



# WINTER *wonderlands*

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# *Wonderlands*

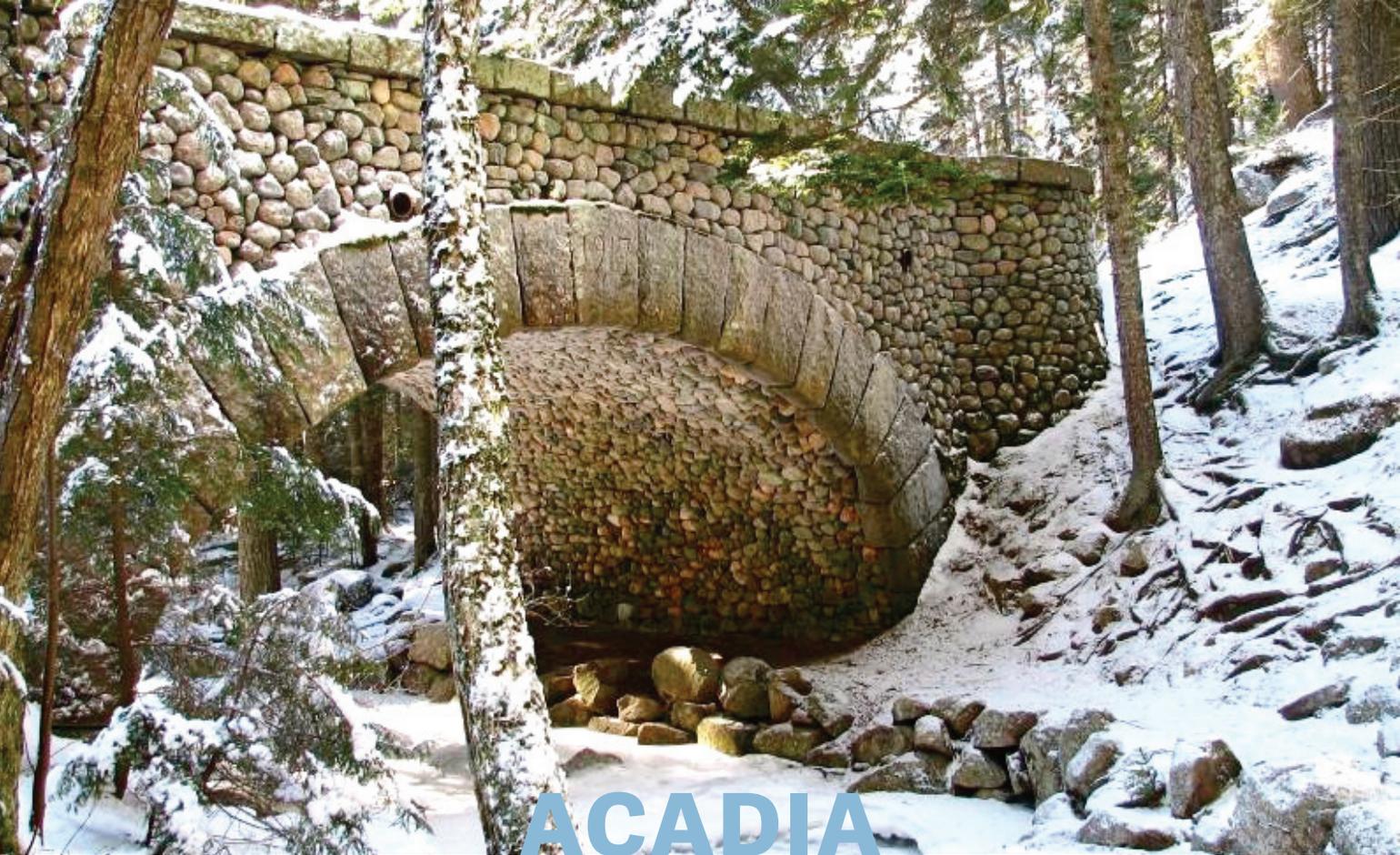
Imagine having a national park virtually all to yourself. Visitation to national parks dips across the board during winter, so it's almost possible in this season. You're alone. Or so you think, until you spot an elk in the snowy distance at Rocky Mountain, or catch a brook trout in Great Smoky. In winter, you can often experience the wilderness, the landscape, and satisfy your yearning for adventure with a little more solitude and fewer distractions.

In this guide, we've gathered top winter activities at 15 national parks. Cross-country skiing and snowshoeing are common themes, but there's also ice fishing in Acadia, stargazing in Bryce Canyon, contra dancing at Cuyahoga, sledding in Great Sand Dunes, and enjoying a Renaissance-themed holiday dinner at Yosemite.

A common challenge with winter travel is just getting there, so we've also included general information about facility and road closures, but weather forecasts and conditions change regularly, so always be prepared. And most of all, enjoy. These aren't parks to get away from the season. These are places to be immersed in all the joy that winter offers. These are winter wonderlands.

