

Celebrate A New York City New Year's Eve Like A Local

Each year on Dec. 31 an estimated one million people flock to Times Square, New York City – the world's New Year's Eve epicenter – in order to see the iconic ball drop.

Actually, the street-level capacity within viewing areas is closer to 100,000. The rest of the crowd disperses throughout the five boroughs in search of their own New Year's Eve celebration, content to watch the festivities on a large screen TV in a bar or nightclub. In fact, most NYC residents don't go near Times Square but instead have the inside scoop on where to find standout celebrations across the city.

From elevated cocktail lounges to rooftop venues with sweeping skyline views, there's no shortage of ways to ring in 2026, Big Apple style, just like the locals. Here is a curated selection of noteworthy parties and experiences that promise to make this New Year's Eve one for the books.



Guests can enjoy a champagne toast at midnight.
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[Ophelia](#) (Midtown)

This New Year's Eve, the Art Deco-inspired cocktail lounge Ophelia will be offering an early evening sunset soiree from 5-8 p.m. featuring a premium open bar, passed hors d'oeuvres and music, followed by a late-night ball drop party starting at nine, with live DJ performances and a champagne toast at midnight. Decked out for the holidays, Ophelia is transformed by candlelight with hundreds of candles illuminating the space, cozy and warm white plush rugs and a visual Luminosity projection snowy scape projections for a glamorous holiday experience.