

Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade 2015: Time, TV channel, new balloons, best viewing spots.

By Anthony Venutolo, November 25, 2015

We know there's important stuff to do — like cooking and stuffing our turkeys — so we whipped up this handy guide to all things Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade. From the best spots to watch to the new and returning floats you can expect to see as well as where you can watch it live and from home on TV.

WATCH AT HOME

The three-hour parade will be broadcast nationally on NBC stations (and will stream to cable subscribers) starting at 9 a.m. "Today" anchors Matt Lauer, Savannah Guthrie and Al Roker will oversee the festivities as well as kickoff the event with a performance by the Radio City Rockettes.

If you don't have access to a television, [EarthCam](#) is offering a live stream via their camera at Columbus Circle.

Planning to go? Check out the weather

There will also be performances at 34th Street of such Great White Way shows as "Fiddler on the Roof," "Finding Neverland," "The King & I," "On Your Feet!," "Something Rotten!" and sneak preview of NBC's "The Wiz Live!"

IF YOU GO ...

TimeOut.com suggests three ideal stretches to watch the parade: Central Park West (starting at 75th Street) is only open to the public on the west side. The park is closed for invite-only, grandstand seating. The Time Warner Center and the Shops at Columbus Circle. Inside the mall, you'll get an elevated view of all the action. Floats and balloons will reach Sixth Avenue around 9:30 along the 21-block stretch. As with any major free public event, arrive early for a good spot.

THE BALLOONS

For 2015, there will be roughly 19 giants in the sky that range from beloved movie characters of yesteryear to mainstream characters from popular game apps. Among them will be four new entrants:

ICE AGE'S SCRAT AND HIS ACORN (20th CENTURY FOX)

Flying the entire 2.5 mile stretch will be Scrat and his beloved acorn. Balloon Dimensions: 59-foot long, 24-foot wide, 41-foot tall

ANGRY BIRDS' RED (ROVIO)

Long before audiences see him in next summer's film, Red, the breakout star of the "Angry Birds" app will be flying high in the sky. Balloon Dimensions: 44-foot long, 29-foot wide, 45-foot tall

RONALD McDONALD (McDONALD'S)

While he's been in the parade before, this is his newest (and fourth) incarnation, special for the fast food chain's 60th anniversary. Balloon Dimensions: 61-foot long, 29-foot wide, 67-foot tall

DINO (SINCLAIR OIL)

After a 40-year absence, the oil manufacturer's classic Dino will be appearing to celebrate the company's centennial. Balloon Dimensions: 72-foot long, 24-foot wide, 36-foot tall

Other favorites returning include: Adventure Time with Finn and Jake, The Elf on a Shelf, Hello Kitty, Paddington, Pikachu, SpongeBob, Snoopy and, of course, the Pillsbury Doughboy.

