



**nileGUIDE**

ALL YOU NEED TO PLAN YOUR PERFECT TRIP



# A Whistler Weekend Romantic Whirlwind

## **Whistler, 2 Days**

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# Guide Description



**AUTHOR NOTE:** Whistler is one of those cities that lends itself to entertain a variety of trips. Whistler's beautiful scenery, world class restaurants and deluxe hotels provide a perfect canvas for a romantic weekend away. After a day out in the cool air, there's nothing better than eating a delicious warm meal and relaxing in your cozy hotel room.

# Itinerary Overview

things to do  
restaurants  
hotels  
nightlife

## Day 1 - Whistler

**DAY NOTE:** Whistler is one of those cities that lend it to entertain a variety of trips. Whistler's beautiful scenery, world-class restaurants and deluxe hotels provide a perfect canvas for a romantic weekend away. After a day out in the cool air, there's nothing better than eating a delicious warm meal and relaxing in your cozy hotel room. The two-hour drive from Vancouver will tease you with the picture perfect views. The drive up is just a sneak peak for what's in store. Once you get to Whistler, check-in to your deluxe hotel, the Four Seasons Resort Whistler, where a warm lobby and a very comfortable room will greet you. After you have checked in, take a short walk over to the Whistler Blackcomb Gondola and enjoy the Peak Adventure ride. Peak Adventure is the best way to see Whistler and enjoy some fresh mountain air. After you have made your way back down the mountain, take a stroll through Whistler Village and head over to The Beetroot Café for a satisfying lunch. You will need some energy before you spend the rest of the day on a dogsled. Whistler Dogsledding is an ideal winter activity. The dogs are friendly and the mushers are more than willing to teach you the ropes and drive your own sled. After a day out on the trails, you will have worked up an appetite and Whistler's best restaurant has your name on their reservation list. Let Araxi wine you and dine you in their romantic dining room. Delicious wine, satisfying food and being with a special someone - it's the perfect way to finish the day

from quality ingredients. The atmosphere is quite funky and the food doesn't fail. What's more romantic than cuddling up under a warm blanket while you take a ride on a Horsedrawn Sleigh Ride? The beautiful horses and your guide will take you through some fantastic trails around Whistler. British Columbia is known for stellar sushi. Sachi Sushi will serve you some fresh fish and tasty treats to fill the lunchtime hole in your stomach. Order a few items and enjoy them with your partner. The weekend would not be complete without a trip to the spa, and the Avello Spa at the Fairmont Chateau Whistler will end your trip on a high note. Refresh your muscles and mind with a relaxing massage before you head home.

-  **Four Seasons Resort Whistler**  
Mountainside Luxury
-  **Peak Adventure**  
Sit in the gondola, ride up the mountain and take in the views
-  **The Beetroot Café**  
Delicious organic eats
-  **Whistler Dogsledding**  
A winter wonderland experience with pups
-  **Araxi Restaurant + Bar**  
Wine and dine

-  **Elements Urban Tapas**  
Tapas and bar
-  **Blackcomb Horsedrawn Sleigh Rides**  
Picturesque horse drawn sleigh rides through a snowy wonderland.
-  **Sachi Sushi**  
Sushi by the fire
-  **The Westin Resort & Spa**  
The Complete Whistler Getaway

## Day 2 - Whistler

**DAY NOTE:** After a restful sleep in your comfortable bed at the Four Seasons Resort Whistler, Elements will be your first stop of the day. There is generally a bit of a wait, but it's well worth it. Elements Urban Tapas bar serves up fresh food made only

# Day 1 - Whistler

## QUICK NOTE

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### contact:

tel: +1 604 935 3400  
fax: +1 604 935 3455  
<http://www.fourseasons.com/whistler/>

### location:

4591 Blackcomb Way  
Whistler BC V0N 1B4

## 1 Four Seasons Resort Whistler

**DESCRIPTION:** Located just north of Vancouver near the slopes of Whistler Blackcomb, site of the 2010 Olympic Winter Games, this Four Seasons offers luxurious and comfortable accommodations, mountainside dining, spa services, recreational activities and much more. Guest rooms, suites and townhouses include spectacular views, gas-burning fireplaces, spacious bathrooms, and wall-to-wall amenities. Stop by the Fifty Two 80 Bistro for a casual breakfast, lunch or dinner or guzzle a drink at the Fifty Two 80 Bar. After enjoying a day at the slopes or on the links, be sure to take advantage of the Four Season's deluxe spa services including in-room massages, facials and manicures. © wcities.com

**MY NOTE:** The Four Seasons Resort Whistler is one of Whistler's finest hotels. Boasting more amenities than you can count; you will feel spoiled as you curl up in your Four Season's robe and enjoy a hot cup of coffee, while you look out onto the mountain scenery from your room.

### contact:

tel: +1 64 938 2769  
<http://www.whistlerblackcomb.com/tickets/summer/index.htm>

### location:

Whistler Village Gondola  
Whistler BC BC VN 1B4

## 2 Peak Adventure

### OUR LOCAL EXPERT SAYS:

Get there first thing in the morning or later in the afternoon to avoid long line ups.

