

## New Year Celebrations Mark 2017 Around the World

Pablo Navarro - Jan 01, 2017



Auckland in New Zealand started its New Year party an hour later, with a countdown at the city's Sky Tower followed by a firework and laser show.

Some 1.5 million people are packing Australia's biggest city to watch the midnight fireworks, a larger-than-usual crowd due to the weekend timing and warm weather, as the New South Wales state premier urged "business as usual".

There is a huge police presence on the streets as spectators from nearly 100 countries flock to the River Thames to view the pyrotechnics, which will begin painting the night sky as Big Ben strikes midnight. The livestream for the 2017 New Year's Eve in Times Square can be caught on the [Earthcam](#), which would be their 21st webcast to date.

There will also be a nod to the Bowie classic Space Oddity, with Saturn, moon and star-shaped fireworks.

Australia is normally the first country in the world to celebrate each new year, and things will not change when 2017 rolls around.

So far during Operation Talisman, 15 people have been arrested and charged with a total of 21 offences, including assaults, street and drug-related offences. Play around a little with this, but in the end it's more about the timing of the fireworks in the shot than anything else once you've got your settings right.

In case of inclement weather, organizers will set the fireworks off the following night, Sunday, at the same time.

The German city of Cologne's police chief also said security there will also be stepped up ahead of New Year celebrations in response to last week's truck attack in Berlin.

An extra 2,000 police officers have been drafted in to the city while buses were used to close off some pedestrian areas amid fears about a repeat of this year's extremist atrocities in Germany and France.

Reports say concrete barriers and heavy goods vehicles would be used to block off central squares where crowds gather to celebrate in Paris, Madrid and NY.

In Beijing police forbade countdowns, lightshows, lotteries and other organised activities usually held in popular shopping districts.

After a year that saw the deaths of a seemingly endless parade of legendary entertainers, Sydney's famed fireworks display will tonight honour some of the most beloved.

On Friday a man in Sydney was charged in connection with threats made against Sydney's New Year's Eve celebrations.

Revelers around the world have been welcoming 2017 with crackling fireworks displays and loud cheering, saying goodbye to a year filled with political surprises, prolonged conflicts and the deaths of several beloved performers.