

# Travel Destinations: Top 5 Vacation Spots to Spend New Years



By [Ashleigh Underwood](#)

Ring in the New Year has is one of the greatest celebrations of the year. Countries around the world participate in events like parades, dancing, fireworks, and street parties. While each travel destination have similar celebratory roots, they all have cultural twists that make them unique. While New Yorkers stand in the street and count down until the ball drops, those in St. Petersburg watch fireworks and send paper lanterns into the sky. Whether you like to party until dawn or enjoy a relaxing night in, there is a vacation destination for you!

# Dying to be somewhere different for the New Year this year? Here a few travel destinations perfect for celebrating this special occasion.

**1. Valparaiso, Chile:** If your year hasn't been the best, or you are feeling down and need a little extra luck in your life, Valparaiso is where you need to be. While partaking in traditional activities like large feasts, parties and fireworks, Chileans also celebrate in an unusual way. Each year, the people of Valparaiso, Chile attempt to bring in good luck for the New Year with a few different traditions that are extremely important in their celebrating. Firstly, they eat lentils, and 12 grapes. The lentils are eaten at midnight to ensure success and well being in the coming year. The 12 grapes are symbolic of each strike of the bell at midnight and are meant to fulfill all wishes and projects for the New Year. Their other classic tradition is donning yellow underwear throughout the festivities. The color represents energy and wearing it allows you to attract a happy and hopeful spirit. So, if you are needed some extra luck and good fortune in your life, while also enjoying a classic New Year's Eve, head on over to Chile.

**2. Reykjavik, Iceland:** This small Icelandic town is sure to blow away your expectations of how a New Year's party should be. The people who live in Reykjavik take their celebrations to a whole new level expanding the event across many cities and goes all night long. Not only can you take part in their insane nightlife, but you can also experience their unique cultural traditions. Each year, the citizens of Iceland participate in community bonfires to burn away the troubles of the past year. Then, they get to enjoy the firework spectacle that spans across their entire coast. After drinking away the

night, they continue on the next morning with hangover curing meals. If you're a diehard partier, Iceland is the place for you.

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**3. Bratislava, Slovakia:** In Bratislava, they are all about noise. This city offers a very casual, yet uplifting environment that is meant to keep you in the holiday spirit all night long. The town hosts thousands of people from all over the world in their streets each New Year, bringing them in with their many concerts. Bratislava is divided into sections, allowing one part for concerts and another for partying. The concert sections has several types of music going all throughout the day, including gypsy, folk, and disco. The other section, meant for partying, allows other to be more social. There is ice skating, restaurants, bars, and a large screen prompter to watch the celebration so you will be sure to see everything. At the start of the New Year, a fantastic fireworks show is displayed over the Danube River and people cheering and spinning their rehtacka. Participate in this tradition, and you are sure to rid yourself of any negative energy and start your New Year fresh.

**4. Bahamas:** While the Bahamas may make you think of a quiet, beach getaway, on New Year's Eve they are anything but. Choose any resort to stay at and they will be sure to offer some type of activity that will make you feel at home. However, if you dare to venture off with the locals, your time will be much more exciting. The people in the Bahamas celebrate the coming year with music, masks, street performers, costumes, and parades. These festivities are part of the Junkanoo Celebration that locals hold very dear to their hearts, as it is a long standing tradition. It begins with a cultural celebration, welcoming people of all ages and genders to participate. This special procession is lead to a final party destination where everyone is welcomed to stay up all night

and bask in the glory that is the Bahamian culture.

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**5. Sydney, Australia:** If you are looking to party in a huge way, Sydney is where you need to go. Here, they try and step up their game knowing that so many people will be watching. With more than 1 million people gathered around the waterfront, and a billion watching on T.V, the celebration lasts all day and goes out with a bang (literally). Throughout the day, there is an air show, a water performance, multiple fireworks shows, and a parade. This destination is perfect for the family, or a party with your friends. So, be one of the first to live it up in the New Year and check out Sydney!

**Where is your favorite place to spend New Year's? Comment below!**

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## **Relationship Advice: Why Your Dating New Year's Resolutions Fail**





By Toni Coleman, LCSW

Once again it's time for that honored tradition of setting and then breaking our New Year's resolutions. Year after year we tell ourselves that this time it will be different; then armed with a renewed feeling of determination and optimism, we prepare to say goodbye to our bad habits, unhealthy lifestyle choices, and/or dead end job or even our relationship and love. Then at the beginning of February, we find that much of our resolve has been replaced with a feeling of defeat and a resignation that our life probably won't ever be what we want it to be. As a relationship expert, I know it's hard when your dating goals aren't met. Keep reading for my [relationship advice](#) on why you're dating New Year's resolutions are failing and what to do about it.