**DESCRIPTION:** Whistler's Peak Adventure is a fantastic way to see the incredible mountain views. Enjoy a 20 minute ride in the gondola that takes you to the Roundhouse on Whistler Mountain. You can stop and grab a bite to eat, or something warm to drink in the Roundhouse. After the gondola ride, you will hop onto the chairlit to get to the peak of the mountain. Also included in the Peak Adventure is a ticket to take the new PEAK 2 PEAK Gondola. This gondola is the first of it's kind and links Blackcomb and Whistler peaks together in one gondola ride. The PEAK 2 PEAK Gondola has the longest unsupported



Photo courtesy of john.d.mcdonald

lift span in the world. This gondola, and the view will impress you. © NileGuide

**MY NOTE:** Peak Adventure is the best way to see Whistler. The twenty minute gondola ride up the mountain gives you a birds eye view of Whistler Village and introduces you to the crisp mountain air.

**contact:**

tel: 604 932 1163  
[http://www.tourismwhistler.com/www/about\\_whistler/business\\_directory.asp](http://www.tourismwhistler.com/www/about_whistler/business_directory.asp)

**location:**

129-4340 Lorimer Road  
Whistler BC V0N 1B4

**hours:**

Daily 7:30a-4p

### 3 The Beetroot Café

**DESCRIPTION:** The Beetroot Café is a warm spot to nestle into on a cold Whistler day. This family owned café treats diners to the tasty treats that are all made with a surge of fresh, mostly organic, high quality ingredients. The Beetroot Café serves delicious breakfasts that will leave you energized for a day on the hill; the breakfast burrito with a cup of freshly brewed coffee will do the trick to get the blood flowing. If you're taking a break from walking around Whistler Village, step inside and grab one of the fresh soups and a hearty sandwich. The Beetroot Café is a great place to grab a quick bite to eat from morning to evening. © NileGuide

**MY NOTE:** The Beetroot Café is the perfect spot to grab a bit to eat at breakfast or lunch. This sweet little café offers homemade, comforting food that will fill your stomach and leave you feeling satisfied. The Beetroot Café is run by a family and they certainly prepare meals that make you feel right at home.



"Photo courtesy of The Beetroot Cafe"

**contact:**

tel: +1 604 932 0647  
fax: +1 604 894 6883  
<http://www.whistlerdogsledding.com>

**location:**

102-4369 Main Street  
Whistler BC V0N 1B4

### 4 Whistler Dogsledding

**DESCRIPTION:** Whistler Dogsledding is an ideal way to spend an afternoon with the kids, or the adults. If weather permits, you can learn how to harness and handle your own sled of eager dogs, while touring through the serene landscape of Whistler. If you would rather sit back and relax and let your Musher do the work, that's more than acceptable. After all, you are on vacation. The speed of the dogs racing over the white blanket of snow is both beautiful and exhilarating. Bundle up and get ready to mush! © NileGuide

**MY NOTE:** Whistler Dogsledding is the perfect way to spend a winter afternoon. You can cozy up and keep warm, while your guide steers the dogs through Whistler's backcountry. If weather permits and you're feeling up to it, you too can learn how to mush the pack of huskies through the trails.



Photo courtesy of Joe Shlabotnik

**contact:**

tel: 6049324540

fax: 604 932 3340

<http://www.araxi.com>

**location:**

4222 Village Square  
Whistler BC V0N 1B4

**hours:**

Mo to Fr from 11:00 AM to  
11:00 PM, Sa to Su from 10:30  
AM to 03:00 PM

**5 Araxi Restaurant + Bar**

**OUR LOCAL EXPERT SAYS:**

Reservations are highly recommended

**DESCRIPTION:** Gordon Ramsay recently praised Araxi for being one of his favourite places to eat in Canada. If Araxi exceeds Chef Ramsay's expectations, you will be sure to enjoy the vacation you treat your tastebuds to when you eat at Araxi. It's conveniently located in the heart of Whistler Village, which means you are never too far from your hotel. You will be spoiled for choice when it comes time to decide which area of the restaurant you would like to enjoy your meal in. The luxurious hand-crafted Rosewood bar is the perfect spot to have a cocktail before you move over to the dining room. The heated patio makes it easy to enjoy the outdoors all year round. If you're looking to host a private party, Araxi offers a private room for guests. If you like wine, but don't know much about it, don't worry. The skilled someliers will help you choose a wine that will pair perfectly with one of the innovative menu items. Araxi celebrates seasonal, local ingredients and you can taste the freshness and skill of cooking in each bite. Do yourself a favour and break the bank for Araxi, it's a culinary experience not to be missed. © NileGuide

**MY NOTE:** Araxi is one of Whistler's best restaurants. The intimate setting is the perfect spot to bring a date and enjoy a indulgent dinner. Araxi will cost you a pretty penny, especially if you choose one of their cellar wines, but with the money you saved by going to The Beetroot Café at lunch, you will have some change to spare.



