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Photo (c) Half-point - Getty ImagesA month after New York City schools banned the use of video conferencing application Zoom, schools in the city will again be allowed to use the platform for distance learning purposes. The NYC Department of Education (DOE) and Zoom announced Wednesday that schools and students will now have access to a central NYC Department of Education's Zoom account with data encryption and storage settings the district has requested Zoom for all of its users. Our new deal with Zoom will give your kids another way to connect with their schools, teachers and school staff. We are excited to be able to have another safe and secure option for school communities to use during this unprecedented time, NYC Department of Education Chancellor Richard A. Carranza wrote in a letter to families, schools and students. Previously banned Last month, New York City's DOE banned the use of Zoom after receiving multiple reports documenting issues that impacted the security and privacy of the Zoom platform. The Department advised schools to move to other platforms for conducting virtual classes, such as Microsoft Teams. On the heels of the announcement, Zoom agreed to lift its efforts to ensure the privacy and security of its platform, especially when used by students and teachers. Education Department officials told Chalkbeat that Zoom has implemented new institutions to ensure only approved participants and guests can join virtual classrooms. This will help prevent the occurrence of Zoombombing, where a hacker disrupts a meeting with racist remarks, aggressive language, pornographic content or even death threats. The step-up of SecurityZoom CEO Eric Yuan said that his company is working hard to increase security measures after an unexpected surge in users in the wake of COVID-19 business closures. In a security announcement posted Tuesday, Zoom said it would soon launch several new features to protect free basic users. Here are the new features that will be enabled from beginning May 9: Passwords will be needed for all meetings, including new meetings, previously scheduled meetings, and those using PMWaiting Rooms for PMI will be turned on by defaultScreen sharing privileges, will be host by default. This improved protection will help enable our free users to safely meet right out of the box , says Zoom's Edward Lee. After Zoom was banned, the department directed teachers to use alternative tools like Microsoft Teams and Google Classroom. However, not everyone was happy about this move; critics said it disrupted the learning process as teachers while they are already under the pressure to shift to remote education. Schools can continue to use Google Classroom or Microsoft Teams if they prefer those tools, but some teachers on Twitter posted to they were happy to be able to use Zoom again. In this section: Public Calendar - Meetings with FDA Officials The FDA Public Calendar contains reports of meetings held by FDA policymakers with persons outside the executive branch of the federal government. For previous years' meetings, see the FDA Archive. November/December 2019 Public Calendar: December 29, 2019 - January 4, 2020 Public Calendar: December 22-28, 2019 Public Calendar: December 15-21, 2019 Public Calendar: December 8-14, 2019 Public Calendar: December 1-7, 2019 Public Calendar: November 24-30, 2019 Public Calendar: November 17-23, 2019 Public Calendar: November 10-16, 2019 Public Calendar: November 3 -9, 2019 September/October 2019 July/August 2019 May/June 2019 March/April 2019 January/February 2019 Public Calendar: February 24 - March 2, 2019 Public Calendar: February 17-23, 2019 Public Calendar: February 10-16, 2019 Public Calendar: February 3-9, 2019 Public Calendar: January 27 - February 2, 2019 Public Calendar: January 20-26, 2019 Public Calendar: January 13-19, 2019 Public Calendar: January 6-12, 2019 Public Calendar: December 31, 2017 - January 6, 2018 Back to Top Like To-do Lists , calendars help provide the illusion of organization and control over tasks and obligations. But not only any calendar will do. At least it's my theory that if you don't care about the style and layout of the calendar software or calendar format you use to track events, you probably don't need a calendar at all. Maybe it's a matter of taste or aesthetics, maybe it's a touch of OCD. But if you're a calendar kind of person, you have some decent options heading into the new year. Word has always been deficient in offering useful built-in calendar templates – heavy on ugly design elements and light on functionality. So I built this little bare-bones template that