

CONNECTICUT & NEW HAMPSHIRE

Holiday Light Fantasia – Hartford, CT - An annual tradition that lights up Goodwin Park in Hartford, this show benefits Channel 3 Kids Camp. A two-mile stretch of the park is decorated with over one million lights that transform the park into a winter wonderland. There are over 200 individual displays that celebrate Christmas, Hanukkah, New Year's, and Three Kings Day. Friday and Saturday evenings, Santa makes an appearance for the kids. Active duty personnel and retired military receive free admission one day each year on December 26, with valid ID.



Ice Castle – Lincoln, NH - Now becoming an annual tradition, the ice castle is a unique sight to see. Built new every year, the castle reaches 25 feet at its highest point and spans about an acre. It features tunnels, slides, fountains and more. While you can visit the castle during the day, thousands of LED lights (coordinated with music) transform the castle at night. In addition to the light shows, the Enchanted Frozen Princess makes appearances. For older visitors, there are fire shows on Friday and Saturday nights. Tickets are cheaper when bought online, so it is good to plan ahead.

Snowmobiling – Pittsburg, NH - Known for the best snowmobile trails in the East, there are over 250 miles of diverse trails in the area with beautiful views. The trails are groomed often and there are several clubs that provide information and advice for beginners

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Winter Activities



Winter in New England is something to experience! Along with the snow comes skating, tubing, skiing, and much more across the region!

The information was compiled by:



RHODE ISLAND

Newport Winter Festival – Newport, RI - 10 Days of non stop music, food and fun at the Newport Winter Festival! Touted as “New England’s Largest Winter Extravaganza,” the annual Winter Festival will takes place around the third week of February throughout Newport and Newport County. Featuring over 150 events, the festival offers a unique winter experience combining food, festivities, music, and fun for all ages. Melt away your winter blues with all the Newport Winter Festival has to offer. Highlighted events include the Chili Cook-Off, Mac & Cheese Smackdown, Princess Party and exciting, fun concerts by local bands!

Yawgoo Valley Ski Area – Exeter, RI - This large hill offers skiing, snowboarding, and snow tubing for the whole family. Ski and snowboard lessons are available for ages three to adult. Snow tubing is available to everyone over 42 inches tall. Active duty military receive a discounted rate on lift tickets and rentals (including season passes).

Bank Newport City Center Rink – Providence, RI - Located in the heart of downtown Providence, this outdoor skating rink is twice the size of Rockefeller Center in New York. Skating lessons are also available throughout the season. Skate aids and helmets are also available to rent. Special events are hosted throughout the season, including skating with Santa. The skating center is open daily from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m., weather permitting. A military discount is available (including up to three family members).

Cross Country Skiing & Snowshoeing in Rhode Island - Many trails in the area open for cross country skiing or snowshoeing in the winter. Goddard Park in Warwick has trails that are groomed and marked for skiing. Arcadia Management Area (wear orange due to hunting season) in Exeter has miles of trails for skiing and snowshoeing. However, trails are not always groomed and marked, so use caution.

Pulaski Park in Gloucester, RI - Four miles of machine-groomed trails. Entry is free and the park is open daily. In addition to ski trails, a snowshoe trail is groomed for those who prefer not to ski. It is required to wear at least 200 square inches of orange in the winter, as the park is close to hunting areas.

Polar Express Train Rides – Woonsocket, RI - With several locations all over New England, kids and adults can experience the recreation of the classic story. Kids are encouraged to dress in pajamas, and adults are welcome to join as well, to help create the magic of the Polar Express. All tickets include: cookie and hot cocoa in a collectible mug, tote bag, and die-cut golden ticket. Children also receive a coloring book and a silver bell delivered by Santa himself. Tickets sell out quickly, so make sure to book early and free parking is available.



MASSACHUSETTS

Weston Ski Track – Weston, MA - This converted golf course is not far from Boston and features 15-miles of ski and snowshoe trails. The track is open daily, weather permitting and is regularly groomed. Rentals and lessons are available, and military receive a discount (including packages).

Nashoba Valley Snow Tubing Park – Littleton, MA - Open daily in winter, this tubing park is part of the Nashoba Valley Ski area and tickets are sold in two hour blocks.

Winterfest – Lowell, MA - An annual occurrence in February, this event caters to children and adults alike. It’s host to live music, a winter beer garden, the giant “Snowzilla” slide, kids areas, food trucks, and a winter market. There are special events every year, including all-you-can-eat chocolate and the human dog sled competition in February each year.