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Florida travel in late November: Holiday wind-up on Key West, 17th-century food in Tallahassee, Jacksonville holiday boat parade, Bok Tower Christmas home tour, and sugar cane and fiddles in Gainesville

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Key West -- The Last Key puts on the "Bight Before Christmas" Holiday Celebration with six weeks of holiday fun Nov. 23-Jan. 1 around Key West's Historic Seaport, also called the Key West Bight. Highlights include the Harbor Walk of Lights, four blocks with the sparkle of lights on the Key West waterfront and real southernmost Christmas trees. "Bight Before Christmas" is a gift to the community by the Key West Bight Preservation Association and tenants of the Key West Bight. For information, visit www.keywestchristmas.org. Also in Key West, Pirates in Paradise 2011 transforms Historic Key West, the Truman Waterfront and Fort Taylor into pirate strongholds Nov. 24-Dec. 4. Pirates in Paradise 2011 features tall ships, sea battles, arts and crafts, pirate sails, living history encampment and more than 150 pirate entertainers. For details, visit www.piratesinparadise.com.

Tallahassee -- Giving Thanks: Exploring 17th Century Food Traditions presents costumed interpreters smoking meat and fish and demonstrating the use of native and European plants at Mission San Luis on Nov. 26. There will be hands-on food preparation tasks for children. The event is free with site admission: \$5 for adults, \$2 for children. Active military get in for free. Event hours are from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Mission San Luis is at 2100 West Tennessee Street. For details, visit www.missionsanluis.org.

Jacksonville -- Jacksonville's Downtown Riverfront including Jacksonville Landing are good spots to enjoy the Jacksonville Light Parade with its holiday-decorated yachts sailing down the St. Johns River on Nov. 26. Another highlight is a fireworks display including the city's "waterfall" fireworks. The event starts at dusk. Admission is free. For information, visit www.floridabywater.com/events.

Lake Wales -- Bok Tower Gardens presents Christmas at Pinewood Holiday Home Tour Nov. 25-Jan. 1. The Gardens' 20-room Mediterranean-style mansion at Pinewood Estate, a 1930s winter retreat, is transformed into a holiday showcase for this tour. Advance combination Gardens and Pinewood Estate ticket is \$16 for adults, \$8 for children when purchased online; tickets may be higher for day-of visit. For details, visit www.boktowergardens.org.

Gainesville -- Morningside Nature Center sets the scene for the Cane Boil and the Longleaf Pine Youth Fiddle & Open String-Band Contest presented by the Friends of Nature Parks on Nov. 26. Costumed interpreters will cut, press and boil sugar cane into syrup and interpret life in the 1870s. The syrup can be sampled on a homemade biscuit from the Living History Farm while listening to the music. Admission is \$2 for adults and \$1 for children. Event hours are from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The Morningside Nature Center is at 3540 East University Avenue. Visit www.friendsofnatureparks.org.

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