



Ten Activities to Escape the Cold and Have a Good Time

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There are plenty of outdoor winter activities that you can take part in during this special time of year. However, you can only stay outside for so long. Eventually you'll have to seek some indoor warmth and an alternate set of activities.

There's no reason to allow boredom to take over. There are plenty of engaging activities you can enjoy regardless of whether you're staying at home or going elsewhere.

Here are some ideas for fun, indoor wintertime activities:

- 1. Have a game night.** Start a regular game night with your family or invite friends over. It's up to you whether you'd like to do something family style to accommodate little kids or an evening for the adults with drinks and good conversation. Either way, ***you can stay warm and still have a great time!***
- 2. Catch up on crafts.** Cold weather is the perfect time to bring out some crafts that you've been meaning to do. Sometimes bigger projects get abandoned and never looked at again. Here's your chance to finally finish that quilt, scarf, or model airplane.
- 3. Indoor swimming.** See if there's an indoor swimming pool in your area. It's the perfect way to get a glimpse of a fun summertime activity during the colder months.
- 4. Learn a new hobby or skill.** Pursue an activity that you've been meaning to try for years. Have you always wanted to play a musical instrument? Perhaps there's a computer program that you'd like to master? Take advantage of the winter to keep your brain active and learn something new.

5. **Curl up with a book.** This is a fun favorite that never gets old. There's always a new and exciting story to read. It doesn't matter if you're in the mood for fiction or nonfiction, ***grab some alone time and lose yourself in the story.***
6. **Camp indoors.** Bring out the camping gear and camp out in the living room with your family. You might even want to include Smores made in the microwave or fireplace. This activity can provide a lot of fun and togetherness. You can have a night of family memories that you'll never forget.
7. **Enjoy tea or coffee.** Nothing says escaping the cold like a nice hot beverage. Make up a pot of whatever you and your family enjoy most. Sit around the table and chat, or watch a good movie together.
8. **Sift through photographs.** Take some time to reminisce over some photos. If you have a collection of photographs from old film cameras, maybe you can make a project out of it and scan them so they're in a digital format. Take it one step further and start a digital scrapbook for your family.
9. **Make a meal together.** With your partner or family members, decide on a meal that everyone can participate in preparing. Perhaps you'll want to try something totally new, or maybe the family would rather go with an old favorite, but the point is to get everyone involved.
10. **Experience someplace new.** Stretch your thinking to come up with an idea for a place to go that you've never been to before. Maybe you'll hit up a new restaurant, an art gallery, or a local play. You won't have to worry about the winter blues when you're out there trying new and exciting things.

Winter can be an exciting time for you and your family and provide you the perfect opportunity to make some cherished new memories. Use these ideas as a springboard to take advantage of the cold in new and creative ways.