

DECEMBER 2024

# STONE KEY APARTMENTS

# KEY NOTES

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The history of Christmas trees has many roots, ranging from the use of evergreens in ancient Egypt and Rome to the German traditions of candlelit trees that made its way to America in the 1800s. Discover the history of the Christmas tree, from the earliest winter solstice celebrations to Queen Victoria's decorating habits and the annual lighting of the Rockefeller Center tree in New York City.

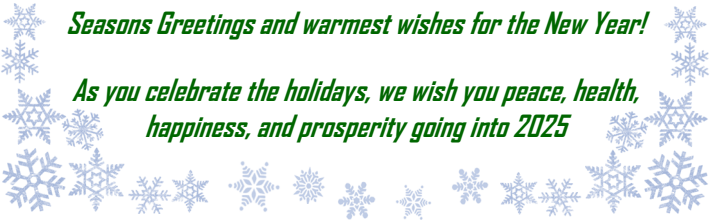
Germany is credited with starting the Christmas tree tradition—as we now know it—by the 16th century when sources record devout Christians bringing decorated trees into their homes. Some built Christmas pyramids of wood and decorated them with evergreens and candles. [Source](#)



Silent  
night  
Holy  
night

*Seasons Greetings and warmest wishes for the New Year!*

*As you celebrate the holidays, we wish you peace, health, happiness, and prosperity going into 2025*



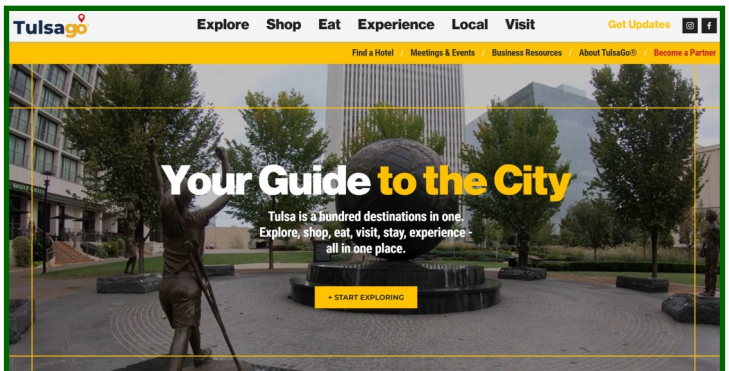
**Santa Claus**—otherwise known as Saint Nicholas or Kris Kringle—has a long history steeped in Christmas traditions. Today, he is thought of mainly as the jolly man in red who brings toys to good girls and boys on Christmas Eve, but his story stretches all the way back to the 3rd century, when Saint Nicholas walked the earth and became the patron saint of children. Find out more about the history of Santa Claus from his earliest origins to the shopping mall Santas of today, and discover how two New Yorkers—Clement Clark Moore and Thomas Nast—were major influences on the Santa Claus millions of children wait for each Christmas Eve. [Source](#)



## Hello December



Want to know about upcoming fun events in Tulsa?



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**CANDY CANE DESSERT SQUARES** *Chocolate and peppermint are a winning combination and this holiday dessert is worthy of a blue ribbon! Serve this crowd-sized recipe frozen or refrigerated at your next holiday buffet.*

### Ingredients: Crust

- ◇ 2 cups finely crushed chocolate wafer cookies
- ◇ 1/2 cup butter, melted
- ◇ 3 tablespoons sugar

**Instructions:** Butter the bottom of a 9x13 inch baking dish. Combine all crust ingredients in a bowl. Press into bottom of prepared baking dish. Set aside.

### Ingredients: Chocolate Layer

- ◇ 1 cup semi-sweet chocolate chips
- ◇ 2/3 cup heavy whipping cream

**Instructions:** Melt chocolate chips and whipping cream in a pan over low heat, stirring occasionally until smooth, about 4-5 minutes. Pour over crust and place in freezer while making filling (at least 10 minutes).

### Ingredients: Filling

- ◇ 1 cup confectioner's sugar
- ◇ 2 packages 8 oz cream cheese, softened
- ◇ 2 teaspoons peppermint extract
- ◇ 1 1/2 cups heavy whipping cream, whipped
- ◇ 2/3 cup crushed red or green hard peppermint candies
- ◇ 24 small candy canes (optional)

### Instructions:

In a bowl, combine confectioner's sugar, cream cheese, and peppermint extract. Beat at low speed, scraping bowl often until smooth and creamy. Gently stir in whipped cream and crushed candies. Spread evenly over chocolate layer. Sprinkle with additional crushed candies. Freeze for 4 hours or overnight. To serve, cut into squares. Top each square with a candy cane. Serve frozen or refrigerated. Store frozen.



December's full Moon is most commonly known as the **Cold Moon**—a Mohawk name that conveys the frigid conditions of this time of year when cold weather truly begins to grip us.

The full Moon for December is 100% illuminated on **December 15, 3:02 A.M. (CST)**. [Read more about the Full Cold Moon.](#)



This full Moon has also been called the **Long Night Moon** (Mohican), as it rises during the "longest" nights of the year, near the December winter solstice.

This name is doubly fitting because December's full Moon shines above the horizon for a more extended period than most full Moons.

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December is the 12th month (and last month) in our modern-day Gregorian calendar. However, it was initially the 10th month of the Roman calendar (until 153 BC). Hence, "December" comes from the Latin *decem*, meaning "ten."

**December 1** is the **First Sunday of Advent**, marking the beginning of the Advent season.

**December 6** is **Saint Nicholas Day**. The patron saint of children is the model for Santa Claus and gift-giving.

**December 7** is also **National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day**.

**December 8** is Bodhi Day in the Buddhist calendar, celebrating Buddha's enlightenment; it's celebrated in a way that's similar to how Christians celebrate Christmas to honor Jesus Christ.

**December 13** is **St. Lucia's Day**, which has long been associated with festivals of light. Before the Gregorian calendar reform in 1752, her feast day occurred on the shortest day of the year (hence the saying "*Lucy light, Lucy light, shortest day and longest night*").

**December 15** is **Bill of Rights Day**.

**December 17** is **Wright Brothers Day**.

**December 21** is the **Winter Solstice**—the astronomical day when the Earth is farthest away from the Sun. Starting in ancient times, people celebrated the rebirth of the Sun event through **Yule**.

**December 25** is **Christmas Day**, a Christian holiday commemorating the birth of Jesus Christ. Learn more about [American Christmas traditions](#).

**December 25** also marks the beginning of **Hanukkah** this year, the eight-day Jewish festival of lights.

**December 26** is **Boxing Day** (Canada, UK) and the first day of **Kwanzaa**.

On the last evening of the year.

**December 31**, kiss the person you hope to keep kissing! Discover [New Years traditions from around the world](#).

## "Just for Fun" Dates in December

Did you know that December is National Pear Month? Here are some more fun celebrations to look forward to:

- ◇ **Dec 1: Eat a Red Apple Day**
- ◇ **Dec 3: Make a Gift Day**
- ◇ **Dec 9: Christmas Card Day**
- ◇ **Dec. 12: Gingerbread House Day**
- ◇ **Dec. 20: Ugly Sweater Day**
- ◇ **Dec. 24: Eggnog Day**
- ◇ **Dec. 31: Make Up Your Mind Day**

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*We wish you all a happy and prosperous New Year!*

