

# WHISTLER – HOST MOUNTAIN RESORT FOR THE 2010 OLYMPIC AND PARALYMPIC WINTER GAMES

Whistler – Host Mountain Resort for the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games

Consistently voted the #1 ski resort in North America, Whistler continues to make, break and deliver the standards for the ultimate alpine resort experience. Whistler and Blackcomb Mountains belong to British Columbia's Coast Mountain range – a location that lends itself to the varied terrain and exceptional snow conditions that skiers and riders crave long after last chair. Heralded as "powder mecca" by snow sports enthusiasts, the mountains receive an average of 33.5 feet of snow annually. The two hour trip from Vancouver to Whistler via the breathtaking Sea to Sky highway is a pilgrimage for those in pursuit of mountain magic and an endlessly inspiring four season playground.

The possibilities for adventure in Whistler are already almost limitless, but this year's resort enhancements – including completed alpine, Nordic, and sliding venues for the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games will add valuable new dimensions. A record-breaking PEAK 2 PEAK Gondola opened on December 12, 2008, connecting the summits of Whistler Mountain and Blackcomb Mountain and providing skiers and riders with unprecedented access to over 200 runs, multiple alpine bowls, glaciers, glades and parks.

Located at the base of Whistler Blackcomb's 8,171 acres of skiable terrain, Whistler Village offers a wellspring of energy filtered through the soul of the mountains. Visitors are embraced by welcoming locals and a host of lodging choices, award-winning restaurants, après options, shops and luxurious spas conveniently line the pedestrian-only streets facilitating an easily customized vacation.

Even before it was recognized as one of the world's best ski resorts, Whistler was a long-established summer retreat. When pioneers Myrtle and Alex Philip opened Rainbow Lodge

– a summer fishing camp – in 1914, they launched Whistler into its enduring position as one of Canada's favourite summer destinations.

Today, thousands visit the resort to sightsee and hike on Whistler Mountain and explore alpine meadows bursting with colourful wildflowers, or ski and snowboard on Blackcomb's Horstman Glacier. Whistler is also a golfer's paradise, rated by *Golf Digest* as one of the "Top 20 Greatest Golf Destinations in the World" for its four championship courses set in one stunning destination. And the Whistler Mountain Bike Park is now widely regarded as the premier bike park in the world, with more than 45 trails from beginner to advanced, three skills centres and jump park areas to explore.

While Whistler is known as North America's premier destination for outdoor adventure, it is also home to vibrant arts and culture. In January 2008, the federal government honoured Whistler with the designation of 2009 "Cultural Capital of Canada" to recognize the community's commitment to the arts and culture. Funding from this designation

will help launch *Celebration 2020*, the resort's innovative cultural sustainability project that will encourage arts and culture development, intercultural awareness and participation of artists with disabilities.

A strong arts and culture community means there's always something exciting happening in the resort, including performing, literary and visual arts. From celebrations and festivals to international events, Whistler offers a unique and entertaining mountain culture, year-round.

Learn about the area's roots at the new Squamish Lil'wat Cultural Centre that celebrates the joint history of local First Nations through a unique glimpse into their stories, creative works and cultures, and at the Whistler Museum and Archives, opening in 2009 with a new exhibit on "Whistler's Journey to 2010".

From the peaks to the Village streets, the Whistler experience is consistently world-class and is continually evolving to surpass expectations. Share the inspiration and singular beauty of the mountains with loved ones, and experience alpine adventures as enduring and as awe-inspiring as the mountains themselves. Every season provides a kaleidoscope of possibilities for wondrous moments – from fresh tracks to last chair, from epic excursions in the bike park to long summer evenings on the golf course; spend time in Whistler and your spirit will soar.

**Tourism Whistler**  
1.800.WHISTLER | [whistler.com](http://whistler.com)



Backcountry skiing, Whistler  
Photo: Randy Lincks/Tourism Whistler



Skeleton under Mountain, Whistler Sliding Centre  
Photo: Steve Rogers/Tourism Whistler



- **Olympic Winter Games gross venue capacity:** 12,000 in each of three stadiums
- **Paralympic Winter Games gross venue capacity:** 6,000
- **elevation:** 840 metres–930 metres

#### Olympic venue description

The compact, one-square-kilometre Olympic Games core area includes three separate stadiums (cross-country skiing, biathlon, ski jumping) located about 400 metres apart.

The biathlon stadium's range consists of 30 lanes with a fully electronic target system able to detect and report the precise time and hit or miss of each bullet fired.

The two ski jumps (normal hill and large hill) include one of the world's most sophisticated ski jump snow refrigeration and track setting systems.

#### Paralympic venue description

All Paralympic cross-country skiing and biathlon events will use parts of both the Olympic cross-country and biathlon competition trails and stadiums. Competition courses include a 5-kilometre course for the standing classes and a specially designed 3.75-kilometre course for the sit-ski classes. A portable 10-metre air and laser rifle biathlon range will be set up in the cross-country stadium for the biathlon events.

**More information on Vancouver 2010 sports and disciplines at Whistler Olympic Park/ Whistler Paralympic Park is available at [vancouver2010.com](http://vancouver2010.com)**

The permanent construction project included the competition facilities described above; technical sport buildings at each of the stadiums; maintenance building; sewer, water and power services; access roads; internal roads; parking lots; day lodge and other related infrastructure facilities.

#### VANOC investment

Construction of Whistler Olympic Park/Whistler Paralympic Park is estimated at \$119.7 million. The governments of Canada and British Columbia have agreed to jointly fund the construction.

