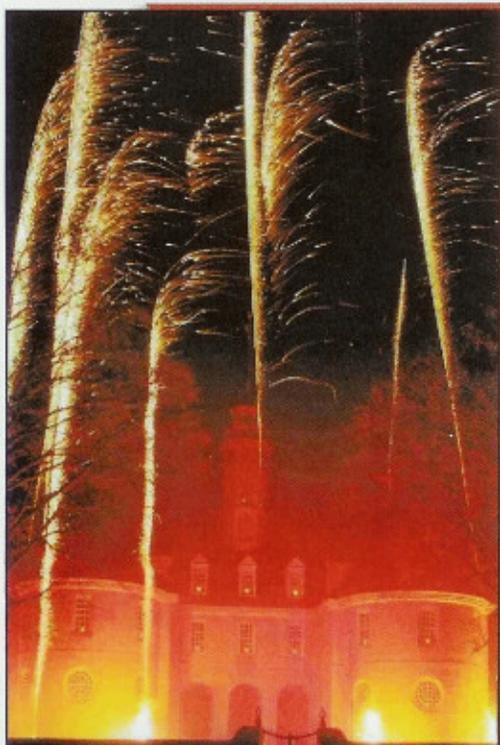
BILTMORE ESTATE, NORTH CAROLINA



LAWRENCE JACKSON / Associated Press



PHILIPPE LIMET DEWEZ / Coyaba Dance Theatre



THE COLONIAL WILLIAMSBURG FOUNDATION

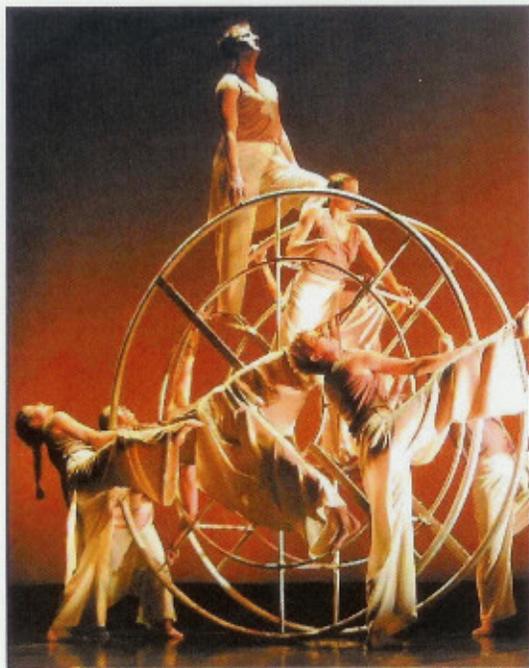
Weekend Journeys

Wrap the fruitcake in rum-soaked cheesecloth and stash it in the refrigerator. Dash off the “Season’s Greetings” cards before the lines wrap around the post office like a ribbon. Leave the gift-wrapping for later — it’s time for you and yours to soak up the holiday spirit. There are plenty of places within a tank of gas of the Philadelphia area that will do the trick, from Bethlehem, Pa., (Christmas City USA) to New York City, from New England to Colonial Williamsburg, from the country’s biggest house (Biltmore Estate) to the nation’s capital. Whether you’re celebrating Christmas, Hanukkah or Kwanzaa, it’s time to enjoy the traditions — or start a new one.

Seven spots to celebrate the season. **N3.**

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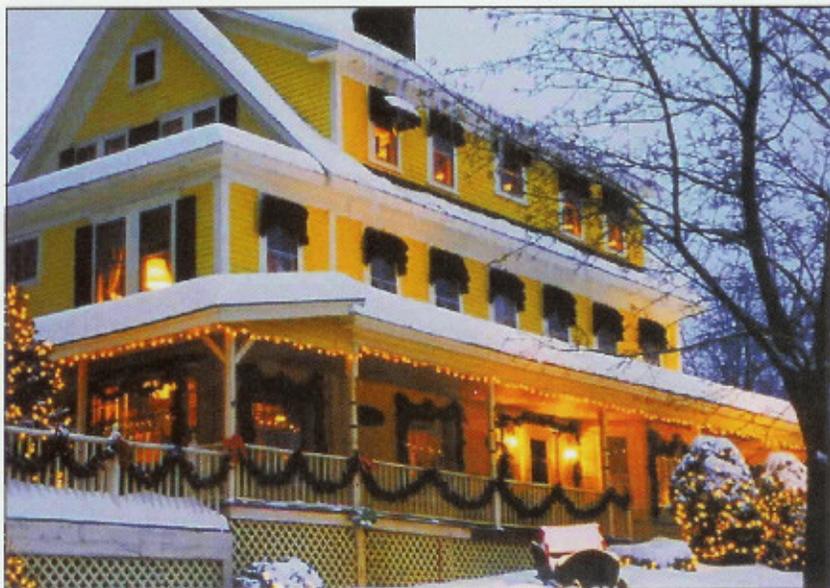
Share your favorite holiday season destinations and experiences outside the Philadelphia area at <http://go.philly.com/traveltalk>



Carolyn Dorfman Dance Company will perform at a Hanukkah celebration Dec. 17 at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center in Newark.



