

Diamonds & Ice Party

Get ready for some sparkling fun!

Your Party...

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Diamonds & Ice Party in your Pad!



You hear a knock at the door and open it to find a smartly dressed man, who hands you a thick cream envelope. You take it and see that it has your name written on the front in looping handwriting. You feel a thrill of excitement as you wonder what it might contain.

Turning it over you see a solid wax seal, with the letter L and a small heart embossed into the red wax. You slip your finger underneath the flap and carefully open it, trying to keep the wax disc intact.

You withdraw a piece of heavy card and see that your name is written there too, followed by:

You are invited to a fabulous Diamonds & Ice Party. You are about to be whisked away to the party venue – an Ice Hotel! All you need is to bring yourself and this invitation and be ready to have fun!

You want to get dressed up, so you head to your wardrobe and wonder what to wear. An ice hotel means it might be cold, so you decide to wear something dazzling; but warm.

As you enter the room, you notice that sitting on your bed, there's a large box wrapped with a silver ribbon. It definitely wasn't there earlier, you wonder where it came from? Crossing to it, you pull the end of the perfectly tied bow and with a slide of silk it comes undone. Lifting off the lid you reveal your dream outfit. You run your hand over the material, feeling the soft texture beneath you. Lifting it up, out of the box, you see that the clothes look incredible; you can't wait to put them on!

You change into your new outfit and hesitate, wondering if it will be too cold for the hotel; but as you do up the last garment you feel nice and warm. You stand in front of a mirror and turn, admiring yourself in your new clothes. You feel like a star in your perfect outfit and can't wait to show it off. You put the finishing touches to your look and then with a final admiring glance, you head back to the door.

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Outside, the chauffeur is standing in front of a long, sleek stretch limousine; you're going to be travelling first class today! He opens the door for you and you slip inside the warm, luxurious interior. The smell of leather and money seems to fill the air and you relax back in your seat, making the most of every moment.

The car starts up with a purr and you set off. The limo drives for what could be minutes or hours; but it goes by so quickly and when you next look out of your window you see a landscape covered in snow.

It's dark outside; but the pristine white reflects the light. It looks bright and clean, without any trace of footsteps on it. For a second you wonder how you got here; but then the limo pulls to a stop and the driver comes round to open your door for you.

Stepping out into the cold, you see your breath cloud around you. It's like being a dragon and you draw the cold air into your lungs, holding it for a second before breathing out, seeing the smoke puff around you. You can't help smiling, you feel like a kid again!

You look up at the dark night and the sparkling pinpricks of light make you gasp. The stars are so bright here that they look like millions of diamonds suspended in the sky. They are so bright, you can clearly see that you are standing on a path which leads down to a distant building. You can make out the distant sound of music and laughter and decide to follow it, heading in the direction of the party.



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There are hazes of coloured light along the path and as you go closer, you see that the first green glow is coming from the base of a large glass statue set to one side of the path. It's a beautifully detailed sculpture of an angel playing a harp, with cherubs on trumpets. There is so much detail, you can see each individual string on the harp, the outline of every feather in the wings and the soft folds in the angel's flowing skirt. You want to reach out your hand and trace the fine lines and intricate details; but as you hover your hand closer, you feel the intense cold and realise that it's made of ice. This is an ice sculpture trail for you to follow to the party.

The path loops around and you follow the curve, stopping at a huge scene of a giant polar bear and reindeer, standing in front of carved pine trees. The statue is massive and towers above you. All you can do is stand and look up in awe. How can someone make something this large out of blocks of ice? It's just frozen water; but it's been transformed into a work of art. You realise you'll never look at ice cubes in quite the same way again.

You keep moving, drawn from sculpture to sculpture, passing so many different pieces, including a purple hippo and two battling figures that look like a scene from an ancient myth.

