

CHOCOLATE (FOR GUYS!)

BEST WINTER HOT SPOTS

AL ROKER'S FRIDGE

EVERY DAY

rachaelraymag.com

with **RACHAEL RAY**

53
recipes
YOU MUST
TRY NOW

over-the-top
CARAMEL
CHEESECAKE

fast
PARTY
SNACKS

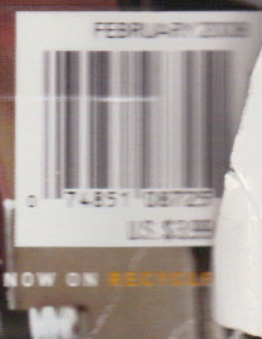
Oscar Night Pizza
Super Bowl Dips
Mardi Gras Faves
AND MORE!

SUGAR HILL INN page 136

delicious
DINNERS
FOR TWO

comfort food
30-MINUTE
MEALS

new
chicken
dishes
in minutes



TRADING

Spa Capes

Think beyond a hotel this winter and steal away to an alternative—a **cottage**, a **lighthouse** or even a **yurt**.

BY PANIO GIANOPOULOS



tent

EL CAPITAN CANYON

SANTA BARBARA, CALIFORNIA

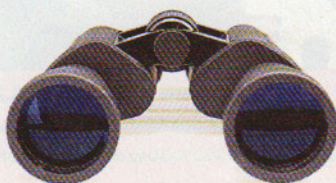
If you like camping but don't want to give up luxuries like hot showers and maid service, book one of these "tents": strong canvas structures with wood floors, homemade willow furniture and quality double beds. You won't even need a sleeping bag. 11560 Calle Real, elcapitancanyon.com, 805-685-3887; tents \$125

GEAR Pack **binoculars** so you can keep an eye out for red-tailed hawks.

GRUB Cook up some steak, salad and **s'mores** over your private fire pit. All food and supplies are included in a kit (prices start at \$60) from The Canyon Market, right on the premises. If you prefer, a chef will prepare meals for you for about \$150.

BONUS Take the four-hour guided **hike** through El Capitan Canyon, on Saturdays, and you'll go home good and sore.

REALITY CHECK Don't bring your iPod speakers. The staff frowns on noise (there's a **no-radio policy**). **Birds** provide the soundtrack.





trailer

SHADY DELL BEE, ARIZONA

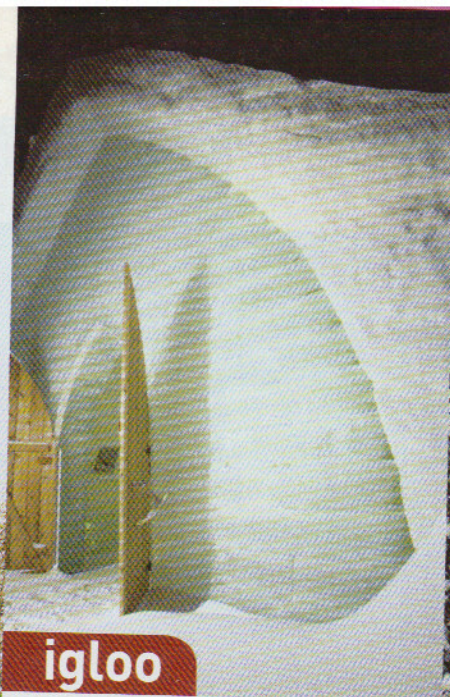
Everyone knows that the best trailer is the Airstream, and one at this funky park is restored to 1949 glory. Even the music is age: Bebop will be playing as you walk in the door. 1 Old Douglas Road, theshadydell.com, 520-432-3567; trailers from \$50, Airstream \$80

GEAR Bring some old 45 records and VHS tapes; most trailers have a black-and-white TV with a built-in VCR and a **phonograph**. You can also borrow from Shady Dell's collection.

BONUS Grab one of the 10 stools at Dot's Diner (100 Old Douglas Road, 520-432-1112) right on the property, and pair a piece of homemade **strawberry rhubarb pie** (\$3 a slice) with a **strawberry milkshake** (\$3). The owners swear by the 1950s milkshake machine.

REALITY CHECK You can take home **kitschy tees** that feature a covered wagon towing a trailer into the sunset.

