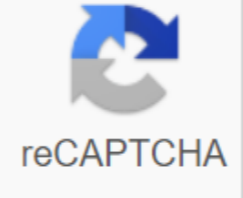




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Mountains in california with snow

Updated: September 23, 2020 | Contains affiliate links If you live in Southern California, snow is a rare occurrence. If you don't make some extra effort, your kids may grow up not knowing what the snow is. However, one of the biggest things about living in Southern California is that pretty much everyone lives within hours of the beach and within hours of the snow. I love the snow and i love to make my family play in the snow at least once a year... and it does not require much effort. Although, everyone knows about the great Southern California ski resorts, there is very little information available about places where you can take small children so they can just play in the snow. If you just stick with the big name winter resorts of Southern California (Snow Summit and Mountain High), you'll end up frustrated if you just want to take your kids somewhere where young children can enjoy the snow in Southern California. However, with some patience and a desire to explore, you can find some simple places where your kids can just have fun with the snow in SoCal. Let's explore together some of my favorite snow spots in Southern California.Snow SoCal is snowboarders... there is no Snow PlayOnce you get any of Southern California's great winter resorts you will see some great signs as soon as you come close to the ski slopes. These big warnings sing to read something like this: Only skiers or snowboarders are allowed outside of this point. In other words, no one has access to the ski slopes unless they are provided or skied. Most of the great Southern California winter resorts don't allow snow to play off the ski slopes. Unless they have a designated snow playground, the big ski resorts are not a good place to just enjoy the snow in southern California.So, where you can take your small kids to play in the snow in Southern California?1. Big Bear Snow Play Inner pipes at the bottom of the small slope of big bear snow play. See my photos from the Big Bear Snow PlayMy list of snow playground areas in Southern California beginning with Big Bear Lake. On the eastern end of Big Bear Lake you can find the Big Bear Snow Play, which is right off the main road (Highway 18). For \$25 you can go snow pipes all day on groomed slopes. The slopes at Big Bear Snow Play are good pipes because they are quite long and well maintained. In addition, they have a moving carpet-type lift that makes it much easier to go up the hill. However, you can not give your sled or inner tube here, because you can only use the pipes the company provides. While you can only do snow pipes here, Big Bear Snow Play is a good place for kids to enjoy the snow in SoCal for a day. Big Bear Snow Play area map of Big Bear, California When you plan your next trip to this hotel you can find discount hotels in Big Bear or if you're on a budget or can't find any Big Bear, you can stay at my favorite hotel at the foot of the San Bernardino Mountains.2. Alpine Slide Snow Play Snow toy slopes alpine slide is well groomed and great for young children. Photo credit: Alpine SlideOther popular snow playground in Southern California is the Alpine Slide still on Big Bear Lake. It is located on the opposite side of the city from the Big Bear Snow Play, closer to Running Springs. In summer there are water slides and snow pipes groomed in winter. For \$30 you get an unlimited day pass on all the snow play slopes. The great thing about Alpine Slide is that they have snow making equipment so they usually open earlier than other snow playgrounds. At Alpine Slide you are allowed to have your own sled or inner tube. If you're planning a trip to Big Bear here is my favorite hotel closest to both Alpine Slide and Snow Summit.Big Bear Lake, California – Map of Alpine Slide Snow Play and Neighborhood 3. Snow Valley Snow Play Snow play snow play slopes Snow Valley is well-groomed and perfect for young children. See my photos from the Snow ValleySnow Valley is very close to the city of Running Springs en route to Big Bear's Snow Summit. If there is natural snow, Snow Valley is a special area designed for the weaing and snow play. Snow Valley is a proper winter resort, but it's much smaller than snow summit.The Snow Play area of Snow Valley looks great! Tickets are not cheap, but it is a very well maintained area. Our children loved it! Map of Snow Valley winter resort near Running SpringsPlanning trip to Big Bear soon? Look for budget hotels in Big Bear or if you want to save more, you can stay at my favorite hotel at the foot of the San Bernardino Mountains4. Runing Springs Snow Pipes. A map of the snow pipe area for young children at Running SpringsNocielido further along the way to Running Springs is also a snow tube area very suitable for young children. It is right off the main road and very accessible. There are many short and steep slopes