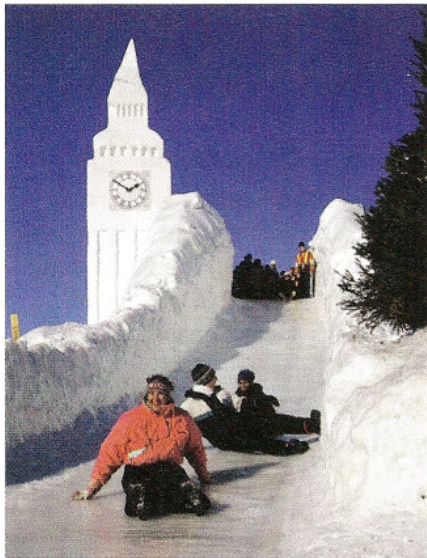




Surf's Up in the Winter

In the winter, storms slam into Vancouver Island, often creating 15-foot waves. Winter surfing is attempted by only the most dedicated surfers. To survive the cold, they wear rubber suits with hoods, gloves, and booties.



Winterlude: A Festival of Winter

Winterlude celebrations take place in Ottawa in February. Here, people play on an ice slide in a park. In the background is a snow sculpture of one of the Parliament Buildings. These buildings are the center of the national government.

3.6 Having Fun in the Cold

Winters are long and summers are short in this northern country, so Canadians have adjusted by finding ways to have fun in all seasons. In summer, for example, people use the Rideau Canal in Ottawa for boating. But in the winter the canal freezes, and for a few months it becomes the longest skating rink in the world.

The Atlantic Region This area has a **humid continental** climate, which is fairly mild. Winters can be very wet, though. Halifax, the capital of Nova Scotia, for instance, gets around five inches of **precipitation** in January alone.

Nova Scotia is said to be the birthplace of ice hockey. The story goes that Canadians were unhappy spending the long winter months indoors. They knew of a game that is like field hockey. Then someone thought to put on skates, and ice hockey was born. Today ice hockey is popular in the United States too.

The Core Region The southern part of this area also has a humid continental climate. The average temperature of Toronto, Ontario, in July is a pleasant 63°F.

Every February, Canadians celebrate Winterlude in Ottawa, in southeast Ontario. People ice skate and ride in horse-drawn sleighs along the Rideau Canal. There are ice-skating races and figure-skating contests. You can learn how to make ice carvings—or eat at a cafe carved from ice!

The Prairie Region The southern part of this region has a **semiarid** to humid continental climate. The northern part has a **subarctic** climate. In Churchill, located on Hudson Bay in northeast Manitoba, the average January temperature is a frosty -16°F.

Churchill is called the “Polar Bear Capital of the World.” In the fall more than a thousand polar bears pass through the town to gather at Hudson Bay. There they wait for the bay to freeze so they can hunt for food. And every fall, people travel to Churchill to see this event.

The Pacific Region The coast of British Columbia has a **marine west coast** climate. In Vancouver, January temperatures average 37°F. This is much warmer than most parts of Canada.

Winter surfing is a popular sport off the Pacific coast, where large waves from winter storms challenge surfers. Farther inland lie the Coast Mountains and, even farther, the Rocky Mountains. The Rockies’ highest peak in Canada is Mt. Robson, which soars 12,972 feet in British Columbia. The high altitudes here definitely mean long, cold winters, and you will find some of Canada’s best ski resorts in this region.

The Northern Region Much of this area is treeless **tundra**. The most northern part has very few plants. The southern part has a subarctic climate. The temperature in the town of Whitehorse, Yukon Territory, in July averages 57°F.

The all-terrain vehicle has replaced the traditional dog sled in the north. People still love to compete in dog sled races, though. A long-distance race in winter, over mountains, frozen rivers, and other rough terrain, can cover 1,000 miles and take up to two weeks.