About the Author: Kelly Smith Trimble writes about the outdoors from her home in Knoxville, Tennessee, near the Great Smoky Mountains. She's been snowshoeing in Lassen Volcanic and hiked across glaciers in Rocky Mountain and Glacier, but she's never been ice fishing.

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# ACADIA



# BRYCE CANYON

## Acadia National Park Maine

### Top Winter Activities

Ice fishing, snowmobiling, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, hiking, scenic driving, photography

### Getting There

The drive from Boston to Acadia takes about 4.5 hours, or you may find a temptingly low-priced flight from Boston to Bangor, Maine, an hour from the park. Find the Winter Visitor Center 3 miles west of Bar Harbor. For an ocean-view drive, access a plowed section of Park Loop Road just one mile south of Bar Harbor; stay in the right lane, as snowmobiles will be using the unplowed left lane.

While inland Maine is known for long, hard winters, temperatures on the coast are generally milder, making Acadia National Park a great destination for those looking for a little reprieve without traveling far. But don't get us wrong, there's still snow here in winter — and plenty of opportunity to get out and play after the fall leaf-peeping crowds have subsided.

Many facilities are closed in winter but you can still access the Winter Visitor Center at park headquarters, as well as popular sites along Ocean Drive and at Jordan Pond. Blackwoods Campground remains open, but as walk-in/pack-out camping by permit only. Nearby Bar Harbor may be your better bet for comfortable lodging, and you'll find equipment rentals there as well.

While hiking trails can get icy in winter, and unpaved park roads are open to snowmobiles, Acadia has 40 miles of carriage trails (originally built by John D. Rockefeller) perfect for cross-country skiing and snowshoeing. Pick up a carriage trail map and head out from the visitor center. The trails also reach ponds and lakes that may be suitable for ice fishing; Eagle Lake is one great spot, but ask at the visitor center for the best current options.

The Bryce Canyon Winter Festival, held each year in February over Presidents' Day weekend, offers immersion in everything that winter offers here, including snow-covered hoodoos and incredible views. A focus on the sky, though, really differentiates this winter wonderland experience from all others. Bryce Canyon embraces astronomy as a major part of its interpretive experience, so you can expect ranger-led night programs to come with a telescope. Plan in advance; you'll need reservations for many Winter Festival events.

November through March, ranger-led full moon snowshoe hikes are a real treat, snowshoes and poles provided. Snowshoeing is allowed throughout the park and most hiking trails remain open during winter — just be sure to wear

waterproof boots or snow boots with good traction. And check for possible trail closures as rock falls do occur during this season.

Where to stay? While Sunset Campground closes for winter, North Campground maintains at least one loop of campsites open year-round. Staying at the popular Ruby's Inn, just outside the north entrance to the park, may be a better option for many travelers. The inn, complete with hotel, RV park, and campground, actively participates in the Winter Festival with activities of its own ranging from yoga and art classes to ski archery competitions.

## Bryce Canyon National Park Utah

### Top Winter Activities

Stargazing and astronomy lessons, snowshoeing, winter hiking and backpacking, cross-country skiing

### Getting There

The north entrance to Bryce Canyon National Park is about 270 miles south of Salt Lake City and northeast of Las Vegas. Many park travelers like to combine a trip here with a visit to Zion National Park, 130 miles to the southwest; this is a great option in summer and fall, but be sure to check the latest road conditions and closures first in winter months.



# CUYAHOGA VALLEY

**Cuyahoga Valley National Park**  
Ohio

**Top Winter Activities**

Train rides, bird watching, hiking, snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, sledding, lodging, nature lecture series, music and art series

**Getting There**

This park runs along the Cuyahoga River Valley between Cleveland and Akron, Ohio (about a half hour from each), and it's an easy escape from many other eastern cities: Columbus, Cincinnati, Pittsburgh, Indianapolis, and Chicago.

Nature may slow down in winter, but this park keeps hopping, giving local residents and visitors alike a reason to get out of the house and commune with plants, animals, and fellow humans. Robust cultural programming here includes educational speakers, regular concerts, contra dances, and art workshops throughout the season.

If you'd still rather bundle up and be outdoors, head to the Kendall Lake Shelter's Winter Sports Center to learn a sport like snowshoeing or cross-country skiing with certified instructors. Hiking trails are also open throughout the park; just be prepared to hike in a little snow. You can also join a ranger-led walk, including full moon hikes and off-trail adventures.