separated by stairs. It looks like a fun place where little children can enjoy the snow in SoCal.When you plan a trip to the San Bernardino Mountains area, Lake Arrowhead is also a great place for us to stay. Budget hotels can be found in Lake Arrowhead here.5. Running Springs Snow Play Beautiful unmaintained and free Snow Play area running springsWhile Running Springs is rarely snowy when it does, your kids can enjoy the snow in a small unmaintained snow playground. This very nice snow playground is just across the street from the running springs. It's free and has some really nice slopes. As you enter the central area of Running Springs coming from highway 330 it comes very quickly for your right. As mentioned above, this area is however suitable for snow to play immediately after a major snow storm, as running has a lower elevation than Big Bear Lake. The map shows the free Running Springs snow playground6. Wrightwood Near Mountain High Map Snow Play areas near mountain high ski resortWrightwood is home to the very popular winter resort mountain high. However, instead of trying to park at the Mountain High resort parking lot just keep going up the road on the Angeles Crest Highway. As soon as the road starts to go up try to find a parking lot on the right side of the road. Make sure you buy a desert pass... otherwise, you will receive a ticket. There are no signs of warning about the pass, so you just need to know. The desert pass is located at nearby gas stations or shops. We were very fortunate because a good citizen gave us his pass when he was away... otherwise we would n't have known. When parked, cross the street and find some place on the hill where your kids can play in the snow ... well assuming that there is still snow. Most likely, you will see other people playing in the snow. If you're looking for something more developed in a snow game, Mountain High recently developed a Snow Park that looks good, even if it's pretty expensive for \$20 per person per day. When you plan your visit to the Wrightwood area and need to spend the night here is my favorite budget hotel near Cajon Pass. You can also search for a spot right in Wrightwood.7. Snow Play Around Frazier Park/Mount Pinos Area Snow clouds gathering around the small village of Frazier Park in Cuddy Valley See my photos from Frazier ParkTo to get to Frazier Park to take 5 freeway north and exit the freeway after signs pointing to Frazier Park.Follow the road and go through the village of Frazier Park in Cuddy Valley and keep going up the hill. The road will become steep, but keep going until you reach the end of the road at Chula Vista Campground or a little lower at Mount Pinos Campground. In these areas there is sufficient parking and there are good hills in the snow game. Once you have reached the snow on the road to Mount Pinos you can stop around the country camping areas and your children play in the snow on one of the mountains. There are no formal or organized snow playgrounds. It's up to you to park legally and find the snow zone you want. Make sure your car also shows an adventure pass, which you can buy from a gas station in the city. In my opinion, the best snow playgrounds are at the end of Mount Pinos Road near Chula Vista Campground and a little lower Mount Pinos Campground.Read More: 3 Snow Play areas near Frazier Park/Mt. Pinos.From Frazier Park just take the road to Mount Pinos and go as far as you can, or until you find a good patch of snow next to the road. Just park to get your kids out of the car, give themled and let them have fun. Map of snow playgrounds around Mount Pinos and Frazier Park areas plan your Trip to Southern California Snow AreasWine resorts bigcels are very busy from before Thanksgiving to after the New Year holidays. How busy is tey? It's so busy that the Snow Summit/Bear Mountain lift line is at least one hour long and there are very few hotel rooms available, especially around the winter school break. So if you want to find a place to stay in a good place and at a good price around the Big Bear area, you need to book well in advance. Leave a comment and let me know if you know about any other commercial or non-commercial snow playground areas in Southern California. Read more: Wishing for snow in California?! You're in luck – Check out these best winter getaways in California! Of course, let everyone grab their boots (mittens, scarves, and heavy jackets) and head for a car road trip in search of some wintery fun! Sure, I'd love to visit our favorite Park City over and over again, but I figured it was time to explore more of our new (ish) home state and all this is snow on offer! California is beautiful, isn't it? → Read Next: The most beautiful places in California Growing nyc, I had snow all around me. Literally. In each direction you went, there was snow, snow, and even more snow. So when I tell my East Coast friends that we're going to snow this weekend, there's the most common answer