



TRANSPORTATION TO WHISTLER

Whistler is a town north of Vancouver, British Columbia in the Coast Mountains of Canada. The closest major city is Vancouver, BC which is approximately **two hours** by road along the scenic Highway 99, also known as the Sea to Sky Highway.

Given the distance, transportation for the 2023 Summer Meeting requires more attention than normal.

Passports Required

In addition to transportation, all non-Canadian residents must have a valid passport to enter Canada. *Please check your passport to verify the expiration date as many have not traveled out of the country since COVID-19.*

The current wait time in the United States for regular passport processing is 10-13 weeks with expedited processing taking 7-9 weeks. If you need a new passport, do it now, don't delay.

Visit www.travel.state.gov for more information.

Airport Access

The closest major airport is Vancouver International (YVR), approximately 2.5 hours driving distance to Whistler.

Whistler is also within 5 hours drive time of Seattle-Tacoma (SEA) and 3 hours of Bellingham International Airport (BLI) in Washington, USA. We do recommend flying directly into Vancouver to avoid border issues with rental cars and other forms of transportation.

Transportation from Major Airports

Once you are on the ground, there are two major ways to get to Whistler – by road (rental car or shuttle) and by air (helicopter or floatplane only).

Click here for details on each of those options.

Renting a Car and Driving to Whistler

Car Rentals are available should attendees wish to drive themselves from Vancouver airport to Whistler. There are several car rental options available at the airport such as: Avis, Alamo, Budget, Dollar, Hertz, National, Thrifty and Enterprise. All located on the ground floor of the parkade. It is recommended to rent small cars to navigate through the mountains.

Driving to Whistler from Vancouver is simple – take Highway 99 and drive north through Squamish (these driving instructions have more information). On a clear day you'll get views of Vancouver, the mighty waters of Howe Sound and glimpses of Mount Garibaldi, Black Tusk and the Tantalus Range. If it's your first drive, it's definitely worth taking extra time to stop at viewpoints, waterfalls and culturally significant spots along the way.

Whistler's location means the highway sees a decent uptick in volume, particularly around the usual weekend travel times – Northbound on Friday and southbound on Sunday in the afternoons and evenings. Travelers should plan their trip to avoid peak times to maximize their holidaying and keep driving time to a minimum. So, either ditch the weekend in favor of a mid-week visit, follow our weekend warrior tips, add a day on either end or travel a little earlier or later for a smoother ride.

Do I need a car once I'm in Whistler? The answer is no. The town of Whistler is completely walkable with a great public transit system, and taxis equipped with ski boxes and bike racks to move you and your gear. Self-propelled transit is often the locals' choice – in summer you can rent bikes and e-bikes and use the non-motorized Valley Trail to explore the Valley and get from lake to lake, and in winter you can rent fat bikes. Walking is always an option, and the best way to get to know Whistler at true vacation pace. Leaving the vehicle behind can save money on parking, provide a kick for all sorts of new adventures and leave you free to enjoy the views on the way here.

Those renting cars will incur the following nightly fees at the Fairmont.

Self-Parking: \$39 CAD / nightly plus tax

Valet Parking: \$48 CAD / nightly plus tax

Many suggest that the best way to get to Whistler and enjoy the town is car-free. There are many options to get to Whistler without renting a car.

Reserving A Shuttle

Skylynx is the only scheduled bus service by the Vancouver Airport Authority authorized to conduct pickups from the airport.

There are 2 Skylynx Express routes that go directly from the airport to Whistler. There are 2 pickup times at the airport: 9:30 AM or 1:30 PM. Travel times are approximately 2.5 hours.

Skylynx is the #1 rated Whistler bus service on TripAdvisor, Facebook & Google.

One Way

Standard ticket (non changeable & nonrefundable): \$65

Flexible ticket (changeable, and refundable 24 hours prior to original time): \$75

Round Trip

Standard ticket (non changeable & nonrefundable): \$105

Flexible ticket (changeable, and refundable 24 hours prior to original time): \$115

Booking Link and for more information: <https://yvrskylynx.com/timetable/27/>

Private Charters

Private charters come with a driver who will meet you inside the airport or at your hotel, help you load your luggage then take care of all the driving to Whistler so you can sit back, relax and enjoy the views along the way. The beauty of booking your own transfer means you also get dropped off right at your accommodation so you can settle in and start your vacation.

Rather than depending on a set schedule, private transfers by limousine, SUV, van or minibus are able to be booked 24 hours a day. Charters are excellent if you are arriving on an early or late flight and cost effective if you are traveling with a big group.

Float Plane:

There is also a 45-minute float plane that goes directly from Vancouver Harbor to Whistler. The only flight time is at 9AM. Pricing starts at \$199. There are limitations to luggage weight. See below for more details and booking information.

LUGGAGE LIMITATIONS: There are two separate fare types available: goFLEX and goGOLD.

- goFLEX fares allow up to 25 lbs of luggage guaranteed per passenger.
- goGOLD fares allow up to 50 lbs luggage per passenger guaranteed.

Golf clubs, bicycles and other various sporting equipment are not guaranteed regardless of weight. All luggage exceeding allowance will be sent on a standby basis and may be subject to excess luggage fees. Any baggage left behind will be transported on the next available flight.

Booking Link an for more information: <https://www.whistler.com/getting-here/air/floatplane/>