## Relationship Advice On Your New Year's Dating Resolutions

**1. Avoid the number one reason for failed resolutions.** Essentially we set ourselves up for failure every

year. We do this by setting unrealistic goals, having too many goals, and not having a concrete and reasonable plan for how we will work toward them. This especially happens in the dating world. When we don't make any progress, our self-esteem and confidence take a hit, we feel defeated, and we abandon our plans. Our defeat contributes to a belief that this goal is just not possible for us, and if we do this year after year it becomes a self-fulfilling prophecy.

**Related Link:** [Relationship Advice: 10 Holiday Date Ideas For Long Time Couples](#)

**2. Set a maximum of one or two achievable goals.** These don't have to be major goals; they can be smaller objectives that will lead to bigger changes that can happen further down the road. By approaching change in small and manageable steps, you will help ensure your success, which will provide you with continued motivation and a boost of self-esteem along the way. It's also important to think about your core need or desire—in other words, what is the key problem or desired change you want to address. By correctly identifying this and tackling it first, you will find that most other issues you think require a separate resolution are connected to the core need, and will be impacted by addressing it.

**3. Write down how and when you will take your action steps.** Unless you have a concrete plan for working on your resolutions, they will not get acted on. Your calendar contains a record of work obligations and tasks, social events, and other life priorities so you won't neglect or forget them. Can you imagine what would happen if you never wrote anything down? Many things would slip through the cracks, and you would be hopelessly off track. The same problem presents itself when you make an agreement with yourself to work on a resolution—if it isn't put into your schedule, it simply won't happen. My dating advice is to set small goals like making an online dating profile, going on three dates, etc.



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**4. If a goal proves unrealistic or unattainable, tweak it until it works.** This seems to be a hard one for many people as they equate stepping back with failure. However, this is no different from when you are involved with any project that presents unforeseen issues or challenges and requires you to make adjustments and changes along the way. If you are cutting a piece of wood for a home repair project and find it is too long or short, you will either have to shorten it or start with a new piece. If you are completing a work document and find omissions or errors, you go back and change, correct and/or delete until it is correct. Applying this same approach to achieving a resolution will work in much the same way, keeping you engaged until you are satisfied with the outcome.

**5. Celebrate every small win—this keeps momentum going.** It's hard to sustain ourselves through long, dry spells when we aren't receiving any feedback on our investment of time and energy. This is why using short-term objectives as building blocks to success is a great way to keep up the momentum. If you resolve to lose 5 pounds over 3-4 weeks as opposed to losing 40 pounds over 6-8 months, you increase your chance of success. At the end of those few weeks, you can congratulate yourself on achieving that first objective and get a boost to your self-esteem, which will help you to remain positive and more confident that you can continue achieving your ideal weight.

**Related Link:** [Relationship Advice: 5 Questions To Ask Yourself Before Saying "I Do"](#)

The people who are successful at realizing their New Year's resolutions do not have more self-control or discipline than you. They don't succeed because they are lucky, and many or most aren't blessed with more resources or a special talent that gives them an edge. What they do have is a clear and

strong desire for change, a written and well thought out plan, and a willingness to be flexible with their process and open to making adjustments along the way. My relationship advice is to do the same thing.

*[Toni Coleman](#), LCSW, CMC is an internationally known psychotherapist, relationship coach, and founder of consummate relationship coaching. As a recognized expert, Ms. Coleman is the featured relationship coach in The Business and Practice of Coaching, (Norton, September 2005.) In addition, she authored the forward for Winning Points with the Woman in your Life, One Touchdown at a Time, (Simon and Schuster, November 2005.) among many other achievements.*

*For more information about and articles by our Hope After Divorce relationship experts, click [here](#).*

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## **Generation Tux Launches Nationwide Search for First Couple of 2016 to Have Celebrity Wedding in Times Square**







*This post is sponsored by Generation Tux.*

By Mackenzie Scibetta

Do you find yourself plagued with stress trying to plan you and your loved one's wedding? Is it impacting your relationship and love? Hiring a wedding planner can be expensive so why not enter to win a once in a lifetime dream ceremony, envying any [celebrity wedding](#), to be the first couple married in 2016! Sponsored by Generation Tux, an online tux rental company, the ceremony will take place in Times Square on New Year's Eve in front of the entire world.