Eventually you leave the last ice statue behind and realise that you have arrived at the hotel. Ahead of you are two large, ornately carved glass doors. The sound of people is much clearer now and you know it's time to head inside. You feel a tingle of nerves, you don't know what to expect; but you make your way up to the large doors. As you step closer, they open wide and the music spills out, breaking the still silence of the wintery landscape.

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Standing in the doorway is a young woman with short blond hair, she smiles and comes to greet you. "Hi my name's Claire, welcome to the Diamonds & Ice Party, I am so pleased you could join me! Come in, come in, you don't want to catch cold."

You give Claire a quizzical look, she is inviting you into an ice hotel after all. She sees your expression and smiles. "Okay, so I know that doesn't make sense and normally you have to wrap up at an ice hotel; but this is my very special virtual hotel, so you can wear what you want and you'll never get cold. Come on."

You follow her into a large entrance hall and you look up to see a dramatic chandelier hanging high above you. The light sparkles from the crystals, sending out flashes of rainbows.

"Beautiful isn't it?" Claire says. "Well this is a Diamonds & Ice Party, we need to have some sparkle, don't we? Speaking of which, your first stop has to be the Diamond Room. Follow me."

Claire walks towards an arch way and you follow behind and stop suddenly as she steps aside. If you thought the chandelier was pretty, now you gasp at what feels like a room full of rainbows. Everywhere you look there's light and sparkle, flashes and twinkles. It's so bright it's almost dazzling and you're not sure where to look first. You move further into the room and turn in a slow circle, taking it all in.

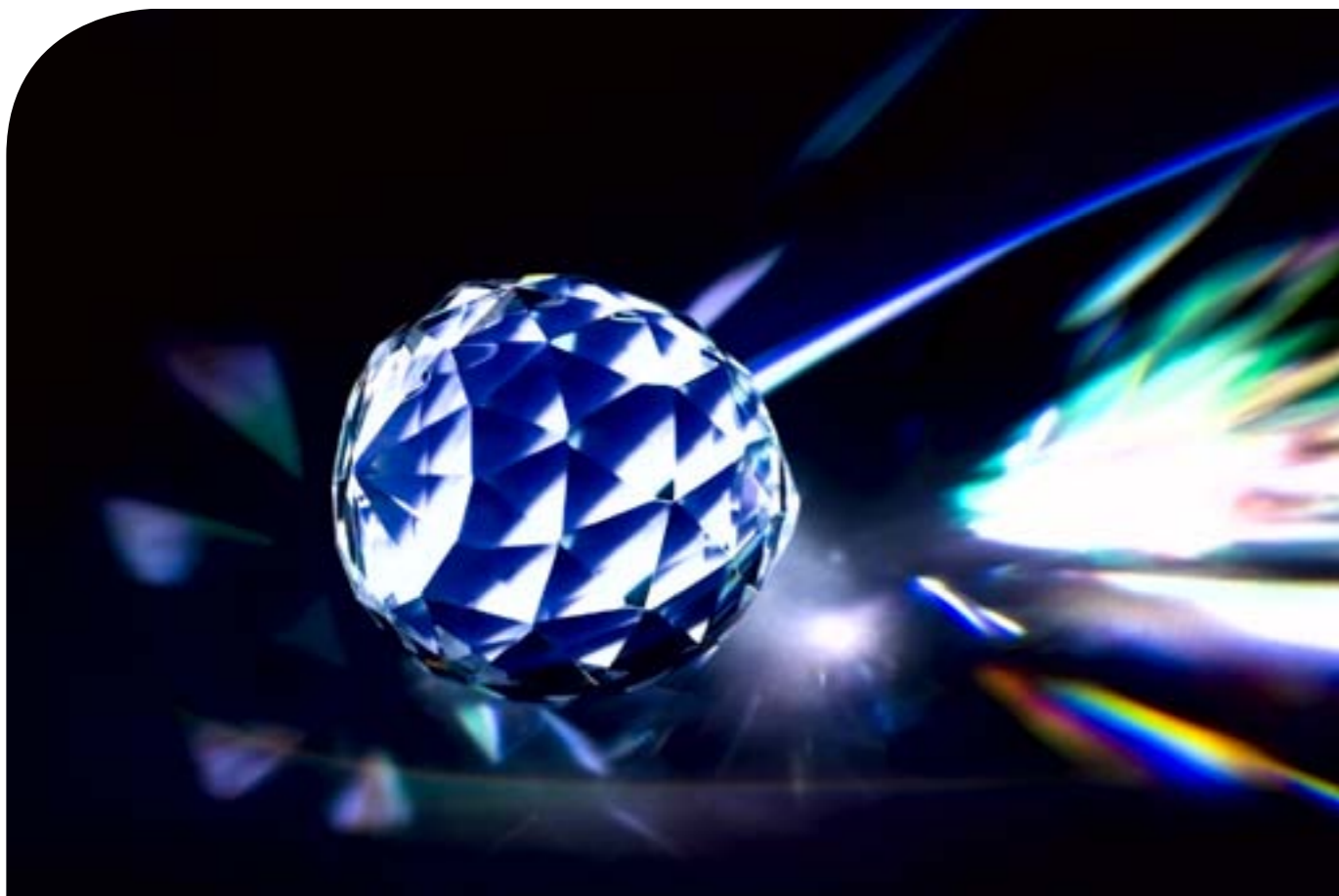
"Welcome to the Diamond Room." Claire says. "You get to pick the diamonds that you would like to wear tonight. There's jewellery, rings, watches, cufflinks, chains and tiaras, the choice is yours! You can borrow anything for the night."