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# Day 2 - Whistler

## QUICK NOTE

**DAY NOTE:** After a restful sleep in your comfortable bed at the Four Seasons Resort Whistler, Elements will be your first stop of the day. There is generally a bit of a wait, but it's well worth it. Elements Urban Tapas bar serves up fresh food made only from quality ingredients. The atmosphere is quite funky and the food doesn't fail. What's more romantic than cuddling up under a warm blanket while you take a ride on a Horsedrawn Sleigh Ride? The beautiful horses and your guide will take you through some fantastic trails around Whistler. British Columbia is known for stellar sushi. Sachi Sushi will serve you some fresh fish and tasty treats to fill the lunchtime hole in your stomach. Order a few items and enjoy them with your partner. The weekend would not be complete without a trip to the spa, and the Avello Spa at the Fairmont Chateau Whistler will end your trip on a high note. Refresh your muscles and mind with a relaxing massage before you head home.

### contact:

tel: 604 932 5569

fax: 604 932 0445

<http://www.wildwoodrestaurant.ca>

### location:

4359 Main Street  
Whistler BC V0N 1B4

### hours:

Mo to Su from 08:00 AM  
to 02:00 PM, Mo to Su from  
04:00 PM to 11:30 PM

## 1 Elements Urban Tapas

**DESCRIPTION:** Nestled in the beautiful Summit Lodge & Spa, Elements Urban Tapas Parlour is open for breakfast, lunch and dinner. On any given morning, Elements can be packed - the flow of hungry people doesn't stop until they close at night. Funky music and urban beats set the tone for a cozy eating experience. Breakfast is fantastic there, try the French Toast stuffed with pecans, bananas and caramel. But, don't worry, they will make sure you get your fruit in for the day by serving you a fresh shot of a deliciously made smoothie. At night, it's a great spot to go with a bunch of friends and share many of their tasty small plates. The prices are reasonable and the food is delicious - you will be in your element. © NileGuide

**MY NOTE:** Elements Urban Tapas bar serves up mouth watering breakfasts. Whether it's sweet or savory you're after, Elements has something that will start your day off right. The complimentary shot of the daily fresh fruit smoothie is a lovely touch to wet your morning appetite.



"Photo courtesy of Elements Urban Tapas"

### contact:

tel: +1 604 932 7631

<http://www.blackcombsleighrides.com/>

### location:

Glacier Drive, Base II on  
Blackcomb Mountain  
Whistler BC V0N 1B4

## 2 Blackcomb Horsedrawn Sleigh Rides

**DESCRIPTION:** Enjoying a horsedrawn sleigh ride as you stay warm and cozy under blankets and sip on hot chocolate. One of these tours is just another great way to see the serene backcountry. The horses are strong and friendly, and the guides are knowledgeable and accommodating. They offer tours catered to romance, groups and even a dinner tour. The dinner sleigh ride is quite special; after a ride in the fresh air, warm up with a gourmet four course fondue meal. © NileGuide

**MY NOTE:** Blackcomb Horsedrawn Sleigh Rides take you through some of Whistler's most serene trails. The soft sound of the snow crunching below the horses hooves and the charming snow covered trees will make you want to cuddle up under a blanket in sleigh and sip on some hot chocolate. Sit back, relax and enjoy the ride.



**contact:**

tel: 604 935 5649

fax: 604 935 4037

<http://www.tourismwhistler.com>

**location:**

106-4359 Main Street  
Whistler BC V0N 1B4

**hours:**

Tu to Fr from 12:00 PM to  
02:30 PM

**3 Sachi Sushi**

**DESCRIPTION:** Located in the same building as the Summit Lodge Hotel, Sachi Sushi is a favourite amongst locals and visitors. The fish is fresh, the service is friendly and the sake is flowing. The great thing about sushi restaurants is that you can sample a variety of different menu items. The Seared Ahi Nigiri is melt in your mouth delicious. The Roundhouse roll and Mango roll always satisfy, and if you aren't too full after sampling the menu, try the Green Tea ice cream. British Columbia is well known for serving some of the worlds finest sushi, Sachi lives up to these standards with the freshness of their fish. © NileGuide

**MY NOTE:** Sachi Sushi serves fresh fish that will melt in your mouth and leave you feeling healthy and energized. Sachi Sushi is very popular amongst locals and tourists. Grab a light lunch of fresh sashimi and tasty rolls. This spa approved lunch will get you ready for your last activity.



Photo courtesy of Sachi Sushi

**contact:**

tel: +1 604 905 5000

fax: +1 604 905 5640

<http://www.jdoqocy.com/click-2005797-10422413>

**location:**

4090 Whistler Way  
Whistler BC V0N1B4

**4 The Westin Resort & Spa**

**DESCRIPTION:** Nestled into the natural landscape of Whistler Mountain, The Westin is at the heart of it all in the midst of Whistler Village with shops, restaurants, galleries, boutiques and nightlife at your doorstep. Whatever the season, when you are ready to come in after a day of fun, at the Westin, you will find every amenity to help you unwind. The exquisitely appointed 419 suites, which include junior suites, 1-bedroom, 2-bedroom and Mountain Suites all feature luxurious soaker tubs, fireplaces, Heavenly Beds and quality-appointed kitchens. The landscaped pool terrace with indoor/outdoor pool and two whirlpool/hot tubs is inviting any time of year. © wcities.com

**MY NOTE:** The Avello Spa at the Westin Resort & Spa will end your romantic weekend away and leave you feeling relaxed, rejuvenated and ready to get back to the real world. The Avello Spa offers many different treatments, but a massage is a sure way to find your relaxation mecca.