## **National Search For New Year's Eve Couple to Receive Their Own Celebrity Wedding**

The "First Couple of 2016" contest is hoping to find America's most romantic couple, so for all you lovebirds out there this is your opportunity. The contest will take place until November 1. Couples can enter by creating a 60-second video

describing why they deserve to have the most iconic, celebrity wedding of the year. The ceremony will mimic a scene straight out of a Hollywood relationship movie, having the CEO of Generation Tux, George Zimmer, officiating the ceremony. The two finalist couples will be announced on November 16 and will both be flown to New York City to participate in the festivities by receiving couples massages, VIP tickets to the Hard Rock Cafe New Year's Eve party, and overnight accommodations at The Chatwal.

The winner of the "most romantic couple" title will be announced right before the Ball drops at midnight. They will then exchange vows in front of millions of excited Americans. After the whirlwind ceremony the newly-wed couple will go on a seven-night honeymoon at Moon Palace Golf & Spa Resort, a five-star Palace Resorts hotel in Cancun, just like the best celebrity vacations. Even the runner-up couple will get to feel like royalty as they will also enjoy a three-night honeymoon.

*To submit your love story and enter to win a wedding of a lifetime, couples can visit [www.firstcoupleof2016.com](http://www.firstcoupleof2016.com). For more information on Generation Tux, visit [www.generationtux.com](http://www.generationtux.com).*

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## How to Celebrate the New Year with a New Baby





By [Courtney Omernick](#)

You may think that all of the fun of New Year's is over because you have a new baby in the house, but guess again! Just because your newborn is taking control of how you spend your time doesn't mean you have to have a dull New Year's celebration. Check out some fun ways to celebrate New Year's with your baby in tow:

**1. Host a slumber party:** If you have enough space in your home, consider inviting a few of your friends who have children to party at your place. Yes, your house will have even more chaos because of the extra children, but this gives your friends an incentive to get out of the house and celebrate too! You can even have it catered to take some of the pressure off of you and your partner.

**Related Link:** [Scarlett Johansson Secretly Married Romain Dauriac in October](#)

**2. Dress up:** If you're planning a night in, you don't have to resort to sweats! Add some sparkle to the event by wearing a

skirt or dress (for her) and a bowtie and suit (for him). Make sure to include your new baby in the festivities by dressing them up in a cute outfit too!

**Related Link:** [Did 'Bachelor' Winner Nikki Ferrell Reveal She Has A New Man?](#)

**3. Bring your baby to the party:** Obviously, this option depends on the type of party you're attending. After all, you won't want to bring your baby to a loud bar. But if you're going to a friend's house, you might be able to bring your newborn along. If there's a place in your friend's home where you can put your child down for bed, you won't even have to worry about interrupting their usual routine.

**How else can you celebrate the New Year with a new baby? Share your ideas in the comments!**

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## **Ring in the New Year in True Vegas Style: Hotel Party Roundup**







By Kristin Mattern

Ring in the New Year in grand fashion by planning a getaway with your significant other or even better, surprising him with a ticket to board the next jumbo jet to Vegas. Sin city is even more alive on New Year's Eve and this year there are four amazing events taking place that will pretty much ensure you are welcoming 2014 in style. As we all know, what happens in Vegas, stays in Vegas!

**Party Inside The Venetian at TAO:** Enjoy a night of R&B music with a live performance from Grammy Award winning artist Miguel. You and your partner are sure to get caught up in the moment as you sway to Miguel's sweet sounds surrounded by the innovative ambiance of TAO's "Asian City" theme, featuring a twenty foot tall Buddha statue. Your taste buds will be treated to the delicious dishes of the Pacific Rim as you both enjoy hors d'oeuvres made by celebrity chefs and a premium open bar from 9 pm – midnight. Then, as the clock begins the countdown to welcome 2014, raise a complimentary glass of champagne to toast the start of another New Year in true Vegas style. At the stroke of midnight, TAO ticket stubs will also

grant entrance to LAVO, providing you and your partner access to two incredible parties in one night. But that's not all. The ticket stubs also provide 10% off dinner at either TAO or LAVO the next day. What an amazing way to celebrate the start of 2014!

**Related Link:** [4 Tips to Reduce New Year's Eve Dating Anxiety](#)

**Rock Out In The Palazzo at LAVO:** Enjoy an electric end to 2013, and ring in the New Year with amplitude as you and your significant other jam with the incredibly talented DJ Vice. This spin master will rock the crowd into the New Year. Get your rave on as the two of you dance to dubstep and pop beats amongst a state of the art audio-visual system. Not only does LAVO sport an incredible sound system, the space derives design inspiration from the bathhouses of ancient Mediterranean culture and a menu that highlights the best of the region's cuisine. You and your partner can soak in the unique beauty of LAVO while enjoying tasty hors d'oeuvres, served from 9 to midnight, and enjoy some delicious cocktails at the premium open bar from 9 to 11pm. The party will continue as you enjoy a complimentary glass of champagne to toast the start of 2014! Just like above, your LAVO ticket stub will also grant access to TAO, allowing the two of you to party it up at two amazing clubs in one unforgettable evening. The tickets also provide 10% off dinner at either TAO or LAVO the next day! What a sweet New Year it will be.





