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**The Midwest's Safe & Fun Winter Playground - For So Many Reasons!**



**Don't just walk in our winter wonderland...  
ski it, float it, fish it, sled it and sail downhill on it!**

## *Welcome to Gaylord, Michigan!*



Gaylord not only embraces winter, we OWN it! When you're lucky enough to sit smack dab in the middle of lower Michigan's snowbelt, you know flurries mean only one thing – endless opportunities for frosty fun. We know we're lucky here, but more than that, we're welcoming – to you, to yours, and to the roughly 152 inches of annual snow that make Gaylord a winter wonderland.

"Winter activities are one of the safest ways to bond with family and friends over the holidays and throughout the season," said Paul Beachnau, Executive Director of the Gaylord Area Convention & Tourism Bureau. "Our area is filled with fun activities such as snowshoeing, x-country and downhill skiing, snowmobiling and guided winter rafting. The best part is that you can enjoy your time here in an outdoor environment that's not only scenic and peaceful, but also safe and naturally socially distanced."

## *Here's our ultimate winter checklist*

1 Ski for FREE at Treetops Resort during our annual Ski Free Weekend, held December 11-13, 2020. Choose from a variety of lodging options throughout Gaylord and let them know you'd like to Ski Free! Visiting later in the season? Hit the slopes at Treetops Resort or the Otsego Resort for downhill skiing, snowboarding and tubing! [www.gaylordmichigan.net](http://www.gaylordmichigan.net)

2 Float the not-so-frozen Sturgeon River in a raft. 231-525-6878, [www.sturgeonriverpaddle.com](http://www.sturgeonriverpaddle.com) or 231-238-8181, [www.bigbearadventures.com](http://www.bigbearadventures.com)

3 Check in with winter wildlife at [Aspen Park](#). Thanks to the white background, photographing the elk and scenic pond is never better. Take Otsego Avenue south to Commerce Boulevard's end. 989-732-4060

4 Rent a snowmobile from Boathouse Marine & Powersports and check out some of the 500 miles of groomed trails branching throughout northern Michigan from our central location. 989-448-2014, [www.snowmobilegaylord.com](http://www.snowmobilegaylord.com)

5 Nab a pass for some tubing excitement at Treetops Resort or the Otsego Resort. 888-TREETOPS or 989-732-5181.

6 Shout “Woo-woo-woo!” all the way to Mackinaw City as you snowmobile the former North Central Michigan Railroad Corridor. 62 miles of snowmobiling bliss! 231-348-8280

7 Snowshoe along the Sturgeon River in the super secluded, super quiet, no snowmobiles allowed Green Timbers section of the Pigeon River Country State Forest. See the map at: [www.pigeonrivercountryforest.org/greentimbers.htm](http://www.pigeonrivercountryforest.org/greentimbers.htm)

8 Get to the trails...cross country or snowshoe style! Whether a beginner or expert, you'll find miles of trails to suit your taste. Boasting over 152 inches of annual snowfall and heavily wooded, rolling terrain, the Gaylord area offers some of the most enjoyable and challenging cross country skiing and snowshoeing in Michigan. Visit [www.gaylordmichigan.net](http://www.gaylordmichigan.net) for trail maps.

9 Are you an angler that can't get enough? Cut a hole in the hard stuff and start a great Gaylord winter tradition — drop a line and do some ice fishing on one of the 90+ lakes in Otsego County! For the most ambitious anglers, head to Otsego Lake where lake sturgeon can be found! Learn more at [www.gaylordmichigan.net](http://www.gaylordmichigan.net)

10 Ride the old-fashioned way—in a horse-drawn open sleigh—at the Cook Family Farm. Afterward, warm up inside with hot cocoa. Don't forget to browse the shop for even more homemade goodness: syrup, jams, jellies, honey, eggs, natural meats and soy candles. Call to schedule your sleigh ride adventure, Cook Family Farm 989-731-1332



## The Snowman Cam

Snow junkies can scope out the fluffy stuff in Gaylord 24 hours a day on [www.snowmancam.com](http://www.snowmancam.com), a live feed from a snowbelt backyard that shows the snow as it falls. The weatherman is a snowman. The measurement tools are a dial thermometer and a decorative snow ruler, and you can donate dollars to feed the wildlife that pass into the frame. Regular visitors include black bear, deer, porcupines, raccoons, wild turkey, squirrels, birds and more.

## Wake Up on the Downhill Slope

[Treetops Resort's](#) recently renovated lodging includes hotel rooms and efficiency units with kitchenettes, sprawling across their immaculate grounds. [Otsego Resort](#) boasts a mix of hotel rooms and condo units with kitchenettes, and they sit mountainside, giving you immediate out-the-door access to exceptional downhill runs.



## Fat Tire Bike the Trails

Ride your favorite biking trails – snow style! Fat tire bikes' wide tires and low air pressure make traction on snow a reality, which in turn makes mountain bikers happy because they can ride all year! Rentals and an extensive trail system are available at [www.treetops.com](http://www.treetops.com).



## **QUICK TRIP! Float the Sturgeon River**

No winter trip to Gaylord is complete without experiencing one of northern Michigan's hidden gems - rafting the scenic and serene Sturgeon River. With outfitters in Wolverine and Indian River, a quick jaunt north guarantees hours of entertainment! Check out Big Bear Adventures at [www.bigbearadventures.com](http://www.bigbearadventures.com) or Sturgeon River Paddlesports at [www.sturgeonriverpaddle.com](http://www.sturgeonriverpaddle.com)

Here's a little winter rafting 101:

1. First and foremost, NO, you will not get wet. Well, there might be an occasional little splash, but this is not a wet and wild ride where you emerge looking like an icicle.
2. Winter rafting is a safe activity for the whole family. While the Sturgeon River boasts the fastest current in the Lower Peninsula, you will be in good hands with an experienced guide.
3. Newbies are welcome! Don't let this adventure pass you by because you only have land legs. Your guide will teach you everything you need to know.
4. Dress for outdoor winter fun, which means snow pants, a warm jacket, hats, gloves, boots, etc.
5. Most importantly, bring your friends, your family and your camera, because you will want to remember and share this utterly unique outdoor experience.

**Find your winter wonderland in Gaylord, Michigan!**