

# the newest new year's eves

The ball may drop in New York, but **these cities rise to the occasion** in a major way, too. —KAREN CATCHPOLE



|  | HOT TICKET  | AFTER MIDNIGHT  | LATE-NIGHT EATS  | BEST FREEBIE   | BONUS   |
|--|---|---|--|--|---|
|  <p><i>monterey, ca</i></p>   | <p>The <b>Monterey Bay Aquarium</b> hosts an adults-only Silver Fishes and New Year's Wishes event, where two live bands and a DJ perform in front of a 335,000-gallon aquarium tank filled with local sea life. (886 Cannery Row, 831-648-4800, montereybayaquarium.org)</p>   | <p>Spend the first moments of 2010 on the <b>Blue Moon Paddle tour</b>, a guided boat ride through the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary. <i>Psst</i>: New Year's Eve falls on the night of a blue moon! (800-649-5357, montereybaykayaks.com)</p> | <p>Hit the lounge at the <b>Sardine Factory</b> for a snack menu featuring specialty plates like local fried oysters. (701 Wave St., 831-373-3775, sardinefactory.com)</p>       | <p>Monterey Salinas Transit runs a <b>free shuttle</b> between the Del Monte Shopping Center and downtown hot spots every 10 minutes until 1 a.m. (see monterey.com)</p>                     | <p><b>At the family-friendly First Night Monterey celebration (firstnightmonterey.org), kids under five get in free.</b></p>        |
|  | TICKETS FROM \$95   | \$100 PER PERSON, INCLUDES GEAR*  | SMALL PLATES FROM \$4  |  |   |
|  <p><i>telluride, co</i></p> | <p><b>Sheridan Opera House</b> hosts a New Year's Eve gala with a live band, champagne, finger foods and dessert. At midnight, celebrators pour out of surrounding downtown bars, restaurants and homes to count down together in front of the street's county courthouse clock tower. (970-728-6363, sheridanoperahouse.com)</p>                 | <p><b>Downtown</b> is only about 8 blocks by 12 blocks in size, so you don't have to go far to hit any of the town's best bars or restaurants. Bonus: Once you get there, most of them stay open until 2 a.m.</p>                                       | <p><b>Brown Dog Pizza</b> brings in a DJ and serves piping-hot pizzas until 1 a.m. and slices until 2 a.m. (110 E. Colorado Ave., 970-728-8046, browndogpizza.com)</p>           | <p>Locals hop rides up on the ski lifts carrying torches—the effect is like a glowing river. A fireworks display follows. Take the <b>free gondola</b> to the top for a bird's-eye view.</p> | <p><b>Champagne will go to your head faster since the town's altitude is nearly 9,000 feet. So you'll save bucks on bubbly!</b></p> |
|  | TICKETS FROM \$100  |   | PIZZAS FROM \$11   |  |   |
|  <p><i>new orleans</i></p>  | <p>Get decked out for the 1940s-themed celebration at the city's <b>National World War II Museum</b> and take your pick of entertainment: a 4-D movie screening at the 6 p.m. dinner seating or a multicourse meal and live musical at the 9 p.m. seating. (945 Magazine St., 504-528-1944, nationalww2museum.org)</p>                            | <p>Let the tourists take the French Quarter. Instead, hang with local musicians at the swanky <b>Snug Harbor Jazz Bistro</b>, a few blocks away in the Faubourg Marigny district. (626 Frenchmen St., 504-949-0696, snugjazz.com)</p>                   | <p>Try the hearty breakfasts, like pork chops and eggs, at the <b>Clover Grill</b>. The restaurant stays open 24 hours. (900 Bourbon St., 504-598-1010, clovergrill.com)</p>     | <p>The city fireworks are best seen from across the Mississippi River in Algiers. You can get there in five minutes, thanks to the <b>free ferry service</b> that runs every half hour.</p>  | <p><b>The bars provide "go-cups," so you can walk with your drink to the next bar.</b></p>  |
|  | TICKETS FROM \$75-\$200*  |   | BREAKFAST DISHES \$1.50-\$8  |  |   |
|  <p><i>tempe, az</i></p>    | <p>Head to the <b>21st Annual Insight Bowl</b> at Sun Devil Stadium, where Big Ten and Big 12 conferences battle it out during the day. At 5 p.m., the gates open onto a massive street party a few blocks away, where guests can roam among nine entertainment stages, a dance club and five beer gardens, and watch two fireworks displays.</p> | <p>Get a properly poured Guinness—and free party favors and hats—at <b>Rúla Búla Irish Pub</b>. The building's interior was shipped over from Ireland and reassembled in town. (401 S. Mill Ave., 480-929-9500, rulabula.com)</p>                       | <p>Sneak a listen to Fiesta Bowl bands and see the fireworks from the vine-strewn courtyard at the <b>House of Tricks</b>. (114 E. 7th St., 480-968-1114, houseoftricks.com)</p> | <p>The city gives the green light for all <b>public buses</b> to run free of charge until as late as 2 a.m. Hop a ride home after the festivities.</p>                                       | <p><b>The Mill Avenue District between Third and Seventh streets is closed to traffic, so enjoy the town by foot.</b></p>           |
|  | TICKETS FROM \$22   |   |  |  |   |

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