











Photos: Michael Allen, Kevin Arnold, Mike Crane

# Vancouver to Whistler: A journey to remember

The opportunities to sightsee and to enjoy the pristine natural beauty of British Columbia begin on your drive to Whistler.











Lookout

Highway 99, or the scenic "Sea to Sky Highway," is a smooth ribbon of road running between Howe Sound, the southernmost fjord in North America, and the Coast Mountains, a dramatic glaciated range that continues all the way north to Alaska. The 123 kilometre (76 mile) trip to Whistler travels through five distinct bio and geo-climatic zones dotted with waterfalls, rainforest, granite monoliths (the 60 million year old Stawamus Chief is the largest piece of free-standing rock outside of Gibraltar), wilderness areas and snow-capped peaks, and it was declared by the Guardian (UK) to be one of the world's five best road trips. Information kiosks from the Lil'wat and Squamish First Nations provide a parallel cultural journey and added incentive to stop and soak up the views along the way.

# **Discover Sea to Sky Country**

#### Porteau Cove Provincial Park (\$)





A scuba diving hotspot, thanks to several shipwrecks and artificial reefs. Porteau Cove features picnic tables, public washrooms, a large driftwood-littered pebble beach, a public jetty and a boat launch.

#### Britannia Mine Museum – Britannia Beach



The town of Britannia Beach was originally centred around an active copper mine that has now become the Britannia Mine Museum, a natural historic site that has also been used as a location for more than 50 films and television shows such as the X-Files, Smallville, Dark Angel, Stargate, Insomnia and Scooby Doo Two.

#### Shannon Falls 🔣





Not only is Shannon Falls the third highest waterfall in BC and formerly the key ingredient in Carling O'Keefe beer, but it also features in the Twilight movie, Breaking Dawn. Take the 5-minute stroll to the base of the falls. Washrooms and picnic tables are located immediately by the parking area.

# Alice Lake Provincial Park





This 397 hectare campground, in a forest of old-growth hemlock, features hiking/biking trails, picnic areas, two protected beaches and the popular Alice Lake itself.

#### Tantalus Lookout





With pull-outs for both northbound and southbound traffic, the Tantalus Range is the vista that lets locals know they're almost home, with views of the peaks named for the Greek myth.

#### Garibaldi Provincial Park



Running east of the Highway, the 195,000 hectare Garibaldi Provincial Park contains several ancient volcanoes, including Mount Garibaldi and it was protected in 1927 to preserve the "remarkable assemblage of glacial, volcanic and other natural features." The Park features more than 90 kilometre of hiking trails and several huts.

## Brandywine Falls 🥬 🚻 🦲







An easy 10-minute walk through the forest leads to a new viewing platform of the falls perched on the edge of a volcanic escarpment. The 143 hectare park features a picnic area, trails and washrooms.

### Whistler Olympic Park 🥞 🚻 📫





A 7,000 hectare wilderness, known to the Squamish First Nation as a 'Wild Spirit Place,' Whistler Olympic Park was developed as the site of the cross-country, biathlon, Nordic combined, and ski jumping events for the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games. The 6.5 kilometre Callaghan Valley access road is one of the best bear-spotting stretches in Whistler. The Park's Visitor Centre, and café/restaurant, is open seven days a week.

#### Tips for the drive

# Summer is also forest fire season in **British Columbia, so please be fire smart:**