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# Whistler Snapshot

## Local Info

Whether it's winter, summer, spring or fall, Whistler is a city that has it all. People come from all over the world to ski on Whistler/Blackcomb and take in the awe inspiring views, while their adrenaline is pumping on a ski run or hike. Whistler has everything from skiing, snowboarding, dog sledding, zip lining, hiking, mountain biking, swimming, golfing and river rafting; it's impossible to get bored in this city. If you're not into high energy action and want to visit Whistler for the view and the vibe, there are plenty of art galleries, restaurants, cafés, spas and shops to keep you occupied. The city is quite compact, making it easy to get from one neighborhood to another.

**Village** If you're looking for action, Whistler Village is the place to go. It's the city's main hub where restaurants, shops, hotels, art galleries and cafes run rampant. If you're in the mood for retail therapy, you will find stores like Lululemon Athletica, Gap, The Olympic Store and many independent art, clothing and sports stores to take care of all your retail needs. Many hotels offer ski in/ski out access for their guests, which makes a day on the hill that much easier. Some of the hotels you will find in Whistler Village are The Four Seasons Resort Whistler, The Fairmont Chateau Whistler and The Crystal Lodge. If you're looking for a night out at a restaurant or bar, head over to The Mix, Araxi (which has been featured on Gordon Ramsey's Hell's Kitchen) or The Brewhouse for something a little more low key. There's also a movie theatre for those rainy days, along with Expressions Art Gallery where you can paint pottery, make jewelry and various other crafts.

**Upper Village** The Upper Village is where the skiing and hiking action is at. Head up the gondola and ski down the slopes of Whistler Blackcomb Mountain and enjoy the snow beneath your feet and wind in your hair. If you get a little peckish mid-ski, the Roundhouse Lodge and the Wildflower Restaurant are within ski pole's reach. When it's time to catch some sleep the Westin Resort & Spa offers luxurious rooms and top of the line amenities. Summer in Whistler is always a treat; the warm weather and lush green foliage set the perfect scene for a round of golf at The Fairmont Chateau Whistler Golf Club.

Village North Village North is only a stone's throw away from Whistler Village, but offers visitors a slower paced environment with all of the convenience of home: movie stores, a grocery store, cafés and banking. Whistler Mountain and Blackcomb gondolas are also only a short walk away, which makes skiing an easy option.

**Tapley's Farm/Nesters** Just a 3km drive from Whistler Village and you're in an area where golfing, hiking/walking trails and lakes are at your fingertips. When hunger hits, visitors have the convenience of a grocery store and many restaurants to choose from in this area. The Beetroot Café is a local favorite for its fresh healthy food and rich coffee. British Columbia is known for having some of the World's finest salmon and that's because there are many rivers for these fish to call home. The rocky river beds are perfect for white water rafting and Whistler River Adventures are great guides for a day on the water.

**Alpine Meadows/Nicklaus North** If you're into cross country skiing or nature tours, Alpine Meadows is the right place to be.

The scenic paths and mountain fresh air will delight any outdoor fanatic. When the snow has melted, offers golfers idyllic greens with mountain views. Take a day out on the mountain up a notch and go on an adventure with Powder Mountain Catskiing- it's unlike anything you have done before. During the summer months there are plenty of outdoor activities to do and Whistler Nature Tours Ltd can point you in the right direction.

**Whistler Creekside** Whistler Creekside was the original access to Whistler Mountain in 1966. Today, skiers can still access the Mountain using the Creekside Gondola. Creekside provides visitors with an alternative to Whistler Village and has everything you need- a grocery store, banks, cafés, restaurants, skiing, rental apartments, hotels and a liquor store. The Beaches at Alta Lake give people the perfect blanket of sun, sand and water to spend a warm summer day. Cool off in the fresh water with a kayak, or just yourself. If staying in Whistler Village isn't your thing and you would prefer something a little more low key, Whistler Creek Ridge is another great option to spend the night and get some rest. Raven's Nest Mountain

Deli is a local hidden gem, so make sure to check it out for some great eats.

Function Junction Drive South of Whistler Village for 10 short minutes and you will find yourself amongst local art galleries, antique shops, second hand stores and design studios. This area is further away from the main hustle and bustle of Whistler, but certainly does not disappoint as you might just find that perfect Whistler souvenir to take back home.

© NileGuide

## History

Named for the shrill whistle sound of the Western Hoary Marmot, "Whistler" was not always a vacation playground. The Coast Salish First Nations people inhabited the land around Whistler for many thousands of years, hunting and gathering and living a nomadic lifestyle long before European settlers arrived.

The Whistler Valley was an isolated wilderness frequented by the Lil'wat Nation from the Mount Currie area and the Squamish Nation who lived in an area stretching from present day North Vancouver to the Squamish River watershed and the northern area of Howe Sound (Gibson's Landing). Whistler was often a way point for First Nation trading routes between the Squamish and Lil'wat Nations as it was rich with wildlife and resources. At one time tens of thousands of Coast Salish First Nations people lived, traded and thrived in the areas between Vancouver, Howe Sound and the Lillooet areas. In fact, some of the hiking routes between Howe Sound and Deep Cove (east of Vancouver) are the same routes traveled on by the Coast Salish First Nations peoples.