Left to Right: The Chelsea;  
Bruno Mars. Photo: Kirvin Doak  
Communications

**An Intimate Evening In The Cosmopolitan at The Chelsea:** Looking for a unique experience this New Year's Eve that you can really brag about? What about a smaller venue featuring a performance by the amazing Bruno Mars? Mars will not only ring in 2014 with true Vegas showmanship, but will inaugurate The Chelsea as the new club at The Cosmopolitan. Don't miss this opportunity to be a part of history as you and your loved one ring in the New Year and kick off the start to what is sure to be one of the best clubs in Vegas. The Chelsea offers an avant-garde approach to entertainment; the venue features cast glass chandeliers, a vintage lobby bar, private VIP opera boxes and a decorative grand staircase. Don't miss this exclusive chance to celebrate New Year's Eve in a truly glamorous way!

**Related Link:** [Quickie Chick's Video Dating Tips: How to Celebrate New Year's Eve if You're Single](#)



Celine Dion. Photo:  
CeasarsPalace.com

**Sing Your Heart Out in Ceasar's Palace at The Colosseum:** If you are totally in love with Celine Dion and her harmonious voice, what better way to celebrate the New Year than by seeing her perform live? You'll be swept away by the visually stunning presentation of Dion's new show that was designed exclusively for The Colosseum – a state of the art venue. This show is a spectacular event, directed by long time Grammy producer Ken Ehrlich, and features a full orchestra and band to accompany Dion's timeless classics. Don't just party this New Years Eve; have an experience! Let the awe-inspiring sounds of the big band and Dion's unforgettable voice transport you and your beau into the New Year with sophisticated style and elegance. Instead of throwing the same old party at home with flat champagne and noisemakers, do it up big, and get on the next plane for scenic Las Vegas! This party town is ready to throw down and give you and your sweetie the most memorable night of your lives. Ring in 2014 in sensational style.

*What are you waiting for? Tickets are limited, so be sure to visit Vegas's New Year's Eve Live website, [www.newyarsevelive.net/cities/las-vegas.html](http://www.newyarsevelive.net/cities/las-vegas.html) to buy spots for these, and other exclusive venues.*

How will you celebrate New Years? Heading to a fabulous location like Vegas? Let us know in the comments below!

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# Pregnant Kim Kardashian and Baby Daddy Kanye West Spend NYE in Vegas



By [Jessica DeRubbo](#)

Kim Kardashian didn't let her recently announced pregnancy keep her inside for New Year's Eve, according to [People](#). In fact, she did the opposite, as she and baby daddy Kanye West

attended a party in Las Vegas. "I wish I could share a drink with you all, but I can't for a little while," she told the crowd at Mirage's 1 OAK. When the clock struck midnight, Kardashian and West shared a passionate kiss while the crowd was cheering and confetti was flying. "It's been so exciting," said Kardashian about finding out she was pregnant. "We're very, very happy."

**What are some ways to celebrate holidays when you're pregnant?**

### **Cupid's Advice:**

It can be tempting to join in the fun with a drink on holidays, but when you're pregnant, it's not an option. Cupid has some alternatives:

**1. Flavored sparkling water:** You may not be able to drink champagne, but that doesn't mean that you can't indulge in a sparkling refreshment with everyone else. Make a drink that looks and feels like the real thing instead.

**2. Eat instead:** One of the good things about being pregnant is that no one's going to judge how much you eat when you're eating for two. Plus, your body needs more food than it used to need. Indulge in some yummy snacks to take the place of drinking!

**3. A glass of wine:** Many doctors these days admit that having one glass of wine every now and again isn't going to hurt your baby. Make sure to check again with your personal doctor, but a strategically timed class of red wine will help you feel part of the holiday fun.

**What are some other ways to keep pregnancy from hindering your holiday fun? Share your ideas below.**

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# What to Do On New Year's Eve If You're Single



By Eleanore Wells

By now, every person on earth (or in the U.S) has most likely participated in at least one conversation where New Year's Eve plans were the topic. Some people look forward to it, others dread it. Those who look forward to it usually have something pretty special planned. Those who dread it usually don't. Lots of people harbor anxiety over New Year's Eve, primarily, because of what seems to be the intense pressure to do something – something festive, something big. I think single women feel this even more than most.