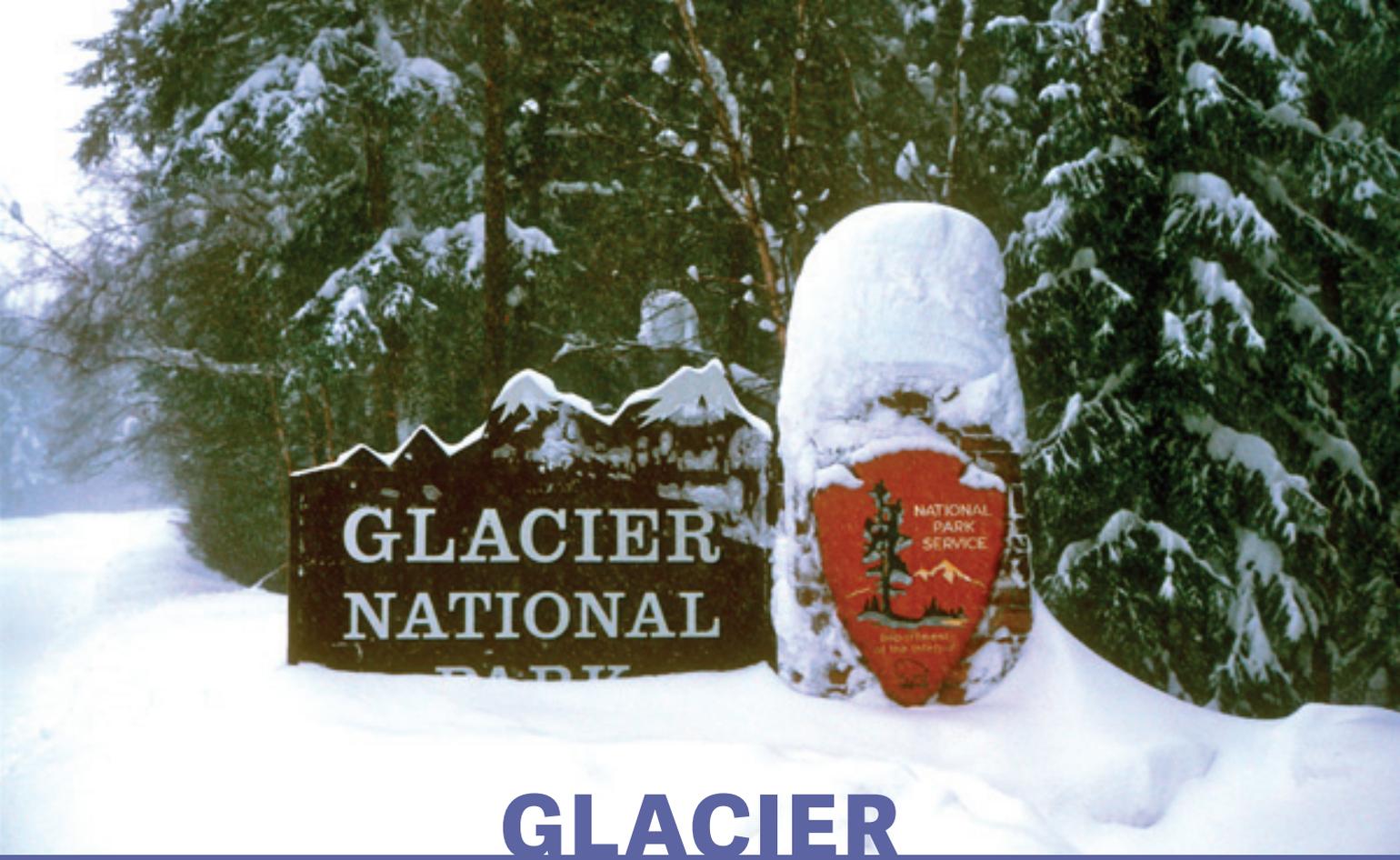
Hospitality reigns here, especially at two lodging options open year-round: Inn at Brandywine Falls and Stanford House. Make reservations in advance to stay at one of these historic homes; rooms are quaint and cozy, but few.

**Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad**

The railroad operates through the winter and offers special rides you won't want to miss, like the beer-tasting and wine-tasting trains, dinner trains, and a holiday season journey to the "North Pole." Board trains from either the Akron Northside Station or the Rockside Station to the south. Check the train schedule for the latest info; reservations required in advance for most specialty rides.

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

JOHN ALVES/ISTOCK



# GLACIER

While winter weather causes many planned closings in Glacier (and many unplanned ones, too), the park service maintains 10 miles of Going-to-the-Sun Road, from park headquarters in West Glacier to Lake McDonald Lodge, throughout the season. This gives hearty visitors a chance to see some of the iconic mountain views for which Glacier is known.

Consult ski/snowshoe trail maps to find your favorite route. One option for beginners is to park at Lake McDonald Lodge (closed in winter) and continue traveling Going-to-the-Sun on foot to Avalanche Picnic Area. You can also make camp at Agpar Picnic Area (free in winter) at the West Glacier entrance and explore various trails around Lake McDonald in this more populated area.

For those less sure-footed on snow, ranger-led snowshoe walks also leave from the Agpar Visitor Center (where you can rent snowshoes) every Saturday and Sunday from January through March; this way, you'll get instruction on local flora and fauna as well as on how to snowshoe.

On the eastern side of the park, St. Mary Campground stays open year-round (primitive, but free, in winter). From here, you can explore several trail loops near St. Mary Lake. You may also be able to find non-camping lodging in the town of St. Mary.

**Glacier National Park**  
Montana

**Top Winter Activities**

Cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, photography

**Getting There**

In the northwest corner of Montana on the border with Canada, this park is very remote, especially in winter. The west entrance is 30 miles from Kalispell, 150 from Missoula; the east entrance is close to Browning and about 125 miles from Great Falls. Rather than driving, consider riding the rails; Amtrak services both the east and west entrances, reservations required.



