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Gaylord, Michigan - The Midwest's Winter Playground



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

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, yours, and roughly 148 inches of annual snow that makes Gaylord a winter wonderland.



“Winter activities are one of the best 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 active pursuits such as snowshoeing, x-country and downhill skiing, snowmobiling and guided winter rafting. The best part is that people of any and all skill levels can find activities to suit their needs, and there’s always lessons and rentals available if you’d like to try something new.”

Here's our ultimate winter checklist:



1. Hit the slopes! [Downhill skiers](#) and [snowboarders](#) will find powder-perfect conditions all [winter](#) at our two premier [ski](#) destinations – [Treetops Resort](#) and [Otsego Resort](#). Built into the scenic Pigeon River Valley and Sturgeon River Valley, each resort offers variable terrain for [skiers](#) of all levels. Not sure about your [downhill](#) skills but looking for an adrenaline rush? Nab a pass for [tubing](#) at either resort and feel the effortless rush of the [winter](#) wind in your hair!

2. Float the not-so-frozen Sturgeon River in a [guided raft trip](#) with [Sturgeon River Paddlesports](#) in Wolverine or [Big Bear Adventures](#) in Indian River. Prepare for breathtaking scenery, delicate ice formations and wildlife viewings.



3. Check in with [winter](#) wildlife at [Aspen Park](#). Thanks to the crisp, white background, photographing the [City Elk Park](#) that shares a border with the park has never been better. With almost 2-miles of groomed and 5 miles of ungroomed trails, this oasis is a haven for [cross-country skiers](#) and [snowshoers](#) alike. The best part? Your adventure doesn't have to end when the sun goes down. Solar powered lights will guide you along approximately two miles of powdery bliss.



4. Rent a snowmobile or trailer your own and check out some of the 500 miles of groomed trails branching throughout 8 northern Michigan counties from our central location. Riders love Trail #7 that runs straight up the middle of our beautiful state, connecting into the Upper Peninsula with a quick transfer from Mackinac Bridge Authority. Of course, we've got maps and they're FREE for our snowmobiling friends!

5. Snowshoe in the Pigeon River Country State Forest. If you're in search of serenity and solitude, then Gaylord's "Big Wild" is the ultimate snowshoe destination. Endless miles of ungroomed trails will take you along rolling hills and cascading rivers, affording glimpses of wildlife and untamed forestland. Some of our favorites are the Shinglemill Pathway and Green Timbers Trail.

6. Tune in to the Snowman Cam. Snow junkies can scope out the fluffy stuff in Gaylord 24 hours a day on snowmancam.com, a live feed from a snowbelt backyard. The weatherman is a snowman and often dons seasonal attire. The measurement tools are simply a dial thermometer and decorative snow ruler. The real stars of the show are the local black bear, deer, porcupines, raccoons, wild turkey, squirrels and birds that make regular guest appearances.

7. Find a winter event to remember. Maybe your ideas for winter recreation are boundless...or maybe you'd like someone else to do the planning for you. If you're not sure how to spend your days outdoors, follow our event calendar for ideas! Browse through wine and snowshoe trips, moonlit snowshoe and XC ski tours, winter triathlons and snowmobile races to find winter experiences unique to our area.

8. Ride the old fashioned way, in a horse-drawn open sleigh at Cook Family Farm. Afterward, follow the delicious aroma of fresh-baked cookies and hot cocoa, complimentary with your sleigh ride. Or, bundle up and head for Treetops Resort where a magical sleigh ride tours you across their lavish grounds. Reservations required.



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 the elusive lake sturgeon can be found.

10. Our **lodging members** cater to winter pursuits! Wake up trailside or slope-side to get an early start and have a late end to your All Outdoors adventure. **Treetops Resort** and **Otsego Resort** host a mix of hotel rooms, chalets and condo units, giving you immediate out-the-door access to exceptional downhill runs. While most of our **properties** offer easy snowmobile trail access and trailer parking, the Waters Inn sits at a sweet spot right across from epic Trail #7. Finally, **Pine-Cone Vacations** has a variety of home rentals stationed along scenic cross-country and snowshoe pathways throughout our northern forests.



Welcome to our wide-open winter in Gaylord, Michigan!