

The Boston Globe

The snuggle is real: These are the five coziest inns for a winter getaway

By Diane Bair and Pamela Wright Globe Correspondent, Updated December 29, 2021, 2:00 p.m.



A room with a fireplace? Yes, please. The Rose Room at Castle Hill Inn, shown here, is one option. HANDOUT

You may not be heading to a warm tropical beach this winter, but hey, why not make the best of what we've got here in New England? Think country inns — toasty as a pair of Uggs — with soaring fireplaces, views of frosty lakes or snow-dusted forests, and maybe a friendly inn dog to curl up with. Not to mention, kitchens with soups and stews (perhaps cooked on a hearth) to warm your bones after a winter walk or snowshoe hike. Grab a jigsaw puzzle or the chess board, get cuddly under a fuzzy blankie with your best travel buddy, and enjoy the best of the chilly season. If the Danes can do *hygge* (cozy, comfortable conviviality), so can we. Here are some top contenders in the “most cozy” category.

Castle Hill Inn, Newport, R.I.

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Most people think of this classic inn — lauded by The New York Times as the “best spot in town” — as a summertime, “watch-the-sailboats-go-by” escape. After all, it sits on a 40-acre peninsula overlooking Narragansett Bay. But this century-plus-old Relais & Chateaux property is an indulgent retreat in wintertime, too. The main inn, the original 19th-century Agassiz Mansion, offers several suites with their own fireplaces; look for additional fireplaces in public spaces, like the Mansion lobby/lounge, perfect for curling up with a cup of tea and a book. And if you’re feeling like a dried-out husk of your former self, thanks to New England’s punishing winter climate, head to the inn’s spa, the Retreat at Castle Hill by Farmaesthetics (a local brand) for a soothing, moisturizing body treatment.

Ultimate hygge moment: Spring for the firepit + s’mores package and settle in on the inn’s terrace under a pile of fleece blankets. Toast those ‘mallows to a perfect char with a backdrop of the Newport Pell Bridge, lit up at night. Need extra warmth? Add a spike to your hot chocolate or warm cider. [Note: The inn closes in January but reopens in February.]

From \$435; 590 Ocean Drive, Newport, R.I.; 401-849-3800; www.castlehillinn.com