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Insider's Guide to Canadian Ski Destinations

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Travel Advisor

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Image courtesy of Fairmont Tremblant

Canada's top ski destinations are a dream for winter sport enthusiasts. With beginner-friendly slopes, challenging backcountry terrain, and even exhilarating heli-skiing, Canada is the

perfect place for a ski getaway. The best part is there are world-class ski resorts across the country, so it's easy to get to from just about anywhere.

In the Canadian Rockies out west, there's a range of terrain in Whistler for every level of skier. Adventure seekers should flock to Revelstoke for rugged thrills. Luxury resorts and a quaint village combine to make Banff an irresistible hotspot. But you can even find a slice of Europe while skiing in eastern Canada at Mont-Tremblant.

Read on to discover my favorite ski destinations in Canada, as well as insider tips and hotel recommendations.

Need to know

Canada's major ski destinations are located within a couple hours of major airports. Be sure to pack accordingly as layers are extremely important. Always plan on buying tickets and reserving lessons in advance, especially during peak times of the year.

- **Languages:** English, and French (only in Tremblant).
- **Best time to visit:** December to March is prime ski season, but these areas are year-round destinations. April to May offers great wildlife spotting and hiking, with summer months (June to September) offering additional biking and kayaking options. Visit in October or November if you love fall foliage!
- **Ideal length of stay:** A 4-6 night stay is ideal for skiing and après-ski. Some larger resorts like Whistler or Revelstoke may need more time to explore fully, and stays in major cities can be coupled with Whistler (Vancouver) and Mont-Tremblant (Montreal).
- **What to wear:** Layers are essential. Start with a moisture-wicking base layer, followed by an insulating mid-layer, and finish with waterproof and windproof outerwear. Make sure to also bring warm gloves, neck gaiters, helmets, and goggles. Don't skip sunscreen, as UV rays reflect off the snow.
- **Ski School:** Most Canadian ski resorts, including Whistler, Mont-Tremblant, and Lake Louise and Sunshine Village in Banff, offer ski schools for all levels. These include group and private lessons for adults and kids.
- **Lift Tickets and Passes:** Canadian resorts typically offer competitive lift ticket prices compared to US destinations like Vail. Booking online in advance can help secure discounts. Frequent skiers should look into the Ikon Pass or Epic Pass, which include access to resorts such as Whistler Blackcomb, Mont-Tremblant and SkiBig3.
- **Transportation:** Renting a car may be preferable for more flexibility. There are also many shuttle services between the ski resorts and airports. For the most direct and comfortable option, private transfers should be arranged.

- **Parking:** Resorts and towns typically have readily available parking. During peak times, however, lots can fill up quickly.

Airports:

- **Vancouver International Airport (YVR):** 2 hours to Whistler with flights to major airports across the US.
- **Montreal-Trudeau International Airport (YUL):** 90 minutes from Mont-Tremblant, and well connected to big cities in the US.
- **Kelowna International Airport (YLW):** 2.5 hour drive to Revelstoke with a range of domestic flights, and international connections to Seattle, as well as seasonal destinations like Los Angeles and Phoenix).
- **Calgary International Airport (YYC):** 90 minutes from Banff, offering numerous connections to cities across the US.

