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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FROM RELISHING IN NEWLY FALLEN SNOW OUTDOORS, TO KEEPING COZY INSIDE
10 indoor and outdoor ways to enjoy winter in Wisconsin

MADISON, Wis. (Jan. 20, 2012) – The recent snowfall has many snow-lovers rejoicing. But, we know there are just as many who would rather stay indoors and avoid the cold. In the spirit of compromise, we have created the ultimate winter to-do list with a little something for everyone. Whether it's hitting the slopes, heading north to go snowmobiling, visiting a museum or even donning your swimsuit for an indoor waterpark, you better believe that fun is everywhere this winter. Here are **10 indoor and outdoor ways to enjoy winter in Wisconsin**.

1. Snowmobile around the circumference of the earth in Wisconsin alone

Wisconsin has enough miles of snowmobiling trails to circle the circumference of the earth. That's right, with 25,000 miles of pristine trails that weave through forests, lakes, fields and villages, there's "snow" stoppin' us!

Head north to [Eagle River](#) aka the "Snowmobile Capital of the World" for great riding conditions. One-hundred percent of snowmobiling trails in the area are open for business. And, as far as miles of snowmobiling trails per city goes, Eagle River has the most in the state.



Snowmobiling in Eagle River
Photo courtesy Brian Malloy

Another trail worth checking out this winter is [The Gandy Dancer](#). This 98-mile trail starts in the St. Croix Falls area of northern Wisconsin and crosses over to Minnesota and back two times before it

makes it's way to Superior. That means you get not only one, but two times to yell "GO PACK GO" in Viking territory.

2. Torpedo down a waterslide – because you can

With chilly temperatures outside, why not pack your suitcase with flip-flops and a swimsuit and make your way to a Wisconsin indoor waterpark. The [Wisconsin Dells](#), aka the "Waterpark Capital of the World" is home to nearly 20 indoor waterparks. For starters, check out the [Kalahari](#) as the resort has added three new waterslides to its indoor waterpark. In addition, Kalahari has opened two of the nation's first ever Super Loop waterslides taking guests on a 250-foot or more journey and a near 60-foot drop traveling at speeds up to 25 mph.

The Dells isn't the only place to get your waterslide on. Check out [Chaos Waterpark](#) at the Metropolis Hotel in Eau Claire, the [Blue Harbor Resort](#) in Sheboygan, [Tundra Lodge](#) in Green Bay or [Waters of Minocqua](#) deep in the Northwoods of Wisconsin.

3. Inner tubes aren't just for water – snow tubing is awesome fun in Wisconsin

Inner tubes serve a dual purpose in Wisconsin. After you've used them to float down a lazy river indoors, see them in action outside. Snow tubing is a fun, no-skill-needed activity and a great way to get the whole family involved. Lots of ski resorts throughout the state offer a dedicated snow tubing hill, complete with towrope.

[Wilmot Mountain](#) in Wilmot just opened up a brand new snow tubing hill this season. It's got a whopping 16 lanes and a "magic carpet" back to the top. And for the little ones, there's a "kiddie" hill. [Sylvan Park](#) in Wausau is the largest snow tube hill in the state. The west part of the hill has a vertical drop of 133 feet and the east hill 120 feet. Check out this [list of snow tubing destinations](#). The hardest part about tubing: determining your tube style. Do you sit and scoot, or do you prefer a running start? We think both are perfectly acceptable.

4. The numbers 445, 30 and 700 mean something in Wisconsin

We don't mean to brag (well, maybe just a little) but did you know there are more than 445 runs at 30 downhill skiing/tubing and snowboarding sites throughout the state? And the highest vertical drop is the 700-foot mountain at Granite Peak?

Wisconsin has the third-largest collection of downhill skiing and snowboarding sites in the country. And just like no two snowflakes are alike, no two Wisconsin ski resorts are either. Each has its own personality. A few updates to take note of for this ski season: [Alpine Valley](#) in Elkhorn added a new high-speed quad (chair lift). [Christmas Mountain](#) in the Wisconsin Dells will add three new runs to its lineup and has extended their snow tube run by 100 feet. [Mont Du Lac](#) in Superior added new features, including rails, boxes and jibs, and a high-speed tow rope to their terrain park.

Make sure to get some skiing/boarding in before the end of the month, as January is [Learn to Ski and Snowboard Month](#). This national effort's goal is twofold: to get beginners outside learning a new sport and to have fun. Resorts throughout Wisconsin are taking part by offering discounts.

5. Festivals don't stop when the temperature drops

With so much going on this season, it's hard to know where to start. How about at the Midwest's largest hot air balloon festival, the [Hudson Hot Air Affair](#). Held Feb. 3-5, watch as nearly 40 hot air balloons ascend. This year's dragon themed torchlight parade in downtown Hudson is a must-see.

Don't miss the [Beloit International Film Festival](#) Feb. 16-19. Held at a dozen venues around Beloit, view feature films, shorts, documentaries and even silent films by independent filmmakers from around the world. New this year is the Student Filmmakers Showcase where 6th to 12th grade students enter a 3-5 minute piece. Look out Spielberg!