automatically adds the dates for you depending on the number of days you specify. There is room to enter your appointments and activities. And not much else. It's simple, but practical. (You can tilt a little clipart in there, if you feel the urge. Snowflake for January, whatever.) Then you have the cutter choices, courtesy of Microsoft Office Online. These are prefab calendars for various applications and purposes. Sixty-four of them, completely. There are a bunch of academic calendars in Visio, Excel, Publisher, and Word format. Calendars by the month, year and multi-year. Portrait, landscape, five days, seven. A range of incredibly ugly PowerPoint calendars, including some misguided stripes and some sort of Madras plaid. Moon calendars for different time zones (who knew the moon operated like this), photo calendars, postcard calendars. And even a basic 12-month calendar in Word without a single art deco design nonsense on it. If your taste runs like this. Happy Calendar! By Kyler AlvordUpdated on at 4:57 PMWhether this is your first or hundred-and-first, winter in New York City will test your mettle. It will tempt you to exhaust all your sick days on the couch with a good book. It will coax you to spend half your salary on hot candles. It will lay the sidewalks with sleds on the one day you made outdoor plans. But as the cold rages, don't give in to the beloved of hunger until spring. Bragging the cold requires some courage, but paying off the embrace of fun winter activities is worth it. So before you thank yourself for hibernation, giving the Big Apple's winter a real chance to impress you. Here's every NYC festival, market, party, and parade that's worth your time from now until spring. Dyker Heights | DiegoMariottini/ShutterstockVisit the city's most decorated neighborhoodUntil the new yearDyker HeightsEvery city has that one neighborhood that all goes out with Christmas décor. In NYC, these are Dyker Heights. The Southwest Brooklyn neighborhood rallies crowds of Christmas fiends every December thanks to its residents' unprecedented holiday spirit. The best lit spots are a bit of a walk from the subway, but it's manageable if you bundle up: Take the R train to 86th Street or the D train to 18th Avenue.Cost: FreeRockettesCelebrate the season with the Radio City RockettesThrough January 5MidtownThe Rockettes are central to New York's holiday scene: They dance in the Thanksgiving Day parade, they perform at the Rockefeller Center tree lighting, and they embody the holiday spirit as the stars of Radio City's magical Christmas Spectacular. And if you visit out-of-towners, you'll probably have to nab tickets. Be a good host and see what makes the kicking crew one of the most celebrated dance companies in the country. Cost: Prices range from \$46 to triple digits depending on the date and time of the showExplore the outer boroughs' biggest lantern showsThrough JanuaryVarious locationsThe outer boroughs brighten the sky with lanterns and light displays this holiday season. The Bronx Zoo Holiday lights shine in Belmont from November 29 - December 31 and January 3 - January 5, the LuminoCity Festival covers Randall's Island until January 5, the famous NYC Winter Lantern Festival is an excellent reason to visit Staten Island through January 12, and the first Hello Panda Festival bright Citi Field until January 26.Cost: Prices vary by festival, but expect to pay in the \$20-40 series for an adult ticketHoliday window display Andrew F. Kazmierski/ShutterstockSee the famous holiday window showcaseThrough the holidayMidtownChristmas windows were once a big deal in Manhattan. Shops up and down Fifth Avenue struggled for shoppers' attention with showy mannequins and flashy lights. Today, there are fewer than ever, but the dazzling Saks show still dazzles. A further west, Macy's Herald Herald also shines brightly, and the new Nordstrom Women's Store near Columbus Circle will join the ranks of corporate retailers leaning into the holiday spirit. Cost: Free to gawk, expensive to shopUnion Square Holiday Market | Liz LigonPeruse the winter marketsThrough MarchVarious locationsBuy last-minute holiday gifts, winter apartment décor, and new wardrobe pieces at this season's biggest holiday markets. Or just go through for hot treats and drinks. The Union Square and Columbus Circle holiday markets remain open through Christmas Eve, the Holiday Shops at Bryant Park remain until January 5, and the Brooklyn Flea Winter Market is open every Saturday and Sunday by the end of March.Cost: Free to enter; vendor prices vary The Rink at Brookfield Place with Gregory and PetukhovSlip in skates and hit the iceAll season longVarious locationsWhen