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Canada's Best Winter Festivals

Ice canoeing, igloo building, snow slides and sleigh rides. Avoid hibernation this winter

When the hot sun and warm temperatures go away, Canadians bundle up and head up to play! Instead of hibernating this winter, celebrate our snowy seasons by partaking in some of these fabulous winter festivals.

Igloofest (Montreal, QC)

Who says you need to wait until summer for the hottest (or coolest) music festivals? [Igloofest](#) is an outdoor concert series happening on Thursdays to Saturdays from January 14 to February 6, 2016 in Montreal's Old Port. Don your best winter woolies and dance to the best local and international DJs amid icy décor.

Winter Carnival (Quebec City, QC)

Take a selfie with Canada's iconic Bonhomme at this popular winter festival held in Quebec City from January 29 to February 14, 2016. [Winter Carnival](#) features a ton of activities for all ages, including snow bath, ice canoe race, night parades, snow slides, snow sculptures and sleigh rides.

Winterlude (Ottawa–Gatineau, ON)

[Winterlude](#) is the mother of all Canadian winter festivals, held at various locations around the nation's capital from January 29 to February 15, 2016. Skate on the [world's largest skating rink](#), check out the [ice sculpture competitions](#), play in North America's [largest snow playground](#) or even participate in a [winter triathlon](#).

Festival du Voyageur - (Winnipeg, MB)

Celebrate French Canadian, Métis and First Nations cultures at the [Festival du Voyageur](#) at Voyageur Park in Winnipeg, MN from February 12 to February 21, 2016. Traditional French Canadian music and cuisine, snow sculptures and performances are highlights of this must-see Canadian winter festival.

World Ski & Snowboard Festival (Whistler, BC)

Watch top athletes ollie, backflip and double-grab at the [Whistler World Ski & Snowboard Festival](#) from April 8 to 17, 2016 in Whistler, BC. Free outdoor concerts, a contemporary art show, comedy shows and Whistler's famous nightlife are also highlights of this high-energy snow sports festival.

Ice on Whyte Festival (Edmonton, AB)

Watch 10 teams of professional artists from around the world create stunning ice sculptures as they compete for top prize at the [Ice on Whyte Festival](#) in Old Strathcona, Edmonton, held during the last two weekends in January. There are several fun family-friendly activities happening during the festival aside from watching the artists work, including outdoor games, live music and a giant ice slide.

Rossland Winter Carnival (Rossland, BC)

In 1898, a Norwegian miner named Olaus Jeldness organized Rossland's first [Winter Carnival](#), which continues much in the same spirit to this day – there's still a parade where participants can dress up in costume, but now the weekend (happening on January 28 to 31, 2016) features everything from fire spinners and an ice palace to a bobsled race and a rail jam competition, where boarders and skiers fly through the air in the middle of downtown.

SnowDays (Banff, AB)

If you're heading to Banff National Park to hit the slopes this winter, be sure to take part in one or more of the fun activities happening as a part of [SnowDays](#) from January 15 to February 7, 2016. This month-long festival features a street party with a live DJ, ice carving demonstrations, the [Ice Magic Festival](#), [The Big Bear](#) ski and rail event, [Banff's Big Taste](#) food and spirits festival and more.

Yukon Sourdough Rendezvous (Whitehorse, YT)

If you're looking for something a bit out of the ordinary, head to Whitehorse, YT for the [Yukon Sourdough Rendezvous](#), happening from February 19 to 28, 2016. Aside from concerts, snow carving and sledding, festival-goers get to experience other more wacky forms of entertainment, such as contests for lip synching, hair freezing, cross-dressing and beard growing.

Silver Skate Festival (Edmonton, AB)

The [Silver Skate Festival](#), which runs from February 12 to 21, 2016 at Hawrelak Park in Edmonton, features everything from family activities and fire sculptures to a variety of winter snow sports, including snowshoe races, skate races and even a winter triathlon. Although the festival is free to attend, if you're interested in participating in any of the races you'll have to register online by February 18.

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