

ShermanTravel

7 Romantic New Year's Eve Getaways That Won't Break the Bank

by Sheryl Nance-Nash • Dec 4, 2018



Fireworks on the Potomac River from Alexandria, VA / josephgruber/istock

Why spend New Year's Eve sitting on the couch watching celebrations in other, faraway destinations? This year, go the extra mile, grab your partner, and celebrate the start of a brand new year with a romantic getaway. Here are a few destinations to explore with your sweetheart that won't break the bank.

Myrtle Beach, South Carolina

What's more romantic than a long walk on the beach? With temperatures in the 60s, a stroll on along the sand is a must. But that's not all **Myrtle Beach** offers visitors. Take your pick of live music venues, restaurants, wine bars, brewpubs, craft brew bars, nightclubs, comedy, karaoke bars, and more. When it comes to lodging, check out **The DoubleTree Resort by Hilton, Myrtle Beach Oceanfront**. The resort is located on the south end of the Grand Strand, a 60-mile stretch of beach, and is boarded by a state park, making it the perfect place for those looking for some peace and quiet. The resort's New Year's Eve Getaway hotel package starts at \$135 per night and includes a bottle of champagne and breakfast buffet for two at the oceanfront Ocean Blue restaurant. Just minutes from the property is **The Market Common**, a dining and shopping complex that will be the center of this year's festivities. The free event, called **A Southern Times Square in Valor Park**, features live music, food, drinks, and fireworks.

Sanity-saving tip: You can make your trip even cheaper by taking advantage of **Visit Myrtle Beach's** coupons, deals, and discounts, which can be used on restaurants, golf, dinner shows, and more.

Blaine, Washington

If you're on the hunt for sweeping ocean views and lots of surrounding natural beauty, head to Blaine, Washington, which just is 45 minutes south of Vancouver, British Columbia and 90 minutes north of Seattle. **The Semiahmoo Resort** offers tons of pampering options. If you're looking to explore the outdoors, you can also go skiing, ice skating, and snowshoeing. Rooms range from \$200 to \$240 per night, with rates going up to \$359 to \$399 on New Year's Eve, and the resort is also offering a \$50 credit. When it comes to finding the perfect New Year's Eve festivities, you don't have to leave the property. The resort's annual **Masquerade at Midnight** is \$75 per adult and includes a cocktail reception, dinner buffet, light snacks, live music, champagne, and a sparkling cider toast at midnight to ring in the new year. You can also enjoy fireworks from the beach at the **Ring of Fire & Hope** celebration, where people gather along the shores of Birch Bay with lighted flares.

Sanity-saving tip: Skip the buffet dinner and order room service instead. Then, join the party after 9 p.m. and pay just \$35 per adult for the Masquerade at Midnight.

Alexandria, VA

If you're unsure where to spend your New Year's Eve, you may want to consider Alexandria. The city was named the best value U.S. travel destination in 2018 by *Money Magazine* and the third most romantic U.S. city in 2017 by Amazon. You and your partner will certainly get into the holiday spirit as you two stroll under a canopy of twinkling lights on King Street, dine in quality restaurants in historic buildings, cuddle up in front of a fireplace, catch a live performance, or enjoy a couples massage at the **Kimpton Lorien Hotel & Spa**. The best part? You'll be getting lots of bang for your buck. The lowest average daily rate for hotels in December is \$119 per night. The city celebrates New Year's Eve with the annual **First Night Alexandria**, where you'll find more than 150 live performances at 24 indoor venues. Once the clock strikes 10 p.m., dance at the foot of King Street and enjoy the fireworks over the Potomac River at midnight.

Sanity-saving tip: Alexandria is a short distance from Washington, D.C. Consider taking the train between these destinations to save, and skip the traffic.

Bristol, Rhode Island

Bristol is a quiet seaside town, picturesque with its Gothic Revival, Romanesque, Queen Anne Italianate, and Colonial Revival architecture. The food is fantastic at places like [The Lobster Pot](#), [DeWolf Tavern](#), and [Leo's Ristorante](#) — plus, it won't cost you a fortune. Bristol is just a short drive to nearby Providence, where you might choose to ring in the New Year at [One Providence Ball Drop](#), complete with laser lights, fireworks, food trucks, vendors, and more.

Sanity-saving tip: Stay at a B&B like the historic [Bradford-Dimond-Norris House](#) for a true New England experience. Or, if you want to curb costs even more, consider Airbnb.

St. Lucia

St. Lucia's Piton mountains are in a class by themselves. Even if the mountains don't move you, there's still plenty to do here, including snorkeling, sailing, or simply unwinding in a cabana on the beach. If you're looking for further relaxation, head to [The Diamond Falls Botanical Gardens & Mineral Baths](#), where it's just \$7 to enter and \$6 for the public baths. As if the sheer beauty of the island isn't enough to entice you, much is planned for New Year's Eve. At [Coconut Bay Beach Resort and Spa](#), there's a 007-themed New Year's Eve celebration complete with fireworks. Guests are encouraged to dress up with Bond-style glamour. What's more, in honor of the New Year's Eve celebration, there is a 40 percent savings offer with a 7-night minimum stay from December 28 through January 2, 2019. All-inclusive rates start at \$284 per person, per night based on double occupancy. Guests staying seven nights or longer also receive a coupon book offering \$1000 in resort credits redeemable for exclusive savings on spa treatments, boutique purchases, photography services, island tours, and more.

Sanity-saving tip: Don't overpack. Save money by just traveling with a carry-on. The island is carefree and casual, so you two won't need much — besides yourselves.

North Lake Tahoe, California

With the nation's largest alpine lake and largest concentration of ski resorts, North Lake Tahoe is a festive destination anytime of year, but it's especially ideal for ringing in the new year. There are plenty of attractions to set the mood for romance, including sleigh rides through the snow on the shore of Sand Harbor Beach, or rides on gondolas to dinner at the top of a mountain. Consider staying at [Sunnyside Restaurant & Lodge](#), where lakefront rooms with a fireplace start at \$204 per night. Enjoy the holiday with a [New Year's Eve Snowshoe Tour at Tahoe Donner](#). After the hike, enjoy drinks at the Trailside Bar to watch the fireworks. You can also check out [Granlibakken's New Year's Eve](#) celebration, which includes dinner, dancing, a balloon drop, and a champagne toast for \$85 per person for non-guests. However, before heading out to celebrate, watch [The World's Largest Torchlight Parade](#), where skiers and riders light up the night sky with colorful lights.

Sanity saving tip: Look for deals on lodging and activities on North Lake Tahoe's [web site](#).