the city turns to ice, laces up your skates and makes the most of it. Whether you're planning a date, killing an afternoon with friends, or visiting New York for the first time, slipping into one of the many outdoor ice rinks that appear during the cold months. Their limited time-only appeal makes them essential winter pastime; just lie up so you can focus more at the moment than the subfreezing temperature. Cost: Admission and skating rental prices vary, but if you gravity to fewer tourist rinks, you can both find for under \$20 on our ice rink roundupBring plena music on the streets of MelroseSaturday, December 21MelroseCelebrate the season Puerto Rico-style during the Melrose Holiday Parranda, a carefree-adjacent tradition when people sing, drum, and dance through the Bronx holiday cheer to spread, pay special visits to cultural venues in the area. If you have a jolly smile, a cheeky voice, and a love of Christmas, that's the parade for you. Cost: FreeCelebrate Hanukkah at the world's largest menorahsSunday, December 22 - Monday, December 30Midtown & Prospect HeightsGather for nightly lighting at one of two record-breaking menorahs this Hanukkah. In Manhattan's Grand Army Plaza, lightings of the 32-foot-high menorah typically happen at 5:30 p.m., except for Friday (3:30pm) and Saturday (8pm). In Brooklyn's Grand Army Plaza, lightings of the just-so-large candelabrum happen nightly at 6pm except for Friday (3:30pm) and Saturday (7pm). In Brooklyn, you can expect music and potato pancakes every night as well. Cost: FreeFireworks at Prospect Park | Athena Lao/FlickrKiss the 2010s goodbyeTuesday, December 31CitywideThere's no shortage of New Year's Eve parties in the city ready to usile you in 2020. If you're looking for the biggest, there's obviously the Times Square Ball Drop. Tone it down a few notes and you have the Prospect Park performances and fireworks. If it's still too rowdy, see what your local pub has planned and find a New Year's kiss the old-fashioned way. You can in and count down from your couch, but don't you want to start the new decade differently than you spent the last one? Cost: Activities in public spaces are free; NYE-themed parties often have admission feesFlex your knowledge along with your brightest friendsMonday, January 6 - Sunday, March 15Various locationsEstablish a winter routine with up to five of your friends and register for the NYC Trivia League's 40th season. There's no buy-in fee, and you can choose from a variety of hosting bars in a variety of neighborhoods, every hosting trivia nights at different days and times. It's flexible, it's low-risk, and it's more entertaining than the weekly happy hour catch-up. If your team is, you know, smartly, you can just walk away with weekly prizes and a shot at the generous, end-of-season cash award. Cost: Free to play; beverage prices vary depending on the venueExperience a night of culinary blissMonday, January 13Bed-StuyChef DeVonn Francis of Yardy World prominence brings a Caribbean menu to Brooklyn for his one-night stay at The Fly. Think tropical cocktails (\$13), cod rillettes with pepper chutney (\$13), tongue sauce with manila clams (\$12), rum cake (\$10), and jerk rotisserie chicken that comes in half size or whole (\$18/\$32). The dinner starts at 5 p.m., and no reservations are needed — guests sit on a first-come, first-served basis. Cost: A La carte menu items run from \$8 to \$32Times Square in the heart of the Theater District | HannaTor/ShutterstockScore 2-for-1 tickets to some of Broadway's bestTuesday, January 21 - Sunday, February 9CitywideBroadway shows are... truly expensive. Of course, there are lotteries to win tickets on the cheap (er), but everyone knows they're no guarantee. So where does that leave you? Wait for NYC Broadway Week, a special time of year when you can catch the best shows on Broadway at a discount rate. Watch the event page for details; tickets go on sale January 8.Cost: Tickets for select shows are buy one, get one freeEnjoy fine dining at a more affordable priceTuesday, January 21 - Sunday, February 9CitywideNew York City is a culinary mecca, but Michelin-starred restaurants charge prohibitively expensive Michelin-starred prices. Twice a year, foodies can frolic on a budget at some of the city's best restaurants thanks to NYC Restaurant Week. The booking links drop on January 8, allowing plenty of time to make an attack plan. Cost: \$26 for a two-course lunch; \$42 for a three-course dinnerTuesday, January 21 - Sunday February 9, 9CitywideTourists and locals agree that there's always more to experience in the five boroughs. NYC Must-See Week coincides with Broadway Week and Restaurant Week: