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**Announcing the 40th Ruby Jubilee Celebration of  
THE GREAT DICKENS CHRISTMAS FAIR!  
Saturdays and Sundays, and the Friday after Thanksgiving,  
November 23 ~ December 22 at The Cow Palace**

SAN FRANCISCO, CA ~ (Oct. 1, 2024) Tickets are now on sale for **The Great Dickens Christmas Fair's** Ruby Jubilee season! For five weekends only, the historic **Cow Palace** in Daly City transforms into the bustling streets and lively stages of Charles Dickens' Victorian London. This Bay Area favorite is celebrating 40 delightful seasons! From **November 23** through **December 22**, on Saturdays, Sundays, and the Friday after Thanksgiving, **The Great Dickens Christmas Fair & Victorian Holiday Party** takes visitors on a deeply immersive adventure through the theaters, pubs, and dance halls of Victorian London. Wander through lamplit lanes lined with charming shops of handmade gifts, and meet and mingle with hundreds of costumed characters. Explore while enjoying the enticing aromas of hot apple cider and roasted cinnamon almonds. The Great Dickens Christmas Fair is a time traveler's delight and a one-of-a-kind adventure into holiday merriment!

This year marks the Fair's Ruby Jubilee season! In addition to the many wonders and delights to be found at the Fair, a special 40th-anniversary souvenir guide printed in

Norwich, England, will be available for sale. New this year, visitors will discover a miniature live steam train as they arrive at the Fair's **Victoria Station** lobby. Guests of all ages can enjoy a ride and help support historic live-steam associations. Conductors will then usher visitors through the Station and into **London in San Francisco**, where it is always Christmas Eve, and the story of Dickens' "A *Christmas Carol*" comes to life all around you. And plan to purchase your holiday greenery after your time-travel adventure! The [Delancey Street Foundation](#) will again have fresh Christmas trees, wreaths, and evergreens available to buy, with proceeds benefiting their vital work.

Visitors can enrich their Victorian holiday with epicurean adventures and mysteries to solve in these curated [Experiences](#). To celebrate the Ruby Jubilee, book a delicious and entertaining **Port and Chocolate Tasting**, or indulge in the decadent and informative new **Champagne Tasting** at the new Royal Libation Society. The more adventurous may enjoy **The Dark Garden Corset Experience**—an authentic Victorian corset fitting with contemporary corsetry's most experienced and sought-after name. Patrons can also solve the mystery and bring Mr. Hyde to justice while imbibing custom designed elixirs at five London pubs with the **Jekyll and Hyde Pub Crawl**, or try to solve a perplexing new puzzle at the **Sherlock Holmes Experience**. The young ones can enjoy the self-guided **Children's Tour of London** and meet **Father Christmas** at 1 or 4 p.m. each day.

Guests can also cheer on a traditional English Pantomime, sing along with salty sailors, laugh through clever comedies, and be amazed at astounding juggling on one of [seven lively stages](#). From the Uppertime **Victoria & Albert Bijou Music Hall** and lively **Mr. and Mrs. Fezziwig's Dance Party**, to the raucous, somewhat naughty entertainments of **Mad Sal's Dockside Ale House**, there is always something for all tastes and ages.

At The Great Dickens Christmas Fair, **Mr. Dickens** and a hundred characters from his novels come to life on the Fair's streets and stages. From **Ebenezer Scrooge** to **Tiny Tim** and from chimney sweeps to cheeky sailors, the lanes of London brim with a diverse cast. Visitors can also step into the parlour of the famous Athenaeum Club, where they might

encounter **Suffragette Women, Oscar Wilde, Anne Lister, Karl and Eleanor Marx**, and other notable characters from the 19th Century's literary, artistic, and scientific worlds.

The Great Dickens Christmas Fair overflows with [holiday magic for the youngest guests](#), offering hands-on craft activities, old-world games of skill and chance, and lively interactive shows at the **Tinsley Green Children's Area** and **Father Christmas Stage**.

Youngsters can meet **Father Christmas**, ride on the hand-powered **Adventure Carousel**, and applaud the antics of the mischievous Mr. Punch in an authentic British **Punch & Judy** puppet show.

