

New Year's Eve on Times Square, New York



Did you know that over one billion TV viewers throughout the world tune in to the New Year's celebrations in Times Square every year? This month, we look at how the tradition started and give you some fascinating facts around one of the biggest parties in the world. [Click here to read more...](#)

Where did it start?

More than one million people gather in New York's Times Square every year on the 31st December to celebrate the ending of one year and the welcoming of the next one. But when did this tradition start? Well, the New Year's Eve of 1904 saw the inauguration of the tower housing the new publication *The New York Times* on what had been known as 'Longacre Square'. Alfred Ochs, the owner of *The New York Times* had convinced the city authorities to rename the square 'Times Square' and threw a huge party for New Yorkers on New Year's Eve to celebrate the opening. People came in their thousands, not only that year but also in the years following it. 1904 was also the year that New York's first subway line was opened, which helped more people to make it to Times Square.

Click here to find out more information about **Times Square on New Year's Eve**:
<http://www.timessquarenyc.org/new-years-eve/index.aspx>

What is the *New York Ball Drop*?

When the city authorities banned the firework display in 1907, Alfred Ochs had a 700 lb (approx. 317.5 kg) iron and wood ball lowered at midnight from the top of the flagpole of *The New York Times* Tower. This also became a tradition and today sets off the firework display after the countdown to the new year. Today's ball was made by Waterford Crystal and is nearly 12000 lb (approx. 5443 kg). Since 2008, the ball has been on display all year round.

Ball-dropping has represented the passing of time since 1833, when the first 'time-ball' was set on top of the Royal Observatory in Greenwich, UK. Every day at 1 o'clock pm, the ball would drop so that captains of nearby ships could set their chronometers.

Have a look here for more information on the **Times Square Ball**:
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Times_Square_Ball

If you want to go ...

you should hurry! Tickets are selling fast for the All-Access Pass to the Times Square area. Be warned though – you will have to pay between 250\$ and 355\$!