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Top Winter Vacation Ideas

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By Jan Ross

Tired of the snow, the ice and the biting winds? Tired of digging out your heavy coat, hat, boots and gloves every time you leave the house? Fed up with shovelling the snow and scraping the ice every time you need your car? Then it's definitely time to head for the fun, sun and pleasant weather in some of these beautiful locations.

Best Ideas for a Winter Vacation



Key West, Florida

If you want to get really warm – warm enough to get a sunburned nose – then you need to head to Key West. With temperatures in the mid-70's, the most popular activity in Key West is watching the incredible sunsets. For a tour of this small but scenic and historic town, take the popular Old Town Trolley, a colorful and open-air trolley which

tools around town and offers a narrated history of the area. For lunch or dinner, pop into Sloppy Joe's and order some of the fresh, local shrimp. Open since 1933, Sloppy Joe's was Ernest Hemingway's favorite bar and is still a fun place to have a drink and a meal.

Savannah, Georgia

Winter in Savannah is not tropical but with temperate weather averaging in the 60's, great deals on restaurants and tours and few tourists, it's a wonderful time to visit. Take one of the trolley tours so you can appreciate this beautiful, Spanish, moss laden city with its unique and charming park-like squares. Hop over to charming Tybee Island for a bike ride on the beach or a meal at Coco's Sunset Grille – be sure to try the unique and delicious fried strawberries! When you get back to town, head to River Street to stroll on the ballast stone street and visit the many little shops.

Destin, Florida

Located on the gorgeous Gulf Coast of Florida with sugar white sand and incredible turquoise and jade green water, Destin is a great winter getaway. Temperatures in the mid-60's make a stroll on the beach downright pleasant. The Silver Sands outlet mall will not be nearly as crowded as it is in the middle of summer so you can easily pick up that new Coach bag you have been wanting! Don't forget to grab some fish tacos at Cheeseburger in Paradise for lunch.

Gulf Shores, Alabama

Quiet, secluded Gulf Shores has beautiful winter weather in the low 60's, fabulous Gulf coast beaches and great seafood. Take the short drive over to Lulu's at Homeport Marina for some of the best seafood on the coast. Owned by Lucy Buffet, Jimmy Buffet's sister, Lulu's has live music, a great water view, plenty of places for the kids to play, and the best onion rings you have ever tasted.

Phoenix, Arizona

Winter is the perfect time to visit Arizona as even though the residents claim it's a dry heat in the summer it's still pretty darn hot! Winter is a different story with low to mid-70's being the average temperature and clear, beautiful blue skies every day. It's warm enough to swim, play golf or take a tour of the fascinating Taliesin West, Frank Lloyd Wright's architectural marvel. In the evening, make a reservation for the Wine Me, Dine Me experience at the Southwest Bistro at the Hyatt Regency Spa and Resort at the Gainey Ranch. With a variety of tequila tastings paired with exquisitely prepared food, it's a fabulous dining experience.

Winter Vacation Rental Listings

Heard enough? Ditch your gloves and pack your swimwear, but not before checking out the ByOwner vacation rental listings!