

# SEEVA

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**INSIDE**  
COVID  
IMPACT:  
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WORK FROM  
HOME WOES

**PLUS**  
FOOD, FESTIVE  
SEASON, TRAVEL  
& MORE

A Sterling  
Advocate For  
**SCIENCE**

**MAYA AJMERA**

# PARTYING IN PLACE

*This Christmas is best spent at home, but you can still party and have fun while you usher in the New Year*

**BINDU GOPAL RAO**



**C**ome December and there is a palpable sense of cheer. This year it may be muted a bit by the pandemic but there is more reason to celebrate and have a good time at home. We tell you about some holiday party theme ideas and virtual Christmas party ideas here. Read on.

## **PARTY EATS**

This Christmas, why not give a healthy twist to the season's festivities? Well, if that is on your mind, try immunity building and super delicious Party Popsicles. "Take a bit of slices of strawberries, raspberries and a tall glass of water. Mold the berries to the bottom, then grab a hold of Chicnutrix Glow and Chicnutrix Super C, easily available online and combine both to add an abundance of vitamins and nutrients to this tasty treat. Freeze the concoction for an hour and enjoy a delicious holiday dessert. What's amazing is its vegan and sugar free too and you will light up the room with your glowing skin," says Shilpa Khanna Thakkar, founder of Chicnutrix. And there you have it: a super holiday party theme idea. Or you could simply buy the organic popsicles from Goodpops.

## **GUZZLE IT DOWN**

The virtual party is a digital get-to-



gether where people meet virtually or online using video conference platforms like Zoom or Google Meet and share cocktails, play games and have fun. Cocktails, music, games and most importantly friends – that is all you need to have a zoom party while maintaining social distancing. But arranging all this can be a lot of work and you might probably end up doing nothing.

"What if someone arranges live music, cocktails and games for you and your friends," asks Vrinda Singhal, founder of Swizzle, India's only com-

pany to deliver cocktail kits at home. "Swizzle, a fresh, yet ready-to-drink cocktail brand, has this concept of virtual parties featuring live music, games and obviously cocktails. We offer a multiple location cocktail kit delivery service to host successful parties while maintaining social distancing." Or you could simply log on to Cocktail Courier to order your cocktail with a recipe as well.

## **SWING IT**

The best way to enjoy the holidays is a Digital Disco with a DJ. "A virtual party with a DJ playing all our favorite dance numbers which will make us groove the night away," says Lavang Khare, senior vice president at Adfactors PR. "It will be a coming together of friends in what better way than with the dance and music and food we love? The food of course will be shared virtually. But the fun will be that there is a theme and snacks decided in advance – dancing coffee, tipsy punch, lazy bean burger, frizzy corn cutlets, dancing chicken in teriyaki sauce and, most important, a festive online jamming session to finish the





entire celebration.” Certainly, a great virtual Christmas party idea.

**COOK TOGETHER**

According to Saru Mukherjee Sharma, mom blogger and digital content creator, Diapers & Lipsticks, “You can host a virtual cook-off. Get the same ingredients, set up a timer, set some ground rules. All you need is culinary skills and a stable internet

connection. Cooking games are super fun and cooking virtually is great fun. Cook something you are already a pro at, or try your hands at something new. Trust me, this will be so much better than those potlucks. Or you can just Zoom over good old games like Bingo, Tambola or Housie. They are equally fun even if they are hosted virtually.” Just use your creativity this season and you can

come up with many virtual Christmas party ideas as well as holiday party theme ideas. After all the fun in a party is planning it right. Stay safe and stay home – but party on.

These are some ideas for quarantine parties by Aashumi Mahajan, co-founder of The Luxe Maison, India’s premiere haute couture e-boutique:

- In cities and small towns, terrace parties of limited people have gained popularity
- Netflix parties work in cities.
- Create videos for birthdays and watch them together from your respective homes.
- Hold Zoom card parties.

**TIPS**

- Shake elbows instead of hands.
- Keep hand sanitizers handy, and soap, paper towels, tissues and spare masks at the ready.
- When you send invites, list precautions. At the entrance put up a sign with the precautions listed again.
- Keep outside eatables to a minimum. ♦



# Our Favorite Holiday Markets Across the United States

*A new way: While many markets are canceled, some continue with the right safety measures, and some have online options to help you shop for gifts*

**JORDANA WEISS**

With COVID-19 spiking across the country and public health officials urging caution, families need to be very careful about planning their holidays this year. Unfortunately, this means that many of our favorite holiday activities have been canceled, or extremely curtailed to ensure that all the participants are as safe as possi-

ble. After seeing COVID-19 numbers spike this spring, none of us are eager to return to those dangerously high numbers.

Thankfully, there is still one tradition that many cities have been able to continue safely: the holiday market. Every year, cities like Chicago, Washington, D.C., Denver, and New York City host dozens of small Christmas and holiday markets, with

vendors selling gifts, food, and other treats for the festive season.

**OUR FAVORITE HOLIDAY MARKETS TO VISIT IN 2020**

Since they’re outside, organizers have been able to promise that some events will continue this year, along with safety precautions like social distancing, temperature checks, and