# GRAND CANYON

**Grand Canyon National Park**  
Arizona

**Top Winter Activities**

Photography, hiking, train rides, historic tours, camping

**Getting There**

For a really fun and historically accurate way to get around, take the train. The Grand Canyon Railway, a mainstay since 1901, travels 130 miles round trip daily between the South Rim and Williams, Arizona, a town 30 miles west of Flagstaff. On the 2-hour, 15-minute train ride, sit back and soak in the landscape just as early guests to the national park did. Otherwise, the South Rim is about a 4-hour drive (230 miles) north from Phoenix.

While the North Rim of the Grand Canyon is closed in winter (actually from October 15 to May 15 each year), the South Rim stays open year-round. And as if the Grand Canyon weren't dramatic enough in other seasons, winter brings a new sense of the spectacular, as the canyon's intense earthy colors contrast brilliantly with fresh white snow.

Whether you're looking for a physical challenge or a chance to slow down and rest, winter allows visitors a chance to enjoy this park without the hustle and bustle — and let's just be honest, the sizable crowds — of other seasons. You can also take advantage of lower winter rates at the various lodges on the South Rim and have a better chance of getting a campsite.

Hikers will embrace the opportunity to experience the popular Bright Angel Trail and Phantom Ranch or Bright Angel Campground during the less-busy season; just be prepared for icy trail conditions and quickly changing winter weather. Others may prefer to stay above the rim to explore the rich cultural history available at spots like El Tovar Historic Hotel, Hopi House, and the Yavapai Museum of Geology. There, in addition to learning about the canyon's deep secrets, you can get an incredible panoramic view of the winter landscape from inside a warm and cozy building.

SUNDEVILSTORMINISTOCK



# GRAND TETON

Just south of Yellowstone is a smaller, but no less magnificent, national park that preserves some of the most majestic mountains in the country. While most amenities and services at Grand Teton shut down for the winter season, the park remains open for exploration, and lodging is available in nearby Jackson, Wyoming.

The inner Grand Teton Road is closed to motorized traffic in winter from Taggart Lake Trailhead for 15 miles north to Signal Mountain Lodge. While this limits access to many of the park's favorite sites and trailheads, it gives cross-country skiers and snowshoers a near-private tour. Many other trails throughout the park offer similar opportunities; check a ski/snowshoe trail map to plan your excursion.

IDAK/SHUTTERSTOCK

Less experienced winter adventurers can try their hand (or, well, feet) with a ranger-guided snowshoe walk, leaving from the Taggart Lake Trailhead when weather conditions permit from December to March. A ranger naturalist will help you get comfortable walking in snowshoes and explain what's going on beneath the snowy surface as plants and animals within the park continue to survive and thrive. Call ahead to reserve your spot.

**Grand Teton National Park**  
Wyoming

**Top Winter Activities:**

Cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, photography, wildlife viewing, limited snowmobiling (similar to Yellowstone)

**Getting There:**

Snow plows keep the outer park road (Highway 26/89/191), heading north from Jackson, Wyoming, clear through winter; use this road to skirt along the eastern section of the park and north along Jackson Lake and the Snake River and to the John D. Rockefeller Jr. Memorial Parkway toward Yellowstone. Jackson is approximately 550 miles north of Denver and 300 miles north of Salt Lake City. In Jackson, stop in the Jackson Hole and Greater Yellowstone Visitor Center, open year-round (except for Christmas and Thanksgiving).



# GREAT SAND DUNES

Great Sand Dunes  
National Park & Preserve  
Colorado

### Top Winter Activities

Sand/snow sledding and snow boarding, cross-country skiing, hiking, camping, backpacking, hunting

### Getting There

To reach Great Sand Dunes, drive approximately 245 miles north from Albuquerque or 167 miles south from Colorado Springs. The closest non-camping lodging is in Alamosa, 35 miles south of the park entrance.

A national monument since 1932, Great Sand Dunes was redesignated a national park in 2000, and at the same time, 42,000 acres on the west and south sides of the park became national preserve, forming Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve. The two sections, while both managed by the National Park Service, offer distinct ecosystems and opportunities for visitors. For example, while hunting is not permitted in the park, licensed hunters may hunt in the preserve during designated legal seasons (including early winter).

The central figure at this park is, of course, the sand dunes — the tallest in North America formed by erosion of the San Juan Mountains and Sangre de Cristo Mountains in the San Luis Valley.

They're magical, and they're a whole lot of fun. While special (but easy-to-get) sand sledding and sand boarding equipment is needed during warm months, regular snow sleds and snow boards will work when the dunes are covered in snow. So bring the kids and get ready to ride.

Expect winter days to be clear and chilly and the view of snow-covered dunes on a Sangre de Cristo Mountains backdrop to be unmatched. While camping and backpacking are allowed in winter, options are limited. The popular Piñon Flats Campground closes for the season, but you can find other campground options in surrounding federal land, or get a free permit from the visitor center to backpack in or at the perimeter of the dunefield.