For 20 days you can see shows, visit attractions, explore museums and take city tours without funding your activity fund drain. Watch the event page for tickets go on sale January 8.Cost: Tickets for participating attractions buy one, get one freeLunar New Year Parade | Steve Edreff/ShutterstockRing in the Year of the RatSaturday, January 25 - Saturday, February 8Various locationsChinese New Year falls on January 25, but celebrations run through February. Among the largest is the Firecracker Ceremony & Cultural Festival in Manhattan's Chinatown on January 25, the Lunar New Year Celebration at Queens Botanical Garden on January 25, and the Lunar New Year Parade & Feast on February 8. Among the booziest is the LUCKYRICE Cocktail Festival on January 28. And of course, you don't need an opportunity to get in the spirit: Nosh on dumplings and taking a walk any time of the day in one of the city's main Chinatowns: Lower Manhattan, Sunset Park, and Flushing.Cost: Parades and festivals are free to attend; check out private event prizes in advanceWatch Super Bowl LIV with other rowdy fansSunday, February 2CitywideIf you can't watch the Super Bowl live in Miami, go for the next best thing: a viewing party in a sports bar. There's only so much beer (and less overpriced), just as many fans (a Super Bowl viewing necessity), and just as little elbow room (all part of the fun, right?). The Giants and Jets may have fell short this year, but there's no reason your Super Bowl should have plans on Sunday. Cost: Cover costs and beverage costs will vary by barTake a painting class on a romantic Valentine's handy cruiseFriday, February 14Departs of Kips BayThere's nothing wrong with going out for Valentine's dinner, but Empire Cruises can do you one better with the Valentine's Day Sip & Paint Cruise. Unlimited beer, wine and cool days are offered during the three-hour boat trip while you paint your own canvas. It's romantic, it's boozy, it's relatively affordable for a Hallmark holiday, and it'll give you SO the best Valentine's Day story to share around the water cooler on Monday. Order yourself a world's best bae mug while you're at it. Cost: \$49-69 for admission and unlimited drinks; food available for purchaseKick off NYC Beer WeekSaturday, February 22GreenpointNYC Beer Week launches February 22 with 'big ol' Opening Bash. Expect plenty of castings from NYC breweries plus a handful of special guests. Details about participating breweries and other Beer Week events have not yet been released, but are following with the NYC Brewers Guild to get in on all the hopy action. Cost: Early bird tickets are \$65; on January 4, GA tickets increased to \$75; VIP tickets are \$115Make most of Leap DaySaturday, February 29CitywideWhen the world gives you an extra day of life, how do you spend it? By packing as much as humanly as possible, of course. Fill out your Leap Day calendar with the best NYC has to offer: Grab a coffee, brunch yourself, tour a museum, volunteer, eat a light lunch, take a sip a hot toddy, see a show, enjoy fine dining, laugh at comedy, and get a late-night drink before dancing. There's so much to do, and this once-every-four-year vacation isn't one to waste. Cost: Can you really put a price on mems? Chocolate, Wine, Whiskey FestivalGorge on all your guilty pleasureSaturday, March 7GreenpointChocolate, wine, and whiskey is the new peanut butter and jelly: a harmonious union you won't be able to get enough. The Brooklyn Chocolate, Wine & Whiskey Festival takes the Brooklyn EXPO Center for a second year with numerous varieties of chocolate treats and alcoholic drinks. A ticket includes unlimited pours of wines, beers and spirits; chocolate and sweets; and a fondue bar. Savory foods are also available for purchase. Cost: GA tickets start at \$35; VIP tickets start at \$60St. Patrick's Day Parade | Steve Edreff/ShutterstockShow your greenest colors at the St. Patrick's Day ParadeTuesday, March 17Midtown East & Upper East SideCheer and dance at the 259th New York City St. Patrick's Day Parade on Manhattan's east side. The tradition dates back to 1762, and this year it returns to Fifth Avenue for another round of festivals from 11am to 5pm. Participants walk down 44th Street and turn up at East 79th Street, march, jiggling, and pocket all the way. James T. Callahan, president of the New York Friends of Ireland, will lead the march as the 2020 Grand Marshall.Cost: FreeSign here for our daily NYC email and be the first to get all the food/beverage/fun New York has to offer. Kyler Alvord needs a better winter coat. Send him your ressh on Instagram or Twitter. or Twitter.

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