With the opening of the Pemberton Trail north of Vancouver in 1877, trappers and fur traders began to move to the area, bringing back with them a surge of interest in the natural beauty and incredible wildlife of what was then Alta Lake. Word spread and many families began packing up their lives to start anew on the cheap land and burgeoning logging industry. Soon after families and settlers began arriving, the name Whistler was decided, paying homage to its local rodents.

## Whistler Snapshot continued

It wasn't until 1914 with the arrival of The Great Pacific Eastern Railway when Whistler was officially linked to the outside world. The arrival signified the start of what would be a massive industry of mining and logging shaping the future look of Whistler and the surrounding areas. Soon after the areas first settlers, Myrtle and Alex Philip, bought their ten acres of land and built the Rainbow Lodge on Alta Lake, other settlers gradually began coming, building lodges and hotels of their own. With the abundant fish stocks, excellent weather, and natural beauty, scores of people began making the trip to Whistler, establishing the area as a top summer destination, long before it was a winter one; even more popular than Jasper or Banff!

Beginning in the 1950's, Whistler made a virtue out of its extreme weather conditions with a gravel road to Squamish that was carved from the cliffs of Howe Sound enabling many to safely make the 5-hour trip into and around the area from Vancouver. At this time, the Garibaldi Whistler Mountain was named, creating a lodge, double ski-lift, gondola and a subsequently serious ski industry. Since then Whistler has made a name for itself in winter sports, having one of the largest ski resorts in North America, Blackcomb, and having been awarded (along with Vancouver) as the site for the 2010 Winter Olympics. Whistler has, and will always be, a top destination for the avid historian, sports enthusiast, or outdoorsman for generations to come.

©

### Hotel Insights

With so much so close, there is no dispute that Whistler's primary appeal is its incredible natural beauty and some of the world's most exciting outdoor activities. But as awe-inspiring as Whistler's natural attributes are, much of its development as a premier destination is result of world-class lodging that keeps visitors warm and cozy. Whistler boasts a wonderful array of accommodation options, from luxurious mountain chalets to economical hotels.

### Top End

The finest Whistler has to offer is proudly offered to those willing and able to afford it. A number of outstanding five-star hotels are along the Whistler Village mountainside.

Those fortunate enough to experience these first-class getaways soon find that relaxation can be just as exciting as any day spent carving the ski slopes. The Westin Resort & Spa, fitted into the natural landscape of Whistler Mountain, will pamper you with unrivaled service, luxurious amenities and of course, rich, breathtaking surroundings. Depending on whether you prefer to be slope-side or in the heart of vibrant Whistler Village, The Pan Pacific Whistler Mountainside and The Pan Pacific Whistler Village Centre aim to impress with opulent suites situated in what are often dubbed Whistler's two best addresses. Just to the north, considered the flagship hotel resort in the area, The Fairmont Chateau Whistler has been consistently ranked among the top Ski and Golf resorts in North America. At this deluxe slope-side accommodation, the best of Whistler is literally at your doorstep. The Fairmont Chateau Whistler sits just at the base of Blackcomb Mountain, allowing you to ski in and out of North America's best slopes right from your room. In the summer, you may wish to stroll up to the first tee at the lush Robert Trent Jones Jr. designed golf course that lines the hotel.

### Mid Range

Of course, the excellence of Whistler resorts and hotels is also available for slightly more moderate rates. A number of fine four-star accommodations allow you to rest peacefully in the splendor of Whistler on a reasonable budget. The pet-friendly Summit Lodge & Spa offers unparalleled convenience to Whistler Village with service and amenities you might expect to find in the luxurious five-star resorts. If you're looking for a family-friendly, full-feature condo or even a romantic suite with ready access to Whistler's famous restaurants and clubs, turn to the always popular Delta Whistler Village Suites. Also in the center of town, the slope-side Mountainside Lodge is home to one of Whistler's favourite restaurants, Trattoria di Umberto. Visitors to Whistler looking for a quieter vacation getaway without the hustle and bustle of the lively Whistler Village find First Tracks Lodge a more than worthy, cozy alternative, located in nearby Creekside.

### Budget

For those on a stricter budget, looking for value while staying in Whistler, the options are also plentiful. Just a three-minute walk

to the Village lifts, the Tantalus Lodge offers two-bedroom suites, each equipped with a full kitchen and fireplace. The site also offers an outdoor pool, volleyball courts, and bbq facilities. Its no wonder this is a popular choice of large families and groups of young people. Possibly the best value in town, Pinnacle International Hotel, looks and feels like some of the more exclusive Whistler accommodations, but surely won't leave you broke. Also, one of Whistler's favorite restaurants, Quattro at Whistler is located on site.

Whether its a five-star honeymoon or a fun packed family vacation, Whistler and the excitement of all its natural blessings are made accessible by a variety of accommodations that are bound to make your stay a memorable one.

©

### Restaurants Insights

No matter how breathtaking the panoramic views from Whistler Peak or how thrilling the descent down the powdery slopes, half the fun of any vacation is when it's finally time to eat.

