

MAKE THIS **YOUR BEST TRAVEL YEAR EVER**

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WHERE TRAVEL CAN TAKE YOU

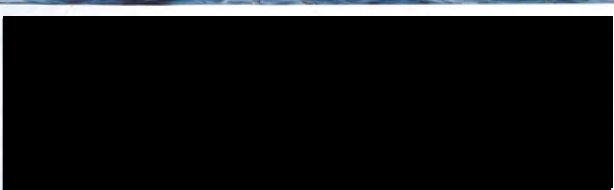
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#TRAVELDEEPER

WHERE TO GO

in **2015**

THE ONLY LIST
YOU NEED



**11 PERFECT
WINTER
RETREATS**

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WINE
COUNTRY**

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TAKE ON
VIENNA**

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JANUARY / FEBRUARY 2015



**NITA
LAKE LODGE**
Whistler,
Canada

Powder Play

North American hotels and resorts are going beyond skiing when it comes to winter fun. The offerings at these getaways—ice fishing, biathlon, skijoring (skiing while being pulled by a dog)—are for adventurers who like to end the day with a spiked hot cocoa and a s'more.

by JEN MURPHY



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1

NITA LAKE LODGE Whistler, Canada

Whistler is consistently ranked North America's top ski destination, but the area also offers plenty of adventures for non-skiers. Nita Lake Lodge keeps guests cozy with fireplaces in all 77 rooms and s'mores roasted in the outdoor fire pit every night. At Whistler Sliding Centre, travelers can experience the high-speed thrill of bobsledding. The

lodge is only a five-minute walk from the base of Whistler Mountain, where visitors can ride Canada's longest zip line through the snowy treetops of old-growth rain forest. The lodge recently hired chef Dean Hossack to oversee Aura, a restaurant with tasting menus built around locally foraged ingredients. *From \$259. nitalakelodge.com*

2

FOUR SEASONS JACKSON HOLE Jackson, Wyoming

Most people visit the national parks during the summer, but winter provides a completely different wildlife-viewing experience. Guests at the Four Seasons Jackson Hole have multiple options for taking in a snowy Yellowstone. Get a bird's-eye view of the park on a helicopter photo safari with one of the hotel's in-house

wildlife biologists, who can expertly spot moose, elk, bison, and grizzlies. At night, the hotel's resident astronomer takes guests to Grand Teton National Park for stargazing sessions. More active travelers can rent fat bikes with oversize tires and pedal out to the Jackson Elk Refuge. *From \$579. fourseasons.com*

3

TOPNOTCH RESORT & SPA Stowe, Vermont

In 2013, Topnotch unveiled a nearly \$15 million renovation that includes a new lobby with mountain views and an update of all 68 rooms, which now feature locally made furniture and art. An on-site Nordic center outfits guests with snowshoes and cross-country skis, and offers lessons. February is one of the best times for ice

fishing in Vermont, and the resort offers casting clinics and can arrange for guests to try their luck at some of the prettiest lakes in the state. Flannel, the new restaurant, serves the type of food you will crave after a day of playing in the cold: a burger topped with pork belly, an egg, and Vermont cheddar; and mushroom soup topped with housemade ricotta. *From \$325. topnotchresort.com*



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For more winter fun close to home, go to afar.com/snowplay.



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4 WINTERLAKE LODGE

Alaska Range, Alaska

Located on the western edge of the Alaska Range, Winterlake Lodge is a fly-in-only retreat, so guests have open, empty trails to explore by snowshoes, snowmobile, cross-country skis, or dogsled. This season, visitors can opt to journey eight miles to a rustic new cabin where they'll be served dinner and spend the

night. Those looking for a break from the cold can sign up for cooking classes or soak in the lodge's hot tub and take in the northern lights. In early March, Winterlake offers front-row seats for the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race, which passes right in front of the hotel. *From \$840. withinthewild.com*

5 WASHINGTON SCHOOL HOUSE

Park City, Utah

Located a block off Park City's main strip, Washington School House was built as a school in 1889 and reopened as a hotel in 2011 with 12 rooms and suites. Guests gravitate toward the main living room and the dining room, where they enjoy one of the best breakfasts in town (buttermilk pancakes and a seasonal market

scramble) in front of a giant wood-burning fireplace and beneath a chandelier made of antlers and crystals. During the winter, Washington School House staff can arrange snowshoe hikes to Homestead Crater, where the water remains 90 degrees year-round. Once there, travelers can either soak or try stand-up paddleboarding. *From \$375. washingtonschoolhouse.com*

6 FAIRMONT CHATEAU LAKE LOUISE

Lake Louise, Canada

The Fairmont Chateau Lake Louise is the perfect base for winter family adventures. An in-house gear shop can outfit guests with hockey equipment or ice skates, and the lake's ice castle provides an Instagram-worthy backdrop for photos. The hotel's on-site activity outfitter, Mountain Heritage, leads

guided snowshoe and cross-country ski tours straight from the back door. On the edge of the lake, a small shed showcases a collection of vintage European skis and snowshoes that are available to rent. In the evenings, guests can get a taste of Switzerland with an authentic Swiss fondue dinner at Walliser Stube restaurant. *From \$266. fairmont.com*



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STYLISH
AND
AFFORDABLE
WINTER
LODGES



7 A

RESORT AT PAWS UP

Greenough, Montana
Paws Up takes down its well-appointed tent cabins for the winter, but the 37,000-acre ranch's family-friendly timber homes can accommodate up to eight guests. Visitors start winter mornings with slabs of bacon, eggs, and homemade coffee cake. Hard-core fly fishers can don waders and cast in the Blackfoot River, while wannabe

Olympians can test their cross-country skiing and target-shooting skills on the biathlon course. For something more traditional, Paws Up offers hour-long horseback rides and old-fashioned horse-drawn sled trips. History geeks shouldn't miss the snowmobile tour through Garnet, Montana's best-preserved ghost town. *From \$753 per person, meals included. pawsup.com*

8

ST. REGIS ASPEN RESORT

Aspen, Colorado
The 179-room St. Regis Aspen Resort is the grand dame of this glitzy ski town. Regulars return year after year for the hotel's hearty breakfast buffet, resourceful concierge service, and Remède Spa. This season the dog-friendly resort will offer you a new way to bond with your pup: skijoring lessons. The sport originated in

Scandinavia and combines cross-country skiing and dogsledding. A certified professional dog trainer will assist guests in training their dogs to pull them along on their skis. Guests without pets can skijor with an adopted dog on loan from the Aspen Animal Shelter, and a portion of the proceeds go back to the shelter. *From \$779. stregisaspen.com*

THE BIVOUAC

Breckenridge, Colorado

"The Bivvi" has four hotel rooms and two dorm-style rooms with bunk beds. Guests gather on the deck for the fire pit and hot tub. *Bunks from \$45; rooms from \$159. thebivvi.com*

THE GRAHAM & CO.

Phoenicia, New York

A 19-room motel in the Catskills got a minimalist makeover. Guests get a free local beer at check-in, and the shop sells CATSKILLS VS. HAMPTONS T-shirts. *From \$125. thegrahamandco.com*

BASECAMP HOTEL

South Lake Tahoe, California

Bright orange camp lanterns and other twists on classic outdoor design furnish 74 rooms. Heavenly Mountain is a short walk away. *From \$89. basecamphotels.com*