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### CHRISTMAS SHIPS SPREAD HOLIDAY CHEER TO MARRIOTT WATERFRONT HOTEL IN PORTLAND

*Annual parade of decorated ships sails down the Willamette and Columbia Rivers, showering the riverbanks with festive lights. Guests at Portland Marriott Downtown Waterfront Hotel have a front row seat to the spectacle.*

Portland, OR – (10/18/10) – Christmas time brings out colorful decorations: wreaths, strings of lights and mistletoe. In Portland, however, the city goes one step further than most and decorates its waterways. Boats brimming with shimmering lights, garland and other traditional (and sometimes non-traditional) decorations sail down the Willamette and Columbia Rivers as onlookers gather along the riverbanks throughout the month of December. An ideal spot to watch these Portland Christmas Ships is from the Portland Marriott Downtown Waterfront Hotel, which sits on the banks of the Willamette River. The Marriott Portland Hotel offers a special “Take the Elevator Home” rate, with rooms starting at just \$119/night and overnight parking is included. To reserve this rate online, visit the hotel’s [Portland Holiday Package](#) page on the Marriott website.

The Portland Christmas Ships started off 55 years ago with just one ship, adorned with red ribbons and green bows, sailing down the river. Today, the tradition has grown to include over 50 ships covered in cleverly placed Christmas lights, which are contorted into the shape of whales, racecars and much more. Many of these small watercrafts participate in all the fleet outings. The Willamette River welcomes the Portland Christmas Ships December 4 and 9-21, weather permitting. Guests staying at the Portland Marriott Downtown Waterfront Hotel should have a great view on most nights of the illuminated ships as they sail down the Willamette River. Some nights, the boats take a different parade route, but guests at the Marriott Portland Waterfront Hotel are within walking distance of many departure points. Guests should check the [parade schedule](#) to plan accordingly.



Many hotels along the riverbanks fill up in anticipation of the Christmas time festivities. The Marriott Portland Waterfront Hotel encourages guests to reserve their rooms soon. With Marriott’s special “Take the Elevator Home” hotel package, guests can plan their Christmas vacation while enjoying a low nightly rate. No other Portland hotel offers the convenience of location and price than the [Marriott Portland Waterfront Hotel](#).

#### About the Portland Marriott Downtown Waterfront

The Portland Marriott Downtown Waterfront hotel is ideally located on the Willamette riverfront near Portland State University and many of the top downtown area attractions. Guests at the hotel will enjoy its indoor pool, whirlpool, on-site fitness center, nearby golf courses and relaxing spas. The Portland hotel’s spacious guest rooms offer luxurious bedding with down comforters, wireless internet access, 32-inch LCD TVs, modern bathroom decor, and local artwork. Guests can enjoy a hot and delicious breakfast at Allie's American Grille, or watch a game on any one of the 21 TVs in Champion's Sports Bar, both located on-site. The hotel is one of the few hotels in downtown Portland, Oregon, earning the prestigious ENERGY STAR label and is Green Seal Silver Certified for its efforts to protect the environment. To learn more about the hotel, guests should visit [www.portlandmarriott.com](#).