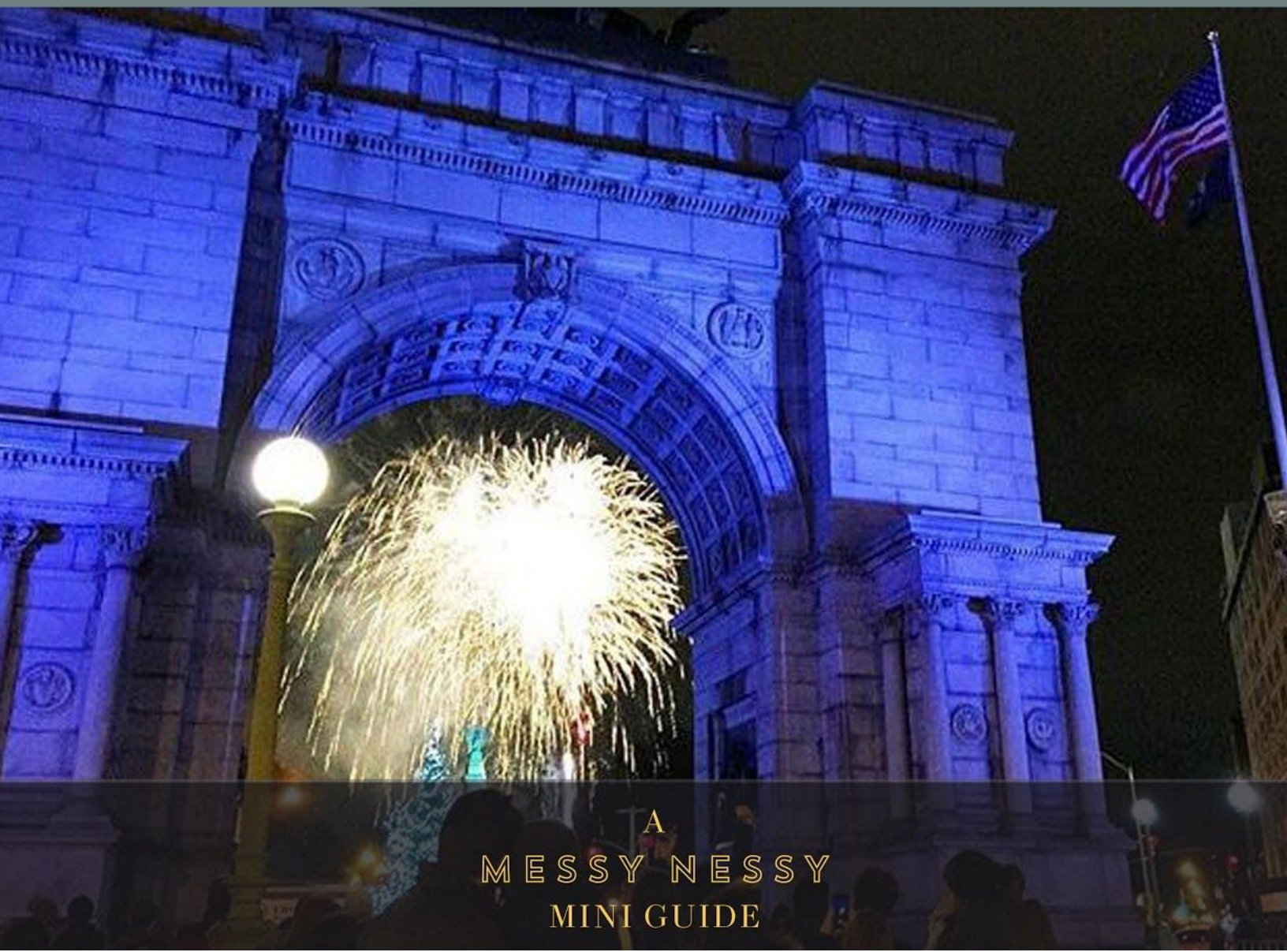


12 PLACES IN NEW YORK TO CELEBRATE NEW YEARS EVE LIKE A LOCAL



A
MESSY NESSY
MINI GUIDE

12 Places in New York To Celebrate New Years Eve Like A Local

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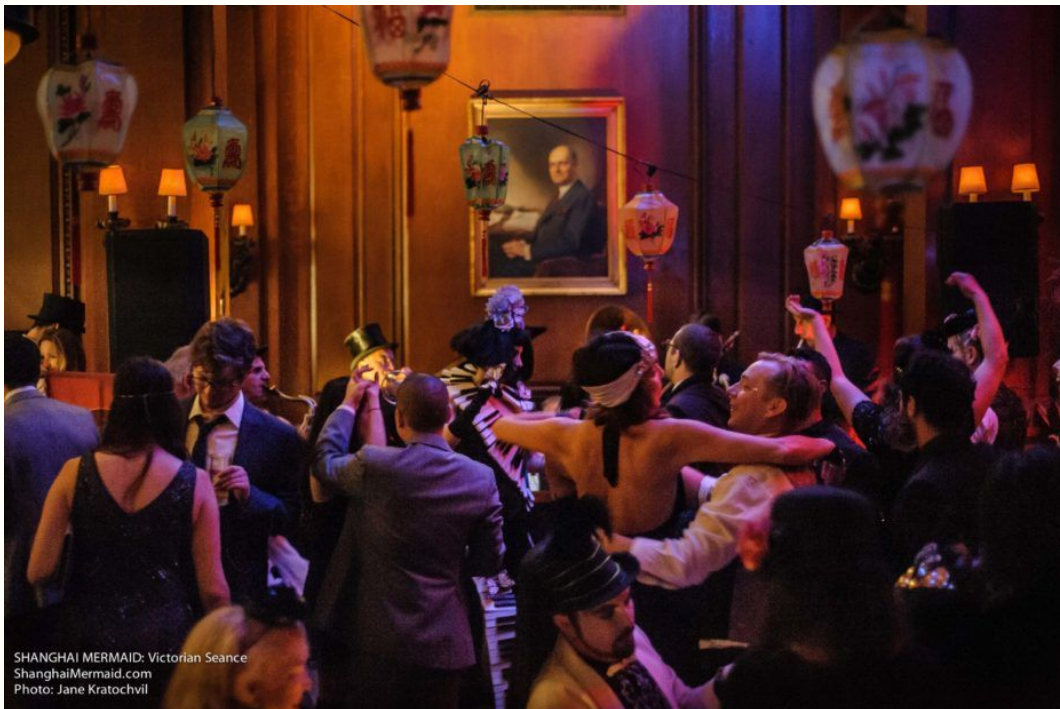
The Messy Nessy Guide to spending New Year's Eve in New York starts off with what not to do! That would be to go see the dropping of the ball in Times Square! Despite being probably the most famous way to see in the New Year in all of America, the dropping of the giant, LED, Waterford crystal ball on the roof of One Times Square is something locals know to definitely avoid. Somewhere near a million people cram into the iconic New York landmark, which is grisly at the best of times.



©NYDailyNews

So where to ring in 2018? Luckily we're providing a handy unique guide that won't involve standing in the freezing cold for hours on end, squashed in with a million strangers in a space designed for about a fifth of that, but will point you in the direction of secret lavish balls, burlesque delights, and cosy neighbourhood bars. Advance planning and reservations are heartily recommended!

Shanghai Mermaid's New Years Eve



©JaneKratochvil

The pro move for New Year's Eve is to get ahead of the curve and celebrate on the now annual tradition of New Year's Eve Eve! Shanghai Mermaid hosts the most opulently themed, vintage balls and parties all year long in secret locations that are redolent of the faded grandeur of the City. Past parties have had such swish themes as a Victorian Seance, Mermaid Fairytale Balls, and Jazz Age casinos. Meticulously put together, with swinging live jazz, this year's New Year's Eve Eve party will be held at the beautiful Church of the Holy Apostles in Chelsea. With a Hollywood Silent Film theme, come dressed in your finest Clara Bow or Douglas Fairbanks attire!