Whistler

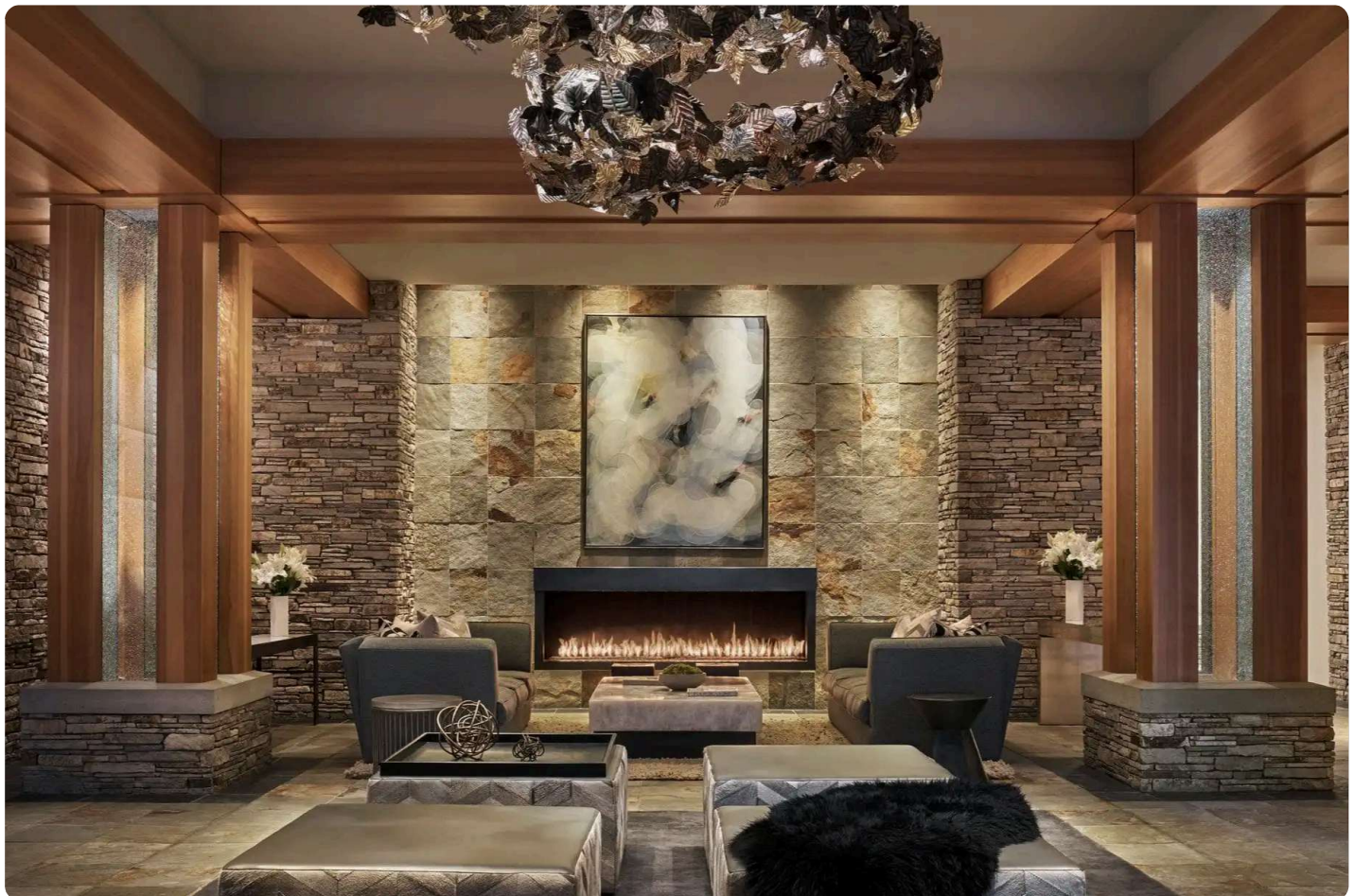


Image courtesy of Four Seasons Resort Whistler

The largest ski resort in North America, Whistler Blackcomb brings together world-class skiing and a modern mountain vibe. Whistler attracts some of the most advanced skiers in the world, with challenging alpine bowls and legendary backcountry areas. There are also beginner slopes for families, coupled with great ski and snowboard schools.

The area's diverse terrain is supported by a charming pedestrian-only village, where ski days easily transition into lively après-ski evenings. Think high-end accommodations and refined dining options, alongside cozy mountain lodges.

Mirroring the resort town's variety of visitors, the accommodations include a range of styles from residence-style hotel rooms ideal for families to luxe suites with mountain views. Here are some of the top places to stay.

Where to stay

Four Seasons Resort and Residences Whistler: Located near the base of Whistler Blackcomb, this luxury retreat offers spacious accommodations, a world-class spa and exceptional dining.

- When you book Four Seasons with Fora, you'll enjoy exclusive Four Seasons Preferred Partner benefits.

Nita Lake Lodge: A tranquil lakeside lodge in the quieter Creekside area, featuring spacious suites, outdoor hot tubs, and dining offerings with fresh, local ingredients.

The Westin Resort & Spa, Whistler: Steps from the gondolas in Whistler Village, this resort offers homey apartment-style suites.

- **Fora's Marriott LUMINOUS** partner perks include a welcome amenity, breakfast daily, an upgrade and extended check-in/out whenever possible.

