

How to Pretend It's Winter in LA

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Nov 24, 2014 at 10am

Let's be honest, it's not winter here. True winter is the mega snowstorm that dumped five-plus feet of snow in Buffalo, New York, trapping hundreds of people. True winter is walking to the subway in New York City, covered head to toe in a giant coat, praying that your face doesn't fall off due to the wind chill factor. My first winter here in 2007, I was laughing at my coworkers bundled in sweaters on 60 degree partly cloudy days. A year later, I was huddled in front of my space heater in my West Hollywood apartment, rubbing my hands together like I was Tiny Tim.



But we Angelenos like to pretend we have the season called winter and, as such, create activities to mimic those on the East Coast.

Ice Skating at Pershing Square

Strap on your skates for a night in downtown L.A. trying out your best Michelle Kwan moves. Open until January 19th, the rink has different events including DJs spinning every Thursday, theme nights, and Snoopy on Ice.

Tree Lighting at Universal Citywalk

Trust Universal Studios to put on a winter wonderland complete with a tree lighting featuring Carson Daly and *The Voice* contestants tonight (November 24). (You really can't get more L.A. than that.) The ultimate celebrity during the holidays — Santa Claus — will be hanging out in his Snow Zone for pictures.

Rodeo Drive Holiday Lighting

If you want to get super duper fancy, head to Beverly Hills for a luxury version of twinkling lights. Seriously, Rodeo Drive will be decked out in 16 Baccarat crystal chandeliers, 42 glittery palm trees, hundreds of poinsettias, and 150,000 sparkling lights during the annual Beverly Hills Holiday Lighting Ceremony.

Paley Center Holiday Collection

If you adore Kermit and Dolly Parton (and if you're human, you most likely do), then snag some tickets to the Paley Center holiday screenings of *A Muppet Family Christmas*, *Dolly ... A Down Home Country Christmas*, and a mash up of different Hollywood takes on Ebenezer Scrooge.

The Queen Mary Chill

Down in Long Beach, you'll find that the Queen Mary transformed 2 million pounds of ice into an actual igloo. The stationed ship, starting November 21 and ending January 11, has six lanes for ice tubing (!!!), ice sculptures, and a holiday village. For a true SoCal spin, the ice sculptures are shaped into waves, dolphins, and one Surfing Santa.

Holiday Time at Disneyland

Entertain your inner kid or your actual child by going to the happiest place on earth during the holidays. With fireworks set to classic holiday songs, a Christmas parade, and the Sleeping Beauty castle redone with strands of lights and snow, you can't get more holiday cheer than this.

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