





NEW YORK CITY

— *for the* —

HOLIDAYS

BY LESLIE E. ROYAL

Wondrous Manhattan. So nice, they named it twice. So addictive, it boasts more aliases than its neighboring boroughs combined: the Big Apple, the City That Never Sleeps, Gotham and Fun City, to name a few. We marvel at its forests of skyscrapers and breathtaking skylines, its dizzying neon-lit theatre district and the spectacle of Broadway and Times Square—the site of arguably the world’s biggest New Year’s bash. And during the holiday season, the magnetic force of this epicenter’s unrivaled Christmas and New Year’s events draws in intrigued travelers from around the world. As your tour guide this holiday season, UPSCALE magazine takes you on a spectacular Manhattan holiday excursion. Join us as we explore some of the sites on our Grownup Christmas and Holiday List.

HOME AWAY FROM HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS. The luxurious Iroquois New York Hotel in midtown is within walking distance of some of Manhattan's iconic holiday attractions such as Times Square, Central Park, the Empire State Building, Fifth Avenue and SoHo. Take advantage of Iroquois's Holiday Shopping Package 2015, with perks including free ground shipping for purchases, hot beverages and snacks. Christmas in New York comprises a round-trip subway card for four to explore holiday sights. Wind down after a long day taking in the city with a complementary hot toddy of Irish or Mexican coffee in the sophisticated Triomphe Lounge.

The charming 70 Park Avenue Hotel offers guests a special 'Tis the Season package. This European-flavored boutique hotel offers plenty for your holiday stockings. The daily \$50 dining credit, for example, gets you into its onsite bistros Silverleaf Coffee and Tea and Silverleaf Tavern, as well as in-room dining if you just want to snuggle in bed.

Feel like venturing into one of Manhattan's neighboring boroughs? Try Brooklyn, just across the East River from Manhattan. Nestled in Brooklyn's quiet Stuyvesant Heights neighborhood is Akwaaba Mansion, a stately bed and breakfast inn ideal for a moment of solace from the frantic pace of Manhattan. It offers special packages such as Runaway from Home, Waiting to Exhale and Pamper Me, for groups, couples and those traveling solo.

KNICKERBOCKER HOTEL'S NEW YEAR'S EVE BASH. Ring in the New Year with a magnificent view of the celebrated Waterford Crystal Ball descent. The only five-star hotel in Times Square, the legendary Knickerbocker promises an ultra-exclusive experience to remember. The Knickerbocker's grand package gives entrée to a Black-Tie New Year's Eve Private Gala, a delectable New Year's Day Brunch and a one-night stay in one of its 330 stately guestrooms or 40 majestic suites. Guests awaiting the New Year's Eve ball drop from atop the St. Cloud Rooftop Bar will revel in the breathtaking performances of fire dancers and dance themselves to the musical stylings of a cool DJ.





CHRISTMAS EVE AND NEW YEAR'S EVE CELESTIAL CRUISES.

Nothing spells romance more than taking to the waters around Manhattan Island. Courtesy of numerous cruise lines, you can celebrate the holidays by sailing along the Hudson and East Rivers, drinking in the awe-inspiring panoramic views while you view the Big Apple from this unique vantage point. *Winter's Hidden Wonderland*, Bateaux New York's elegant, all-glass dining vessel, hosts a unique holiday brunch, as well as lunch and dinner cruises throughout December. On New Year's Eve, passengers boarding the World Yacht at Pier 81 will enjoy a lavish, semiformal, five-course seated dinner, premium open bar, celebratory fireworks, entertainment, party favors and champagne at the stroke of midnight.

MINTON'S JAZZ SUPPER CLUB—HARLEM. The birthplace of bebop in the 1930s, its legacy of culture, food and music continues to evolve. Minton's seasonal lineup spotlights world-renowned jazz artists in the Minton's Players House Band, Young Lions Residency, Minton's Night of Latin Soul and other critically acclaimed international jazz musicians. Savor the tantalizing cuisine of Chef JJ Johnson, featuring signature dishes such as Tidewater Gumbo, Creole Braised Lamb Shank, Smoked Trout Deviled eggs and other delicious fare.





