

The Non-Christmassy Festivals of Winter

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Getting festive at the end of the year doesn't have to be all about mulled wine and Santa photo ops. These festivals may fall over the holidays, but there's nothing Christmassy about them.

—*Kristy Alpert*



Carnavale de Quebec

CARNAVALE DE QUEBEC

When: January-February

Where: Quebec City, Canada

The **Carnaval de Quebec** started in 1894 as a way for settlers to spin the harsh "New France" winters into a time of celebration. It has grown into the largest winter festival in the world, where the celebration begins the instant the Mayor of Quebec turns the keys to the city over to the festival's jovial ambassador Bonhomme, a giant snowman. The fairgrounds become a winter playground for the festival, with ice carving competitions, an ice castle, games, sledding, and chilling events like the annual Snow Bath.