REALITY CHECK The original Airstream didn't have a bathroom, and yours doesn't either. The **shared restroom** is clean, and has hot running water.



igloo

THE ICE HOTEL QUEBEC CITY, CANADA

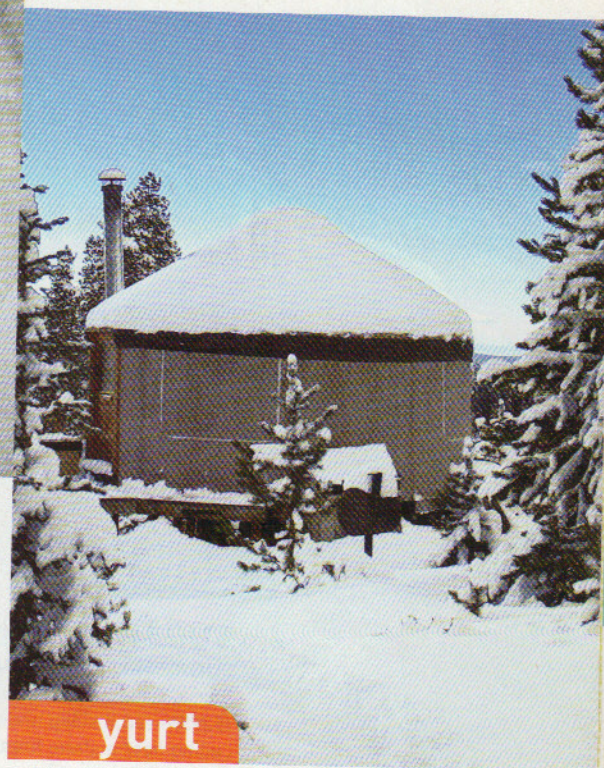
The hotel is made from 500 tons of ice and 15,000 tons of snow, but not to worry: Each frozen room has a warm bed and sleeping bag. 143 Route Duchesnay Pavillon Regie, Sainte-Catherine-de-la-Jacques-Cartier, icehotel-canada.com, 877-505-0423; from \$199 per person

GEAR The temperature is around 25 degrees inside, so bring warm clothes, good moisturizer and **boots with traction**—the floors can be slippery.

GRUB Walk five minutes to the chic **Parisian-style bistro** Le Quatre-Temps (Station touristique Duchesnay, 143 Route Duchesnay, Sainte-Catherine-de-la-Jacques-Cartier, 866-683-2711) for hearty fare like piping-hot french onion soup.

BONUS A cup of hot chocolate is delivered to you each morning. If you're feeling romantic, have an impromptu **wedding in the ice chapel**.

REALITY CHECK Plumbing would melt the ice, so there's **no bathroom in the building**; a heated bathroom with private showers is 150 feet away.



yurt

NEVER SUMMER NORDIC

WALDEN, COLORADO

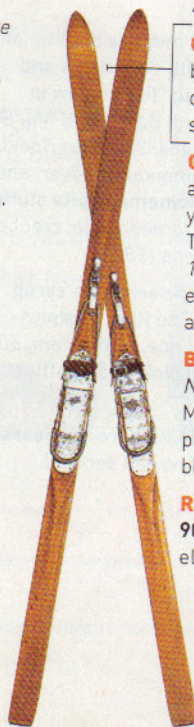
Book the south-facing, 200-square-foot North Fork Canadian yurt and your sun-soaked deck will overlook the jagged Nokhu Crags in Colorado State Forest State Park. 247 County Road 41, neversummernordic.com, 970-723-4070; from \$90, \$110 weekends

GEAR You'll need your own sleeping bag and food, plus **cross-country skis** or snowshoes to get around the sprawling property.

GRUB There's only one restaurant in a 20-mile radius, so make the most of your meal at the **rustic cowboy joint** The Drifter's Cookhouse (55278 Hwy. 14, Gould, 970-723-8300) and order the enormous burrito with chicken, beans and green chiles (\$10).

BONUS You'll leave with your own *National Geographic*-style photo album: More than **600 moose** roam the area, plus elk, deer, bald eagles, coyotes, black bears and mountain lions.

REALITY CHECK You have to walk or ski **90 feet to the outhouse**, which has no electricity or running water.