RADIO CITY CHRISTMAS SPECTACULAR. Here, the holiday season is truly the most wonderful time of the year. It's especially so with the internationally renowned Rockettes continuing to mesmerize visitors with dazzling numbers, sensational costumes and state-of-the-art technology in the holiday event of the year. The Rockettes' electrifying Radio City Music Hall performances have been captivating audiences since 1933. Behold their magical and enchanted renditions of Snow, Rag Dolls, Living Nativity and Parade of Living Soldiers.

HOLIDAY WINDOW DISPLAYS AND DAYTRIPS. It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas with the first signs of magnificent window displays by the leading department stores along Fifth Avenue and beyond. Take a leisurely stroll around midtown Manhattan and view the festive, whimsical windows of Barneys New York, Bergdorf Goodman, Macy's, Bloomingdale's, Saks 5th Avenue, Tiffany & Co. and Lord & Taylor. Do some tangible and fantasy shopping on various city tours such as the NYC Holiday Lights Motorcoach Sightseeing Tour. This nearly four-hour, imaginative excursion features the prominent window displays, Central Park holiday markets, the tree at Lincoln Center, the world's largest snowflake, Times Square and Rockefeller Center. Tour six wonders of America with the CityPass, including the Empire State Building, Guggenheim Museum, Statue of Liberty, 9/11 Memorial and Museum and other notable attractions.

Rockefeller Center Yuletide Traditions. Visiting the 75- to 90-foot, eco-friendly Christmas tree at Rockefeller Center has been a custom of American families for 75 years. Ice skating at the base of the tree at the Rink at Rockefeller has become an iconic holiday postcard scene. Visit the scores of shops in the area, where you can purchase everything, including electronics, fashion, books, accessories, jewelry and gifts. Dine at a full spectrum of eateries, from decadent dessert cafes like Jacques Torres Chocolate and Dean & DeLuca's gourmet shop to elegant, Limani fine dining restaurants.



A NIGHT ON AND OFF BROADWAY. The cultural capital of the world features hordes of Christmas and holiday concerts, plays and musicals. Delight, for example, in *A Harlem Christmas Carol* at the Tato Laviera Theatre. Set in contemporary New York, this adaptation of Charles Dickens's holiday classic enchants with colorful costumes and riveting performances of favorite carols and melodies. Popular productions such as *The Lion King* at the Minskoff Theater, *The Book of Mormon* at the Eugene O'Neill Theatre, Mariah Carey at the Beacon Theatre, *Elf* at Madison Square Garden, *A Christmas Carol* at the Clurman Theatre and *The Hip Hop Nutcracker* at Prudential Hall (in nearby Newark, NJ) will fascinate both the young and young at heart.

TAKE IN THE HOTTEST COOL, COOL NIGHT SPOTS UP ON THE ROOF. This holiday season, Santa's not the only one atop the roof. Hotel Hugo's guests can soak in sweeping views while sipping signature, handcrafted cocktails and sampling finger foods at Bar Hugo or luxuriating in the ambiance of Cuban-inspired al-fresco Bar Azul. The Top of the Strand bar has a retractable glass roof revealing impressive views while serving up tasty light fare and specialty drinks. Dance the night away at the Refinery Rooftop Bar and Lounge in the heart of the fashion district. Visit various rooftop clubs throughout the NYC boroughs such as the Press Lounge, Pegu Club and Print.



THE MATCHLESS CUISINE OF THE CITY. New York is known for soothing the adventurous palates of multiethnic residents and worldwide visitors alike. Most ethnic cuisines are well represented in this culturally eclectic city. Visit the world famous Russian Tea Room, the Rainbow Room, Amy Ruth's, Sylvia's and the Maze, local favorites you shouldn't miss. Oceana, Osteria Morini, Union Square Café, Cibo and Brassiere are places you might definitely want to hit as well. Living up to its name as the City That Never Sleeps, Manhattan boasts a number of restaurants, such as the Sea Grill, Arta, Atrio, Bagatelle, David Burke Kitchen, Gossip and Buc di Beppo, that are open on Christmas Day, where you can dig into brunch and dinner featuring special holiday menus.