If you can't tear yourself from the mountains for even a moment, you will have no trouble finding a spot to dine. Casual-dining restaurants pepper the mountainside, starting at the top of 7th Heaven Express with Horstman Hut, which offers an array of snacks, drinks, and an outdoor BBQ at 7494 feet above sea level. At mid-station on Whistler Mountain, tucked into the pines, is Raven's Nest Mountain Deli, where you can enjoy soups, salads, and sandwiches while you admire the sweeping valley below. At the base of Blackcomb Mountain, Monk's Grill Steak House & Bar lures the weary skier with its outdoor patio, spicy chicken wings, fresh seafood, and an exceptional selection of draught beer.

If you're looking for white linen table cloths to complement the snowy peaks, try Christine's, where at 6000 feet up, you can taste savory gourmet soups as part of a multi-course lunch, and top it off with fondue. Or indulge in the culinary expertise of Aubergine Grille with a menu that changes seasonally and floor-to-ceiling windows that frame the majestic Rainbow and Sproat Mountains.

For those who can venture a little ways from the slopes (though surely not very

## Whistler Snapshot continued

far) to explore the restaurants nestled in the village below, Whistler offers fare of all varieties. To satisfy that sushi craving, try Zen Sushi, Teppan Village, or Sushi Village, with its unique Sake Margaritas to warm up your hands and feet in a flash. For Italian-style cuisine, Trattoria di Umberto offers hearty pasta and mouth-watering meat dishes. To complement its award-winning wine list, Quattro at Whistler has roaring fireplaces, silk chandeliers overhead and contemporary Italian cuisine.

For great Mediterranean, Kypriaki Norte delivers a warm atmosphere and a sizable menu full of seafood, steak, and traditional paellas. French cuisine finds its way into this pine paradise at Crêpe Montagne, where patrons choose between a variety of scrumptious crepe delicacies served for breakfast, lunch and dinner. For a warm bowl of ramen, Amani, located on the second floor of The Sundial Boutique Hotel, specializes in rice, soup, and noodle dishes, offering a 10% discount on take-out orders for those looking to cozy up in their hotel rooms for the evening.

Vegetarians, please be advised: Gone Bakery's extensive soup selection always includes 3 savory, meatless options. And be sure to check out The Beetroot Café, where organic ingredients are fashioned into healthy snacks, from breakfast burritos to black bean burgers.

A mecca of eclectic tastes, Whistler nourishes its vacationers and adventurers with cuisine from all corners of the globe. With décor that is never lacking, whether casual or candlelit, Whistler restaurants dazzle the palate and stun the sightseer with windows that look out onto spectacular mountain views.

©

### Nightlife Insights

The charm of Whistler is well-documented. While there are only 10,000 permanent residents, Whistler attracts over two million visitors a year. As a world-famous resort town, most go to Whistler with the intention of hitting the ski lifts. But don't limit yourself to the snow; enjoy all that Whistler has to offer, from great hikes to a lively art scene.

#### Outdoor Activities

As home of the 2010 Olympics, Whistler is by all means a winter wonderland. Their ice, slope, and snow activities are a must

when you plan a trip to British Columbia. Powder Mountain Catskiing Ltd. is as good a place as any for the world-famous Whistler ski experience. With over 4,3000 acres spread over five peaks, spend a day exploring Powder Mountain. If you want to take walk on the wild side, try Whistler Heli-Skiing. Instead of a traditional ski-lift, ride a helicopter to the top of a remote mountain and figure out a way to the bottom with a group of fellow extreme-sports enthusiasts. Of course, not everyone needs to get their adrenalin running to have a grand old time. For couples on vacation, look no further than the Blackcomb Horsedrawn Sleigh Rides. Sorry, no deer. But feel free to cuddle up with that special someone and let horses escort you throughout the town.

But let's not forget spring, summer, and fall. If winter isn't your season of choice, Whistler offers a wide range of outdoor activities that don't involve thermals or mittens. Conveniently located five minutes from Whistler Village, Whistler Paintball offers premiere paintball for individuals and large groups alike. For trekking aficionados that prefer to take the road less traveled, check out Backcountry Tours. Their activities include rock climbing, alpine hikes, wilderness tours, and breathtaking glacier treks. And if you are the type that likes to find his/her meals amidst the great outdoors, then contact the good folk at Whistler Fly Fishing. They will show you the best fishing spots around Whistler. For that low-key fun in the sun, play eighteen holes at Whistler Golf Club, Canada's first Arnold Palmer designed course.

### Museums and the Arts

During the summer months, the Whistler Theatre Project provides professional entertainment with a repertoire that includes musical, classical, and contemporary performances. With all of their productions occurring outdoors, the audience can enjoy the magnificent views of the local mountains and skies while appreciating what's on stage.

Believe it or not, you can actually find indoor shelter in Whistler. Of course, Whistler wasn't born yesterday, so learn a bit about the city at the Whistler Museum and Archives Society. The museum houses exhibitions on the areas natural history and wildlife as well as a display on Whistler's Olympic bid. For that live music kick you have been craving, Whistler has some of

the best venues for live music in British Columbia. Check out Garfinkel's Night Club for an electrified ambiance or swing by Merlin's for the punk scene. Ending a Whistler night on a live music kick will make you all the more ready to hit the ski-lifts the following morning.