ALEXEYKAMENSKIY/ISTOCK



# GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS

Winter is a great time to stop by one of America's most-visited parks, as this is the least busy season. Even when higher elevations at Great Smoky are covered in snow and roads through mountain passes close, many trails and roads in the foothills are accessible.

Cades Cove and Smokemont campgrounds remain open year-round, first-come, first-served; backcountry sites and shelters, including those along the Appalachian National Scenic Trail (also part of the National Park System), are available by reservation with a permit. Hikers, including backpackers, should plan carefully; check road closures and make sure you can access desired trailheads. Remember that trails covered in fallen leaves may be slick, and ice can form quickly.

ANDYDIDDY/ISTOCKPHOTO

Even in winter, the fish are still biting in Great Smoky, and the park enjoys a year-round fishing season (state license required). Try popular trout fishing streams at lower elevations, especially when the water is above 45 degrees, to catch rainbows, browns, and the prized brook trout.

Anyone who visits this park leaves wanting more. To truly immerse yourself in the Smokies experience, sign up for a workshop, ranging from winter photography to lichen identification, through the Great Smoky Mountains Institute at Tremont, which operates year-round. Tremont is a self-contained campus within the park, with a dorm, dining hall, library and more.

Great Smoky Mountains  
National Park  
Tennessee and North Carolina

### Top Winter Activities

Hiking, camping, fly fishing, touring historic sites, outdoor education

### Getting There

Great Smoky Mountains has three park entrances: Gatlinburg and Townsend in Tennessee, and Cherokee in North Carolina. Knoxville, about an hour away from the Tennessee entrances, has the closest airport. The park is about a 4-hour drive from Atlanta. Tremont is closest to the park entrance near Townsend.



# LASSEN VOLCANIC

Lassen Volcanic National Park  
California

**Top Winter Activities**  
Sledding, skiing, snowshoeing

**Getting There**  
Access Manzanita Lake from the northwest park entrance, 50 miles east of Redding, California, and 180 miles west of Reno, Nevada. Reach the southwest entrance, 45 miles east of Red Bluff, California, or 160 miles west of Reno. Remember that once you reach either entrance in winter, the main road will be closed but the park remains open.

Just because the Lassen Volcanic Highway leading through this northern California park is closed in winter doesn't mean you can't explore. As soon as the highway closes to vehicles, it opens to cross-country skiers and snowshoers. So grab your gear and head out into miles of wilderness completely unfettered by auto traffic from around mid-November to late March each year.

The Manzanita Lake area in the northwest corner of the park offers several options for winter sports. Beginners can try snowshoeing the 1.6-mile Manzanita Lake Snowshoe Loop and skiing the 1.5-mile Manzanita Campground Loop, while more experienced skiers can head up Manzanita Creek or Nobles Emigrant Trail, and snowshoers can try Chaos Crags Trail. Rocky terrain and elevation

gain earned these trails their more advanced status, so be prepared and don't overdo it.

Looking for less strenuous activity? Bring a sled and simply spend some time playing in the snow, or learn how to snowshoe from a park ranger during a guided walk. Check the park's event calendar from January to March to find such ranger-led jaunts where snowshoes and expert advice on snowshoeing, winter survival, and ecology are provided free of charge.

JORG HACKEMANN/SHUTTERSTOCK



# OLYMPIC

With distinct zones — mountains, forests, coast — Olympic is like three parks in one, and all are accessible in winter (with a little extra prep, of course).

For true winter sports, Hurricane Ridge is the favorite. This mountainous area receives plenty of snow for snowshoeing and cross-country skiing. For an all-ages excursion, schedule a snowshoe walk with a ranger, available mid-December through March with park-provided gear. It's a great way for inexperienced snowshoers to experience the snow. Avalanches can occur in the Olympic Mountains, so be sure to heed all signs and warnings about avalanche-prone areas.

If you'd rather escape the snow than embrace it, head for the coast instead. While temperatures will still be cold,

MAXIM KAZITOV/SHUTTERSTOCK

snow melts quickly here. Check tide schedules and plan a walk at low tide. Campgrounds at Mora Rialto Beach, Ozette Lake, and Kalaloch are open year-round; during some parts of the year, the popular Kalaloch campground requires reservations, but in winter, it's first-come, first-served, or you can stay at the lovely Kalaloch Lodge with a prime view of the Pacific Ocean.

Olympic's forests always feel otherworldly, like a trip back in time, and in late winter after a snow melt, this effect is heightened. A hike in the Hoh or Quinault rainforests awakens the senses in preparation for spring. The Hoh campground is open year-round, and you can also find lodging in nearby Forks.

Olympic National Park  
Washington

**Top Winter Activities**  
Snowshoeing, cross-country and downhill skiing, snowboarding, tubing, beachcombing, hiking, camping, lodging

**Getting There**  
Traveling from Olympia, Highway 101 circles the park, providing access to all areas and entry points. You'll find Hurricane Ridge 17 miles south of Port Angeles in the north, complete with a warm and cozy visitor center and rental shop for winter gear. Coastal destinations are on the west side and forests on the south to southwest.



