

Global Cities Host New Year Fireworks

VOCABULARY WORDS

1. **anticipated** (adjective) /æn'tɪs.ɪ.peɪ.tɪd/ – Feeling excited about something that is going to happen.
Example: The fireworks show is the most anticipated part of the New Year's Eve party.
2. **solidarity** (noun) /ˌsɒl.ɪ'dær.ə.ti/ – Support by one person or group for another because they share feelings or aims.
Example: The city canceled its party in solidarity with people who lost their homes in the flood.
3. **iconic** (adjective) /aɪ'kɒn.ɪk/ – Very famous or popular, especially being a symbol of something.
Example: The Eiffel Tower is an iconic building that everyone recognizes in photos.
4. **spectacle** (noun) /'spek.tə.kəl/ – An unusual or very exciting event or sight that is beautiful to look at.
Example: The 360-degree fireworks in Dubai were a magnificent spectacle for the tourists.
5. **symbolize** (verb) /'sɪm.bə.laɪz/ – To be a sign or a representation of something else.
Example: In Brazil, people wear white clothes to symbolize purity and a new beginning.
6. **procession** (noun) /prə'seʃ.ən/ – A line of people or vehicles that move forward slowly as part of a ceremony.
Example: The festival began with a beautiful torch procession through the old streets of the city.
7. **curated** (verb/adjective) /kjʊə'reɪ.tɪd/ – Carefully chosen and organized to be of high quality.
Example: The music and lights in Sydney are curated by experts to create a perfect show.



Fireworks are a very important part of New Year's Eve celebrations around the world. Huge crowds gather in city centers to count down the final seconds together. These shows are a major draw for tourists who want to see the lights. However, some cities in Indonesia canceled their 2026 parties to show solidarity with flood victims. While those cities are quiet, many other global capitals are preparing massive displays.

- ➡ Question 1: How does the concept of "solidarity" influence the 2026 New Year plans in Jakarta?
- ➡ Question 2: What is the dual purpose of major fireworks shows according to the first paragraph?

The United Arab Emirates hosts two of the most impressive shows in the world. In Ras Al Khaimah, they use over 2,300 drones and lasers to light up the sky. This massive show is six kilometers long and lasts for fifteen minutes. Meanwhile, Dubai features a stunning display around the Burj Khalifa, the world's tallest building. These events use modern technology to create a record-breaking experience for every visitor.

- ➡ Question 1: What technological elements distinguish the Ras Al Khaimah show from a traditional fireworks display?
- ➡ Question 2: Why is the geographic scale of the Ras Al Khaimah event considered "massive"?

In Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, the celebration starts at sunset on the famous Copacabana Beach. Local people wear white clothes because they want to start the year with purity. When midnight arrives, the fireworks reflect off the ocean waves in a beautiful way. This celebration is a mix of natural beauty and exciting human energy. It is one of the most famous beach parties on the planet.

- ➡ Question 1: What is the cultural significance of the specific attire worn by locals in Rio de Janeiro?
- ➡ Question 2: How does the environment of Copacabana Beach enhance the visual experience of the fireworks?

European cities like London, Edinburgh, and Paris also have very old traditions. In London, the fireworks soar over the River Thames near the famous Big Ben clock. Edinburgh, Scotland, is famous for "Hogmanay," a festival that lasts for three whole days. In Paris, the show centers on the historic Arc de Triomphe and the Champs-Élysées. These cities use their iconic buildings as backdrops for artistic light and music animations.

- ➡ Question 1: How does the duration of the Hogmanay festival compare to a standard New Year's Eve celebration?
- ➡ Question 2: What role do historic landmarks play in the artistic design of European fireworks displays?

Sydney, Australia, is often considered the best place in the world for New Year's Eve. The city produces a special light parade and a huge final show at midnight. Fireworks launch from the Sydney Harbor Bridge and the Opera House at the same time. One of the most famous parts is the "fire waterfall" that drops from the bridge. This show is designed to be perfect for families and children to enjoy.

- ➡ Question 1: What specific visual effect makes the Sydney Harbor Bridge display unique?
- ➡ Question 2: Why might the City of Sydney prioritize a "curated" family-friendly approach for its main event?

DISCUSSION

1. If your city had a flood, would you want the New Year fireworks to be canceled, or would they make you feel better?
2. Which do you think is more exciting: traditional fireworks or modern drones and lasers? Why?
3. In Brazil, people wear white for purity. If you could choose one color for everyone in your country to wear on New Year, what would it be?
4. If you had to watch the fireworks from a boat on a river or a balcony on a tall building, which would you pick?

5. The Scottish festival lasts three days. What would you do if you had to party for 72 hours without stopping?
6. Imagine you are the "Master of Fireworks" for your city. What music would you play during the big show?
7. Sydney has a 9 p.m. show for families and a midnight show for adults. Do you think all cities should do this?