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# JetWings

SHIMMER &

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The best cities to bring  
in 2019 with a bang!

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# SHIMMER & SPARKLE

TEXT **PRACHI JOSHI**

**Ring in the New Year with a bang in these cities that offer the most stunning displays of fireworks for New Year's Eve.**

Party before anyone else as the skies glow above Sydney Opera House, or watch the Burj Khalifa light up, or gape at the twinkling lights above the Thames. Here's our definitive guide on the best cities to bring in 2019.





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## LONDON

If you're in the British capital on NYE, make your way to the South Bank of the Thames. The Mayor of London's New Year's Eve Fireworks is a gala affair and is usually accompanied by the Big Ben's chimes (which will continue the tradition despite the ongoing renovations). The fireworks are launched from the foot of the London Eye and from rafts on the river. The best spots to watch the spectacle are from the designated viewing areas along the river on Victoria Embankment and on Waterloo Bridge and Westminster Bridge.

The event starts at 8 p.m. and is ticketed (£10); tickets are already on sale so make sure you score a spot before they are sold out ([london.gov.uk](https://www.london.gov.uk)). If you miss out on the tickets, go to Cannon Street near St Paul's Cathedral for great views of the fireworks or just head to one of the bridges – Tower Bridge, Southwark Bridge, and Millennium Bridge. Remember that you will need to go early to get a toehold here, as these places tend to get very busy.



*Jet Airways operates daily direct flights to London from Mumbai and New Delhi.*





## DUBAI

As with everything else it does, Dubai takes NYE celebrations to another level. In 2017/2018, the city did away with fireworks and instead held a light show. However, for 2018/2019 the fireworks will be back in action at several places. Burj Khalifa has, hands down, the best display and you can witness it for free from The Dubai Fountain, Souk al Bahar, Burj Park, etc. Arrive early to grab a spot or reserve a table at one of the many restaurants nearby. Alternatively, pack a picnic basket and head to Dubai's beach stretch to watch the fireworks display at Burj Al Arab; the Black Palace Beach is particularly great for views and you can also catch the fireworks at Atlantis, The Palm from here. The 11-km-long Palm Jumeirah Boardwalk is another fantastic vantage point. For a romantic NYE celebration, book a Dhow Dinner Cruise that sails along Dubai creek, giving sweeping views of all the action on the waterfront.



*Jet Airways operates daily direct flights to Dubai from Mumbai, New Delhi and Mangaluru.*



## SYDNEY

One of the first major cities to welcome the New Year, Sydney puts up quite a show. They even have a website ([sydneynewyearseve.com](http://sydneynewyearseve.com)) that gives you the evening schedule, the best vantage points to see the fireworks, planned road closures, etc. The event begins at about 6 p.m. with an aerial display and a water display with tugboats. Then comes an Aboriginal purification ceremony, followed by the first fireworks display of the evening. At about 9 p.m. it's time for live performances, including dance, music, stunning projections on the Harbour Bridge pylon, and the Harbour of Light Parade with illuminated ships gliding across the waters of the Sydney Harbour. At the stroke of midnight, fabulous pyrotechnic displays herald in the New Year. Apart from the

harbour and Sydney Opera House, there are many places where you can watch the display, such as Mrs Macquaries Point, Darling Harbour, Barangaroo Reserve, etc. Some of the viewing points are ticketed and several prohibit alcohol (also remember, all places follow a strict policy against bringing your own alcohol).



