



DALLAS ARBORETUM
AND BOTANICAL GARDEN

THE 12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS BY THE NUMBERS

From November 8, 2015 to January 3, 2016, the Dallas Arboretum and Botanical Garden debuts *The 12 Days of Christmas*, a magnificent, large-scale exhibit uniquely designed and built for the garden. Twelve elaborate 25-foot-tall Victorian gazebos placed over 66 acres are filled with the charming costumed characters, whimsical animals and winter scenes made famous by the beloved Christmas carol. Each gazebo is encased in glass and extravagantly decorated on all sides to provide a dramatic, three-dimensional experience that adds to the “music box” quality. The Dallas Arboretum commissioned The Dallas Opera and Dallas Stage Scenery—the same team that creates their elaborate sets and show-stopping costumes. All craftsmanship, aside from wig creations and bird feathering, has been done with **local** Texas artists, builders, craftsmen and vendors. The exhibit is made possible by Iberia Bank.

THE EXHIBIT

500,000: NEW this year is the addition of half a million lights in the garden, illuminating *The 12 Days of Christmas* at night

30,456: Wooden berries on transoms

29,137: Pounds of glass

28,328: Rhinestones on the columns

25,963: Pounds of aluminum in the gazebo structures and mechanics

20,000+: Hours of labor to build the gazebos

8,160: Square feet of rooftop

6,000: Bolts

950: Sheets of plywood for gazebos and crates

536: Pieces of glass used to encase the gazebos, giving it a music-box quality

400: Gallons of paint

180: Yards of fabric to sew gowns for “9 Ladies Dancing”

55: Mannequins, each with hand-painted faces with their own unique personality

28: Hand-carved animals

12: Gazebos

8: Weeks to assemble the gazebos in the gardens

4: Fiberglass animals

4: People to sew costumes

2: Years to design and build the gazebos

1: Vision of Arboretum supporters Tom and Phyllis McCasland, to have a magnificent Christmas display for Dallas

...and a partridge in a pear tree

THE CAROL

2+: Centuries the song evolved before it was published***

1780: The year the 12 Days of Christmas was published**

1909: The year Frederic Austin composed the traditional folk melody so commonly recognized today***

England: Where the Christmas carol first published**

French: Origin of the 12 Days of Christmas, although some sources claim England is the true origin of the song***

4: There are actually 4 “Colly Birds” not 4 “Calling Birds”*

5: Golden Rings refers to 5 ring-necked pheasants*

364: Total number of gifts given in “The 12 Days of Christmas”*

\$114,000: What your true love would have to spend to buy all 364 gifts in 2013+

For more information about The 12 Days of Christmas at the Dallas Arboretum or to purchase tickets for daytime or nighttime, visit <http://www.dallasarboretum.org/visit/seasonal-festivals-events/the-12-days-of-christmas> or call 214.515.6500.

*<http://theweek.com/article/index/237828/5-things-you-didnt-know-about-the-twelve-days-of-christmas>

**<http://www.12days.com/faq.htm>

***[http://chuck.hubpages.com/hub/The Twelve Days of Christmas](http://chuck.hubpages.com/hub/The+Twelve+Days+of+Christmas)

+<http://www.usatoday.com/story/money/2013/12/02/12-days-christmas-cost/3800941/>