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A Gilded Age Christmas at Whitehall: How to Celebrate the Holidays This Year at the Flagler Museum

PALM BEACH, FL - Visiting Henry Flagler's Gilded Age estate, Whitehall, during the holiday season is a long-standing tradition for locals and visitors alike. The [Henry Morrison Flagler Museum](http://www.flaglermuseum.us) is pleased to announce the tradition will continue for the upcoming season, albeit with necessary modifications to ensure the safety of its guests and staff.

"We're looking forward to welcoming guests to Whitehall in November and December to enjoy the glorious holiday decorations that we're known for, including our centerpiece showstopper, the 16-foot-tall Grand Hall Christmas Tree," said Erin Manning, Executive Director of the Flagler Museum. "The Museum Store is already welcoming Members and guests who are looking for unique holiday decor and gift ideas for both Christmas and Hanukkah! We are overjoyed to be able to safely share the hope and wonder that the holiday season brings as an antidote to these otherwise trying times."

In chronological order, here is how to celebrate the holidays this year at the Flagler Museum. (Note: The Museum will be closed on Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day and New Years Day.)

• Shop the Museum Store Member Appreciation Days, November 27 - December 4

Museum Members, who already receive a 10% discount in the Museum Store and free admission to the Museum year-round, will save an additional 10% during the Museum's annual "Member Appreciation Days." Starting on Black Friday, November 27th, Members are invited to join the "shop small" and "shop local" movements and enjoy a total discount of 20% in the Museum Store through Friday, December 4th.

The Museum Store, located in the spacious West Room, is a treasure trove for all holiday shoppers seeking unique gifts or decor to celebrate Christmas or Hanukkah. Three Flagler-tastic holiday decorating themes are being presented this year: "Under the Sea" features whimsical sea creatures and fish ornaments in shades of blue, green and coral; "Florida Tropical" includes exotic birds and animals with deep purples, dark fuchsias and tropical greens; and "Chinoiserie" harkens to the popular Gilded Age decorating scheme with a blue and white color palette and Far East-inspired ornaments. Fully decorated Christmas trees are available for purchase! Beautiful menorahs and other Judaica products will inspire those celebrating the Jewish "festival of lights."



This Museum Store's holiday products are inspired by Florida and a popular Gilded Age decorating scheme, Chinoiserie.

From ornaments to hostess gifts, children's toys to special souvenirs, the Museum Store has something for everyone. Be sure to ask about Whitehall's exclusive product lines, from tea sets to scarves to delicious gourmet foods. Corporate gifts featuring Whitehall Special Blend Tea and Made in Florida fare are also available upon inquiry. Shoppers may call (561) 655-2833 ext. 21 for more information. Additionally, curated gift packages are available for sale online by visiting www.flaglermuseum.us/museum-store.

• Take a Self-Guided Tour

General Admission Hours, 10 am to 5 pm
Tuesdays through Saturdays

Special Nighttime Hours, 6 pm to 8 pm
December 20, 21, 22 and 23

\$20 for adults, \$10 for children
Advance reservations required

Museum staff will begin decorating Whitehall for Christmas on November 10th. By December, Whitehall will be fully decorated in traditional Gilded Age splendor on the first floor, and its exterior and historic gates will be adorned with festive wreaths. The focal point is the 16-foot tall Grand Hall Christmas Tree, which is decorated with colored electric lights and historically accurate trimmings that harken back to Henry Flagler's time. Visitors are invited to purchase General Admission tickets to view the decorations during regular hours as part of a safe and socially-distanced self-guided tour through Christmas Eve.

Additional entry times for self-guided tours have been added on December 20th through 23rd from 6 pm to 8 pm. Reservations for these special nighttime hours are required in advance and will be available for purchase online starting November 10th. Tickets for the nighttime hours are \$20 for adults and \$10 for children. Parties will be limited to 4 people.

All visitors will be required to follow the Museum's current Visitor Experience and Public Safety Protection policies (masks are required). For more information, visit <https://flaglermuseum.us/programs/christmas-at-whitehall>.

• Visit the Museum's Current Exhibition

Walk This Way: Historic Shoes from the Stuart Weitzman Collection
On view through January 9, 2021
Free with admission

The Museum's current exhibition, *Walk This Way: Historic Footwear from the Stuart Weitzman Collection*, is open through January 9, 2021, in the Exhibition Gallery on Whitehall's second floor. The exhibition, organized by the New-York Historical Society, explores how shoes have transcended their utilitarian purpose to become representations of culture — coveted as objects of desire, designed with artistic consideration, and expressing complicated meanings of femininity, power, and aspiration for women and men alike. Visiting the exhibition is included with the purchase of both General Admission and the Special Nighttime Hours detailed above. The exhibition is funded in part by Northern Trust, Templeton & Company, and The Palm Beach Post.

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The Henry Morrison Flagler Museum

When it was completed in 1902, Whitehall, Henry Flagler's Gilded Age estate in Palm Beach, was hailed by the New York Herald as "more wonderful than any palace in Europe, grander and more magnificent than any other private dwelling in the world." Today, Whitehall is a National Historic Landmark and is open to the public as the Flagler Museum, featuring changing exhibitions and special programs. The Museum is located at One Whitehall Way, Palm Beach, FL 33480. For more information, please call the Flagler Museum at (561) 655-2833 or visit www.flaglermuseum.us.

The Museum is funded in part by Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners, the Tourist Development Council, the Cultural Council for Palm Beach County, the State of Florida, Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs, and the Florida Council on Arts and Culture.



The Grand Hall Christmas Tree is lit with electric "fairy lights" as they were called during the Gilded Age.



Seymour Weitzman (1910–65), designer. Mr. Seymour (founded 1950s), maker. Pointed-toe lace-up pumps, ca. 1964. Suede, grosgrain ribbon. Stuart Weitzman Collection.