Revelstoke



Image courtesy of Sutton Place Hotel Revelstoke

Revelstoke is a mecca for serious skiers and thrill-seekers, with some of the most challenging terrain in North America. Home to the continent's longest vertical drop and renowned for its deep powder, Revelstoke draws highly experienced skiers and snowboarders from around the world. It's also famous for heli-skiing and backcountry adventures.

While the focus here is on high-adrenaline activities, the town's laid-back and unpretentious vibe provides a relaxing base. Cozy lodges and local eateries help travelers recharge, along with gorgeous mountain views.

Remember that heli-skiing is weather-dependent, so flexibility and reliable operators are crucial. Be sure to pack avalanche safety gear if required, and dress accordingly, as conditions can differ from resort slopes. Reach out to me to be connected with our trusted partners on the ground.

Where to stay

Sutton Place Hotel Revelstoke: Located on the mountain with ski-in/out access, this modern hotel is perfect for avid skiers wanting to maximize their time on the slopes.

Eleven Revelstoke Lodge: This recently opened boutique property in downtown Revelstoke is tailored to adventure seekers, with a personalized heli-ski program and high-end amenities.

Banff: Lake Louise & Sunshine Village



Image courtesy of Fairmont Chateau Lake Louise

Banff's Lake Louise and Sunshine Village combine world-class skiing with dramatic scenery. These two resorts provide a range of terrain for all skill levels, so your whole group can enjoy some time on the mountains.

Lake Louise features thousands of acres of groomed trails and expansive bowls. Sunshine Village's high-altitude slopes boast both beginner-friendly zones and challenging expert areas

like Goat's Eye Mountain. Both ski resorts are known for their reliable snow and majestic mountain views, creating an unforgettable experience on and off the slopes.

Aside from skiing, visitors can opt for snowshoeing, snow tubing and scenic gondola rides. Both destinations also provide easy access to Banff town's shopping and dining venues. Choices for accommodations are limited, but here are a few of my favorites.

Where to stay

Fairmont Chateau Lake Louise: This iconic retreat on the shores of Lake Louise offers ski-in/out access and a range of luxurious amenities.

- **Fora's Accor - HERA** partner perks include a \$100 property credit, breakfast daily, an upgrade and an extended check-in/out whenever possible.

Post Hotel & Spa: This European-style hotel in Lake Louise Village features an on-site spa and a highly regarded restaurant in an intimate setting.

Sunshine Mountain Lodge: Located in Sunshine Village, this ski-in/out lodge offers comfortable accommodations, a hot tub and dining with locally inspired dishes.

