



## WINTER FAMILY FUN: 14-Day Itinerary

*When the snow starts to fall, journey into a six-state winter wonderland with skiing, dogsledding, snowmobiling, and other outdoor adventures. In between, top museums and attractions (including a teddy bear factory) provide warm-ups that young and old will love.*

### DAYS 1 & 2: CONNECTICUT

Learn more about visiting [Connecticut](#)

*Lodging ideas:* [New Haven Hotel](#) (New Haven), [Hotel Zero Degrees Danbury](#), [Watershed](#) (Norwalk) [Marriott Hartford Downtown](#)

Ease your family into winter by exploring the great indoors at Hartford's [Connecticut Science Center](#), a nine-story building with 165-plus hands-on exhibits, a 3-D digital theater, and Connecticut's only year-round indoor tropical butterfly habitat. In nearby Windsor Locks, the [New England Air Museum](#) delights aviation fans with three hangars filled with artifacts of airborne awe, from biplanes to supersonic jets.

On day two, a must-visit is New Haven's [IT Adventure Ropes Course](#), the largest of its kind in the world. Norwalk's [Stepping Stones Children's Museum](#) is tailored for kids 10 and younger, while animal lovers of all ages can marvel at critters of the land and sea at the [Maritime Aquarium](#) in Norwalk, the [Beardsley Zoo](#) in Bridgeport, and [Mystic Aquarium](#).

### DAYS 3 & 4: RHODE ISLAND

Learn more about visiting [Rhode Island](#)

*Lodging ideas:* [Aloft Providence Downtown](#), [Homewood Suites by Hilton Providence Downtown](#)

Located in the heart of Rhode Island's biggest city, the [Providence Rink](#) is not only a great spot to lace up rental skates but also New England's only place to drive ice bumper cars. For a different kind of family-friendly ride, head to nearby Lincoln to explore winter trails on [Sunset Stables'](#) friendly horses.

Skiing and snowboarding newbies can warm up for bigger mountains later in this trip by spending a day at Exeter's [Yawgoo Valley Ski Area](#): Its 36 acres and 12 trails are beginner-friendly, and there are learn-to-ski programs and rentals, plus a snow tubing park (and night skiing!). Round out your last day in Rhode Island with a one-of-a-kind meal aboard Newport's [Grand Bellevue dinner train](#), which offers station-side dining in winter.

### DAYS 5 & 6: MASSACHUSETTS

Learn more about visiting [Massachusetts](#)

*Lodging ideas:* [Deerfield Inn](#) (Deerfield), [Great Wolf Lodge](#) (Fitchburg), [Hampton Inn & Suites](#) (Greenfield), [The Old Mill Inn](#) (Hatfield), [Publick House Historic Inn](#) (Sturbridge)

At 430 acres, Mass Audubon's [Broad Meadow Brook](#) in Worcester is the largest urban wildlife sanctuary in New England. Rent snowshoes to venture out on your own or join a guided walk, then retreat to the cozy [EcoTarium](#) science and nature museum, where kids can spend hours on the interactive exhibits and travel to the stars at the recently renovated planetarium.

A short drive west on I-90 takes your family back in time at [Old Sturbridge Village](#), a 200-acre living history museum that re-creates New England life in the early 1800s. Moving on to Springfield, the young and the young-at-heart will thrill to the [Amazing World of Dr. Seuss Museum](#), devoted to children's book author Theodor Geisel, and the [Magic Wings Butterfly Conservatory](#) in Hatfield, a sprawling tropical conservatory filled with nearly 4,000 living jewels.

### DAYS 7-9: VERMONT

Learn more about visiting [Vermont](#)

*Lodging ideas:* [Jay Peak Resort](#) (Jay), [Smugglers' Notch Resort](#) (Jeffersonville), [Sterling Ridge Resort](#) (Jeffersonville)

There's usually still snow on the ground when Vermont's maple syrup scene starts heating up. See how it's done at Montpelier's [Morse Farm Maple Sugarworks](#), which has been "sugaring" for eight generations. For a different kind of sweet experience, tour the [Vermont Teddy Bear](#) factory in Shelburne before heading up to Burlington's [ECHO, Leahy Center for Lake Champlain](#), where highlights include a replica shipwreck and live-animal exhibits of fish, frogs, and other critters.