# ROCKY MOUNTAIN

**Rocky Mountain National Park**  
Colorado

**Top Winter Activities**  
Sledding, snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, wildlife watching

**Getting There**  
While the middle, highest-elevation portion of Trail Ridge Road closes in winter, making it difficult to travel from one side of the park to the other, you can still enter the west side from near Grand Lake and the east side from Estes Park. Both towns offer plenty of amenities — restaurants, lodging, equipment rentals — and can serve as outposts for the park. The only park campground open year-round is Moraine Park on the east side; you may find a spot on limited loops, first-come, first-served. Both Grand Lake and Estes Park are about 2 hours from Denver; check the latest road conditions to plan your route.

Rocky Mountain is a tale of two parks: the east side and the west side. In winter, the east side may have less snow at lower points, but at higher elevations, it's an arctic scene often with blizzard conditions. The west side receives more snow, but it's generally calm and clear. Snowshoeing and cross-country skiing are possible on either side, or you can try sledding in the one spot allowed inside the park: Hidden Valley, a former ski area on the east side near Estes Park. Find equipment either in Estes Park or Grand Lake.

Opportunities to see wildlife, especially large mammals, peak during the winter season, when human traffic slows and elk, moose, deer, and sheep come out in search of food and water. You're likely to spot moose along the Colorado River on the west side and the elusive bighorn sheep along the Fall River on the east side. As you drive, look for elk and mule deer in meadow areas.

IDA/KSHUTTERSTOCK



# SEQUOIA & KINGS CANYON

You may be tempted to breeze through this smaller park, and indeed you can experience a lot in a few hours that will make for a great day trip. For most visitors, it's all about big trees — see giant sequoias dusted with snow in the Giant Forest Grove, including the largest living tree on earth: the General Sherman Tree. Near Giant Forest at Wuksachi Village, you can rent snowplay gear and attempt a sledding run or two. And on the Kings Canyon side, visit Grant Grove to meet the nation's Christmas tree: the General Grant Tree.

However, if you have the time, a longer stay will reveal more of what Sequoia and Kings Canyon bring to the table. The Sequoia Natural History Association's Sequoia Field Institute offers programs throughout winter to

VIVIDUS/BIGSTOCK

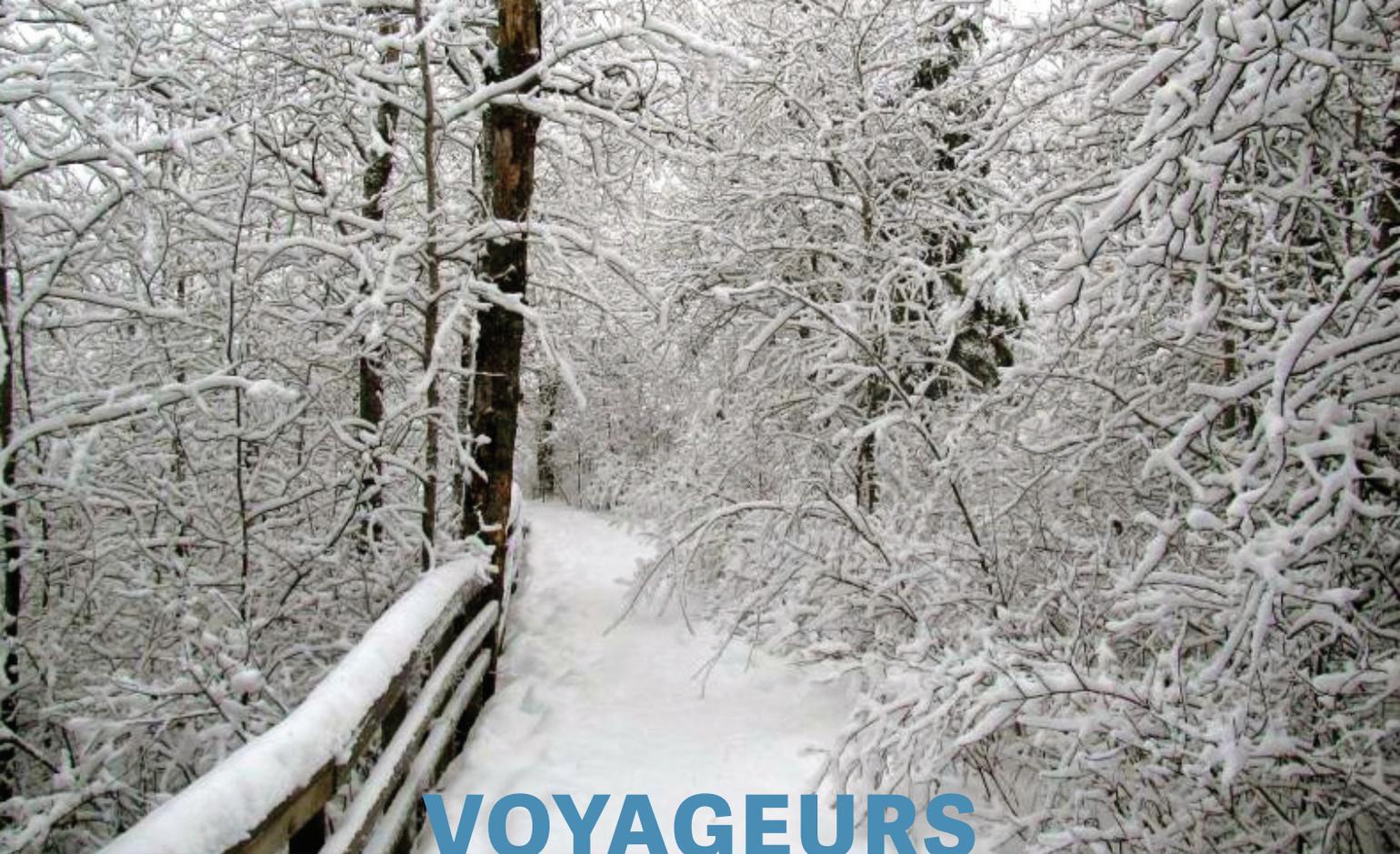
get you acquainted with winter outdoor activities like snowshoeing, skiing, and winter camping.

