Fun Winter Things To Do In Montana

**Ski at Bridger Bowl** – Bridger Bowl is only about a twenty-minute drive outside of Bozeman and free Skyline busses are also available to take you to the mountain.

**Snowshoe** – There are several trails and forest service land around Bozeman where you can snowshoe. Snowshoes can be rented for a very small amount from the Outdoor Recreation Center on campus and the Center also provides free trips. Hyalite is a great place to snowshoe.

**Cross-Country Ski** – Even if you’re a master of Bridger Bowl, cross-country skiing offers another fun and low-cost outdoor activity. You can cross-country ski on all public land but there are groomed trails at places like Bohart Ranch where a daily trail fee is $15.

**Go Sledding** – You can purchase a sled from Wal-Mart, Target and many of the sporting goods stores around Bozeman. Then you can go to Pete’s Hill or the Oak Street “Dinosaur” park hill.

**Rent A Cabin** – There are several cabins you can rent from the Forest Service. Some you will need to park and hike in and others you can park at the cabin. To see more information about the cabins please visit www.recreation.gov

**Visit the Hot springs** – Yes, the Bozeman/KOA and Norris hot springs are open in the winter and it is arguably the best time to go. Enjoy swimming outside while the air is cold but you are nice and warm!

**Do you need any more ideas? Stop into the Office of International Programs!**

OIP “Winter Tips” revised 3-23-15
Winter Tips From OIP

While winter is fun, it is crucial that you dress appropriate for the freezing temperatures and what a difference the right clothing can make! The weather can be cold, windy and wet so versatile winter apparel is worth the investment. Shopping for winter clothing can seem a bit overwhelming, but don’t worry. This guide is designed to give you some basic information about dressing for winter and will make your shopping trip a lot easier.

Dress in Layers
The best way to dress for winter is to wear loose layers. This gives you flexibility to add or remove layers, depending on the weather and your activity. In general, the three main layers are:

Wicking: This layer is worn next to your skin, usually consisting of long underwear.
  • Long, thermal underwear made of synthetic fabric, usually polyester or silk.

Insulating: The middle layer, including sweaters, sweatshirts, vests, and pullovers. This layer is to keep the heat in and the cold out.
  • Fleece, a synthetic material which maintains its insulating ability even when wet and spreads the moisture out so it dries quickly.
  • Wool

Protecting: The exterior layer, generally a shell and pants, serves as your guard against the elements of winter. It should repel water from snow, sleet, or rain and block wind.
  • Most outer shells are made of waterproof and breathable materials to keep moisture on the outside, but also allow perspiration to escape, keeping you dry and comfortable.
  • Look for functional hoods, cuffs, pockets, and zippers.

Winter Clothing Essentials:
| Winter coat       | Snow boots       |
| Snow pants (for skiing, etc.) | Hats |
| Scarf | Warm socks |
| Sunglasses or Skiing Goggles | Gloves |

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Layers = long johns, warm socks, pants, long sleeved shirt, sweater, winter coat, scarf... etc.
Long underwear/long johns (pants and long sleeved shirt worn under regular clothing)

ATTN: Although the following stores are more expensive than discount stores, the quality is incomparable! It is worth the money to invest in warm, great quality items, rather than buying something cheap and freezing! Down coats are lightweight and super warm, more expensive, but highly recommended!

**Winter Shopping:**

**Bob Wards**
On 19th Avenue near Target  
Bozeman, MT 59715  
(406) 586-4381  
[bobwards.com](http://bobwards.com)

**REI**
On 19th Avenue, near Home Depot  
Bozeman, MT 59718  
(406) 587-1938  
[REI.com](http://REI.com)

**Gallatin Valley Mall**
- Eddie Bauer  
- Macy's  
- JC Penny  
2825 West Main Street  
Bozeman, MT 59715

Remember to use moisturizing lip balm and body lotion to keep your skin hydrated. Drink a lot of water during the winter months. Use sunscreen when you are outside in the snow.  
**Winter weather can change quickly,** so watch the weather forecasts and be prepared.  
If you are traveling by car in the winter, it is smart to carry extra food, water and blankets, just in case of an emergency. Check road reports before you begin a trip.  
Find things you like to do outdoors in the winter like, ices skating, sledding, skiing, snowboarding, etc.

Winter is beautiful and can be a wonderful, fun season... if it’s new to you, give it a try!