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## Things to Do Insights

### Winter Wonderland

With the arrival of the first snow at Whistler, this small town gears up for its world-class winter season. But the typical slopes are not the only options for profiting from this abundance of snow. More advanced skiers will enjoy Powder Mountain Catskiing Ltd., a company that takes a groups of 12 high up into the Coastal Range to find the best powder skiing runs virtually untouched by other skiers. No lines, no waiting, and a long, exciting ski down the face await you! Definitely not novice skiers. Not much of a skier at all? Hop on a Sno-Limo and glide down the slopes in luxury. The Sno-Limo Mountain Ecotouring Inc. offers you the ride of a lifetime! Their custom-built chairs are designed with skis on the bottom and handles for the instructor, so all you have to do is sit back and relax and get whisked down the slopes in comfort. Snowmobiles are a fun way to explore the mountain with speed and comfort with Canadian Snowmobile Adventures. Equally fantastic is the opportunity to ski or snowboard the obscure slopes with your own helicopter chauffeur. Whistler Heli-Skiing and Coast Range Heliskiing Ltd. offers intermediate and advanced skiers and snowboarders a prestigious and private experience in the Coastal Range. Journey back in time to the time before motorized snow vehicles and glide along the snow behind a team of huskies. The winter landscape shall be at your fingertips with Whistler Dogsledding in their various tours of the mountains around Whistler. The early winter months are also the time when Bald Eagles are most easy to spot near Brackendale. Take a bus out to Bald Eagle Viewing and witness the majesty of these great birds as they nest and hunt for salmon in the river. Need to get away from the kids? Want to rekindle your romance? Take an old-fashioned sleigh ride with Blackcomb Horsedrawn Sleigh Rides and get the fire started. A lovely activity in itself, the sleigh ride can also include a

## Whistler Snapshot continued

delicious fondue dinner, hot cocoa, and a bonfire to top off a perfect evening.

### Family Fun Tour

Though known mainly for its world-class skiing, Whistler is also a great place to bring the whole family for some outdoor bonding time. Winter or summer, an incredible variety of activities await you! Start the day at beautiful Rainbow Park located on the shore of Lake Alta. A perfect place for a family picnic, the park has a long bike trail, large grassy areas, mature trees, and panoramic natural beauty.

Sandy beaches and shallow waters make this a great place to stay for the day, or simply for a quick and fun outing! If your family is feeling adventurous, head to Peak Adventure or Wedge Rafting, both will be the trip of a lifetime! The Peak Adventure includes a gondola ride to the Lodge, a chairlift to the base of the mountain, and a ride to the top! From there hiking and truly stunning 360 degree views of Whistler await you. Wedge Rafting is also a great option, from full day journeys to two-and-a-half hour trips. Everything is included, and you only need to bring your family and some sun block. Wetsuits, boots, rafting equipment, and transportation to and from the base is provided. Another great place for families (especially kids) is Whistler Blackcomb's Whistler Kids, where children of all ages participate in a variety of nature based activities, summer and winter. Kids will be ecstatic at the prospect of horseback riding, snowboarding, or archery. It's no wonder that Whistler draws so many nature lovers season after season!

### Summer Getaway

While Whistler's fame derives primarily from its snowy slopes, the spring melt washes in a host of topnotch fair weather fun. Pass an unforgettable vacation in this mountain resort exploring the region's infinite possibilities. Start out with a trip crashing through the rapids in the magnificent scenery with Whistler River Adventures. Continue your exploration by land on horseback at Horseback Riding and survey the land from the peaks. Although the ocean is out of reach, the Beaches at Alta Lake are a lovely spot to take a dip and bask in the sun. Bring a picnic and make a day of it. Or enjoy your open-air Saturday lunch in the fields, sampling the local flavors at Feast of Fields. For lessons on all the ins and outs of fishing, Valley

Fishing Guides Ltd. will teach you where and how to find that big catch.

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## Travel Tips

### Getting There

**By Air** Vancouver International Airport (YVR) is the first stop for visitors. The distance between Vancouver International Airport and Whistler is about a two-hour drive along the lovely Sea-to-Sky highway. (+1 604 207 7077/ <http://www.yvr.ca/>)

The major airlines servicing YVR include:

Air Canada (+1 888 247 2262/<http://www.aircanada.ca/>) American Airlines (+1 800 433 7300/<http://www.aa.com/>) British Airways (+1 800 247 9297/<http://www.british-airways.com/>) Delta Airlines (+1 800 221 1212/<http://www.delta.com/>) Frontier Airlines (+1 800 432 1359/<http://www.frontierairlines.com/>) Lufthansa (+1 800 563 5954/<http://www.lufthansa-ca.com/>) Northwest Airlines (+1 800 225 2525/<http://www.nwa.com/>) Qantas Airways (+1 800 227 4500/<http://www.qantas.com.au/>) US Airways (+1 800 428 4322/<http://www.usairways.com/>) United Airlines (+1 800 241 6522/<http://www.united.com/>)