All the information you need is [here](#).

Michael Arenella at the Clover Club



©Walter Wlodarczyk

The man behind the summer's swinging [Jazz Age Lawn Parties](#), and a friend of Messy Nussy Chic, will be bringing his peerless music to one of Brooklyn's most exquisite cocktail bars, the Clover Club in Carroll Gardens. The Clover Club is in equal parts a cosy, neighbourhood bar, whilst retaining that swish, vintage cocktail bar elegance. If you like your New Year's Eve toast with a perfectly made mint julep in hand, accompanied by New York's premiere crooner, the Clover Club is the place to be!

All the info is [here](#).

‘80s Party at the City's Most Beautiful Tiki Bar



This year, the Upside Down is taking over the East Village (hey, stranger things have happened, right?) at the area's chicest tiki bar, Mother of Pearl.



So if you're a Stranger Things fan: "party your way into 2018 as both Cienfuegos and Mother of Pearl are transformed into The Upside Down on one level and the Hawkins Middle School's festive winter Snow Ball on the other".

Don't forget to come dressed to impress in your best early-80s attire.



There's a "Stranger Drinks" open bar cocktail celebration, and all ticket purchases include access to the bar, a champagne toast at Midnight, and plenty of appetizers all night long. Early Bird tickets are on sale now for \$100 (plus tax and gratuity) and will be available on a first come first serve basis.

The party starts at 9:00 pm (Early Bird tickets run for \$100). Get your ticket [here](#). (95 Avenue A, New York, NY, 10009).

The King's Winter Masquerade at Sleep No More

The mysterious McKittrick Hotel is home to one of the city's most magical evenings out: the highly immersive and engaging Sleep No More. Part play, part self guided exploration through a haunted, ruined hotel, the night is played out to the spooky accompaniment of Bernard Hermann's Hitchcock scores. The hotel is also home to the peculiar Gallow Green bar and restaurant, which one enters via a full sized, 1930s train station platform. This New Year's Eve they will be hosting a lavish masquerade party, starting after the evening's performance of Sleep No More.



©SleepNoMore

[All your info is here.](#)

McSorley's Old Ale House



©BucketListBars

In a city filled with historic bars, [McSorley's Old Ale House](#) holds a special charm. The bar opened in the mid-1800s, and walking inside is like stepping back in time to the New York of Bill the Butcher, and the old gangs of the notorious Five Points. Sawdust is still on the floor, and snug bar rooms are filled with the dusty memorabilia and photographs of Manhattan's past. Serving only their own light or dark beer, and a menu, whose highlight for me is the block of cheese, packet of Jacob's crackers, and half a raw onion, McSorley's Old Ale House is still heated by a creaking old cast iron stove. With the snow outside, and the narrow windows looking out onto East 7th street steamed up, New Year's Eve in McSorley's will be much the same as it was when 1917 turned into 1918, and there's nothing quite as charming as that.

Dances of Vice Demimonde Speakeasy



©DancesofVice

Dance's of Vice has, for a decade, been creating memorable, highly stylized and visual parties that descend into decadence! The vintage costumes worn by attendees are as meticulously imagined as the venues hosting them are as grandiose, from Phantasmagorey Halloween Balls held in old Victorian Manses, to Venetian Commedia Masked Balls in palatial old ballrooms. This New Year's Eve promises

“an evening of illicit luxury...in a four story, old world speakeasy.” Founder Shien Lee says, “come dressed for high class hedonism: historical harlots, dashing dandies and glamorous ne’er-do-wells welcome!”

All the info is [here](#).

