

Winter Storm Names 2021 - 2022

Atticus	Hatcher	Oaklee	Vega
Bankston	Izzy	Phyllis	Willow
Carrie	Jasper	Quinlan	Xandy
Delphine	Kenan	Rachel	Yeager
Elmer	Landon	Silas	Zion
Frida	Miles	Tad	
Garrett	Nancy	Usher	

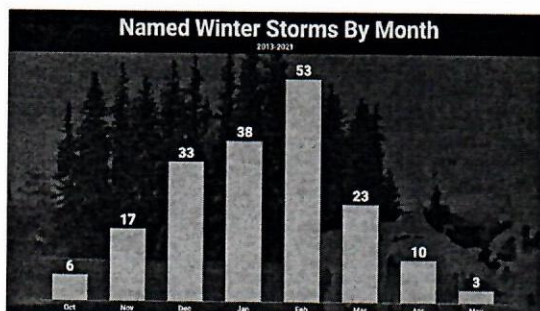
Winter storm names exclude any current Atlantic and eastern Pacific hurricane names on the National Hurricane Center lists for the next six years, and any retired hurricane names (those particularly deadly, destructive and historic).

Winter storms are named based on either meeting, or the expectation to meet, at least one of the following criteria:

- NWS winter storm, blizzard, or ice storm warnings covering at least a population of 2 million.
- NWS winter storm, blizzard, or ice storm warnings covering at least an area of 400,000 square kilometers, or slightly larger than the state of Montana.

Storms forecast to trigger NWS warnings over a much larger population and/or area, such as February 2021's Winter Storm Uri in the West, South and Northeast, are typically named well ahead of time.

Lake-effect snowstorms are not named, and any warnings covering lake-effect snow are not counted for consideration for naming a winter storm.



Snorkel With Playful Sea Lions, Swim on White-Sand Beaches and Go Hiking in the Galapagos

Easy Escapes in 2022

The world has largely reopened nearly two years into the COVID-19 pandemic, and while the emergence of the Omicron variant late last year threatened to erase key progress, travelers still have plenty of excellent destinations to choose from in the early part of 2022. While COVID-19 vaccination, testing and quarantine requirements vary by destination, here are some of the least restrictive overseas destinations Americans can travel to this winter.

Jamaica

Americans can also visit the Caribbean island of Jamaica with a negative COVID-19 test taken within 72 hours of arrival (age 12 and older) and an approved Jamaica Ministry of Health Travel Authorization, which can be completed online within seven days of your travel date. The country also recently shortened the isolation period for U.S. travelers who test positive for COVID-19 from 10 to five days.

Costa Rica

Fully vaccinated travelers will have an easier time visiting Costa Rica now as they can attach their vaccination certificate to their Health Pass, which must be completed within 72 hours prior to arrival. Plus, tourists who are fully vaccinated against COVID-19 and those aged 18 and younger can enter Costa Rica without having to purchase a travel policy.

Dominican Republic

The Dominican Republic remains one of the most accessible destinations amid the pandemic as visitors are not required to present proof of vaccination against COVID-19 nor a negative test result in order to gain entry. "Airports and other ports of entry will perform a quick, aleatory breath test to between 3 percent and 15 percent of passengers, and all those who present symptoms, upon arrival," the Dominican Republic's official entry requirements state. The Traveler's Health Affidavit, Customs Declaration and International Embarkation/Disembarkation forms have been combined into a single digital form that visitors can submit through the Electronic Ticket Portal prior to arrival.

Mexico

Americans can also continue to visit Mexico without COVID-19 vaccination, testing or quarantine requirements. According to the U.S. Embassy and Consulates in Mexico, "passengers and aircrew members arriving at Mexican airports may be subject to health screenings including temperature checks. Those exhibiting symptoms may be subject to additional health screening and/or quarantine."

Ireland

Ireland recently welcomed the end of COVID-19 restrictions so visiting is much simpler in 2022. Travelers will need to complete a Passenger Locator Form (PLF) prior to departure. However, those with acceptable proof of vaccination or proof of recovery from COVID-19 in the prior six months do not have to show an additional pre-departure COVID-19 test result. Meanwhile, those without proof of vaccination or recovery from COVID-19 will require a negative PCR test result taken within 72 hours prior to arriving in Ireland.

The Bahamas

The Bahamas is just a short flight or sailing from Florida's southeast coast and is only requiring that visitors obtain a negative COVID-19 test taken no more than three days prior to the date of arrival and apply for a Bahamas Travel Health Visa at travel.gov.bs. Fully vaccinated travelers can submit an antigen or PCR test result while unvaccinated visitors over the age of 12 will require a PCR result. Those staying longer than 48 hours (regardless of vaccination status) must undergo a rapid COVID-19 test within 48 hours or two nights of arrival in the islands.

