



DO IT HERE

Winter-camping newbie? Here are five beautiful backcountry spots.

1) Boundary Waters, Minnesota:

Cross-country-ski three miles north across Sawbill Lake and camp on one of the many unnamed islands in this Scandinavia-like wilderness. Tip: Rent a pulk in Ely at Piragis (piragis.com). bwca.org

2) White Mountain National Forest, New Hampshire:

Join the hundreds of adventuresome (and often downright rowdy) skiers who make the annual pilgrimage to Tuckerman Ravine every spring. Trek in from Pinkham Notch Camp and set up your tent a half-mile from the Bowl at Hermit Lake Shelters. www.fs.fed.us/r9/forests/white_mountain

3) Rocky Mountain National Park, Colorado:

This classic destination sees just a handful of winter visitors. Snowshoe or ski 3.5 miles from Glacier Gorge Trailhead 760 feet up to the 10,000-foot Glacier Gorge campsite, where you'll have views of Longs Peak all to yourself. www.fs.fed.us/r2

4) Yosemite National Park, California:

Cross-country-ski Wawona Meadow Trail until you hit Mariposa Grove. The towering sequoias here are among the largest living trees in the world. nps.gov/yose —CHRISTINA ERB

05 WILD

The Gophers: Winter

SCOTT SPIKER/ALASKA STOCK LLC



ENJOY THE PEACE, QUIET, AND VERY, VERY WARM GEAR

1. THE NORTH FACE SOLAR FLARE // Pack the wrong bag and you'll be shivering instead of sleeping. This 800-fill-down, 20-below sack will let you snooze comfortably everywhere short of Everest. \$519, 4 lbs; thenorthface.com **2. BLACK DIAMOND LIGHTHOUSE** // It weighs just over three pounds, but this single-walled four-season mountaineering shelter beats condensation with breathable Epic by Nextec fabric. \$379 (\$139 for the side-mounted vestibule); bdel.com **3. CLOUDVEIL INVERSION PARKA** // Overstuffed hood, weather-beating Windstopper shell, and spindrift-stopping neoprene cuffs make this 800-fill-down parka a sweet package when you stop moving. \$450, 2 lbs; cloudveil.com **4. BRUNTON VAPOR AF** // For reliability and versatility in cold and at altitude, you can't beat this one-pound, multifuel (including pressurized canisters) stove. \$149; brunton.com **5. BLACK DIAMOND QUANTUM** // Put it all in this four-pound, minimalist pack (read: fewer gimmicks for you to lug). Making a dash for the summit? Cut more weight by removing the hipbelt and top compartment. \$240; bdel.com **6. THERM-A-REST RIDGEREST DELUXE** // On snow, a closed-cell pad like this is essential for insulation. \$30, 1.2 lbs; thermarest.com **7. SIERRA DESIGNS CLASSIC DOWN BOOTIES** // You can just tromp around in your boot liners, but these water-proof, rubber-soled slp-ons are one luxury we won't do without. \$40; sierradesigns.com

—GRAYSON SCHAFFER