Less than an hour from Burlington is [Smugglers' Notch](#), which balances supportive instruction for beginners (as young as 2½) with diverse terrain for all ages and abilities. At [Jay Peak](#), 385-plus skiable acres are complemented by indoor fun such as a climbing gym, ice skating, and the Pumphouse indoor water park.

Treat your kids to the oohs and aahs that only adorable animals can provide. The [Vermont Reindeer Farm](#) is home to the living inspirations for Santa's sleigh ride, as well as mini donkeys, mini goats, ponies, deer, chicken, and ducks. At [Eden Ethical Dog Sledding](#), meanwhile, high-energy Alaskan huskies are raring to take you and your family on a dogsled adventure across 140 privately owned acres.

#### DAYS 10 & 11: NEW HAMPSHIRE

Learn more about visiting [New Hampshire](#)

Lodging ideas: [Bretton Woods Vacations \(rentals\)](#), [The Chandler at White Mountains \(Bethlehem\)](#)

As New Hampshire's premier winter playground, the White Mountains boast excellent downhill action at places like [Bretton Woods](#), [Cannon Mountain](#), and [Loon Mountain](#), and cross-country skiing at [Jackson XC Center](#). But non-skiers will find lots to do, too. Willy Wonka dreams come true at Littleton's [Chutters](#), where the "World's Longest Candy Counter" offers a rainbow of confections in all shapes and flavors. Take a sleigh ride tour of [The Rocks](#), a forest reservation and Christmas tree farm set on a 1,400-acre historic estate in Bethlehem, or unleash the excitement of dogsledding at [Muddy Paw Sled Dog Kennel](#) in Jefferson.

No winter visit here would be complete without a visit to the Northeast's biggest peak, Mount Washington. The best way for families to enjoy this natural wonder is from a cozy [Mount Washington SnowCoach](#), which climbs more than 4,000 feet via the twisting and turning Mount Washington Auto Road to deliver stunning mountain views.

#### DAYS 12 & 13: MAINE

Learn more about visiting [Maine](#)

Lodging ideas: [New England Outdoor Center cabin rentals \(Millinocket\)](#), [Sunday River \(Newry\)](#)

Founded in 1982, the [New England Outdoor Center](#) in Millinocket introduces travelers to Maine's wide range of backwoods adventures. In winter, the center's Registered Maine Guides can lead you on a half or full-day ice fishing expedition or a high-octane snowmobile tour (passengers must be at least 9 years old). A gentler outing awaits at the [Rangeley Lakes Trail Center](#), which offers snowshoe rentals and the chance to spot 30-plus wooden gnomes tucked into its 50km groomed trail system.

Set aside a day to play in Bethel: Warm up with some skating at [Bethel Community Ice Rink](#), then go skiing and snowboarding across the eight peaks of [Sunday River Resort](#). Linger to experience the magical [Sunday River Après Aglow](#), a forested trail glittering with thousands of lights, or—if you're in Maine during the first half of December—check out the sparking holiday scene of Kennebunkport's [Christmas Prelude](#) on your way down to Massachusetts.

#### DAY 14: BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Learn more about visiting [Boston](#)

Lodging ideas: [Boston Marriott Copley Place](#), [The Godfrey Hotel](#), [Hilton Boston Park Plaza](#)

Bring your camera to Boston Common's [Frog Pond](#), one of New England's most iconic spots for ice skating; rentals are available, as are snacks and hot chocolate at the pond's café. Then set off for the waterfront and your choice of three top indoor attractions for families: the [New England Aquarium](#), the [Museum of Science](#), and the [Boston's Children's Museum](#). Or hop in the car to experience Salem's [Peabody Essex Museum](#), one of the nation's largest art museums, whose wide-ranging collection of art, artifacts, and architecture is guaranteed to fascinate all ages.

Want one last hit of outdoor fun? [Appleton Farms](#) in Ipswich is a lovely working farm that welcomes winter visitors with snowshoe rentals and miles of groomed cross-country ski trails. On maple season weekends, stick around for syrup-making demos and tastings at the property's Sugar Shack.

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