

Who Wants to Wrangle a Balloon in the Hollywood Christmas Parade?

My son is getting a fun birthday present this week. We are going to be balloon wranglers in the 84th annual Hollywood Christmas Parade as part of a Hollywood Hotel package.



Even though I grew up on a beach in L.A. County, I rarely went to Hollywood. Now I enjoy going to the area, as it has so much activity, energy, architecture, history, people-watching (and there are a LOT of quirky people there, believe me, especially those in costume near the (Grauman) Chinese Theatre), restaurants, nightlife and creativity.

I am going to figure out a way to hold my parade balloon (an elf or candy cane) with one hand while taking pictures and sharing real-time videos on my [Periscope](#) account while we

march in the parade this Sunday, November 29 at 5pm. Then we'll stay overnight at the [Hollywood Hotel](#), which is over 100 years old.

Celebrities will be in the parade – Penn and Teller are the Grand Marshals – and celebrities have stayed at the hotel, so my fingers are crossed that Kristen Wiig and I will meet and become BFFs while clutching an inflatable elf (not Will Ferrell, though that would be good too). I wouldn't say no to Aidan Quinn either.



Anyone who wants can get in on this adventure: Be a balloon wrangler in Hollywood.

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I'd love to say I'm special, but actually anyone who wants can get in on this adventure. Book a room at the [Hollywood Hotel](#) for a stay that includes the night of the parade, and you can walk the parade route with us (and the hotel team) for rates as low as \$139 for two people. This includes hot buffet breakfast, Wifi, Hollywood Hotel t-shirt and holiday hat to wear in the parade and, of course, walking in the parade. You have to use the promo code XMAS to get the deal. Most hotel chains charge that much just for the Wifi and breakfast.



We'll be walking the world's longest red carpet – 3.5 miles along Hollywood Blvd, Sunset Blvd, and Vine – all street names that visitors from around the world know and want to visit. So yeah, I'm pretty excited about letting my son know what he's getting for his birthday. He won't quite be 21, so we'll skip the outdoor bar and lounge, but we'll pack our swimsuits for the pool.

I love history, so maybe you will enjoy this tidbit that caught my eye – the original Hollywood Hotel was owned by H.J. Whitley, the man credited with establishing Hollywood. You know, BEFORE silent pictures were all the rage.



I'm really looking forward to our adventure as parade participants. We're taking up one of the hotel's 130 rooms, so if you want one of the other 129, you'd better hustle up. Hollywood glamour. Celebrities. A vintage, yet cosmopolitan vibe. Culture. And that other thing. Oh yeah, the parade!!!!

I'll make it easy on you: For more information or reservations contact 1-800-800-9733; 323-315-1800, or visit hollywoodhotel.net or on Facebook. The hotel is located at 1160 Vernon Ave., Hollywood, CA 90029.

photo credits: Hollywood Hotel and Hollywood Christmas Parade

I wasn't paid to write this post. I was invited to stay at the Hollywood Hotel and participate i

the parade, which I am REALLY looking forward to. Since you made it all the way to the bottom of this post, you might as well subscribe right over there ——>

Alexandra Williams, MA