

What to do During Winter

By: Kenzie Hoy

With winter being right around the corner, you might begin to wonder, what should I do during the winter season? Well, you came to the right place. I'm going to tell you about some super fun activities to get you in the winter spirit.

The Taft Museum of Art is a beautiful historic building, holding an amazing collection of different exhibits including a Christmas exhibit. The exhibits being shown currently are the *Antique Christmas* (November 8, 2019-January 5, 2020) which showcases many antique Christmas sculptures, *The Poetry of Nature: Hudson River School Landscapes from the New-York Historical Society* (October 5, 2019- January 12, 2020) which showcases art that sparked the first artistic movement in the United States. On Google reviews, the Taft Museum has a 4.6/5 rating and reviews are filled with words of praise for the exhibits and art the Taft showcases. The Taft Museum is located at 316 Pike Street and is open from 11 am- 4 pm Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays, and open from 11 am -5 pm on Saturdays and Sundays. The Taft is closed on Mondays and Tuesdays. The ticket prices range from \$ 0-11 and admission is free on Sundays.

Now, if you're looking for a museum that is more geared for kids, I would highly recommend going to the Cincinnati Museum to check out Holiday Junction along with the other exhibits the museum offers such as *Destination Moon: The Apollo 11 Mission*. Holiday Junction is perfect for people of all ages. For young children, there is a train they can ride and even ring the bell of the train. For teenagers, they can walk among a blizzard of blocks in a lego winter wonderland. And for adults and seniors, they can watch model trains, with thousands of feet of track, zip around a mini-metropolis. All in all these museums will be sure to put you in the holiday spirit

Now if looking around a museum is not really your thing, then I would recommend going to downtown Cincinnati to go ice skating or checking out Washington Park to see Santa's Workshop. Ice skating in downtown Cincinnati truly puts you in the winter spirit. Just zipping around with friends, family or alone is so much fun. The ice skating rink is located at 38 Fountain Square Plaza. The pre-holiday dates are November 2- December 17 The times for the pre-holiday period is the ice rink opens at 12 pm and closes at 9 pm Monday through Thursday, 12 pm -10 pm on Fridays, 10 am -10 pm on Saturdays, 10 am- 9 pm on Sundays. The holiday dates are December 18- January 5. The times for the holiday dates are Monday-Sunday the ice rink opens at 10 am and closes at 11 pm. The post-holiday dates are January 6- February 2. The times for the post-holiday dates are the ice rink opens at 12 pm and closes at 5 pm Monday- Thursday and 12 pm- 9 pm Fridays- Sundays. The ice rink is opened Christmas day from 12 pm- 11 pm and on New Year's Eve from 10 am- 1 pm. The admissions price is \$6.00 and the skate rental fee is \$4.00. The ice rink offers rental skates in size 4-8 in youth, 5-13 in women, and 5-13 in men. If you're worried about your belongings, the ice rink offers lockers and secured lockers. According to google reviews, the UC Health Ice Rink has very kind words from fellow customers and is rated 3.7/5. Santa's Workshop in Washington Park

allows you to make gifts, ornaments and other fun creation and crafts along with Santa and his elves. You can bring wish lists and even get pictures with Santa. Washington Park is located at 1230 Elm Street. Santa's Workshop is on Saturdays from November 30- December 21 and is open from 1 pm - 3 pm.

What better way to enjoy winter than to go see the Cincinnati Ballet Company and the Shakespeare Company perform. The Cincinnati Ballet Company has been performing *the Nutcracker* since 1974 (that's 45 years) and it has only grown in popularity. Many people gush over how amazing the dancers were and how well put together the performance was. *The Nutcracker* is being performed at Music Hall which is located at 1241 Elm Street. *The Nutcracker* will be performed on Thursday, December 19 at 7:30 pm, Friday, December 20 at 7:30 pm, Saturday, December 21 at 2:00 pm and 7:30 pm, Sunday, December 22 at 1:00 pm and 6:30 pm, Monday, December 23 at 2:00 pm and 7:30 pm, Tuesday, December 24 at 1:00 pm, Thursday, December 26 at 2:00 pm and 7:30 pm, Friday, December 27 at 7:30 pm, Saturday, December 28 at 2:00 pm, and Sunday, December 29 at 1:00 pm. For seating locations and prices be sure to check out the Cincinnati Ballet Company's website. The Cincinnati Shakespeare Company is putting on an amazing production titled *Every Christmas Story Ever Told (and then some)*. This production begins as a classic showing of a Christmas Carol, but soon turns into a look at some of our favorite Christmas classics such as Frosty the Snowman, Charlie Brown, and It's A Wonderful Life. *Every Christmas Story Ever Told (and then some)* will be performed on Friday, December 13 at 7:30 pm, Saturday, December 14 at 2:00 pm, Saturday, December 14 at 7:30 pm, Sunday, December 15 at 2:00 pm, Sunday, December 15 at 7:30, Tuesday, December 17 at 7:30, Wednesday, December 18 at 7:30 pm, Thursday, December 19 at 7:30 pm, Friday, December 20 at 7:30 pm, Saturday, December 21 at 2:00 pm, Saturday, December 21 at 7:30 pm, Sunday, December 22 at 2:00 pm, Sunday, December 22 at 7:30 pm, Monday, December 23 at 7:30 pm, Friday, December 27 at 7:30 pm, Saturday, December 28 at 2:00 pm, Saturday, December 28 at 7:30 pm, and Sunday, December 29 at 2:00 pm. To purchase tickets and find out more check out the Cincinnati Shakespeare Company's website.

I hope you guys will get out and do some of these super fun winter activities. Be sure to take pictures and make some amazing memories that will last a lifetime. Happy Holidays!