#### Post-Games use

While VANOC is operating the venue through the 2010 Winter Games, the Whistler Olympic Park/Whistler Paralympic Park will be operated post-Games under the direction of Whistler 2010 Sport Legacies, supported by an endowment trust established by the federal and provincial governments as part of their 2010 Winter Games venues investment.

The venue will showcase Nordic sports by hosting national and international competitions and supporting Nordic sport programs in the local communities. There is also a significant opportunity for post-Games recreational use with an additional 40 kilometres of recreational trails.



#### Sustainable attributes

- Provincial (BC EAO) and federal (CEAA) environmental assessment review — of wildlife, plants, archeological sites, wetlands and waterways
- Smart site selection — venue located on previously harvested forest, adjacent to a former mine, with significant commercial and public recreational use
- Minimized site disturbance and overall footprint — approximately 50 per cent reduction of overall venue footprint compared to initial design; design changes to avoid disturbing old growth forest and wetlands within core competition venue; reduced stream crossings
- On-site waste wood re-use and innovative on-site composting for landscaping material

**More sustainability facts about this venue and others are available at [vancouver2010.com/sustainability](http://vancouver2010.com/sustainability).**

#### QUICK FACTS:

##### Whistler Olympic Park/Whistler Paralympic Park

- First time in Olympic history that all four Nordic disciplines (biathlon, ski jumping, Nordic combined, cross-country skiing) are occurring at the same venue.
- The only snowmaking system at the venue is for the ski jump landing hill.
- The venue has approximately five kilometres of roller ski trails and six kilometres of lit trails to enhance training opportunities for athletes.
- The venue will host 30 per cent of the Olympic medal events and 50 per cent of the Paralympic medal events.

##### Biathlon

- The men's biathlon was first held as an official Olympic event at the Squaw Valley 1960 Games.
- The first women's biathlon event was added to the Olympic program at the Albertville 1992 Games.

- Paralympic biathlon was introduced at the 1988 Winter Games in Innsbruck.
- Olympic biathletes shoot at targets from a distance of 50 metres; the targets used for prone shooting are barely larger than a "twoonie" or a silver dollar.

##### Cross-Country Skiing, Nordic Combined, Ski Jumping

- Ski jumping and Nordic combined individual events and crosscountry skiing have been contested since the first Olympic Winter Games in Chamonix in 1924.
- The large hill ski jumping competition was added to the Olympic program for the Innsbruck 1964 Games.
- Paralympic cross-country skiing appeared at the inaugural 1976 Paralympic Winter Games in Örnsköldsvik, Sweden.
- Athletes ski at an average speed of just under 25 km/h during cross-country ski races, reaching maximum speeds near 60 km/h.
- During the men's 50-kilometre race, the athletes will climb approximately 2,000 vertical metres (more than twice the vertical of the men's downhill course at Whistler Creekside). The winning time for this race is expected to be approximately two hours, with an average speed of almost 25 km/h.
- Takeoff speed for ski jumpers on the in-run can reach 89 km/h (normal hill) and 96 km/h (large hill).
- A ski jumper's V-style flight position provides maximum aerodynamic lift as 30 per cent of the lift is derived from the skis and the remainder from the body.
- Ski jumpers are judged 50 per cent on style and 50 per cent on distance.

TM Trademark © Copyright 2006 Vancouver Organizing Committee for the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games. All rights reserved. Information as of June 2008

## SERVICES

### Tickets

Tickets for all three events are free to the public.

### Food & Beverage

There will be concessions on venue in the spectator festival area.

### Directions

**From Whistler:** Head south on Highway 99 towards Squamish. Turn right onto the new Callaghan Valley access road 6.5 kilometres from the last set of traffic lights (at Function Junction) in Whistler. The entrance to Whistler Olympic/Paralympic Park is located just 10 kilometres up the Callaghan road.

**From Vancouver/Squamish:** Head north on Highway 99 towards Whistler. Turn left onto the new Callaghan Valley access road 40 kilometres from the last set of lights at Garibaldi Way in Squamish (Look for the Petro-Canada gas station in Squamish). The entrance to Whistler Olympic/Paralympic Park is located just 10 kilometres up the Callaghan road.

### Access

Callaghan Valley Road will continue to be open to access the venue.

### Parking

There is free public parking on site at the base of the Ski Jump or at the overflow parking at the Biathlon stadium. An internal venue shuttle will bring spectators from parking to the Ski Jump stadium. The regular Whistler – Whistler Olympic Park shuttle will run during the event days (please visit [www.whistlerolympicpark.com](http://www.whistlerolympicpark.com) for information).

### Recreation

Recreation cross-country skiing trails will be open to the public. Tickets and parking are available at the Biathlon stadium.

### Award Ceremonies

Ceremonies will take place immediately after the events. Ski Jumping awards ceremonies take place on the outrun. Cross-Country and Nordic Combined take place near the finish at the Cross-Country stadium.

### Getting Involved

The best way to get involved and to play a huge role in the success of the event is to volunteer. For information on volunteering, please visit [www.vancouver2010.com](http://www.vancouver2010.com).

### More Information

For more information please visit:  
[www.nordiccombined-vancouver.com](http://www.nordiccombined-vancouver.com);  
[www.crosscountry-vancouver.com](http://www.crosscountry-vancouver.com);  
[www.skijump-vancouver.com](http://www.skijump-vancouver.com)



Cross-country solo competitor  
Photo: Dave Thomson