Hudson Hot Air Affair

And finally, for those whiners and complainers who think "there's nothing to do in the winter," how about a wine festival. Parallel 44 Winery near Green Bay is hosting the [Frozen Tundra Fest](#) Feb. 24-25. This outdoor wine fest celebrates the unique cool-climate grapes that Parallel 44 uses to make their award-winning wines. And yes, outdoor wine fest literally means outdoors. So dress accordingly!

6. Norwegians settled in Wisconsin and brought their favorite sport

Of the wonderful inventions Norwegians have brought to the world – the cheese slicer, the paperclip, the key card – perhaps the greatest of all is Nordic skiing. And, with more than 700 miles of groomed cross-country ski trails throughout the state, Wisconsin is a leader in the sport.

From snow-covered forests to peaceful countryside, the state offers cross-country enthusiasts a chance to stride on everything from challenging Olympic-level tracks to flat woodland trails. Check out [this list](#) of trails.

For those who have yet to take up the sport – there's no time like the present. Rent equipment and learn how at [Minocqua Winter Park](#) or [Nine Mile Recreation Area](#) in Wausau.

7. How about some inner peace and tranquility for a change?

Make the season stress free as Wisconsin is home to a number of resorts and spas ready to pamper you. These spas serve up treatments that draw on local ingredients, will have you sleeping better and combine ancient healing with modern wellness. In other words – you'll be totally and completely relaxed.

Recently named a *Forbes* 5-star property, the American Club Resort in Kohler is home to the [Kohler Waters Spa](#). Aside from offering phenomenal services like the Great Lakes Stone Massage or Ah-Shiatsu Barefoot Massage, the spa has a glass-enclosed rooftop deck with whirlpool, fireplace and lounge.

In the Wisconsin Dells, visit the [Sundara Spa](#), which is ranked on *Travel + Leisure's* "Top 25 Spas in America." Throughout the month of February Sundara offers a variety of nourishing cocoa spa services that hydrate skin and make you feel rejuvenated. Or, stay at the luxurious Osthoff Resort in Elkhart Lake and indulge in the services at the [Aspira Spa](#). Special packages

available now include everything from yoga classes to cooking workshops along with spa treatments.

8. Snowshoes are low tech and high reward

An increasingly popular sport in Wisconsin, snowshoeing offers a great workout without much technical skill involved. It does however require the right equipment so leave the tennis racquets at home. Don't worry though, there are plenty of outfitters and parks throughout the state that offer rentals.

Situated along the Ice Age National Scenic Trail, the 3,600-acre [Chippewa Moraine State Recreation Area](#) is one of nine units of the Ice Age National Scientific Reserve and offers great snowshoeing. Make sure to come Feb. 4 for a unique moonlight snowshoeing excursion with Naturalist Rod Gont. Call ahead to reserve snowshoes.

For the competitive set, don't miss [Timm's Hill Trudge](#) in Ogema on March 3. This annual snowshoe race takes place near Timm's Hill – Wisconsin's highest geographical point. Pick from two races: 3.5 mile or 7 mile.

9. Appreciate the arts, they appreciate you

Wisconsin is home to a plethora of museums, art galleries, performance theaters and everything in between. And since it's cold outside, there's no time like the present to visit.

Cleopatra VII was lost to the sea and sand for nearly 2,000 years and has surfaced at the Milwaukee Public Museum. Now through-April 2012, check out the new exhibit, "[Cleopatra: The Search for the Last Queen of Egypt](#)." This is the third stop on the exhibition's world tour, which features nearly 150 artifacts from Cleopatra's time. The exhibit also helps visitors experience the present-day search for the elusive queen, which extends from the sands of Egypt to the depths of the Bay of Aboukir near Alexandria.



Diver eye-to-eye with sphinx in Alexandria Harbor
Photo courtesy Jérôme Delafosse

10. Travel Wisconsin tools make finding winter fun easy

We want to make it easy for travelers to embrace Wisconsin's winter. The [Snow Conditions Report](#) is the state's leading tool to track the snow conditions for trails, parks and ski areas throughout the winter season. As many as 130 snow condition reporters in all 72 counties of the state update their area's status as conditions change. All it takes is a visit to [TravelWisconsin.com](#), clicking subscribe or viewing from your smartphone.

And now, winter fun just went viral. Visit Travel Wisconsin's Facebook page to view the new [Winter Break App](#). Whether there's three feet of snow or three flakes, there's nothing like taking a well-deserved break to do something fun. Pick deserving friends on Facebook and send them their very own Winter Break certificate.

Travelers looking for year-round Wisconsin getaway ideas, travel planning, events and free guides can discover their own fun at TravelWisconsin.com. You can also choose to “Like” us at Facebook.com/TravelWisconsin or follow along on Twitter at Twitter.com/TravelWI. Bring all the fun Wisconsin has to offer right to your fingertips by downloading the free [Travel Wisconsin™ iPhone or Android app](#).

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