New Years Eve Midnight Run



©MapMyFitness

Ditch the sparklers and glasses of champagne, with this burgeoning New York tradition; a four mile run in Central Park! Organized by the New York Road Runners, the run begins on the stroke of midnight; ‘glittery running attire’ is encouraged. What better way to begin your well-meaning New Year resolutions than with a brisk four mile run through Central Park’s Inner Loop, and what better way to see the fireworks! [Advanced registration is required](#).

Champagne Riot's New Years Eve Spectacular

If running shoes and sweatbands aren't your idea of a glamorous New Years Eve, but feather boas and sequins are, Champagne Riot is for you! They will be ringing in the New Year at Brooklyn's Guadalupe Inn with an evening of burlesque, hot jazz, and vaudeville delights! A seated dinner will be accompanied by a sizzling stage show of 1920s decadence MC'd by one of the city's most elegant performers, Dandy Wellington!



©Gabi Porter

All info [here](#).

Prospect Park's Fireworks

What better way to see in the New Year than at Brooklyn's beautiful Prospect Park! Sumptuously designed by Frederick Law Olmstead and Calvert Vaux, after they had completed Central Park, and filled with hard to find waterfalls, boating lakes, a battle ground from the Revolutionary War, baseball fields, a beautiful Audobon and a hidden, old Quaker Cemetery, Prospect Park is Brooklyn's jewel in the crown. At the northern entrance is Brooklyn's own Arc de Triomphe, a colossal yet elegantly carved Beaux-Arts archway commemorating the Civil War. On New Year's Eve there will be a grand fireworks display to celebrate the New Year and this most cherished of Brooklyn institutions.



©BrooklynBridgeRealty

Even info [here](#).

New Years Eve Concert for Peace at Saint John the Divine

One of the most awe inspiring cathedrals in North America, Saint John the Divine, in Morningside Heights is thought to be the world's largest Anglican cathedral. On New Year's Eve in 1984, Leonard Bernstein founded an annual concert for peace to be held by candlelight in one of New York's most magnificent settings.



©SaintJohnDivine

Concert [Info here](#).

The Roxy Hotel Surrealist Ball



Inspired by the legendary 1972 Surrealist Ball put on by Marie-Hélène de Rothschild at her Chateau de Ferrières, the Roxy Hotel nods to all things Dali, with an extravagantly costumed art ball. Champagne, lavish headpieces, and whatever surrealist touches your imagination can create, all held inside a sumptuous hotel in Tribeca.

[Event info here.](#)

The Coney Island Polar Bear New Year's Day Plunge



One of the best traditions for the New Year is to head down to historic Coney Island in Brooklyn, and with thousands of other foolhardy but brave swimmers, to take a plunge in the freezing Atlantic Ocean! Organized by the Coney Island Polar Bear Club, the oldest winter bathing society in America, the club dates back to 1903. The intrepid plungers meet on the Boardwalk Walk, many in vintage bathing suits, or fancy dress. The plunge into the icy ocean is supposed to bring good health and luck in the coming year, and is quickly followed up with a warming visit to Ruby's venerable dive bar on the Boardwalk, which has been open since the 1920s.

Event info [here](#).

Conclusion

If you want to expand your reach beyond New York, perhaps take a trip across the pond to Paris, I have plenty of recommendations and traveller's tips to share with you and they're all stored away in Messy Nessy's [Secret Paris vault](#) or in my notes on [Paris Like a Local](#).

And guess what?

I have a book called [Don't be a Tourist in Paris](#).

A vault of local secrets, insider advice and little-known urban anecdotes, finally unlocked and in print.

The result of seven years of discovery in one of the most fascinating cities on earth, this is not your average guide book ...

This is the ultimate bible to Paris unknown.

If you enjoyed this little portal into my favourite Paris secrets then never lose touch with my current/future posts by following me on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#), or indulge yourself in some Parisian pictorial goodness over on my [Instagram](#).

