



**Whistler** is unlike any other resort in Canada. In some respects – the scale, the high bowls and glaciers, the scenery, the crowds – it is more like an Alpine resort. But like most resorts on the western side of North America, it offers the advantages of excellent snow and a lot of woodland runs as well. The combined ski area of 8,171 acres stretches over two mountains (Whistler and Blackcomb). This vast and varied ski area is probably the best that North America has to offer. Beginners and early intermediates should make use of the upper slopes, where better snow can be found, and return to the resort by a downloading lift.

## Top Runs

- Below Rendezvous and Glacier Creek, there is a whole host of wide blue cruising trails in woodland – Stoker, Cruiser, Espresso, Zig-Zag – down to the bases of the Excelerator or Solar Coaster chairs. It is possible to ski on down to the resort too, but the snow lower down can often be heavy, especially in spring.
- To the right (facing the mountain) of the Solar Coaster Express are some steep and exhilarating black narrow woodland trails such as Catskinner & Watch Out.
- Ski from Rendezvous traverse over to the right on the Expressway trail to the base of the Seventh Heaven Express quad, which leads up to Horstman Hut (2,284m), the highest lift-served point in the whole Whistler area.
- Some of Blackcomb's most testing skiing is found on the left-hand side of Horstman Hut where there are some seriously steep double-black diamond couloirs, such as Big Bang and Couloir Extreme.



## Best for Après Ski

- **The Garibaldi Lift Company**  
Known to the locals as 'The GLC' this is the perfect place to unwind with a beer and is just steps from the main run which heads straight into the village.
- **Buffalo Bill's**  
This venue has a rustic ambience with open fireplaces. They serve great nachos and delicious burgers.
- **Garfinkel's**  
This legendary bar has been a nightlife spot since 1991 and continues to be a favourite. Enjoy drinks, live music and a wild dance floor.
- **Merlin's Bar**  
The spiritual home of local rockers, The Hairfarmers, Merlin's offers good times, mountain-high nachos and flowing brews on tap. Open daily for lunch, dinner and drinks from 11am until late.
- **The Longhorn Saloon**  
Located at the bottom of the slopes, this is a good stop for lunch or post-ski drinks.

## Recommended Restaurants

- **Araxi (In Whistler Village)**  
Almost certainly the best restaurant in town, a brilliantly designed modern Italian place that specialises in seafood and Pacific Rim dishes. Superlative, award-winning 12,000 bottle wine list.
- **Roundhouse Lodge**  
The main place to go on Whistler Mountain, accommodates up to 1,750 guests and offers all things to all people – burgers, pasta, Asian stir-fries.
- **The Chick Pea**  
At The Junction, just down from the Garbanzo Express. Arguably Whistler's coolest on-mountain restaurant, it's particularly popular with snow-boarders. It serves legendary cinnamon buns in the morning and pizzas at lunchtime.