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You stare at Claire open mouthed, it must be a trick; but she gestures for you to help yourself. You move around the glass tables and stare at the huge array of items. There must be thousands, if not millions of diamonds in the room and you can't even begin to imagine how much it must all cost. You feel a bit nervous to even touch them.

"Go on," Claire encourages. "It's okay, try them on, experiment, see what you like. All the diamonds are ethically sourced and conflict free and they've been brought here for you and the other party guests. Everybody else has chosen what they would like to wear and are enjoying the party, they can't wait for you to join them."

Reassured you head over to a piece which has caught your eye. The colours that the diamonds are giving off are beautiful and you can't resist picking it up. It feels cold to the touch; but once you put it on, you feel it quickly warming against your skin. It sits comfortably and you glance up, catching your reflection in one of the large mirrors which stand around the room. You turn slightly, making the diamonds catch the light. It looks incredible and sets off your outfit perfectly.

It's up to you what you put on, feel free to wear as many diamonds as you want and when you are ready, you turn to Claire, with a big smile on your face.

"Wow!" she says. "You look amazing, very good choice! Now come on, let's go and join the party."

The two of you walk back the way you came and this time you go down the long ice hall and pass through an archway at the very end. The closer you get to the arch, the better you can hear the music and the chatter from the other guests. You go inside and stop in your tracks, looking around the room.

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There are groups of people talking and laughing. You might see some familiar faces; but everybody smiles and looks really friendly.

"Let me show you around," Claire says. "I can introduce you to some people too. Don't worry if you don't know anyone, everyone here is lovely. It's a great place to have fun and make some new friends. Would you like to get a drink first?"

Claire leads you across to the bar and the two of you stand in front of it as the barman comes over to take your order. You rest your hand on the smooth surface and gasp at the cold sensation. You realise that the bar is made of ice!

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You knew you were going to an ice hotel; but you hadn't really thought about what that meant. You look around you with a new perspective, looking at the walls, the high ceiling, the tables and chairs, even the beautiful sculptures. What you thought must be glass is actually ice! You wonder how on Earth they do it, it's a feat of engineering and one that is incredibly beautiful.

"What would you like?" Claire asks you and you bite your lip, looking at the bottles behind the bar. "We've got a some fabulous iced tea and iced coffee – well it is an ice hotel and an ice party after all!"