is where does the snow in California? I don't blame them – all always pictures of Golden State be just that – sunny and warm year. And while a lot of clips do fulfill a public worthy nickname (hello San Diego), there's a lot of fun that was snowing in California as well! Since I've lived in California for over 4 years (whoa, where is not the time to go?), I decided it's time to finally write about snow in California! And no, California is not the land of timeless summer, as many may think it is (well, maybe some southern parts are, but not the entire state, that's for sure). Surprising to many, Golden State actually sees quite a bit of snowfall each year, with many places perfect for skiing, hiking/snowshoeing, and more. Husband and I vow to make one trip to the snow each year to fill this inevitable winter wonderland into the breakage of the Bay Area. Here's my bucket list of sorts of possible winter vacations in California so we can start ticking off! Enjoy! ☺ So, without further ado, Snow in Northern California mount Shasta Where does the snow in California? Mount Shasta, there. The snow volcano might sound a bit strange, but Mount Shasta is a winter wonderland from November to April. Castle Lake is located 1.5 km from the parking lot at the foot of the hill and you can snowshoe there to find places for some ice fishing – and stunning views, of course. Further up the hill there is skiing, snowboarding, and even dog-sled rides on offer on Mount Shasta Park. It's 220 miles north of Sacramento, with a car journey taking about 3.5 hours, and fortunately, SF is just a little (in the grand scheme of things) further 275 miles. If you are looking for skiing near San Francisco you should definitely consider making a 4.5 hour drive: road trip, anyone?! Some of the access roads, such as the Everett Highway and Castle Lake Road, around the mountain can be closed just after the snowfall – make sure you check again! Lassen Volcanic Park Located 242 miles, or 2.5 hours, from Reno, Nevada, Lassen Volcano National Park is a great place for snow in Northern California. There's a snowshoeing, bare, and cross-country skiing on offer here. Make sure you keep a full tank of gas on the way to the park, because the nearest station is 31 miles away. The Lassen National Park Highway can close anywhere between two days to two weeks after a significant snowfall, so keep in mind. As well as the above mentioned snow spots, you can visit the Sulphur Works hydrothermal area to see steam openings and hot springs. This area makes it especially nice for viewing in winter, but always maintain a safe distance from hydrothermal functions - the surrounding snow may not be as solid as it looks. → Read on: Weekend Lassen Volcanic National Park (SUMMER PHOTOS) Valley and Truckee in just 40 minutes, a 31 mile drive on I-80 will take you from Reno, Nevada to the city of Truckee. It also happens to be some of the closest snow to the Bay Area because it is located just 190 miles away. Truckee's seaclimate makes it one of the best places to visit California in December as they get a ton of heavy snow. You can ski or snowshoe through donner memorial national park and glimpse some snowy beach views. You could also hike through the Donner Ridge Snowshoe for beautiful views of the Donner Pass – it's a pretty simple trip with great rewards. Valley Ski Park, one of the largest ski areas in the United States, is just 17 minutes from the Truckee Hotel. With stunning views of nearby Lake Tahoe and an abundance of luxury accommodations, this is undoubtedly one of the best winter vacatons in California! Lake Tahoe Everyone and their mom have heard about Lake Tahoe, but just in case you don't: it's a huge freshwater lake surrounded by some of the best ski resorts in America. Again, Reno is the largest city because it is located just 31 miles away, which should take you about 50 minutes in the car. Highway 89 at Emerald Bay is often closed in winter, so be sure to check that again before you went for a view of the glittering lake. Lake Tahoe is one of the most popular winter getaways in California, and it hosts some of the closest snow in the bay area. A wide range of winter sports are available, from skiing to pipes and snowmobiles. Lake Tahoe is definitely one of locations for the locations visit California in December, not only because horse drawn sleigh rides will definitely make you feeling Christmas-y! It's best to plan your day before heading out every morning instead of winging it, because the area can be confusing to move around and Google Maps is not always your best friend here! Yosemite Looking for skiing near San Francisco? Yosemite is your National Park. The 167 mile journey between Yosemite and SF takes just over 3 hours. Tioga Road usually closes from November to May due to snow, which means you can't enter the park from the east side. Don't sweat though, because Hetch Hetchy, Highway 140, and Highway 41 entrances are open all year