



## Some Like It Cold: 10 Cozy Winter Vacations for U.S. Travelers

As we wrote in [our roundup of warm-weather destinations](#), while planning the trip is supposed to be half of the fun, the pressure that builds up around holiday travel can derail the joy of plotting a vacation, to say nothing for taking one. And that's before we consider price surges, the longer minimum stays hotels increasingly require, and the subpar experiences all too common on airlines. We've seen conflicting trends for this holiday season, with some hotels and destinations already sold out and others still showing availability. Our best travel advice might be obvious to regular Fathom readers: If you can avoid traveling between Christmas and New Year's and other big winter holidays like President's Weekend, you'll be rewarded with lower prices and more options.

If your vacation thrills run towards the chills, the forecast is in: Snow has dusted the Rockies, the Northern Lights are aglow, and skiers are already taking their first tracks of the season. If you're ready to embrace the best of the Northern Hemisphere's polar options, we've rounded up ten excellent spots for dreamy winter wonderland escapes in the United States and Europe.



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## The Ranch Italy, Fiuggi, Italy

There's more to winter fun than skiing. When you're itching to swap your skis for a pair of hiking boots and snowshoes, head an hour southeast of Rome to Fiuggi, home of the healing water that throughout the centuries has revived everyone from randy popes and a beleaguered Michelangelo. The Ranch, of Malibu hiking retreat fame, launched a version of their results-driven wellness program earlier this year within Palazzo Fiuggi, the recently converted medical/wellness spa hotel. The four- and eight-day programs are offered year-round and are intense, with 5:30 wake-up calls, four hours of hiking before noon, afternoon workout and yoga classes, daily massages, and an all-vegan, no caffeine, no sugar, no alcohol diet. (They're not kidding about the results.) The exhilarating hikes take guests through hills and forests, past medieval towns and wandering cows. Guest have access to Palazzo Fiuggi's extensive and state-of-the-art spa facilities, which includes an infrared sauna, steam room, frigid plunge pool, indoor and outdoor pools and jacuzzis, and a fitness center in the former ballroom.

**This is perfect for a health and wellness reboot** especially if you like your reboots to have a dash of *dolce vita* style.