Eastman Inn, left, is on the 10th annual Inn to Inn Cookie Tour in New Hampshire on Dec. 9 and 10.



Bethlehem, Pa.

With a star lighting it from above and candles from within, visitors throng to Christmas City USA. Tour the town on foot or by horse-drawn carriage or sleigh with a guide in colonial Moravian costume, or see it by bus at night (\$4-\$8, 1-800-360-8687, www.historicbethlehem.org). Go early to the Live Christmas Pageant (2 p.m., Dec. 9 and 10 at the Community Arts Pavilion, Main and Lehigh Streets) and join the hordes of volunteers — plus camels, mules and sheep — reenacting the story of Mary, Joseph and the infant Jesus. On a smaller scale, see a community putz, or elaborate miniature Nativity scene, in each of the three Moravian churches. In the candlelit 1751 Old Chapel of Central Moravian Church, listen to organ concerts accompanied by violin, flute, piano, or vocal artists (free; 4:30-5:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, Dec. 4-29 except Christmas Day). If you haven't finished your holiday shopping, go to Christkindlmarkt, featuring 125 artisans, live holiday music, food, children's rides and activities — and jolly St. Nicholas (the next three weekends, \$6 admission; www.christkindlmarkt.org).

New York City

Rockefeller Center Christmas Tree

Through Jan. 8, 5:30 p.m. to 11:30 p.m.
Fifth Avenue and 50th Street.

Radio City Music Hall Christmas Spectacular

Through Dec. 30; Sixth Avenue and 50th Street.

Rockettes, St. Nick, "Parade of the Wooden Soldiers," and "Living Nativity." \$40-\$150.
212-307-1000; www.radiocity.com.

Shows

How the Grinch Stole Christmas! The Musical, Hilton Theatre, 214 W. 42d St., through Jan. 7. \$25-\$99; www.hilton-theatre.com.

That Time of the Year, St. Peter's Theatre, 619 Lexington Ave. at 54th Street. Through Dec. 24. \$20-\$49. Off-Broadway comical and musical tribute to all the season's holidays, incorporating rock, blues and jazz. 212-935-5821; www.yorktheater.org.

Things to do

■ Window shop or browse at FAO Schwarz, Tiffany's, Saks Fifth Avenue, Macy's and Fortunoff.

■ Go to "21" Club for a roast goose Christmas dinner (\$43), with squash-based breadless stuffing and a veggie. 21 W. 52d St., through December. If you want to cook it at home, go to

www.msnbc.msn.com/id/6727940 and watch chef John Greeley prepare it.

Newark, N.J.

A Hanukkah Gift for All

A Celebration of Family, Tradition, and the Jewish Legacy
Dec. 17, 3 p.m., New Jersey Performing Arts Center, One Center St.

The Carolyn Dorfman Dance Company performs excerpts from *The Klezmer Sketch*, *Odisea*, and *Echad*, which celebrate Jewish expression, ritual, character and values. Audience members are invited to dance and move — on stage or in their seats. Recommended for ages 11 and up. \$10-\$19. 1-888-466-5722; www.njpac.org

New England

10th annual Inn to Inn Cookie Tour

White Mountains, New Hampshire; Dec. 9-10

Visit 17 inns of the Mount Washington Valley that will be decked out in their holiday finest. Taste homemade holiday cookies and candies, see gingerbread sculptures, decorating ideas and recipes. Hit all 17 and get a brass keepsake ornament. Participating inns offer lodging packages, many including tickets to the tour. 11 a.m.-4 p.m. each day; \$25 per person for the two-day tour. Information: 1-800-626-5855, www.countryinnsinthewhitmountains.com.

Washington

Pageant of Peace

Dec. 7-Jan. 1, President's Park

The National Christmas Tree will be lit for the season at 5 p.m. Dec. 7. There also will be smaller trees representing the states, territories and the District of Columbia. Nightly musical performances and a model train display. On the Ellipse south of the White House grounds. Free. www.nps.gov/whho/pageant.

Kwanzaa Celebration

8 p.m. Dec. 16; 4 p.m. Dec. 17
3225 Eighth St., NE

Dance Place's resident company, Coyaba Dance Theater, will sing, dance and drum. The show also will feature adult and children's African dance classes and storytelling. Supported by the National Endowment for the Arts. Tickets: \$20, general admission; \$15, seniors; \$7, children 17 and under. Sunday's performance is free for one child 12 and under with a paying adult. 202-269-1600, www.danceplace.org.