But, really, it's not necessary. While I like the idea of celebrating the passing of one year into another and all the hope and optimism that can bring, I do reject the notion that one has to mark this occasion in a big way. It's possible to have an enjoyable New Year's Eve without the forced exultations that seem to mark the holiday... and without a date.

**Related Link:** [Readying Your Single Self for the Holidays](#)

A few things to think about:

**Get Out of Town.** Not running away, but taking an opportunity to totally mix it up for a moment: new surroundings, new activities, new people... new you, for a short while. Of course, the New Year's Eve week is one of the most expensive periods to travel, so make sure you really want to do it.

**Go Party.** If you're invited to a big party and you're up to it, go and have a blast – even if you don't have a date. A few years ago, I went to a friend's big New Year's Eve shindig with mixed emotions. I didn't have a date and knew the party would primarily be made up of couples. But a few of them were people I knew and wanted to see so I got dolled up – making sure I looked extra good...which made me feel extra good – went to the party and had a good time. I deliberately got there late so I wouldn't have to spend so much time there in case I felt a little self-conscious. I ate, drank, and mingled, and then I left. You only have to stay as long (or as short) as you want to. At midnight, I was wishing the cab driver a Happy New Year. But I had a nice time for the 1-1/2 hours I was there.

**Have Your Own Party.** It doesn't have to be a big deal. In fact, I usually prefer something small. Invite over a few people you like, order take-out (or cook, if you're so inclined), pop some bubbly and enjoy yourself. This is actually one of my favorite ways to spend New Year's Eve. I only want to bring in the New Year with people I know and



really like.

**Give Your Time.** Lots of volunteer organizations can use an extra pair of hands, helping out with parties they throw for their customers or providing other services. Helping others is great way to bring in the New Year.

**Go to Church/Temple/Mosque.** Bringing in the New Year with fellow worshipers can be fulfilling.

**Work Off Holiday Pounds.** Lot of gyms and sports organizations are open for a workout or group run. You may as well get started chipping away at the pounds you put on during the holiday season.

**Related Link:** [Celebrity Nutritionist and Trainer Jackie Keller Says, "Those Who Workout With Support From Their Partners Do Better Overall"](#)

**Do Nothing.** You don't have to do anything... but only do nothing if that's what you really want to do, not because you are feeling pouty about your options or lack of.

Really, we should all relax. Ringing in the New Year can be pretty fun, but it's only fun if you're doing it in a way that works for you. So that's what you should do on New Year's Eve: whatever you want to do!

Happy New Year, everybody!

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# A First Date on New Year's

# Eve: Should You?



By Rachel Seliger, JDate for GalTime.com

The arrival of a New Year is an exciting time, but New Year's Eve has also morphed into one of the most pressure-filled holidays for singles. Don't stress yourself out – there are lots of great ways to have a fun and festive New Year's Eve, with or without a date.

Who says you need to be attached to have a great NYE? For starters, focus on the things you do have – friends, family, health – and then follow my tried and true tips to have your best single New Year's Eve yet.

– **Gather your single girlfriends for a glammed-up girls-only night, and ring in the New Year together in style.** Who needs a guy when you have great friends, champagne and cute new pumps!

– **Everyone appreciates a little “me time.”** Save yourself the stress of dealing with crowds, long lines and a bunch of weird people you don’t know – treat yourself to your favorite movie, Chinese takeout and a great night’s sleep. Wake up on Jan. 1 feeling refreshed and ready to greet the New Year with vigor (and no hangover)!

– **New Year’s Eve is the perfect opportunity to spend time fostering life’s most important relationships: those with family.** Being with loved ones will take your mind off any qualms you may have about being single on New Year’s Eve.

– **Get out of town!** Find a cute B&B or boutique hotel in a nearby city, or book a flight to visit an old friend. A quick trip is a great way to dodge the dreaded question of “What are your New Year’s plans?”, and you definitely won’t run into anyone you know!

– **Why not break the mold and set up a first date?** This might seem hard to believe, but you are NOT the only person spending New Year’s Eve single. By looking online you’ll find plenty of single guys who also don’t have New Year’s plans, and would love to spend the night getting to know someone. If you’re lucky, it might even end with a New Year’s kiss.

Aside from these tips, my best advice about being single on New Year’s is to not worry about having the perfect night – don’t do something that’s supposed to be fun just because you feel pressure. Instead, reflect on all of the positive experiences you had in 2012, start planning for 2013 and look forward to a year full of opportunity!

***First date, girls’ night out or a quiet evening solo? What’s your dream New Year’s Eve on your own?***