You make your choice and watch as the barman begins to prepare your drink, pouring the liquids into the silver shaker and then rattling it up and down, shaking up your iced drink. He pours it into a glass and hands it to you. You shouldn't be surprised; but the glass is made of ice too! You'd better drink it quickly before it melts; but then in the cool temperatures of the hotel, you should be okay.

Claire points towards a table laid with food. "We've got a buffet that you can help yourself to any time that you want. There are lots of yummy things, including a chocolate fondue to help warm you up. You should be able to find something you fancy."



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Claire leads you across to one of the tables and you see that the chairs are draped in thick, soft blankets. You sit down and are relieved you're not sitting directly on the ice. You lean back in your chair while you sip your drink and you can't help nodding along to the music. There are a few people dancing near the DJ, who is set up in the corner and is the source of the music. Later you might be tempted to join them; but for now you're happy to just relax and enjoy the party.

Claire smiles at you. "I hope you're having fun. If you'd like, you can get another drink and talk to some of the other guests. Stay at the party for as long as you want, we've had parties in the past that have lasted for days, weeks even, so there's no rush. Just enjoy yourself."

"When you're ready to head home, the limo will be waiting to take you. Feel free to come back any time, the party will always be waiting and I'm here if you need anything. Just relax and have fun."

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Iced Drinks



Iced Tea

1. Boil 4 cups of water and add to 4 teabags (traditional black tea or green tea).
2. Leave to brew for less than 5 minutes, to avoid a bitter taste. The longer you leave it, the stronger flavour you'll get.
3. Add 1 cup of sugar and 4 cups of cold (filtered) water to a large jug. Stir until the sugar dissolves.
4. Add the brewed tea and stir. Adding the hot tea to the cold water helps prevent the finished drink from becoming cloudy.
5. Allow to cool then serve in glasses over ice. Garnish with mint or mint ice cubes.

Lemon Iced Tea - Add 60 ml of lemon juice to the cold water before you add the hot tea. Sweeten to taste

Peach Iced Tea - Add two sliced fresh or tinned peaches to the boiling water and tea bags.

Iced Coffee

1. Make your normal cup of coffee.
2. Fill a cup full of ice and pour the hot coffee or espresso over the cubes, no more than halfway up the cup level.
3. Top off with more ice, add your flavoring or flavoured ice cubes and cream to finish.



Flavoured Ice Cubes



There is a lot of debate on how to make the perfect, clear ice cube, some suggest using distilled or pure bottled water, others say that you should boil the water first.

Some say it's impossible to make clear ice at home; but why not have a go and post a picture on the Facebook Event page
<https://www.facebook.com/events/489345784419900/>

Or tag it on Twitter #diamondsandice.

You can always buy ice from the supermarket or you could make your own and add some of these fun and unusual twists. If including a solid item like the mint leaves or berries, place in the ice cube trays and then fill up with water before freezing.

Ice Cube Suggestions

- Mint leaves
- Fresh berries - raspberries, blueberries, sliced strawberries
- Slices of fruit - lemon, lime, orange - Ice and a Slice all in one!
- Coffee syrups - perfect for adding to iced coffee
- Edible Glitter - just a light sprinkle in the base of the mould.
- Vanilla Ice cubes - made with almond milk, sugar, and vanilla. [See recipe here...](#)
- Fizzy Drinks - you can even freeze your favourite soft drink, for example Coke or Lemonade. When they melt in your drink they don't dilute the flavour the way water ice cubes do.

[See more recipes here... http://www.yummly.com/recipes/flavored-ice-cubes](http://www.yummly.com/recipes/flavored-ice-cubes)



Canapé Recipes



Here's a selection of canapés for your party, choose the ones you fancy. If you are unable to cook them yourself or ask someone to do it for you, then checkout the supermarkets who all do a great range of party foods that cook quickly and easily in the oven.

