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SEEK

SWEET STAYS

WINTER WONDERLANDS

Looking for a festive place to stay this holiday season? These three hotels deck their halls with more than boughs of holly; they go big, with life-sized gingerbread houses, entire forests of Christmas trees and sleigh rides through lovely snowy scenes.



FESTIVE FOREST

FOUR SEASONS HOTEL VANCOUVER Vancouver

Sip a rum and eggnog (named YEW Nog after the on-site restaurant) from a *National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation*-inspired moose mug as you browse the 50 elaborately decorated trees on display across the hotel's first- and second-floor lobbies (the trees are part of the hotel's annual Festival of Trees, a fundraising initiative for the B.C. Children's Hospital Foundation). Later, savour a slice of the hotel's legendary stollen in your luxurious guest room—the spacious suites here have been considered among Vancouver's swankiest since the property opened its doors 40 years ago. To ease your tired muscles after a long day of holiday shopping, relax in the intimate RedCedar Boutique Massage Suite with a signature Thermal Stix treatment. Rates from \$375. (fourseasons.com/vancouver)



WINTER ADVENTURE

MANOIR HOVEY North Hatley, Que.

When it comes to Canadian winter escapes, you can't get much more idyllic than this. What used to be a wealthy American's Southern-style summer estate is now a 37-room Relais & Châteaux country resort tucked among 30 acres of forest and lakeshore in Quebec's Eastern Townships. As soon as Lake Massawippi freezes, you can go ice-skating or take ice-fishing lessons with a local guide. Cross-country skiing and festive sleigh rides amid snow-covered evergreens are also on offer to wintertime guests. Come evening, savour gourmet four-course dinners at Le Hatley, the on-site restaurant. The beautifully plated and sustainably procured produce and game meat make for a delectable feast. Rates from \$340 per couple, including breakfast, dinner and activities. (manoirhovey.com)



SUGAR AND SPICE

JW MARRIOTT LOS ANGELES L.A. LIVE Los Angeles

Throughout December, the scents of cinnamon, spice and everything nice fill the lobby air here, thanks to the life-sized gingerbread house made of 1,300 lb. of cookie dough and furnished entirely with sweet confections, including a candy-cane chandelier. The holiday fun doesn't stop there. Adult guests can try their hand at holiday-themed mixology classes, incorporating mulled wine, eggnog and spiced beers. What's more, this 878-room hotel is conveniently located steps away from the Grammy Museum, the Staples Center and the LA Kings Holiday Ice rink, where you can strap on a pair of ice-skates, glide among twinkling Christmas light displays and enjoy a Southern California version of winter fun. Rates from US\$279. (marriott.com) —Amber Gibson

PHOTOS: FOUR SEASONS HOTEL VANCOUVER COURTESY OF FOUR SEASONS HOTEL VANCOUVER; MANOIR HOVEY BY FLORIAN GAVINAITIS; JW MARRIOTT LOS ANGELES BY KARA SNIDER/MI & MO PHOTOGRAPHY

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Tel: +501-533-7016
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