

A snow day festival that's for the dogs, and other Midwest winter events



A Siberian husky greets a young girl at a Snow Day Festival at Plum Creek Nature Center in Crete Township near Beecher, Ill. (Glenn Knoblock / Forest Preserve District of Will County)

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Chicago Tribune

DECEMBER 24, 2017, 4:45 PM

Here are some of the more interesting events, deals, websites and other travel tidbits that came across our desk recently:

◆Sled-dog teams from the Siberian Husky Club of Greater Chicago will be on hand Jan. 20 as the Plum Creek Nature Center in Crete Township near Beecher, Ill., hosts a Snow Day Festival. Catch an ice sculptor at work, go sledding, snowshoeing or hiking, and stick around for a screening of the Disney film “Snow Buddies.”

<https://tinyurl.com/yaz599h3>

◆Winter Delights, a wine-tasting event, will be held for the ninth year Jan. 20 at the Mendel Center at Lake Michigan College in Benton Harbor, Mich. Sample wines from 20 Michigan vineyards, along with food pairings and live music. Get tickets online or at the door.
<http://tinyurl.com/y8ck7fgp>

◆The Richard Bong State Recreation Area in Kansasville, Wis., will hold a nighttime Owl Prowl on Jan. 27. The annual event explores why owls are perfect night hunters, and participants will have the chance to get outside and look for the nocturnal birds of prey. <http://tinyurl.com/ybqf2wop>

◆Mackinaw City, Mich., is staging its 25th annual Winter Festival on Jan. 19-20. There will be amateur and professional snow-sculpting competitions, sleigh and wagon rides, outhouse races, an ice-fishing tournament and a chili cook-off. <http://tinyurl.com/ydhrev7q>

◆An exploration of 120 years of architecture at the University of Notre Dame is on display through Aug. 5 at The History Museum in South Bend, Ind. “Commitment, Continuity and Community: Architecture at Notre Dame, 1898-Present” includes a model of Notre Dame’s Golden Dome, work from students of the university’s School of Architecture, a presentation of downtown South Bend in the 1920s and more.
<http://tinyurl.com/yb89s2d8>

◆Bald eagles are the star of the show Jan. 26-28 at the Eagles in Flight program at Turkey Run State Park in Marshall, Ind. There will be eagle, hawk and owl programs with live birds and the opportunity to spot eagles in the wild. <http://tinyurl.com/ycajxzln>

◆Looking for a winter sports challenge? The Arctic Warrior Snowshoe and Winter Obstacle Course Race will be held Jan. 13 in St. Germain, Wis. Get your competitive juices flowing at the team 5K and 10K obstacle courses (team size ranges from two to six people) with challenges like a tire shuffle and a snowy tundra tunnel crawl. There are also 5K and 10K snowshoe races and a 1K snowshoe for kids. <http://tinyurl.com/ya52zovd>

◆Ice and snow sculptures will be the main highlight of the annual Zehnder's Snowfest, Jan. 24-29 in Frankenmuth, Mich. Enjoy live entertainment in the warming tent. Members of the Detroit Tigers will make a brief appearance on Jan. 26 as part of the Tigers Winter Caravan. Fireworks will light things up on Jan. 27. <http://tinyurl.com/y9kb8zt8>

◆Avoya Travel has a seven-night Alaska cruise aboard Holland America Line that's priced from \$849 per person, double occupancy. Sailing from Vancouver, British Columbia, on July 15, the Noordam will cruise the Inside Passage and make port calls in Ketchikan, Juneau and Skagway, Alaska. It will spend a day cruising Glacier Bay before ending in Seward. 888-346-9172, <http://tinyurl.com/y7gh753g>

- ◆It's not long until Mardi Gras. If you want to know the dates, parade routes and schedules for the big bash in New Orleans, check out www.mardigrasneworleans.com
- ◆FamilyVacationCritic.com lists its picks for the 10 best ski resorts for families at <http://tinyurl.com/y83hsnpv>
- ◆The 64th edition of the Quebec Winter Carnival will be Jan. 26-Feb. 11 in Quebec City. <http://tinyurl.com/jjca95t>

Deals and websites listed here have been checked for availability as of press time. Listings are not endorsements. Send tips at least a month in advance to ChicagoTribTravel@gmail.com.

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