Mont-Tremblant

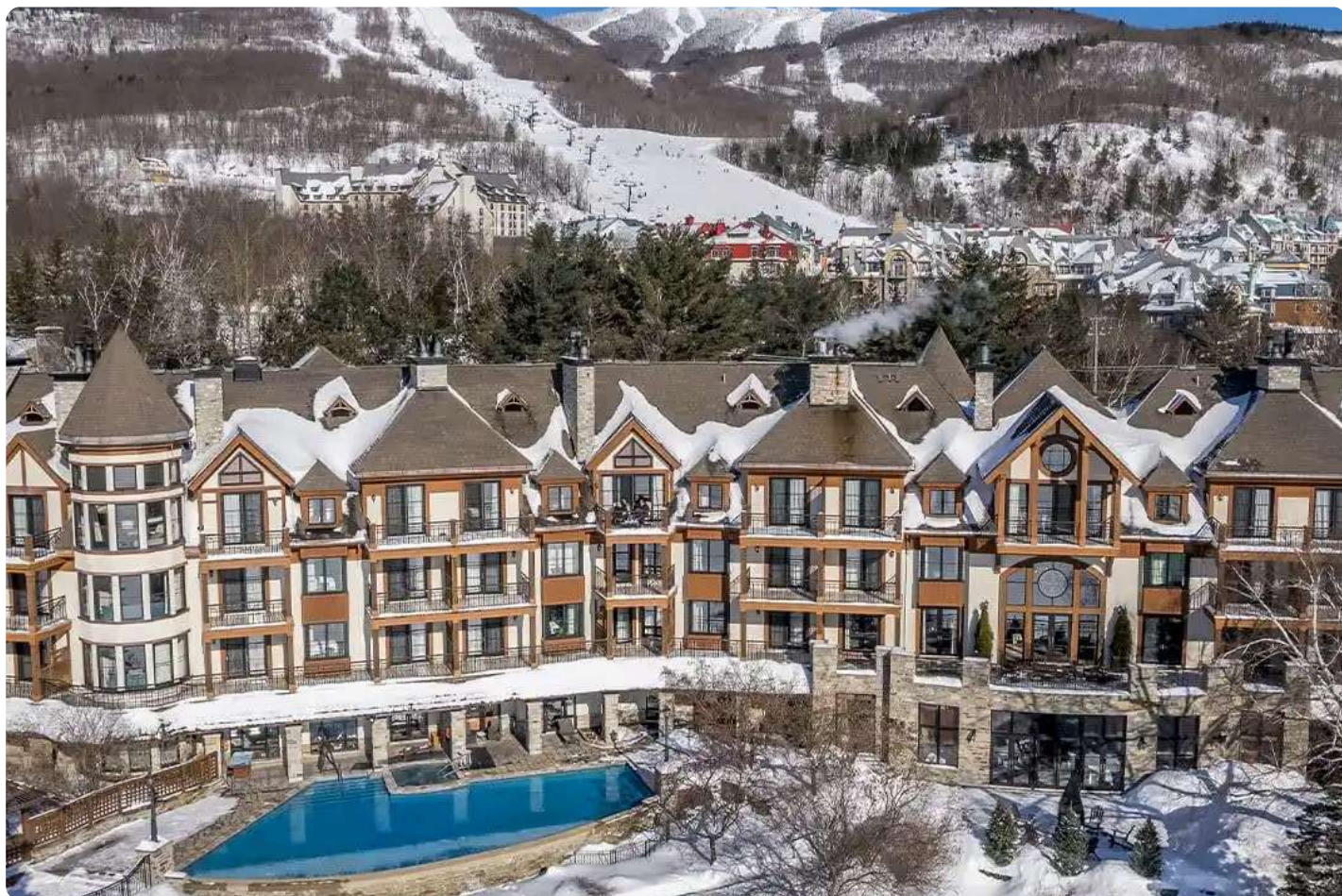


Image courtesy of Hotel Quintessence

Mont-Tremblant has a European-inspired charm that makes it Eastern Canada's top ski destination. It's known for well-groomed runs and a family-friendly vibe. Mont-Tremblant offers every level of skier the right kind of slope, including advanced trails across its four distinct faces. The village even has convenient in-room ski rental fittings.

The compact pedestrian-only ski village has a very relaxed vibe. Everything is within walking distance, from dining to shopping boutiques. Anyone looking for a break from the slopes can also enjoy ice skating and snow tubing, all within the village.

Hotels include luxurious mountain-view options with personalized amenities, as well as family-style rooms with kitchens. All are walkable to the slopes, meaning you can park your car and forget it.

Where to stay

Fairmont Tremblant: This luxury resort at the base of Mont Tremblant offers ski-in/out access, elegant accommodations and refined on-site dining options.

- **Fora Perks** include a \$100 food and beverage credit, breakfast daily, an upgrade and extended check-in/out whenever possible.

Residence Inn Mont Tremblant Manoir Labelle: Located in the heart of Tremblant's pedestrian village, this family-friendly hotel offers spacious apartment-style suites.

Hotel Quintessence: Overlooking Lake Tremblant, this luxury boutique hotel is known for its personalized service and elegant design.

Add-on destinations



Image courtesy of Rosewood Hotel Georgia

Vancouver is a great one-day add-on option before or after your getaway to Whistler. Stroll through the downtown area to shop at unique boutiques, or visit Granville Island for artisanal shops, fresh markets and waterfront views.

Rosewood Hotel Georgia: This beautifully restored historic hotel offers elegant rooms, a spa and dining in the heart of downtown Vancouver.

- **Fora's Rosewood Elite** perks include a welcome amenity, daily breakfast, an upgrade and extended check-in/out whenever possible.

Montreal is the perfect addition to spend a day and night in if you're venturing to or from Mont-Tremblant. Explore Montreal's Golden Square Mile and shop at high-end boutiques or take a stroll through Mount Royal Park for scenic views of the city. If it's Saturday night, catch a hockey game at the Bell Centre, home of the Montreal Canadiens, for an authentic local experience.

Four Seasons Hotel Montreal: A contemporary luxury hotel in the heart of the Golden Square Mile, it's known for its sleek design and exceptional service.

- When you book Four Seasons with Fora, you'll enjoy exclusive Four Seasons Preferred Partner benefits.

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