round. → Read on: Winter weekend at Yosemite National Park There is a bunch of winter spots on offer at Yosemite National Park, including cross-country skiing, sleds, and skating, but it's also a great time of year to see. Yosemite is even more beautiful when there's snow on the ground in California – we're talking snow-covered peaks and frozen waterfalls. You can even zipline across the national park at any time of the year – how cool is that?! Yosemite is also a wonderful stargazing spot. You can either head to your admiration at the winter night sky or attend a stargazing event at Bass Lake. Still on my California bucket list, Mammoth lakes nestled in the Sierra mountains, Mammoth Lakes is 180 miles from Fresno. The trip should take about 4.5 hours by car, so make sure you have some snacks ready. It's very worth the long ish drive to hit some of the best snow in Northern California, just to give your winter gear! The monitor, Tioga, and Sonora go often close during the winter, but you can call ahead of time to check. Mammoth Lakes is the perfect winter vacation in California, especially during the festive season, when there are Christmas parades and performances that cross the magical snow landscape. It's super family friendly here, with lessons for kids and first-timers or cross-country and Nordic ski adventurers for seasoned professionals. If you don't fancy taking on the slopes but want these panoramic views, take a gondola ride and soak up the snow scenery. When you need a little warmth, take a luxury snow cat tour and enjoy exploring the area from the comfort of a heated cabin. Snow on Southern California Mount Whitney Mount Whitney is pretty easy to climb during the summer months, but as you might expect, it's a little more challenging if there's snow in California. Less experienced climbers should take the Mount Whitney trail, which is a class one (a.m. easy peasy) route, but the pros can opt for a more challenging class three hike, whichever trail you choose. climbing Mount Whitney is a super rewarding experience. The insane view of the snowy Sierra Leone Mountains whether you have complete valie and you will fully earn your card chocolate and some carb-y wintery dinner you decide. Mount Whitney's nearest major city is Las Vegas and the drive from Sin City should take from 3.5 to 4 hours. The road between the mountain and the neighboring town of Lone Pine closes in the winter past the Hogback intersection, but you can park nearby and walk the remaining 3.5 miles (more effort, yes, but just think about your step count) Sequoia National Park This park is home to more than just snow in California – it also features the largest tree in the world! Yes, the world! This park is one of the best places for families to have fun snow in California. There are ski and snowshoe trails throughout the park, as well as designated snow playgrounds where you can take part in a snowball battle for your life! A winter ranger guided snowshoe walk is a great way to safely see the best places the park has to offer. Snow sequoia groves alone make this national park one of the best winter vacations in California. I'm currently figuring out how to install it on my 2019 winter travels. The nearest major city is LA, which is 225 km or 3.5 hours drive away. Crescent Meadow, Redwood Mountain, and Big Meadows roads are usually closed in winter, but other roads in the area would be good (unless there's a spate of particularly bad weather, of course). Los Padres National Forest There are many wonderful hikes in the forest, the most popular is the Rattlesnake Trail (relax, it is named after Rattlesnake Canyon, not animal!) If you're pressed for a while, or just feeling lazy, you can hike to Montecito Peak. It's only a mile long and the view is amazing. And if you're a fan of camping, sleeping under the stars is one of the most magical winter getaways california imagine! There are 24 campsites in the park, where after a day where you can bypass the fire and fried marshmallow, you can touch the fire and roast. Sounds pretty nice, doesn't it? Los Padres National Forest is just 6.8 mi from Santa Barbara. It only takes 10 minutes to get there, making it a super comfortable place for snow-suing california. Road closures usually depend on the weather, so be sure to check before you start your 10-minute odyssey. Idyllwild (San Jacinto mountain town) Tucked away in the San Jacinto mountains, the mountain community of Idyllwild is as lovely as its name suggests. It is one of the best snow spots in California for those looking for a cozy winter vacation. Dolly Parton and Michael J. Fox even own a home here! With tons of one-and-a-day hikes, this city is perfect for short winter getaways in California. You can stay or rent a cozy cabin. There's rock climbing and mountain biking on offer, but unfortunately skiing is a no-go. There are also plenty of cute gift and craft shops to explore – perfect Some last minute Christmas prezzies!