The Association also helps manage the Pear Lake Winter Hut, a historic cabin that's available to the public from December through April. Advanced skiers and snowshoers who are experienced with the snowy backcountry can begin the 6-mile, 2,000-foot ascent at Wolverton to reach this cozy ski hut in the woods. Reservations are required and spots are filled by a lottery that occurs each year in early November.

**Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks**  
California

**Top Winter Activities**  
Skiing, snowshoeing, giant sequoia spotting, ski-in lodging

**Getting There**  
Reach the northern entrance about 60 miles from Fresno, or 4-5 hours from San Francisco, Sacramento, or San Jose; the southern entrance is roughly 4 hours from Los Angeles. It takes about 3 hours to drive the Generals Highway, the only major thru-park route open in winter, from entrance to entrance. This road is not open to vehicles over 22 feet; all others must carry tire chains and be prepared for driving mountain roads in winter conditions.



# VOYAGEURS

**Voyageurs National Park**  
Minnesota

**Top Winter Activities**  
Snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, snowmobiling, ice fishing

**Getting There**  
Find Rainy Lake Visitor Center on the northern side of the park, 11 miles east of International Falls, Minnesota. Call ahead or check the weekly winter report on the website for latest conditions — the trail and ice road openings depend solely on the weather and snow accumulation, so later in the winter season is often better.

In the summer, visitors explore the interconnected watery trails of this park in the heart of North America just as early French explorers did hundreds of years ago and American Indians did for thousands of years. But in the winter, these waterways — and this entire park — become a frozen paradise. While other facilities in the park are closed from late September to late May (winters are long here), the Rainy Lake Visitor Center remains open year-round and provides an outpost for winter adventure.

Plan an excursion on snowshoes and cross-country skis. From Rainy Lake, where equipment rentals are available, you can use the Tilson Connector Trail to access the Tilson Creek Ski Trails, a 10-mile interconnected network, or strap on your snowshoes and hit the

Oberholtzer Trail. You can also head for the Rainy Lake Ice Road (when open) to drive across the frozen water; very specific auto size and speed limits apply.

For some anglers, an icehouse on a frozen lake in winter's quiet and stillness sounds like utopia. Many locals set up icehouses here for the season; fishing licenses and icehouse registration are required. Setting up an icehouse may be easier here than finding housing for the night; look for lodging in International Falls or around Rainy Lake outside the park.

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

CAROLINA K. SMITH MIDSHUTTERSTOCK



# YELLOWSTONE

**Yellowstone National Park**  
Wyoming, Montana, and Idaho

**Top Winter Activities**  
Cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, geyser viewing, wildlife spotting, limited snowmobiling, lodging

**Getting There**  
Call or check the park website for road statuses in winter; most roads are closed to wheeled traffic (OSVs only) from November through April, though the road from the northern entrance near Gardiner, Montana, to Cooke City remains open year-round. A stay at Mammoth Hot Springs and exploration of the northern section, by vehicle and on skis, suits most first-time visitors. To access and explore the south section, extensive planning is required.

Winter use has been a constant topic of discussion at America's first national park since its founding in 1872. With the delicate Yellowstone ecosystem at its most fragile in winter, burgeoning use of OSVs (over-snow vehicles) brought questions of environmental impact into the forefront in the 1990s and 2000s. Now, OSV use is allowed with approved, permitted commercial guides or on approved personal vehicles through an annual lottery. So plan ahead for a guided tour of the park by snowmobile, which may be the only way to cover a lot of ground in winter.

But if seeing Yellowstone's winter majesty up close is more your speed, skiing and snowshoeing are still the best options. Many trails are suitable; consult the trail maps designed specifically for these

winter activities. Beginners should stick to developed areas, or opt for a guided trip, but those experienced in winter survival and adventure can explore the backcountry. Permits are required for overnight camping trips.