### Rental Car Companies

Alamo Rent-a-Car (+1 800 462 5266/<http://www.alamo.ca/>) Avis Rent-a-Car (+1 800 331 1212/<http://www.avis.com/>) Budget Car Rental (+1 800 472 3325/<http://www.budget.com/>) Dollar Rent-a-Car (+1 604 606 1673/<http://www.dollar.com/>) Hertz Canada (+1 800 654 3131/<http://www.hertz.com/>) National Car Rental (+1 800 227 7368/<http://www.nationalcar.ca/>) Thrifty Car Rental (+1 604 606 1655/<http://www.thrifty.com/>)

### Bus Services

Perimeter Transportation (+1 877 317 7788/<http://www.perimeterbus.com/>) offers direct shuttle service from Vancouver International Airport to Whistler's major hotels and lodgings.

Greyhound Bus Service (+1 800 661 8747/<http://www.greyhound.ca/>) offers 8 daily departures from Vancouver to Whistler. The bus terminal is approximately 9 miles from the airport and is accessible by taxi or Airporter shuttle.

Snobus (+1 866 766 9287/<http://www.snobus.ca/>) leaves from several locations in Vancouver and the nearby Richmond. Although booking ahead is advisable, Snobus does allow passengers to pay their fare at the time of pick-up, depending on seat availability. Prices for a one-way fare to Whistler start from \$21.

### Luxury Transportation

The following limousine transportation providers are available for a private trip to Whistler:

Legacy Limousine (+1 866 244 7090/<http://www.legacylimousine.ca/>) Limojet Gold Limousine Services (+1 604 273 1331/<http://www.limojetgold.com/>) Pearl International Limousine Service Ltd. (+1 877 977 3275/<http://www.pearllimousine.com/>) STAR Limousine Service Ltd. (+1 800 803 9222/<http://www.starlimousine.com/>) Time Limousine (+1 888 416 1478/<http://www.timelimo.com/>) Whistler Limos.com (+1 866 905 7779/<http://www.whistlerlimos.com/>)

### Float Planes & Charter Aircraft

Whistler has its own Float Plane dock and Heliport for your convenience. Flying into Whistler over the spectacular coast mountain range is an experience of a lifetime.

Helijet International provides transport between Vancouver Airport and Victoria. They also offer charter services from their Vancouver Airport base. (+1 604 273 4688/<http://helijet.com/>) Blackcomb Helicopters Ltd. (+1 800 330 4354/<http://www.blackcombhelicopters.com/>) West Coast Air (+1 800 347 2222/<http://westcoastair.com/>)

### Getting Around the Village

Whistler is a pedestrian-only town, which means once you park your car you never need it again (until you leave). Everything is located close and convenient. The Village is safe for strollers, young children, and dogs on leashes. You are never far from telephones, public washrooms, or visitor centers such as the Whistler Activity Centre.

The free Village Shuttle helps you get around the Village even more. It runs from Marketplace (Village North) to the Upper Village loop seven days a week from 8a-mid. The front of the bus

## Whistler Snapshot continued

always reads "Village Shuttle" for easy identification. In the summer, the Village Shuttle extends to Lost Lake Park, when parking private cars is prohibited.

The resort also offers a public transit system called the Whistler and Valley Express, also known as WAVE (<http://www.busonline.ca/regions/whi/default.cfm>). The service offers convenient routes throughout the Village and its various neighborhoods.

To encourage use of public transit, Whistler offers free transit on important days throughout the year, including World Earth Day on April 22, Clean Air Day in June, International Car Free Day in September and New Year's Eve.

### Parking in the Village

The day lots in Whistler are free year-round. They are located a 2 minute walk from the Blackcomb and Whistler Mountain lifts and the Village. Marketplace and Village North parking is free for two hours. Underground parking beside the TELUS Whistler Conference Centre is free for three hours.

### Getting Around the Slopes

The Sno-Limo Mountain Ecotouring Inc. specializes in whisking you around the beautiful snowy slopes without any hassle! You sit in their comfortable, custom-built chairs designed with skis and handles, relax, and take in the sights and sounds as you glide effortlessly down the mountains. Fun for all ages, and especially convenient for those with special needs.  
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### Fun Facts

Whistler

Province: British Columbia

Country: Canada

Whistler By The Numbers:

Population: 10,000 permanent residents, over 40,000 during peak months

Elevation: Whistler Village: 652 meters, 2,141 feet, Whistler Mountain: 2,182 meters, 7,160 feet

Average Annual Snowfall at Mountain Summit: 10 meters, 33 feet

Average January Temperature: -5°C, 23°F

Average July Temperature: 19°C, 66°F

Quick Facts:

Major Industries: Tourism

Electricity: 110 volts, 60Hz, standard two pin plugs

Time Zone: UTC-8h

Country Dialing Code: +1

Area Code: 604

Did You Know?

Whistler became the first designated resort municipality in Canada in 1975, after being developed with hopes for Vancouver to host the Olympics in 1968. Though Vancouver lost this honor to Grenoble, France, a resort destination was born, and their persistence paid off; Vancouver will be host to the 2008 Olympics.

Orientation:

Whistler is situated 75-miles/120 km north of Vancouver, at the base of Whistler Mountain.

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