more winter escape ideas





cottage

SUGAR HILL INN

SUGAR HILL, NEW HAMPSHIRE

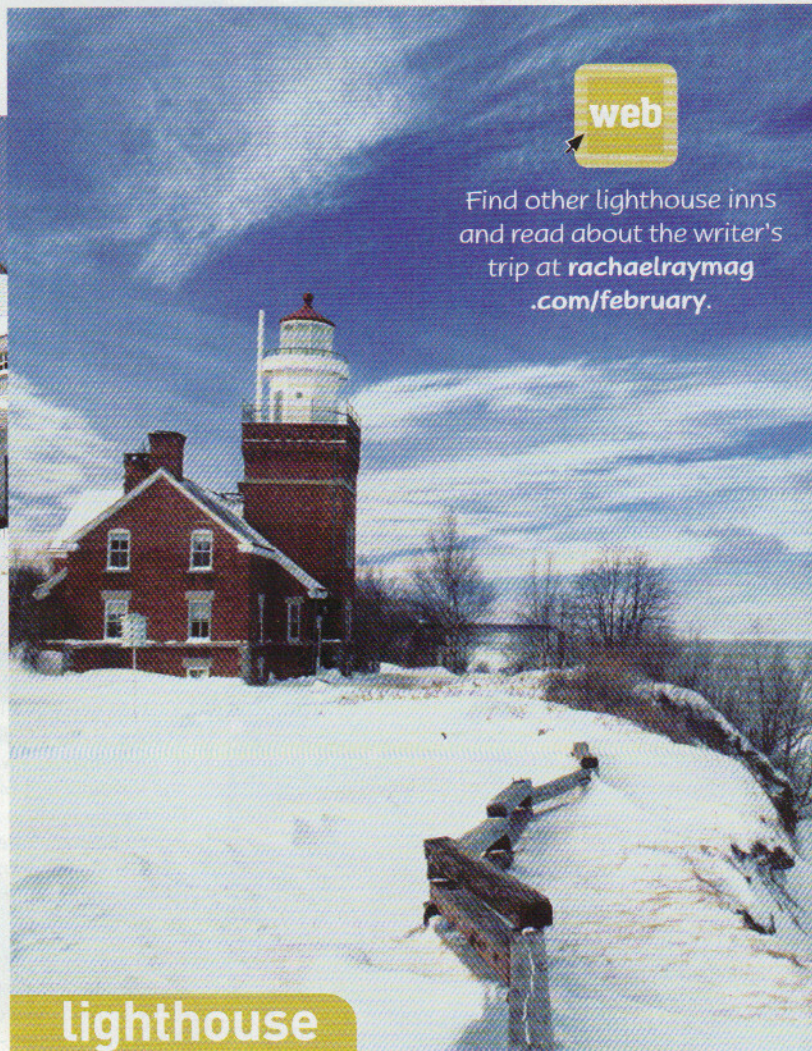
Save up and book the Dream Cottage (\$295)—you'll sleep under a cathedral ceiling near a stone fireplace. The bathroom has a whirlpool tub, private sauna and rain shower. 116 Scenic Route 117, sugarhillinn.com, 800-548-4748; doubles from \$95

GEAR Bring a **yoga mat** and take a class at the Center for Balanced Health (297 Main St., Franconia, 603-823-7701, balancedhealthstudio.com). You'll need to work off the inn's breakfast: a giant stack of pancakes drenched in local maple syrup.

GRUB Drive 10 minutes to Littleton, a town lined with cute shops and eateries. Sit near the window at Miller's Café and Bakery (16 Mill St., Littleton, 603-444-2146), overlooking the frozen Ammonoosuc River, and try the **griddled homemade pita** stuffed with pork loin, green apple, cranberry mayo and greens (\$8.30).

BONUS You can see **maple syrup** production at The Rocks Estate (4 Christmas Lane, Bethlehem, 603-444-6228) and pick up \$3 bottles for souvenirs.

REALITY CHECK There are **bears** in the area (and no cell service).



web

Find other lighthouse inns and read about the writer's trip at rachaelraymag.com/february.

lighthouse

BIG BAY LIGHTHOUSE BED AND BREAKFAST

BIG BAY, MICHIGAN

Some lighthouses put guests to work as temporary keepers. Not this cozy inn on Michigan's rural upper peninsula. Here, you'll be encouraged to do nothing but sit in a chaise near a roaring fire and eat freshly baked oatmeal cookies. 3 Lighthouse Road, bigbaylighthouse.com, 906-345-9957; doubles from \$105

GEAR Pack a puffy down coat, your **warmest mittens** and a pair of hiking boots; you'll need them to trek up to the nearby frozen waterfall.

GRUB Head to Thunder Bay Inn (400 Bensinger St., 906-345-9376), the setting of the 1959 courtroom drama *Anatomy of a Murder*, and order yourself a Jimmy Stewart: **sirloin steak** grilled with onions and mushrooms, topped with Swiss cheese and served on a French roll (\$7.25).

BONUS Halfway up the old wooden stairway to the lighthouse beacon you'll find a welcome surprise: a fully functioning **sauna**. Don't question what it's doing there—just enjoy.

REALITY CHECK Big Bay is no place for socializing: The population is 265. Expect some **alone time**.

