



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**LEAVENWORTH'S HOLIDAY CHEER AND VILLAGE OF LIGHTS WILL STILL SHINE
BRIGHTLY DESPITE THE CANCELATION OF THEIR CHRISTMAS LIGHTING FESTIVAL**
**Visitors encouraged to plan ahead, consider visiting midweek to maximize
their enjoyment of the magical holiday season in Leavenworth**

(LEAVENWORTH, Wash.) – Despite the cancelation of its annual Christmas Lighting Festival for 2020, Leavenworth's renowned Village of Lights will still shine brightly with more than half a million lights illuminated nightly from Thanksgiving through Valentine's Day. Leavenworth's annual transformation into a winter wonderland is extremely popular among visitors, and this year is expected to be no exception. The Leavenworth Chamber of Commerce is advising visitors to plan ahead, expect to encounter a reduction in occupancy at restaurants and shops, and consider visiting midweek due to restrictions that remain in place as part of [Chelan County's Phase 2 COVID-19 guidelines](#).

"The holidays will look different almost everywhere this year, but Leavenworth has worked hard to make sure the Village of Lights provides visitors with a much needed sense of escape, joy, and normalcy, whether in person or experienced virtually from home," said Troy Campbell, executive director of the Leavenworth Chamber of Commerce. "With a little extra planning, and for those with the flexibility to visit midweek or even after the new year, a holiday or other winter getaway to Leavenworth can be just as memorable. We've even created special promotions for midweek and virtual visits, just to say thank you."

Many of Leavenworth's scenic and recreational charms remain unchanged during COVID-19. However, weekends are expected to see a surge in visitation. As a result, anyone with the ability to travel midweek or after the new year is encouraged to do so. Here are some helpful hints if you are planning a trip to Leavenworth in December:

Restaurants & Dining: Leavenworth's restaurants are currently operating at 50 percent capacity for indoor seating as part of Phase 2. On busy holiday weekends, there may be wait times for sit-down dining. Visitors should plan accordingly.

Retail & Shopping: Retail establishments in Leavenworth are currently open at a reduced occupancy of 30 percent. Shopping for one of a kind treasures that Leavenworth is famous for remains a popular pastime, particularly for those who want to get their holiday shopping done early or bring home a souvenir from their travels.

Lodging: Leavenworth's lodging properties will be operating at or near capacity on weekends in December. Advance reservations are strongly encouraged, as are midweek visits when occupancy levels are lower and greater lodging options are available.

Parking & Transportation: Traffic in and out of Leavenworth is typically very heavy on the weekends, especially the first three Saturdays in December. Public parking is limited in the downtown core, and free and paid parking may be difficult to find for visitors who do not arrive early in the day. Link Transit will have free shuttles running from 9am to 6pm seven days a week out of their Park & Ride location behind Safeway, with three convenient stops on the way to the downtown area.

Recreation: Leavenworth in the winter offers unparalleled recreation for everyone at every level. From 26 kilometers of groomed Nordic track, to winter wonderland sleigh rides, thrilling snowmobiling, epic tubing and sledding, to downhill skiing and snowshoeing right in town, there is no shortage of winter fun to be had.

Safety: Front Street (the main street in downtown Leavenworth) has been closed to vehicle traffic since July to allow for additional social distancing. Visitors should expect to wear masks indoors, as well as outdoors when physical distancing is not possible. Masks and sanitizing stations are also readily available throughout downtown.

“There are some spirits that can’t be dampened, and Leavenworth’s holiday spirit is one of them,” said Campbell. “While we have had to make some necessary changes from an events standpoint and are urging planning and patience, the Village of Lights will still be an unforgettable experience in an otherwise forgettable year.”

To find out more about Leavenworth and the Village of Lights, please visit www.leavenworth.org.

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