



DESCRIPTION

Each winter, the city that never sleeps transforms into a dazzling holiday wonderland, captivating visitors with twinkling lights, bustling markets, and celebrated seasonal attractions. Famed landmarks like [The Empire State Building](#), [One World Trade Center](#) and the [Statue of Liberty](#) take on a special glow during the winter season while [Rockefeller Center](#) becomes the heart of holiday cheer with its legendary Christmas Tree adorned with 50,000 lights and its iconic ice rink.

Holiday markets are a winter favorite in New York City, with [Bryant Park's](#) Winter Village drawing in visitors with its free-admission ice rink and over 180-holiday shops, while the [Union Square Park](#) Holiday Market features a vibrant mix of artisanal vendors, handcrafted goods, and festive foods. Additional markets like the [FAD Market's Holiday Pop-Up](#) at Empire Stores in Dumbo, showcase over 35 local artisans, allowing visitors to find one-of-a-kind gifts. A stroll down Fifth Avenue reveals magical holiday window displays at the legendary Macy's, while shopping destinations like [Hudson Yards](#) in Manhattan, [Brookfield Place](#) in Brooklyn, [Queens Center](#) in Queens, and [Empire Outlets](#) in Staten Island offer a range of big-name brands and unique boutiques.

For ice skating enthusiasts, [Wollman Rink](#) in Central Park provides a picturesque winter scene, while the LeFrak Center Ice Rink at Lakeside in Brooklyn's [Prospect Park](#) is a charming spot for skaters amidst the park's wintry landscape. In Queens, the [World Ice Arena](#) in [Flushing Meadows Corona Park](#) provides spacious indoor rinks with ample room for all skill levels, surrounded by the park's iconic landmarks, while in Harlem, the [Riverbank State Park Ice Skating Rink](#) offers affordable outdoor skating with scenic Hudson River views, creating an ideal winter escape.

Winter in New York City also brings special events like the enchanting Lightscape at the [Brooklyn Botanic Garden](#), illuminating Prospect Park's paths with stunning lights, the [New York Botanical Garden's](#) Holiday Train Show in the Bronx, which features a charming model train collection whizzing through an intricate model of NYC, and the [Frost Fest](#) at Coney Island's [Luna Park](#) which features thrilling rides, dazzling holiday lights, and festive food for a winter carnival atmosphere. The city's many museums also provide a cozy escape, with cultural experiences at the [Metropolitan Museum of Art \(The Met\)](#), [Museum of Modern Art \(MoMA\)](#), the [American Museum of Natural History](#), and borough gems like the [Staten Island Museum at Snug Harbor](#), [Bronx Museum of the Arts](#), and the [Museum of the Moving Image](#) in Queens.

For iconic holiday dining, several restaurants add extra magic to the season with festive decor and exclusive menus. East Harlem's [Rao's](#) offers a classic Italian-American experience steeped in tradition, while [Angelina's Ristorante](#) in Staten Island brings Italian delicacies to a holiday setting. Harlem's [La Fonda Boricua](#) hosts a festive Puerto Rican feast with dishes like pernil and arroz con gandules, while in Astoria, [Taverna Kyklades](#) offers Mediterranean-inspired holiday

seafood. For pub fare, [Tavern on the Green](#) in Central Park and [Pete's Tavern](#) in Gramercy are known for impressing crowds with their festive lights and vibrant atmosphere each holiday season.

WHERE TO STAY

The season culminates with the famous New Year's Eve Ball Drop in Times Square, a bucket-list event where crowds gather to welcome the new year in iconic New York style. Winter travelers can choose from a range of accommodations, including [The Plaza Hotel](#), [The New York Marriott Marquis](#) in Times Square with its revolving rooftop restaurant, and [The Crowne Plaza HY36](#) in Hudson Yards, adorned with holiday cheer. [LUMA Hotel Times Square](#) provides sleek, modern comfort just steps from Bryant Park, while Harlem's newest opening, the [Renaissance New York Harlem Hotel](#), celebrates the community's contribution to the arts, music, cuisine, and heritage. For those seeking a quieter winter escape, the [Bronx Opera House Hotel](#) offers a luxurious stay in the boutique hotel, restored from the historic Bronx Opera House which dates back to 1911. Those looking for unparalleled views of the Manhattan skyline can stay at Brooklyn's top hotels, including the [1 Hotel Brooklyn Bridge](#) or the [Arlo Williamsburg](#).

GETTING THERE

- [JFK International Airport](#) and [LaGuardia Airport](#)
- [MTA New York City Subway](#)
- [Port Authority Midtown Bus Terminal](#)
- [Grand Central Station](#)
- [Moynihan / Penn Station](#)

COUNTIES

Bronx, Kings, New York, Queens, Richmond

BOROUGHES & NEIGHBORHOODS

The Bronx (Woodlawn, Fordham, City Island, South Bronx, Belmont), Brooklyn (Fort Greene, Sunset Park, Williamsburg, Bay Ridge, Downtown Brooklyn, Coney Island, Gowanus, Flatbush, Dumbo, Cobble Hill, Brighton Beach, Brooklyn Heights, Park Slope, Clinton Hill, Greenpoint, Bedford-Stuyvesant, Red Hook, Boerum Hill, Crown Heights, Prospect Heights, Carroll Gardens, Bushwick), Manhattan (East Harlem, Lower East Side, Washington Heights, Inwood, Midtown, Battery Park City, TriBeCa, Gramercy, Murray Hill, Greenwich Village, Times Square, Harlem, Upper West Side, Koreatown, Governors Island, Little Italy, Upper East Side, Roosevelt Island, East Village, Meatpacking District, NoHo, Chelsea, Central Park, Hell's Kitchen, Lower Manhattan, SoHo, Flatiron District, Union Square, Chinatown, West Village, NoLIta), Queens (Jackson Heights, Long Island City, Astoria, The Rockaways, Forest Hills, Flushing, Sunnyside, Jamaica, Corona), Staten Island (Randall Manor, Tompkinsville, South Beach and Midland Beach, St. George, Richmond Town)

CLIMATE

The diverse climate of New York State has four distinct seasons. During the springtime, temperatures range from cool to very warm, with the possibility of wind and rain, as well as flowers blooming. New York City in the summer is usually hot and sunny, with a little cool breeze if you're near the water. Once fall hits, the weather starts to get cool, so it's recommended to wear layers. In winter, days get shorter and temperatures get even cooler to the point where snow starts to fall, but not all is doom and gloom this time of year as there are clear and sunny skies during the day.

FURTHER INFORMATION

For more travel ideas and information about New York City, visit iloveny.com or nyctourism.com.