United Kingdom

The U.K. announced this month that it will drop all COVID-19 testing requirements for fully vaccinated visitors starting on February 11. "Arrivals who are not recognized as fully vaccinated will only need to take a pre-departure test and a PCR test on or before day 2 after they arrive in the U.K.," government officials announced on January 24.

STAY WARM THIS WEEKEND WITH SOME NICE WINTER RECIPES

Creamy Tomato Soup

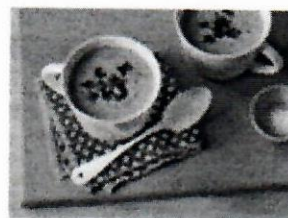
Level: Easy
Total: 1 hr 5 min
Prep: 15 min
Cook: 50 min
Yield: 4 to 6 servings (about 7 cups)

Ingredients:

4 tablespoons unsalted butter
1 slice bacon, finely chopped
1 Spanish onion, chopped
1 carrot, chopped
1 stalk celery, chopped
4 cloves garlic, finely chopped
5 tablespoons all-purpose flour
4 1/2 cups low-sodium chicken broth
1 (28-ounce) can whole, peeled tomatoes
3 parsley sprigs
3 fresh thyme sprigs
1 bay leaf
1 cup heavy cream
1 3/4 teaspoon kosher salt
Freshly ground black pepper

Directions:

- 1 Heat the butter in a large soup pot over medium-high heat. Add the bacon and cook, stirring, until crisp and most of the fat has rendered, about 1 minute. Using a slotted spoon, transfer the bacon to a paper towel-lined plate and set aside. Lower the heat to medium, add the onion, carrots, celery, and garlic and cook, covered, stirring occasionally, until soft and fragrant, about 8 minutes.
- 2 Stir in the flour and cook, stirring, for 3 minutes. Pour in the broth and crush the tomatoes through your fingers into the pan. Bring to a boil while whisking constantly. Tie the parsley sprigs, thyme, and bay leaf together with a piece of kitchen twine and add to the pot. Lower the heat and simmer for 20 minutes. Remove from the heat and let cool.
- 3 Remove and discard the herb bundle. Working in batches, transfer the mixture to a blender and puree until smooth. Return the puree to the pot and reheat over medium heat.
- 4 Whisk in the heavy cream, salt, and pepper, to taste. Divide among warm soup bowls and serve immediately.
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Cheesy Beef and Potato Hash

Level: Easy
Total: 40 min
Active: 25 min
Yield: 4 servings

Ingredients:

2 medium russet potatoes
3 tablespoons olive oil
Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper
1 small onion, chopped
1 red bell pepper, chopped
1 clove garlic, minced
8 ounces ground beef (90% lean)
1/2 teaspoon chili powder
1 1/2 cups grated sharp Cheddar

Directions:

- 1 Peel the potatoes and cut into small cubes (a little less than 1/2 inch). Put in a bowl and cover with cold water, mixing to rinse off the starch. Drain and rinse in a colander, then transfer to paper towels and pat dry.
- 2 Heat the oil in a 10-inch cast-iron skillet over medium-high heat. Add the potatoes and cook, stirring occasionally, until tender and golden brown on most sides, about 15 minutes. Season with 1/4 teaspoon salt and pepper to taste, then transfer to a plate with a slotted spoon.
- 3 Preheat the broiler on high.
- 4 Add the onion, bell pepper and garlic to the skillet and cook, stirring occasionally, until golden brown, about 7 minutes. Add the beef, chili powder and 1/2 teaspoon salt and cook, breaking up any clumps with a wooden spoon, until brown, about 5 minutes. Return the potatoes to the skillet and mix to combine. Sprinkle the cheese over the hash.
- 5 Broil until melted and bubbling, about 1 minute.



Double Chocolate Chip Muffins

Level: Easy
Total: 1 hr 5 min
Active: 40 min
Yield: 12 muffins

Ingredients:

1 1/4 cups all-purpose flour (see Cook's Note)
1/2 cup unsweetened cocoa powder
1/2 teaspoon baking powder
1/2 teaspoon baking soda
1/2 teaspoon fine salt
1 cup bittersweet chocolate chips
3/4 cup milk
1/2 cup packed light brown sugar
4 tablespoons unsalted butter, melted
1 tablespoon vegetable oil
2 teaspoons pure vanilla extract
2 large eggs

Directions:

- 1 Preheat the oven to 350 degrees F. Line 12 muffin cups with paper liners.
- 2 Whisk together the flour, cocoa powder, baking powder, baking soda and salt in a large bowl. Stir in the chocolate chips. In a medium bowl, whisk together the milk, brown sugar, butter, oil, vanilla and eggs until smooth.
- 3 Quickly fold the milk mixture into the flour mixture with a rubber spatula. Divide the batter evenly among the prepared muffin cups. Bake until a toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean, about 25 minutes. Transfer the muffins from the pan to a wire rack to cool.

