

The Boston Globe

TRAVEL

Escape winter's bitter grip at these cozy local hotels

By [Christopher Muther](#) Globe Staff. Updated February 20, 2026, 12:05 p.m.



A guest room at The Newbury Boston. NIKOLAS KOENIG/THE NEWBURY

I t's the time of year when winter acts like a stubborn party guest who fails to understand that the festivities are over, and it's time to go home. But why grumble? There are many wonderful things to enjoy about winter in Boston. There's the colorful urban landscape of space savers dotting snow-laden streets, along with the exciting promise of violence that lurks just below their whimsical surfaces.

Shimmering ice dams cascade from rooftops, slowly dripping into attic insulation, guaranteeing a bountiful springtime mold bloom. And who doesn't love pulling out their favorite cashmere sweater on a crisp morning and finding that it served as an incubator for adorable moth larvae? Sure, that \$200 sweater now looks like a slice of Swiss cheese, but at least the moth babies had a warm, cozy place to grow into beautiful Lepidoptera that will destroy more sweaters. It's the circle of life, all taking place in your humble closet.

There is one more good thing about winter, and this one is not bitter or sarcastic. Winter hotel rates in Massachusetts are a bargain. The lousier the weather, the cheaper the hotel room. Hotels are all about supply and demand, and there is little demand to visit a region experiencing record cold temperatures.

That means you now have your pick of some of the coziest hotel rooms in the state at a reduced rate. You can enjoy a hotel room that comes with its own fireplace and fireplace butler. Or perhaps defrost with a dip in a heated pool.



Hard to believe that Gloucester's sleek upscale Beauport Hotel was once a Birdseye processing plant. Guest rooms have a nautical vibe; no industrial look at all. Plus — fireplaces. DIANE BAIR

Beauport Hotel Gloucester

The bad news: The rooftop pool and bar at the Beauport Hotel are not open off-season. The good news: It doesn't matter because you can sit by the fire in your maritime-chic room and stare at the sea, or sit by the fireplace in the lobby with a good book. In the summer, you'll pay up to \$500 a night to stay here. During the off-season, it's a steal at \$249 a night.

55 Commercial St., Gloucester. 978-282-0008, www.beauporthotel.com



A guest room at the Newbury Boston hotel. CHRISTOPHER MUTHER/GLOBE STAFF

Newbury Boston

Hey big spenders and splurgers, the Newbury has 42 suites with fireplaces, and one of the coziest jewel-tone bars in Boston, which also has a fireplace. The hotel, which underwent a complete renovation during the pandemic, feels deliciously opulent. Perhaps that's why you'll pay upward of \$1,000 a night to stay in one of the fireplace suites. Bear in mind, these are very large rooms that come with a fireplace butler. Nothing sparks jealousy among friends like the words "fireplace butler."

1 Newbury St, Boston. 617-536-5700, www.thenewburyboston.com



The Inn on Boltwood's new "Adventures Inn Amherst" program, in partnership with Adventure East, offers two outdoor escape packages. INN ON BOLTWOOD

Inn on Boltwood

This Amherst gem has been around since 1926, when it opened as the Lord Jeffrey Inn. Despite its advanced age, the 100-year-old inn has been meticulously updated and has an innovative upscale restaurant (30 Boltwood). Several rooms have gas fireplaces, but even without a fire, the inn feels classically cozy. Better yet, it's a bargain. Rooms here run just north of \$200 a night.

30 Boltwood Ave., Amherst. 413-256-8200, www.innonboltwood.com



A room in XV Beacon. CHRISTOPHER MUTHER

XV Beacon

No matter how low the temperature drops, XV Beacon always feels particularly warm. Each of the 63 hotel rooms has a gas fireplace, a cashmere throw blanket, and Frette linens and bathrobes. I advise booking a room with a whirlpool tub or a jacuzzi tub for maximum winter escapism. There's a reason why the hotel always lands on best-of lists. Winter rooms range between \$450 and \$500.

5 Beacon St., Boston. 617-670-1500, xvbeacon.com



A room at the White Porch Inn Art Hotel in Provincetown. HANDOUT

White Porch Inn Art Hotel Provincetown

Cape Cod is a different place altogether in the winter, and that's most evident in Provincetown, where the glitter and short-shorts have been (mostly) packed away for the winter. Enjoy the silence at the White Porch Inn Art Hotel, which occupies an 1840s house. Its rooms are all unique. About half have fireplaces. What's consistent is the blend of Cape architecture with modern decor and art. While some old inns brag, "George Washington slept here," the White Porch brags, "Cher slept here." You can find a room for under \$200 a night in the winter. During the summer, you'll easily pay over \$600.

7 Johnson St., Provincetown. 508-364-2549, www.whiteporchinn.com



The highly ranked Inn at Hastings Park, open year-round, is the Boston area's only Relais & Châteaux property. @WEAREWAVECOLLECTIVE/INN AT HASTINGS PARK

Inn at Hastings Park

Last week, the Inn at Hastings Park was awarded four stars by the Forbes Travel Guide, and with good reason. The staff here are some of the most attentive folks you'll find at any hotel in the Boston area. The property offers a historic nod to Lexington while featuring 22 rooms spread across three restored buildings, modern amenities, and, most importantly, fireplaces. Check the inn's website before booking to ensure you've landed a plum fireplace room.

2027 Massachusetts Ave, Lexington. 781-301-6660, www.innathastingspark.com



A room in the Inn at Hastings Park. THE INN AT HASTINGS PARK

Nantasket Beach Resort

This 107-room sprawling hotel, located in Hull, remains one of the Boston area's great, unsung beachfront bargains. Its location makes it ideal for summer, but it's also a convenient winter escape. Nearly every room has a fireplace, and as a bonus, there's also a heated indoor pool and hot tub with ocean views. This is not a Forbes five-star kind of property, but with winter rates well under \$200 a night, it's a wonderful spot to defrost by the fire while watching the waves.

45 Hull Shore Drive, Hull. 888-641-4175, www.nantasketbeachresort.com

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