The Great Dickens Christmas Fair is a cornucopia of handcrafted, freshly made foods – there is ever so much to [eat and drink](#)! Guests can feast on traditional savories like fish 'n chips, bangers and mash, meat pies, or sweets like homemade cookies, artisan chocolates, and teacakes. **Jack and the Beansteak** offers various plant-based choices, and **Slice of Heaven** entices with calzones and flatbreads. To accompany these and over a hundred other delectable food items, six **traditional pubs** offer superbly crafted beers from local **Anderson Valley Brewing Company** along with fine wines, champagne, hot buttered rum, Irish coffee, hot toddies, and the Fair's small batch mulled wine. Or, sit for proper **English high tea**, complete with scones and finger sandwiches.

With over [100 beautiful shops and carts](#), there is no shortage of thoughtful and unique shopping inspiration. Meet the artists and discover the perfect holiday present for friends and loved ones ~ or a personal Christmas treat or two ~ guests will find the quaint shops and bustling emporiums filled with fine crafts, fanciful clothing and accessories, ceramics, elegant drinkware, stunning jewelry, ornaments, and antiquarian books.

Upon entry to the Fair or at the **Patterson & Sons** shop just inside the front gate, guests are invited to pick up a complimentary copy of the official Dickens Fair Program ~ **The Illustrated London Chimes** ~ an informative newspaper complete with show schedules, maps, menus, shopping ideas, and other helpful information. **The special 40th anniversary souvenir guide** will also be available for purchase at Patterson & Son's Stationers.

## **TICKETS**

**Tickets** range from \$18 to \$45. The Port Tasting, Pub Crawl, and Corsetry Experiences require reservations and additional tickets. Early purchase and date selection is recommended, as attendance is limited each day. Tickets go on sale October 1st, and may only be purchased online and in advance at [dickensfair.com/tickets](https://dickensfair.com/tickets).

## **CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:**

### **WHAT: The 40th Great Dickens Christmas Fair & Victorian Holiday Party**

Book a trip to Victorian London in San Francisco this holiday season and immerse yourself in **The Great Dickens Christmas Fair**, an adventure filled with hundreds of colorful characters from literature and history. Ride a miniature steam train, meet Father Christmas, Ebenezer Scrooge, Mr. and Mrs. Fezziwig, and the Ghost of Christmas Present as you explore four acres of Victorian theaters, pubs, and dance halls. Enticing aromas of roasted chestnuts and hearty foods fill the air while dozens of lamplit shops overflow with handmade gifts. The Great Dickens Christmas Fair is a time traveler's delight and a truly one-of-a-kind way to celebrate the holidays.

**WHEN:** Opens Saturday, November 23, and runs Saturdays and Sundays (plus the Friday after Thanksgiving) through December 22, 2024, from 10 a.m. ~ 6 p.m.

**WHERE:** The Cow Palace, 2600 Geneva Avenue, Daly City, CA

**TICKETS & INFORMATION:** [dickensfair.com](https://dickensfair.com)

**Early Bird** pricing for the first two weekends is available Tuesday, October 1 through Sunday, October 15, or while supplies last:

- General Adult (13+ yrs.) "Early Bird" discount price: \$35 (\$10 off)  
Valid Nov. 23, 24, 29, 30 and Dec. 1
- General Youth (5-12 yrs.) "Early Bird" discount price: \$20 (\$5 off)  
Valid Nov. 23, 24, 29, 30 and Dec. 1
- Children under 5 are free.

**General Admission** prices:

- General Adult (13+ yrs.): \$45
- General Youth (ages 5-12): \$25
- Children under 5: Free
- Fair Season Pass: \$160 (a \$495 value!)

### **Special Discounts:**

**Active Military:** 1st & 2nd Weekends Free Admission: **Active** Military personnel along with three (3) family members will receive FREE Admission for the first two weekends, Valid Nov. 23, 24, 29, 30 and Dec. 1. (Available at Will Call only. Photo I.D. required.)

**Twilight Special** (entry after 3 p.m. only):

A great excuse to visit for a second time for a date night, dinner, or a show!

Twilight Adult Admission (13+ years): \$30

Twilight Youth Admission (ages 5-12): \$18

**Group Tickets:**

All tickets are available online only, and the best price is the Early Bird sale from Oct. 1 through Oct. 15. For questions about attending in a group, contact Kathy Alvarez Kingman at [groupsales@dickensfair.com](mailto:groupsales@dickensfair.com).

On-Site Parking: \$20/car, \$40/RV or bus (cash or credit, charged by the Cow Palace).

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