

From big cities to small towns, see the most spectacular July 4th fireworks shows in the US

[CAMILLE FINE](#) | USA TODAY

Show 
Caption

As cities and households around the country gear up to celebrate the 246th birthday of the United States of America, some shows promise to put on bigger and better firework displays than ever before.

For many Americans today, fireworks are often accompanied with a day of other Fourth of July related activities, but the tradition of sending bright flares into the sky has been around since the very first Independence Day in 1776, [according to the American Pyrotechnics Association \(APA\)](#).

“Early U.S. settlers brought their love of fireworks with them ... a tradition that continues every 4th of July when we celebrate as John Adams had hoped, ‘with pomp, parade...bonfires and illuminations from one end of this continent to the other,’” APA’s website states.

Out of all the dazzling firework displays in the nation, here are 10 of the most spectacular.

AAA predicts: [Record number of people expected to take road trips for Fourth of July weekend](#)

St. Louis, Missouri



Fireworks light up the night sky over the Gateway Arch and Old Courthouse as part of an Independence Day celebration on July 4, 2019, in St. ... **Show more** ▾

JEFF ROBERSON, AP

Framed by the iconic Gateway Arch in St. Louis, Missouri, Fourth of July Fireworks Spectacular – dubbed "[America's biggest birthday party](#)" – boasts a “world-class” display, typically lasting 20 to 30 minutes, over the Mississippi River.

Officials say this year’s show will be the largest display in the fair’s history. Other activities include concerts, food vendors and more.

Washington D.C.

Fireworks launched from the Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool illuminate the sky behind the Capitol and Washington Monument during one of the most patriotic fireworks displays in the nation, which draws in about 700,000 people each year.



Fireworks explode over the Lincoln Memorial during the Fourth of July celebrations in Washington, DC, July 4, 2019.

BRENDAN SMIALOWSKI, AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES



Fireworks explode over the National Mall as the U.S. Capitol and Washington Monument are seen on July 4, 2017, in Washington, D.C.

AFP CONTRIBUTOR, AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

Celebrations occur all day throughout the city, beginning with a parade down Constitution Avenue.

Idaho Falls, Idaho

Celebrating its 29th anniversary, the [Melaleuca Freedom Festival](#) is the largest Independence Day fireworks show west of the Mississippi River, according to the event website.

It's appeared twice on the American Pyrotechnics Association list of [“must-see Independence Day fireworks displays.”](#)

Over 18,000 shells will be launched this year over the banks of the Snake River in honor of America's Founding Fathers, veterans, and service members.



Aerial Fireworks burst over the Snake River in Idaho Falls, Idaho.

BRIAN BROWN

New York City

The 46th annual [Macy's 4th of July Fireworks](#) celebration in New York City is the country's largest pyrotechnic display.

“Expect a rapid-fire succession of blasts to go off from each of the East River barges, creating a two-hour (spectacle) with round after round of rocking entertainment,” Macy's website states.

Viewers [can expect to see](#) unique patterns, including a Whistling Jellyfish, snakes, a blinking smiling face, and swimming chrysanthemums.