You can also opt for a little more luxury. Two Yellowstone lodges stay open in winter: Mammoth Hot Springs Hotel and Cabins at the north entrance and Old Faithful Snow Lodge (the newest of the park's lodges) near the south entrance, with access to the famed Old Faithful Geyser, which erupts year-round.



# YOSEMITE

**Yosemite National Park**  
California

**Top Winter Activities:**

Lodging, fine dining, holiday dinner theater, ice-skating, downhill skiing, snowboarding, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, hiking

**Getting There:**

Yosemite National Park is a short drive from many major cities: roughly 4 hours from San Francisco or Sacramento, 6 from Los Angeles, 8 from Las Vegas or San Diego. While the trip southwest from Reno/Lake Tahoe usually takes 5 hours, road conditions in winter make it an 8-hour journey.

During the winter holidays, Yosemite Valley transforms into a wonderland of revelry and pageantry steeped in traditions nearly a century old. Since 1927, the annual Bracebridge Dinner at the Ahwahnee Lodge has been celebrated with a Renaissance-inspired seven-course dinner and four-hour pageant of carols and Medieval entertainment. More than 100 players act in the extravaganza from mid-December to Christmas Day.

Plan far ahead to get a seat at the Bracebridge table. While it costs \$400 and up (per person), it's an experience of a lifetime. In nearby Curry Village, a more economical lodging option, the whole family can also enjoy ice-skating from mid-November through March,

a winter tradition since the 1930s, and tour the Ahwahnee to revel in the Christmas decor.

Like many parks, Yosemite offers opportunities for athletes to test their winter skills on skis, snowboards, and snowshoes. In fact, Yosemite also has one of the few downhill ski areas within a national park; Badger Pass, open mid-December through March, is the oldest ski area in California. While many higher-elevation trails are inaccessible due to snow cover and closed roads, you can hike many trails in Yosemite Valley. Check at the Valley Visitor Center for current trail conditions.

COMPASSANDCAMERA/ISTOCK

TOP TO BOTTOM: OLIVEROMG/SHUTTERSTOCK; JAMES PINTAR/ISTOCK; JEFF GOULDEN/ISTOCK

## DIRECTORY

Our over 400 national parks stand, not only as a remarkable representation of America's natural and historical legacy, but also as a cherished playground for visitors young and old. Together as Americans, we all own a piece of these majestic places. Whether it's a national park down the street or across the country, they are yours to explore — so lace up your boots, pack your bag, and set out on a national park adventure uniquely your own!

To help you get started on your next national park adventure, here is a directory of all 15 parks featured in this guide. Happy Planning!

**ACADIA NATIONAL PARK**

Bar Harbor, ME | 207.288.3338 | [www.nps.gov/acad](http://www.nps.gov/acad)

**BRYCE CANYON NATIONAL PARK**

Bryce Canyon, UT | 435.834.5322 | [www.nps.gov/brca](http://www.nps.gov/brca)

**CUYAHOGA VALLEY NATIONAL PARK**

Peninsula, OH | 330.657.2752 | [www.nps.gov/cuva](http://www.nps.gov/cuva)

**GLACIER NATIONAL PARK**

West Glacier, MT | 406.888.7800 | [www.nps.gov/glac](http://www.nps.gov/glac)

**GRAND CANYON NATIONAL PARK**

Grand Canyon, AZ | 928.638.7888 | [www.nps.gov/grca](http://www.nps.gov/grca)

**GRAND TETON NATIONAL PARK**

Moose, WY | 307.739.3300 | [www.nps.gov/grte](http://www.nps.gov/grte)

**GREAT SAND DUNES NATIONAL PARK AND PRESERVE**

Mosca, CO | 719.378.6399 | [www.nps.gov/grsa](http://www.nps.gov/grsa)

**GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARK**

Gatlinburg, TN | 865.436.1200 | [www.nps.gov/grsm](http://www.nps.gov/grsm)

**LASSEN VOLCANIC NATIONAL PARK**

Mineral, CA | 530.595.4480 | [www.nps.gov/lavo](http://www.nps.gov/lavo)

**OLYMPIC NATIONAL PARK**

Port Angeles, WA | 360.565.3130 | [www.nps.gov/olym](http://www.nps.gov/olym)

**ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK**

Estes Park, CO | 970.586.1206 | [www.nps.gov/romo](http://www.nps.gov/romo)

**SEQUOIA AND KINGS CANYON NATIONAL PARK**

Three Rivers, CA | 559.565.3341 | [www.nps.gov/seki](http://www.nps.gov/seki)

**VOYAGEURS NATIONAL PARK**

International Falls, MN | 218.283.6600 | [www.nps.gov/voya](http://www.nps.gov/voya)

**YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK**

Yellowstone National Park, WY | 307.344.7381 | [www.nps.gov/yell](http://www.nps.gov/yell)

**YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK**

Yosemite, CA | 209.372.0200 | [www.nps.gov/yose](http://www.nps.gov/yose)



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