Water Chestnuts wrapped in Bacon

- 1 tbsp soy sauce
- 1 tbsp olive oil
- ½ tsp ground mace
- 1 clove garlic
- Dash of chilli sauce or tobacco
- 225g tin water chestnuts
- 8 rashers of streaky bacon
- Cocktail sticks

1. Combine the first five ingredients in a bowl.
2. Prick the water chestnuts a couple of times with a cocktail stick or fork and then place in the bowl. Cover with cling film and leave to marinade for a few hours or overnight.
3. Cut the bacon in half length ways and then wrap a strip round each water chestnut. Secure with a cocktail stick.
4. Place on a non-stick baking tray.
5. Heat the oven to 200C or you can put them under a hot grill.
6. Cook for a couple of minutes under the grill or 10 minutes in the oven.

They are ready when the bacon turns crispy. Suitable served hot or cold.



Chicken Skewers

Marinade

- 2 tbsp olive oil
- 2 tbsp lemon juice
- 1 tsp caster sugar
- ½ tsp French mustard
- 1 garlic clove, crushed
- 1 tbsp fresh parsley, chopped
- Salt & pepper
- 3 or 4 chicken breasts, skinned & cut into bite size pieces or a pack of pre-diced
- Small bamboo skewers

1. Mix together all the ingredients for the marinade.
2. Add the chicken and cover with cling film. Leave in the fridge for a couple of hours or overnight.
3. Meanwhile soak the skewers in a jug or bowl of cold water for an hour.
4. Preheat the oven to 180C.
5. Thread the chicken onto the skewers, leaving spaces between each piece to make sure it cooks through. Be careful the skewers are sharp. Place on a non-stick baking tray.
6. Cook in the oven for about 20 minutes, turning half way through cooking. Cook until golden brown, hot in the middle and the chicken is cooked all the way through. Serve.

Lemon Halloumi

- 1 block Halloumi
- 1 lemon
- 1 tbsp olive oil, to fry

1. Slice the halloumi thinly, under 1 centimetre thick.
2. Zest and juice half the lemon.
3. Heat the oil in a frying pan.
4. Add the halloumi and fry until golden brown on one side, about two minutes.
5. Carefully turn over and then sprinkle on the zest and juice. Be careful it doesn't spit.
6. Serve when both sides are golden.

No Cook - Cream Cheese & Sweet Chilli Dip with Crudités

- 200g cream cheese
- 1 spring onion, finely sliced (optional)
- 4 tbsp sweet chilli dipping sauce
- 1 tbsp chopped chives
- Pitta breads or toast
- Vegetables: carrots, celery, cucumber etc

1. Mix the cream cheese and spring onions in a bowl.
2. Pour the sweet chilli sauce over.
3. Sprinkle with the chives and chill.
4. Serve with toast or warmed pitta breads and vegetables cut into matchsticks/batons.



Chocolate Fondue



Something yummy and warming. Easy to make and perfect party food!

Serves 4 - 6

Ingredients

- 285g (10 ounces) dark (bittersweet) or milk (semisweet) chocolate, chopped
- 120 - 175 mls (1/2-3/4) cup full milk or heavy cream
- 1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract
- small pinch of salt (optional)

Instructions

1. In a small bowl, combine the chocolate and 1/2 cup milk or cream and melt gently in a barely simmering water bath or microwave on Medium (50 percent) power for about 2 minutes, stopping every 30 seconds to stir. Continue until smooth.
2. Add more liquid if the sauce seems too thick or looks curdled.
3. Remove from the heat and stir in the vanilla and a small pinch of salt - this brings out the flavour of the chocolate.
4. Serve immediately with fresh fruit and other dipping items. Use forks, cocktail sticks or skewers to dip.
5. You can rewarm it gently if the chocolate sets. Don't let it boil. 1 minute in the microwave on Medium (50 percent) power or set in a pan of barely simmering water.
6. Leftover sauce keeps for several days in the refrigerator and can be served over ice cream.



