

Vancouver to Whistler Travel Guide

This guide has been prepared to help you plan your own journey from Vancouver to Whistler. The route follows the legendary Sea-to-Sky Highway (Highway 99) — one of Canada's most celebrated scenic drives, winding through coastal rainforest, granite cliffs, and alpine vistas along Howe Sound. Plan to allow approximately 2 to 2.5 hours depending on traffic conditions and your chosen mode of transport. Use this guide to review your options, compare costs, and book the arrangement that works best for you.

Section 1 · Travel Overview

Detail	Information
Route	Vancouver → Whistler via Sea-to-Sky Highway (Highway 99 North)
Distance	Approximately 125 km (78 miles)
Estimated Travel Time	2 to 2.5 hours under normal conditions
Peak Travel Periods	Friday afternoons, holiday weekends, and long weekends — allow additional time
Road Conditions	Check DriveBC at drivebc.ca or call 511 before departure

Planning Note

We strongly recommend building an extra buffer of at least 30 minutes into your departure plan, particularly during peak travel periods. Road conditions along the Sea-to-Sky corridor can change quickly. Checking DriveBC before you leave is always a good habit.

Section 2 · Pickup Locations

Three primary pickup points are commonly used for departures to Whistler. Confirm your chosen pickup point directly with your transport provider when booking.

① **Vancouver International Airport (YVR)**

Meet your driver or shuttle representative at the Domestic or International Arrivals level, at the designated shuttle and transfer meeting area. Look for signage or confirm the exact meeting point with your provider when booking.

Note: International arrivals — allow a minimum of 45–60 minutes after landing to clear immigration and collect baggage before your scheduled pickup.

② **Downtown Vancouver**

Pickup from downtown Vancouver hotels or central locations is available through most shuttle and private transfer providers. This is ideal for travelers staying in the city before heading to Whistler who prefer a convenient, close-to-accommodation departure point.

③ **Canada Place / Vancouver Convention Centre (999 Canada Place)**

This iconic waterfront landmark is easily accessible for travelers arriving by cruise ship or staying in the surrounding area. Confirm the exact staging and pickup bay directly with your transport provider prior to departure.

Section 3 · **Transportation Options**

Four transportation options are available to suit varying group sizes, budgets, and preferences. All pricing is in Canadian Dollars (CAD) and is approximate — confirm current rates and availability directly with your chosen provider before booking.

A — Shuttle Service

Detail	Information
Price	CAD \$79 – \$120 per person, one-way
Service Type	Shared coach or shuttle — scheduled departures
Luggage Allowance	Typically one checked bag + one carry-on per person (confirm with provider)
Best For	Solo travelers or guests comfortable in a group setting
Providers	Whistler Shuttle, Epic Rides, and similar operators — book directly online

★ Tip

Shuttle seats fill quickly during busy periods. Book as early as possible to secure your preferred departure time. Advance booking is essential.

B — Private SUV Transfer

Detail	Information
Price	CAD \$650 – \$850 per vehicle, one-way
Capacity	Up to 4–6 passengers (depending on luggage volume)
Service Type	Door-to-door from any Vancouver pickup point; professional, licensed driver
Best For	Small groups, couples, or travelers requiring privacy and scheduling flexibility
Booking	Book directly with your preferred private transfer provider in advance

C — Private Sprinter / Van Transfer

Detail	Information
Price	CAD \$1,100 – \$1,400 per vehicle, one-way
Capacity	Up to 10–14 passengers with generous luggage capacity
Service Type	Door-to-door; spacious cabin; flexible scheduling
Best For	Groups traveling together — the most cost-effective per-person option for larger parties
Booking	Book directly with your preferred private transfer provider in advance

D — Rental Car (Self-Drive)

Detail	Information
Estimated Fuel Cost	Approx. CAD \$42 – \$55 round trip (subject to current fuel prices)
Rental Rates	Vary by vehicle class and provider — arrange directly with your preferred company at YVR or downtown Vancouver
Navigation	GPS or navigation app recommended — follow signs for Highway 99 North / Sea-to-Sky Highway
Important Note	Some rental agreements may restrict travel on certain mountain roads — confirm with your provider before departure
Parking	Limited in Whistler — see Section 4 for full details

Section 4 · Parking in Whistler

For guests arriving by rental or personal vehicle, the following parking options are available at the venue and in Whistler Village.

The Westin Whistler Resort & Spa

Option	Rate	Notes
Self-Park	CAD \$38 per night	Subject to availability — advance reservation recommended
Valet Parking	CAD \$45 per night	Subject to availability — advance reservation recommended
Public Village Lots	Day-rate pricing	Additional public lots available throughout Whistler Village

★ Parking Advisory

Parking in Whistler fills exceptionally quickly during peak periods, including summer festival weekends, long weekends, and holidays. Guests are strongly encouraged to consider shuttle or private transfer services where possible to avoid parking challenges and enjoy a seamless arrival experience.

Section 5 · Helpful Tips & Reminders

- **Pack layers.** Mountain weather in Whistler can shift quickly regardless of season, even in summer, evenings can be cool. A light jacket is always a smart addition to your bag.
- **Check road conditions.** Visit drivebc.ca or call 511 before departing, conditions along the Sea-to-Sky corridor can change quickly, so it is always a good idea to check before you leave.
- **Download offline maps.** Cell service along portions of the Sea-to-Sky corridor can be intermittent. Download offline maps on your device before you leave Vancouver as a backup.
- **Driver gratuity.** Gratuity for private drivers is entirely at your discretion and always greatly appreciated. The industry standard is 18–20% of the transfer cost.
- **Book in advance.** All transportation arrangements: shuttle seats, private SUVs, and Sprinters should be confirmed at least 48–72 hours prior to your travel date. Earlier is always better during busy periods.
- **Customs and immigration (international arrivals).** Please allow a minimum of 45–60 minutes after landing at YVR before your scheduled pickup to accommodate immigration and baggage claim.
- **Book early.** Availability on shuttles and private transfers can be limited, particularly during busy periods — contact providers as early as possible to secure your preferred option.

Section 6 · **Booking Your Transport**

All transportation arrangements for your journey to Whistler are to be made independently and booked directly with your chosen provider. Use the options outlined in this guide to select the service that best suits your needs, group size, and budget.

Confirm all pricing, availability, and pickup details directly with your provider at the time of booking. All bookings should be secured at least 48–72 hours in advance of your travel date — earlier is always advisable during busy periods.

📘 Booking Directly

All transport options in this guide are booked directly with the service provider. Shuttle services such as Whistler Shuttle and Epic Rides can be reserved online. Private SUV and Sprinter transfers are available through numerous licensed transfer companies operating between Vancouver and Whistler — search for providers online and confirm rates, vehicle type, and pickup details before confirming.