

Suffering Serious Cabin Fever

Irritable, agitated, down in the dumps, feeling the winter-blah feels

How about a romp with Mother Nature?

THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT WE NEED.

NO THANKS, STILL TOO COLD.

Book a local hotel for a family staycation. (Tip: *Wyndham Gardens Sterling Inn in Sterling Heights has an indoor water park.*)

Commune with nature. The Burgess-Shadbush Nature Center in Shelby Township hosts a Jan. 28 Winter Fest and Family Cookout complete with a wildlife walk, live show with Professor Frost Bite and food.

How do you feel about animals?

SQUEEE!

Meh.

OK – sit down or walk around?

GOTTA GET MY STEPS IN.

CAN'T BEAT A SEAT.

Scour the night sky. Try out the Astronomy of the Winter Sky event at Indian Springs Metropark in White Lake on Jan. 21.

LEGOLAND Discovery Center. Prime for ages 3-10, this Auburn Hills spot's got two rides, a 4D cinema and big kids play area. Book early!

First-run flicks. Live-action *Monster Trucks* opens Jan. 13 – and dramedy *A Dog's Purpose* launches Jan. 27. Both are rated PG.

The Creature Conservancy. This Ann Arbor spot hosts Creature Encounters every Saturday and Sunday. They're highlighting Poco the sloth in January.

North American International Auto Show. Nothing tops a trek to the big Detroit show, open to the public Jan. 14-22.

See it live. This month offers *The Snow Queen* at Northville Marquis Theatre, *Owl's Winter* by Wild Swan Theater in Ann Arbor and *Sesame Street Live* in Detroit. Flip to Fun Guide on page 43 for deets.

Detroit Zoo. Visit for Wild Winter Weekends on Jan. 21 and Feb. 4. Give the new ice rink in front of the Polk Penguin Conservation Center a spin, too.

Ice or snow?

ICE, ICE BABY.

LET IT SNOW!

Dinosaur tours. They're at the U-M Museum of Natural History in Ann Arbor and free to the first 15 at 2 p.m. Saturdays-Sundays (minus Jan. 1).

Belle Isle. This Detroit island lets you get up close and personal with gentle deer. Be sure to swing by the nearby aquarium to chill with some underwater creatures too.

Get colorful. Give an igloo or snowman pizzazz by spritzing with food coloring and water, mixed up and misted from a spray bottle.

Plymouth Ice Festival. This year's blowout has an ice playground, dueling chainsaws and sculptures galore. Visit Jan. 6-8.

Go sledding. Hike uphill at Hines Park in Westland or Rochester's Bloomer Park and sled or tube your way back down.

Warren's Cold Rush. Head out Jan. 14 for putt-putt golf, a petting zoo, ice skating and icy masterpieces on display.

Oakland County Fire & Ice Festival. Tube sledding, snow shoeing and dog sled rides pair with ice sculptures and fireworks Jan. 20-22 in Rochester.