The city is an hour's drive from Palm Springs, or 75 miles if you want to get technical. Mount Baldy One of the best snow spots in California is quirkily named Mount Baldy – officially known as Mount San Antonio, but, let's face it, it's way less fun. Mount Baldy Ski Lifts claims to be the fastest ski resort in Southern California so you can be sure you have a good time shredding down these slopes! This is a very family friendly ski resort that is perfect for Christmas time breaks. It is best to book your elevator to go in advance to save yourself a few dollar bills. It's not a great idea to hike to the summit of Mount Baldy in winter unless you're a mountaineering pro – except for that summer visit. And if you're wondering where's the snow in California?, but don't fancy a super-long drive, Mount Baldy is a great option. It's only 12 miles, or 25 minutes, from Ontario, California (not Canada, dontchu worry). Wrightwood Where does the snow in California? The California Christmas card, of course, and that's exactly what the charming city of Wrightwood is. Wrightwood is located in the San Antonio Mountains, in the valley, just 125 km from LA, which drives in about an hour and fifteen minutes. This is a very popular ski town that does get you a holiday spirit – think hot chocolate in front of a log fire after a long day on the slopes. It's coziness to the max. There is a plethora of parades and parties during the holiday season, making it the perfect family for winter vacay. Wrightwood is teeming with art galleries and cute cafes, but there are also plenty of outdoorsy delights. One of the best things to do here is to experience the Pacific Crest zipline and whiz across the snowy mountain landscape. Hiking the Blue Ridge trail is another memorable mountain experience – the view will knock your (snowy) socks off. Big Bear This small, adorably named city is 97 miles from LA, which should take you about two hours in a car, but be sure to check the road closure before you go. The city is one of the best snow spots in California. As well as being famous as a training site for many boxing champions and shooting venues for several films, Big Bear is popular thanks to neighboring Bear Mountain (how cute?) Skiers of all ages and abilities will find slopes to match them in this ski resort, so there's fun for everyone. Big Bear Alpine Zoo is also a pretty good experience because the center rehabilitates animals in need and releases them back into the wild when they're fully recovered. Wintery's visit to beautiful Big Bear Lake is another ice treat – it's just beautiful at this time of year, especially if it's frozen over! Lake Arrowhead If you're asking where is the snow in California?, look no further than Lake Arrowhead. This The mountain resort is 100 km from La. You go from big smoke to winter wonderland after an hour and a half. When you're there, no matter how old you are, you have to pay to visit SkyPark at Santa's Village – you don't want to risk getting coal, right? Nestled in the woods, village takes the Christmas spirit max. You can go on a snow quest, visit Santa's workshop or even eat breakfast with the man himself! The driver holds from November 15 to January 6 for most holiday activities. However, if you visit, there's a lot to do at SkyPark. As well as festive treats, it is home to mountain bike and hiking trails, ziplines and rock climbing. There are also several ski resorts nearby, such as Snow Summit and The Northern Rim Ski Area, if your case is cross-country skiing. Which of these winter vacations in California will you add to your must-visit list when it finally snows?! Snow?!

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