

Top 8 Winter Destinations in the World

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Winter is traditionally the time of year where we pine for a getaway to escape the uncompromising weather and dreary winter evenings. Whether you are looking to follow the sunbore to a winter sun location, or you want to embrace the winter wonderlands of Europe, why wait until summer to get your holiday fix?

Rovaniemi, Finland



Enjoy fun-filled days met with quiet times of Lappish tales around a campfire drinking hot berry juice, a visit to Santa Claus and sometimes just standing still for a minute and listening to nothing but the sound of the snowflakes falling. You'll feel as though you've walked through the wardrobe into Narnia, and just for those few, start, snow-filled days you'll feel 7 years old again and below.

"Only coming into its own during snowfall season, Rovaniemi offers a packed festival activity schedule in the official hometown of Santa Claus. Experience the vibrant thrill of seeing children and grandchildren meeting Santa in person at Santa Claus Village, while those of the future can even gain a diploma at the prestigious ES School in Santa Park. The Christmas based thrills don't end there, however, with husky tours and reindeer rides particularly popular activities within this city of everlasting winter wonder."

Sarah, Travel Counsellor

Vienna, Austria



While many cities enter a commercial lull during winter months, Austria's capital city manages to be through the chill to become one of the most endearing winter cities in Europe, where crystal clear skies and powder white layers of snow help visitors get into the seasonal spirit: street markets, cafes and bars warm you up while moving between the city's fascinating museums, and the old-world charm of twinkling lights at every turn.

Copenhagen, Denmark



Unendingly attractive winter scenes make Copenhagen an eternal winter break destination, as enveloped winter bathing and the magic of festive markets punctuate a location graced with outdoor activities such as the Tivoli Gardens, specially themed during winter season with fairy lights and decorations, alongside the opportunity to skate through the ice of Frederiksborg. There, providing plenty of fun whether you're a beginner or seasoned skater.

Budapest, Hungary



Winter in Budapest is often the best time to visit during the year, where winter festivals and a range of indoor activities see the city still full of life. Sports enthusiasts are particularly well facilitated during winter's grasp on the city, with ice skating when Europe's largest skating rink, Művelődési, situated in a walking route and tree laden setting, while keen skiers will relish the chance to visit Buda Hills, where winter trails through beautiful scenery can be enjoyed before warming body and soul at one of many wine bars serving melted wine.

Andalucía, Spain



Find a slice of summer during the traditional winter months as you head for the Spain's vibrant and colourful southernmost coastline to catch some much-needed sunshine within an Andalusian region reflecting quintessential Spain in the form of Moorish castles, whitewashed villages, fabulous flamenco, and expansive stretches of golden sands for the ultimate beach resort and family-friendly getaways during the depths of winter break.

"For anyone wanting to experience modern yet unspoiled Spain, Jerez is the place. It's a sleepy town in the afternoon, but a whole lot different when evening gates in when the many typical Spanish cafes, restaurants and bars light up for business."

Mel, Travel Counsellor

Venice, Italy



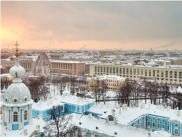
The colder months are often a wonderful chance to holiday in Venice, where tourists have long since departed and the city sits back in reflective calm. Romance is in the air during winter in Venice, with twilight walkways and romantic gondolas as your playground. Exploring without a destination in mind sees you end up in majestic public churches and meeting houses before shopping for a drink or snack among the quiet and quiet charm of the local taverns.

Shirakawa, Japan



The extremely cozy village of Shirakawa in the Gifu Prefecture of Japan regularly has some of the highest levels of snowfall across the globe, with yearly averages reaching over 35 feet in total. Aside from an ever-present scenic snowscape, the village is also listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, partly due to its 'sprigged house' style Minka buildings comprising long thatched roofs designed to prevent damage during periods of heavy snowfall.

St. Petersburg, Russia



Seasonal events abound during winter in the Russian port city of St. Petersburg, where frozen lakes and ice-catching fun are commonplace through ambiently lit streets interspersed with melting ballet venues such as the famous Mariinsky Theatre. The assortment of cultural gems ensures the city is worth visiting year round, although the magical lighting of frost and snow during winter helps make it extra special.

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