*Jet Airways operates direct flights to Singapore, Bangkok and Hong Kong. From here, connect to Sydney with our codeshare partner Qantas.*







### AMSTERDAM

Mokummers (or Amsterdammers) celebrate NYE on the streets. At these unofficial street parties, locals set off firecrackers from every open space available. Head to major squares and public areas such as Dam Square, Rembrandtplein, Leidseplein, and Nieuwmarkt to mingle with the locals. NYE celebrations in Amsterdam are incomplete without *oliebollen*, which are deep-fried pastry balls, sort of like doughnuts. The tradition has its roots in a Germanic myth in which *oliebollen* are eaten to ward off evil spirits. You can buy these at any of the street vendors that set up shop all over the city on NYE. Amsterdam's official fireworks for 2018/2019 will take place at Kop van Java-eiland along the IJ waters just east of the Centraal Station. You can watch for free from Javaeiland, the Janschaferbrug, or from Noordwal. For a more romantic experience, watch it from the picturesque Magere Brug. It can get quite chilly so remember to wrap yourself up. Also, public transport in Amsterdam stops running from 8 p.m. on December 31 to around 1.30 a.m. on January 1, so plan your travel accordingly.



*Jet Airways operates daily direct flights to Amsterdam from Mumbai, New Delhi and Bengaluru.*

### PARIS

The City of Lights lives up to its name on New Year's Eve. Contrary to popular belief, there are no fireworks shows organised at the Eiffel Tower by the city council; these take place traditionally on Bastille Day i.e. July 14. But what it lacks in firepower, Paris makes up for in beautiful lights, street parties, and general merriment. Head to Arc de Triomphe at the western end of Champs-Élysées where the City of Paris is organising a show this year with 3D images being projected on the arch. The theme this year is 'Fraternity', and the event is free of charge. While the show starts at 11 p.m., the Champs-Élysées bears a festive atmosphere from early evening itself, so gather up your friends or make some new ones over champagne toasts and cries of "*Bonne année!*" (French for Happy New Year!). The steps of Sacré-Cœur and the areas around it in Montmartre are also scenes of street parties. The added advantage here is that you get stunning views of the entire lit up city.



*Jet Airways operates daily direct flights to Paris from Mumbai and five weekly flights from Chennai.*







## NEW YORK

New York City's most popular NYE celebration happens at Times Square with that iconic ball drop, as more than a million revellers bring in the New Year. Central Park holds the annual New York Road Runners' Midnight Run, a 4-mile (6.4 km) dash with a fireworks display to wrap up the night. Brooklyn is not to be left behind Manhattan though; a spectacular fireworks display takes place at Prospect Park's Grand Army Plaza along with live musical entertainment. Brooklyn Bridge is also a fantastic vantage point; even better, join in a historian-led guided tour ([nycwalks.com](http://nycwalks.com)) of the bridge's history and see fireworks from Central Park, Brooklyn, Staten Island, and Coney Island. Another great way to see the NYE lights and fireworks is from the water; there are several NYE cruises ranging from elegant black-tie affairs to boozy cruises and even family-friendly ones.



*Jet Airways operates direct flights to Amsterdam, Paris, London, Manchester and Abu Dhabi. From here, connect to New York with our codeshare partners KLM, Air France, Virgin Atlantic, Etihad and Delta Air Lines.*

## HONG KONG

'A Symphony of Lights', the stunning daily light and sound show seen across Victoria Harbour has illuminated Hong Kong's skyline since 2004. This is made even more impressive with fireworks and pyrotechnics on national holidays, such as the New Year's countdown. It's quite a spectacle, one that's not to be missed. This is a free event and you can watch it from the shoreline or from the water. The event begins with 'shooting stars' pyrotechnics at 11 p.m. and culminates with musical fireworks at midnight. Some of the best places to catch the display are Hong Kong Exhibition and Convention Center, Harbour City Car Park, China Ferry Terminal, Hung Hom, Kowloon Peak, IFC Mall, the waterfront next to Hong Kong Observation Wheel and Tamar Park. Tsim Sha Tsui is also a hotspot with street markets, parties, and live music at the many clubs in the area. The waters offer another great vantage point so book a cruise ([cruise.com.hk](http://cruise.com.hk)) and enjoy the view while savouring a fabulous dinner buffet.



*Jet Airways operates daily direct flights to Hong Kong from Mumbai and New Delhi. ■*