



Best winter escapes in the United States

From scenic coastal journeys to wildlife watching in Yellowstone, Hawaii, and Alaska, we found a trip for every type of winter wanderer.

Winter may not be everyone's favorite season, but with fewer crowds and serene landscapes, it could be one of the best times to travel. The key, besides the right winter wardrobe? Diving into adventures from coast to coast. Here are a few hot spots for embracing the cold.

Take a train through Alaska's winter wonderland

The [Alaska Railroad](#) operates year-round, connecting Anchorage and Fairbanks across "[The Last Frontier](#)." Watch ivory landscapes, sapphire blue skies, and wild moose glide past the large windows from inside the [Aurora Winter Train](#). Spend a night in Fairbanks under the emerald glow of the [aurora borealis](#), or get your adrenaline going in Anchorage with endless options for ice climbing, cross-country skiing, and dogsledding.

See: Stop at the Aurora Ice Museum in Fairbanks, said to be the world's largest year-round ice environment, created from more than a thousand tons of snow. Don a complimentary parka and head to the bar for a cocktail served in a glass carved from ice.

Stay: Get off the beaten path at the remote Eleven Winterlake Lodge on the Iditarod National Historic Trail, where visitors ride helicopters over ice-glazed peaks and glittering lakes to reach the 15-acre adventurer's paradise.

Fun fact: Auroras make weird noises—spectators often report crackling and hissing sounds during powerful displays.

<https://www.nationalgeographic.com/travel/article/best-winter-trips-united-states>