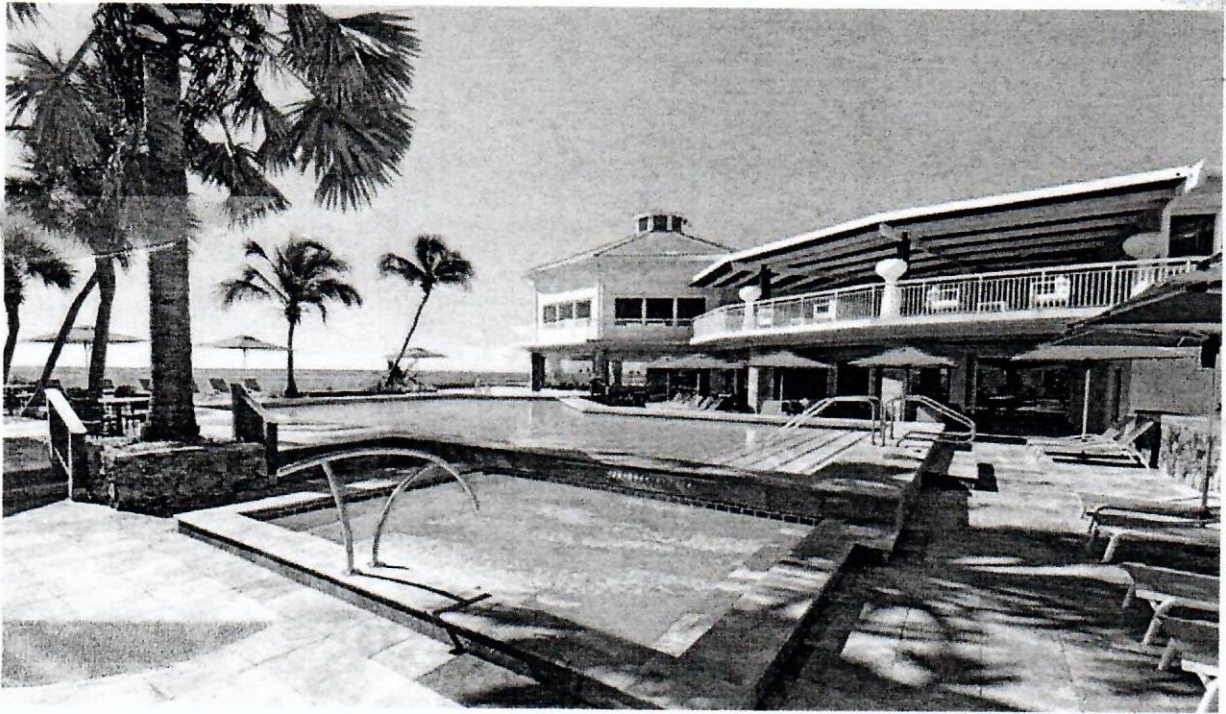


Cook's Note

When measuring flour, we spoon it into a dry measuring cup and level off the excess. (Scooping directly from the bag compacts the flour, resulting in dry baked goods.)

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Adults-Only All-Inclusive Set to Debut in St Croix



St Croix's first-ever adults-only all-inclusive is set to debut on Feb. 1.

The relaunched Divi Carina Bay Resort and Casino will offer a range of activities and amenities “curated specifically for adults 18+,” the property said in a statement.

It will be the only all-inclusive resort in St Croix, and one of just a handful all-inclusive vacation options around the US Virgin Islands, most notably that of the Bolongo Bay Beach Resort in St Thomas.

The oceanfront resort will feature newly renovated rooms and suites, along with pickleball, tennis, a fitness center and two pools, a soon-to-launch mini-golf course and a casino.

That's along with multiple food and beverage concepts, including The Wave, a buffet-style marketplace; the casual Oceans Bar and Grill; the Latitude Bar and the Carina Cafe and Bar.

Notably, Feb. 1 will also see the debut of Divi's new brand, Oceans, which will include an exclusive 50-room hotel-within-a-hotel at the Divi Carina Bay.

Set on the west wing of the property, Oceans will also be an adults-only, all-inclusive, with elevated room amenities and “special touches to make sure every Oceans guest feels pampered from the moment they arrive.” (Divi is also debuting an Oceans resort at its Little Bay property in St Maarten).

It's a significant addition to the island of St Croix, which has been steadily rising in popularity, particularly since the onset of the pandemic — just like all-inclusive which continues to be one of the most popular concepts in the travel industry and in the Caribbean.