

Let the Games Begin

Feeling inspired by the upcoming Winter Games but can't make it to Sochi? Get the Olympic rush closer to home.

BY MARIDEL REYES



If you're
obsessed with...

Speedskating

[Go to Milwaukee](#)

The Pettit National Ice Center is an official U.S. Olympic training site where Wisconsin-based speedskaters work out before the games. The facility hosts speedskating classes for all ages in its Olympic Oval for \$110 per class.

Snowboarding

[Go to Vancouver, British Columbia](#)

In Vancouver, host of the 2010 Winter Olympics, you can carve the powder on Cypress Mountain, the same spot that hosted the freestyle skiing and snowboarding events (half pipe, parallel slalom and snowboard cross).

Ski Jump

[Go to Calgary, Alberta](#)

Visitors can take a scenic chairlift for a tour of the ski jump used in the 1988 Olympics. In addition to watching ski jumpers in the summer and winter, you can also zipline off the jump deck.

Hockey

[Go to Lake Placid, N.Y.](#)

Host to the Winter Olympics in 1932 and 1980, visitors can see the Olympic Arena, site of the legendary "Miracle on Ice" game in 1980. The venue is active year-round and offers public skating sessions, concerts, youth and adult hockey tournaments, and figure skating championships.

Figure Skating

[Go to Scottsdale, Ariz.](#)

It may be in the middle of the desert, but Olympian Dorothy Hamill regularly teaches adult figure-skating fantasy camp in her hometown. Fee is \$4,500 per skater, including private instruction from Hamill herself.

Bobsledding

[Go to Salt Lake City](#)

Salt Lake City and its surrounding ski resorts hosted the 2002 Winter Games. Today, visitors can check out the Utah Olympic Oval on the western side of the city (make reservations for a bobsled ride down the Olympic course, manned by a pro), or head east and hit Park City Mountain Resort, Deer Valley

and Snowbasin ski areas, where Olympians have competed for glory.

Skiing

[Go to Squaw Valley, Calif.](#)

In 1960, Squaw Valley hosted the world's first nationally televised Winter Olympics, debuted women's speedskating as an event and started the practice of having athletes stay in the Olympic Village. Today, the athletic center is known as Olympic House. Flanked by rugged mountain terrain that is home to 12 major ski resorts (the largest concentration in the country), Lake Tahoe is a year-round draw that sees some of its biggest crowds during ski season.