

How to safely celebrate Halloween in the US this year

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Let's face it, Halloween is going to be different this year. Because of the pandemic, the [CDC](#) recommends skipping trick-or-treating and in-person parties in favor of lower-risk activities like carving and decorating pumpkins with your family or having virtual costume contests with friends. If you're willing to wear a mask and stay at least six feet from others, moderate-risk activities like outdoor costume parties and visits to pumpkin patches are fine, but indoor costume parties and traditional haunted houses are now considered to be higher-risk.

While theme park favorites like Halloween Horror Nights at Universal Studios and Mickey's Not-So-Scary Halloween Party at Walt Disney World have been cancelled—die-hards can still attend socially distanced Halloween-themed events at Hersheypark, Dollywood, Busch Gardens Williamsburg, Busch Gardens Tampa Bay and select Six Flags theme parks as long as they book tickets ahead of time, wear a mask and have their temperatures checked upon entry—communities around the country have been forced to get creative and figure out fun ways to keep the spirit of Halloween alive this year. Here's how you can still celebrate safely.

Louisville, Kentucky

Don't miss the [Jack O'Lantern Spectacular](#) drive-thru experience at Iroquois Park, happening now through Nov. 1 from dusk until 11 p.m. on weeknights and midnight on Friday and Saturday. Be aware that there may be up to a 2.5-hour wait, so bring along your favorite Halloween movie to watch in the car until it's your turn to go through.

Miami, Florida

Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden in Coral Gables is hosting a special [Yappy Hour](#) and pet costume parade on Oct. 29 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Both humans and their dressed up fur babies will receive complimentary snacks during the ticketed event. Over in Miami

Beach, restaurants along historic [Española Way](#) are offering Halloween night specials on food and cocktails, making it a great spot to grab some outdoor grub.

Chicago, Illinois

Chicago's popular [Crypt Run](#) is a virtual 5K this year, so sign up through the website and run it on your own terms. This year's iteration of the Music Box Theatre's annual scary movie marathon will take place at the [Chi-Town Movies Drive-In](#) through Oct. 31. Fans of *The Shining* will love [Room 237](#), an interactive pop-up experience and lounge at Morgan Manufacturing. You'll be a guest at the Overlook Hotel, with its giant hedge maze, Gold Room cocktail bar, photo-ops based on movie scenes and specially themed drinks like "Redrum" and "Come Play With Us." *Hocus Pocus* fans should stop by the "[I Put A Spell On You](#)" pop-up bar and kitchen at Homestead On The Roof now through Nov. 8, where you can taste cocktails and dishes inspired by the film.