

SPECIAL JULY 4TH

July 4th Events & Activities

Fireworks Cruise on the Circle Line

Want to avoid the crowds watching the sky light up but still see all the action? Take the Circle Line's special fireworks cruise, which sets sail early evening and includes a DJ, food and drinks.

Fort Wadsworth Celebration

Free tours of the fort and activities for the kids, like art projects and a scavenger hunt, make for a fun afternoon with the family. Bring a picnic, a blanket and stick around for fireworks at dusk. Free

Freedom Festival at the Intrepid Museum

What do rapper-actress Queen Latifah, comedian Amy Schumer and country singer Will Hoge have in common? They'll all be at the Intrepid on the Fourth, entertaining the crowds and raising money for the museum and its Fallen Heroes Fund.

Independence Day Celebration at Historic Richmond Town

Step back in time to celebrate the Fourth at one of the City's most significant historic locations—create pinwheels, watch pie-making demonstrations, churn and taste your own ice cream and listen to a dramatic reading of the Declaration of Independence.

Independence Day at Prospect Park

The Prospect Park Audubon Center puts on free, family-friendly events such as nature walks, animal encounters and crafts celebrating the bald eagle. For a small fee, kids can also enjoy a ride on the carousel and a trip back to colonial times at Lefferts Historic House. Free

Macy's Fourth of July Fireworks

It wouldn't be the Fourth of July in New York City without the annual Macy's fireworks show, down on the East River. The best viewing spots will be from Brooklyn Bridge Park and the Brooklyn Heights Promenade, and along the east side of Lower Manhattan; arrive early to secure your place. Free

Nathan's Famous Fourth of July Hot Dog Eating Contest

Can you eat 69 hot dogs in 10 minutes? Eight-time champ Joey Chestnut once did, though last year he only hit 61; he'll surely try his to best top it. Join the throngs to watch, and remember that this is a case where imitation is not the sincerest form of flattery. Free

Revolutionary War New York Nighttime Walking Tour

Set your alarm earlier than usual for a rather unusual start to Independence Day. Meet at 3am at the Fraunces Tavern Museum, where George Washington gave a good-bye address to the Continental Army, and end around sunrise at Trinity Church, where Alexander Hamilton is among those laid to rest.

[Riis Park Beach Bazaar](#)

Hitting the beach is a great way to enjoy the holiday, and the Rockaways have some of the best local stretches of sand, including the one at Jacob Riis Park. Instead of barbecuing, stop by the Riis Park Beach Bazaar for tasty summer treats at gourmet food stands and bars. DJs and bands play from 1pm on to provide a summer soundtrack. Free

[Travis Parade](#)

Come experience the small-town patriotic vibe at this Staten Island parade, a tradition that dates back more than 100 years. Free

[Warm-Up at MoMA PS1](#)

Celebrate America's birthday at MoMA PS1 in Queens. Every Saturday throughout the summer, the art museum holds a dance party in its courtyard; special guests at the July 4th edition include former Studio 54 DJ Nicky Siano (whose exploits were recently covered in The New York Times), along with Cut Copy and Bobbito Garcia.

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For this mother of all pyrotechnic displays, Macy's will explode more than 40,000 fireworks choreographed to a 25-minute patriotic score over the East River. Stake out a nice spot near the Brooklyn Bridge, and bring your own picnic basket with beverages to toast our country's birthday.

Best viewing location:

- Broad Street and/or Old Slip at Water Street
- Brooklyn Bridge entry from St. James Place (Pearl Street) & Wagner Place
- Montgomery & South Streets: From the north (viewing along the FDR between Manhattan Bridge and Montgomery Street, Brooklyn Bridge Park, Brooklyn Bridge Promenade

What time are the 4th of July fireworks in NYC?

The Macy's 4th of July Fireworks over the East River begin at about 9:20 on Monday, July 4, 2016. The Jersey City and Statue of Liberty fireworks start at 9:30. All three fireworks displays last about 30 minutes.
