



Horizons

AAA SOUTHERN NEW ENGLAND

Keeping it merry and bright

10 of the best holiday displays

By Juliet Pennington

If you've ever created – or tried to create – a noteworthy holiday light display, then you know what a challenge such a seemingly easy task can be.

Just when you think you've got a string of lights securely draped across a ledge, it lets loose on the far end and gradually rolls off, giving you just enough time to grit your teeth and make a vow – the same one you've made in years past – that this will be the very last time you decorate your home for the holidays.

Let's face it, hanging, winding and draping decorative lights isn't all it's cracked up to be, especially if you have a Monday-morning quarterback chiming in with advice on how it can be done better (to which you really want to reply, "then do it yourself," but in the interest of family harmony and good will to all, you refrain ...)

Why not forgo the stress and the herculean efforts of stringing up lights on your house, in your trees and around your yard and visit the sites that use pros to create over-the-top festive light displays?

Take a break from the hustle and bustle of the holiday season by checking out these enchanting displays that glimmer, twinkle and sparkle above the rest.

Below, Stone Zoo in Stoneham, Mass., is a winter wonderland.



10. ZOOLIGHTS AT THE STONE ZOO, STONEHAM, MASS. Lights, tigers and bears, oh my! So the Stone Zoo doesn't actually have tigers, but there are other varieties of large cats, and bears, in residence. What really draws visitors to this animal refuge-turned-winter wonderland around the holidays is its spectacular light display. Stroll along the tree-lined paths lit by thousands of twinkling lights as you pass through Yukon Creek, home to bald eagles, porcupines, lynx, a gray fox and a pair of reindeer, on loan from the Big Guy himself. After making your way to Santa's Castle, enter a magical holiday world filled with fairy-tale characters and dancing plush animals. 

