

30 places to go for Christmas and New Year for a luxury travel break

It comes around at the same time every year but, just like an elaborate magic trick, somehow it seems to creep up on us out of nowhere. Christmas. And if you're wanting a winter getaway, you need to start thinking about the best places to go for Christmas and New Year now.

As the jingle bells and tinsel begins to festoon the shops, it's your prompt to plan your escape – perhaps a mini festive break or two weeks of winter sunshine.

Get your festive trip plans off to a flying start with this guide to luxury places to visit over Christmas and New Year.

We've collected some seasonal options from cool breaks in ice hotels to glass igloos providing a window on the Northern Lights, through to Antarctic cruises and Christmas markets.

But as we know not everyone likes the cold, we've also got plenty of ideas for warm winter breaks, and ways to discover a new you in the New Year. This guide will provide plenty of holiday inspiration.

So whether you like to embrace the season or escape it – we believe in a balance of both – here are 30 breaks in which you can join in the festivities, or indulge in your very own pure 'Eat, Pray, Love' holiday escapism.

Drop the ball in New York

Home to the famous New Year ball drop in Times Square, and with a host of celebrities to preside over the proceedings, New York is a glitzy place to spend December 31. Pre-book a BallDrop Pass for admission to a range of venues around Times Square for a change of scene throughout the evening, plus free food, drinks and live entertainment in each venue.

If you've had a number of disappointing New Year's Eve celebrations, we think if you head for Times Square this year, you're bound to have a spectacularly good time and, at \$189 a head, a BallDrop Pass is good value.

But sometimes luxury and crowds don't really go together. And it's nice to be waited on rather than spending time queuing. [Haven Rooftop](#) is close to the excitement of Times Square, but you're free to enjoy the heated and tented rooftops, with a free-flowing bar from 8pm to 2am. And \$250 gets you table service, leaving you to soak up the views, the bubbly and the atmosphere – we think it's worth every cent.

Where to stay – we recommend...



The [Sanctuary Hotel](#) is a stylish four-star hotel with chic surroundings and amenities for a luxurious break in the city.

Want more options? Check for [hotels in New York](#), and don't miss our features, and guides on where to stay and places to go for Christmas and the [rest of the year in New York](#).