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## 7 Winter Vacations That Are Better Than the Beach

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We often refer to winter as a season to be endured, but there's a certain magic to the cooler months. Leaves quiver in the icy breeze, powder-white snow carpets the landscape, and once-familiar towns are transformed into almost unrecognizable [winter wonderlands](#).

The chilly conditions might make you want to [stay indoors and hibernate](#), but a few stunning destinations prove that winter is the best season to plan a vacation. From husky-led snow safaris and cross-country skiing to wandering the intricate interior of a fairytale castle covered in snow, these travel locales come alive with a host of activities and events. Believe us, you've never seen Sedona, Banff National Park, or [Lake Bled](#) like this before.

**Pack your scarf and gloves—your next winter vacation beckons.**

### Lapland

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**PHOTO:** Irén Udvarházi/500px

It's about to get much easier to travel to Finland's northernmost region, Lapland. Due to increased demand, [Finnair is set to increase capacity to Lapland this winter offering 430,000 seats](#). What's more, it's just a one-hour flight from the capital, Helsinki.

During the winter months, Lapland is almost completely engulfed in darkness. That might sound like the makings of a fairly uneventful vacation if it weren't for the brilliant light display that casts rainbow hues across the dark sky. January, February, and March are the best months to see the aurora borealis, a natural phenomenon that occurs when electrons collide with the Earth's atmosphere. Cozy up in one of Lapland's gorgeous boutique hotels ([Northern Lights Ranch's](#) glass-ceiling rooms gets our top pick) after a day of dog sledding and reindeer rides at [Levi Husky Park](#).