

OBSERVER

The Coziest California Winter Escapes—But Without the Snow

These are the charming California towns that get in the seasonal spirit, while forgoing the snow.

By [Allie Lebos](#) • 10/18/23 11:17am



Los Olivos, Santa Ynez Valley. The Inn at Matthei's Tavern

Though places like Big Bear and Lake Tahoe turn into a winter wonderland during the holidays, there are plenty of cozy California towns that get in the seasonal spirit while forgoing the snow. If snowboarding and skiing aren't your forte, there are plenty of other activities and experiences to enjoy all winter long. From Catalina Island to Carmel-by-the-Sea, here are the six best places for a California winter escape, without the snow.



The Parker Palm Springs. The Parker Palm Springs

Palm Springs

Palm Springs is a desert oasis that remains sunny and warm all year long. Despite being able to lounge poolside nearly 365 days out of the year, the stunning San Jacinto mountains are often dusted with snow, creating a breathtaking view that gives you a taste of winter without the cold. Whether you're looking to lay low at a luxury hotel, hike some of the most popular trails or explore the charming downtown area, Palm Springs is a quick getaway from both San Diego and Los Angeles. Put on your best dress before heading to Bar Cecil for their famous \$50 martini that is served alongside a deviled egg with caviar.

Where to Stay:

Palm Springs is home to plenty of boutique accommodations and retro motels, but the Parker Palm Springs boasts a timeless elegance that can't be beaten. From pampering yourself at the spa to renting a poolside cabana, there are plenty of on-site activities to keep you busy. In the evening, grab a glass of wine or cup of hot cocoa and do some star gazing by the outdoor fire pits. For something more Mediterranean and romantic, consider booking at Korakia Pensione.