BLOGS & STORIES

Best Christmas Cities for Kids

by *Richard Florida*

December 21, 2010 | 10:46pm

Every kid hopes for a white Christmas with lots of gifts, but some cities are more likely to have it. Richard Florida on the 20 best cities to be a kid on Christmas morning.

In a kid's perfect world, Christmas morning dawns snowy and cold. Presents are piled high beneath the tree, stockings are stuffed to bursting with candy, and later on, when you're ready to try out your new toys, there are lots of other kids to play with. In the spirit of the holidays, my Martin Prosperity Institute colleagues and I developed this new list of the best places to be a kid on Christmas morning. It's based on four key criteria: (1) the number of children under age 14 (from the American Community Survey) (2) toy and game stores per capita, (3) candy stores per capita (both from the U.S. Census Bureau's County Business Patterns), and for that white Christmas, (4) the probability of having snow on Christmas Day (from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Climatic Data Center).

The best cities for kids at Christmas. Credit: Getty Images

With 26 percent of its residents under age 14, two candy stores, six toy stores, and a better than eight in 10 chance of having a white Christmas, Logan, Utah, gets top billing, closely followed by Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, Fairbanks, Alaska, Billings, Montana, and Ogden, Utah. Sixth-place Niles-Benton Harbor, Michigan, is the only one of the top 10 cities that isn't located in a Rocky Mountain state; only it and Appleton, Wisconsin, are east of the Mississippi. Five of the top 20 are in Utah; Idaho, Colorado, and Alaska account for two each. But whether your city made the top 20 or not, Christmas morning is most kids' idea of paradise—and that's something that no statistics can do justice to.

Top 20 Best Places to be a Kid on Christmas

1. Logan, Utah

2. Coeur d'Alene, Idaho

3. Fairbanks, Alaska

4. Billings, Montana

5. Ogden-Clearfield, Utah

6. Niles-Benton Harbor, Michigan

7. St. George, Utah

8. Pocatello, Idaho

9. Denver, Aurora-Broomfield, Colorado

10. Anchorage, Alaska

11. Colorado Springs, Colorado

12. Rapid City, South Dakota

13. Salt Lake City, Utah

14. Appleton, Wisconsin

15. Flagstaff, Arizona

16. Reno-Sparks, Nevada

17. Provo-Orem, Utah

18. Bend, Oregon

19. Joplin, Montana

20. Spokane, Washington

Richard Florida is director of the University of Toronto's Martin Prosperity Institute and author of The Great Reset.

Like The Daily Beast on Facebook and follow us on Twitter for updates all day long.

For inquiries, please contact The Daily Beast at editorial@thedailybeast.com.

URL: http://www.thedailybeast.com/blogs-and-stories/2010-12-21/best-christmas-cities-for-kids/p/