Dipping Food Ideas

- strawberries
- grapes, fresh or frozen
- pineapple
- apple
- pear
- banana
- mango
- kiwi
- seedless orange segments
- fresh coconut pieces
- candied fruit peel
- maraschino cherries
- dried apricots, pineapple, mango strips
- marshmallows
- biscuits - shortbread, cookies, macaroons
- mini doughnuts
- waffles
- croissants
- pretzels
- squares of cake or brownies- slightly stale hold their shape better than fresh cake
- Fox's Glacier Mints - you can't get more icy or diamond like!



Fun Things To Do!



Choosing your Outfit!

For the party you get to wear whatever you want. Maybe you want to dress up for real, have you got an outfit in the back of your wardrobe eager to be worn? Or maybe there's a snazzy pair of PJs you want to put on. Alternatively you can choose an imaginary outfit to wear. Why not do some virtual window shopping? Check out some designer clothes on Net-a-Porter <http://www.net-a-porter.com/>

With virtual shopping you get all the fun; but without the expense!

Choosing your Diamonds!

As with the clothes, you also need some virtual diamonds for the party. Check out the classic Tiffany's <http://www.tiffany.com/> as well as <http://www.debeers.com/> <http://exclusive-diamonds.com/product-category/jewellery/>

Put some of your own jewellery on - from a distance nobody can tell if it's costume or not! You can go for some minor bling or "dress" yourself top to toe in sparkle!



Entertainment!

Music

Every party needs music, so check out the Diamonds & Ice Playlist. You can listen to the themed music via Spotify - a free programme that you can download. Listen to the specially designed playlist for the party.

<http://open.spotify.com/user/1115830023/playlist/6Xyu5ALiUlfKVsUeMGxZOP>

Or download this iTunes Ice Songs Album

<https://itunes.apple.com/gb/album/ice-songs/id414847218>

Movies

If I said list all the films with diamonds or ice in you might not be able to think of many... Turns out there are quite a few. Kick back, relax and enjoy one of these...

- *Diamonds are Forever - James Bond*
- *Gentlemen Prefer Blondes - Marilyn Monroe, (Diamonds are a girl's best friend)*
- *Breakfast at Tiffany's*
- *The Pink Panther*
- *Titanic - Diamonds and Ice; but may spoil the party mood slightly!*
- *A Fish Called Wanda*
- *How to Lose a Guy in 10 Days - Frost yourself!*
- *The Bank Job*
- *Thief*
- *To Catch a Thief*
- *Diamonds*
- *Brilliance*
- *Flawless*
- *The Thomas Crown Affair 2*
- *Ocean's Thirteen*
- *Wallace & Gromit: The Wrong Trousers*
- *Snatch*
- *Ice Age - any in the series!*



Crafts!

Use these fun online tutorials and craft ideas to create your Diamonds and Ice themed room and outfit!

Paper Diamond Rings - <http://on.fb.me/VZt630>

Paper Diamonds - for the advanced crafter. <http://www.minieco.co.uk/3d-paper-diamonds/>

3D Snowflakes - <http://www.wikihow.com/Make-a-3D-Paper-Snowflake>

Ice Bowls - http://www.ehow.com/how_2087953_ice-bowls-decorate-table.html

Ice Bottles - http://www.ehow.com/how_12101664_make-ice-sculpture-plastic-bottle.html

Ice Crystal Balls - Fill water balloons and place them in the freezer, or outside overnight if it's cold enough. When frozen peel off the balloon.

For the really brave or talented - Make your own Ice sculptures!

http://www.ehow.com/how_12094414_make-homemade-ice-sculpture.html

Or why not make a card, scrapbook page or any other craft you feel inspired to create, to remember your Diamonds & Ice Party. You could make cards and send them to family and friends, to tell them about your experience - make them envious of your social life for once!

