

**GO GREEN!** Rather than printing these notes, we suggest saving this PDF file on your smartphone. Not only is it more environmentally friendly, but it also means these notes are always at hand!

## Snowhawk Accommodated

### 7 days/6 nights

*Get frosty on the Snowhawk tour, a 7 day adventure to two different winter wonderlands in British Columbia! First up is Whistler, the most famous winter destination in Canada. Need we say more? Then it's on to the sunny Okanagan to play in the 'champagne powder' snow! With multiple free days, you'll have plenty of time to try a wide range of activities, from skiing/snowboarding to snowshoeing. And in between we'll check out waterfalls, enjoy a wine tasting, learn about Indigenous cultures and even try Indigenous cuisine!*



*Note: The Snowhawk can be broken down into two shorter tours we also offer: the Sea to Snow and Snowgopogo. As such, there could be travellers joining and leaving your tour in Vancouver between the Whistler and Okanagan portions.*

### Highlights

- Discover Indigenous cultures at the Squamish Lil'wat Cultural Centre
- Explore the pedestrian-friendly, Disney-esque Whistler Village
- Try one of the many activities on offer in Whistler (optional)
- Visit an Okanagan winery for a tour and tasting
- Hangout in the colourful village at Silverstar Mountain Resort
- Get active during your Okanagan snow days! (activities are optional)

### What's Included

- 6 nights mixed gender, hostel dormitory style accommodation
- Moose Bus transportation
- Services of a professional & fun tour guide/driver
- Guided tour of Squamish Lil'wat Cultural Centre
- Winery tour & tasting in the Okanagan
- 2 dinners, including an Indigenous cuisine meal
- 4 breakfasts

# Itinerary

## Day 1: Vancouver to Whistler

We start our adventure by following an Olympic and Paralympic dream, as we travel from Vancouver to Whistler, the host cities of the 2010 Winter Games! En route, we'll drive through the famous Stanley Park, over the Lions Gate Bridge and then stop at the (possibly frozen) Shannon Falls along the scenic Sea to Sky Highway. Once in Whistler, we'll do an orientation tour of the village, followed by a guided tour of the Squamish Lil'wat Cultural Centre to learn about the Indigenous cultures of the Whistler Valley. After an included dinner, the night is yours to experience Whistler's legendary nightlife scene or simply to recover after a busy day!

Activity Inclusions: Guided tour of Squamish Lil'wat Cultural Centre

Meal Inclusions: Dinner

Moose Accommodation: HI Whistler

## Day 2: Whistler Snow Day

Get your snow adventure on today with one of the many optional activities on offer: skiing/snowboarding, ziplining, snow tubing, ice skating and more! Your Moose guide will help you get organized or will point you in the right direction if you're looking for a more chill day. Whistler has plenty to offer everyone! This evening, why not bury the hatchet, literally, by trying your hand at axe throwing? It's a seriously competitive sport here in Canada!

Moose Accommodation: HI Whistler

## Day 3: Whistler to Vancouver

Looking for more adventure? We don't leave until the afternoon, giving you plenty of time for more activities today! Or take a more passive approach and enjoy the stellar views from the PEAK 2 PEAK Gondola on a 4.4 km, 11 minute journey between Whistler and Blackcomb mountains. Check out the Whistler Olympic Plaza, browse the many shops and galleries, or hangout in a café and people watch. Then it's back to Vancouver for the evening.

Moose Accommodation: Samesun Vancouver

## Day 4: Vancouver to Kelowna

The Okanagan is calling! Leaving the city, we're heading east through the Fraser Valley, stopping for an easy walk in a temperate rainforest to the base of Bridal Veil Falls. Then, after crossing the Coast Mountains and traversing the Pennask Summit, we'll descend into the Okanagan Valley, Western Canada's premier wine producing region. Lucky for us, we'll enjoy an included winery tour and tasting on arrival! After checking into our accommodation in lakeside Kelowna, we're off to a special dinner at Kekuli Café in Westbank, where you'll get to try Indigenous cuisine.

Activity Inclusions: Winery tour and tasting

Meal inclusions: Breakfast at Samesun Vancouver, Indigenous cuisine dinner

Moose Accommodation: Samesun Kelowna

### **Day 5: Okanagan Snow Day 1**

On the first of two free days in the Okanagan, we'll make a day trip to SilverStar Mountain Resort in the Monashee Mountains to experience the 'champagne powder' first-hand. With a mellow frontside of easy going ski runs and a hairy backside of more difficult terrain, some locals affectionately call this place 'Jekyll and Hyde' because of its dual personalities! Not a skier or snowboarder? No worries. Other activity options include skating, tubing, snowshoeing, fat tire biking, snowmobiling and nordic skiing, or just hangout in the colourful village with a hot chocolate. After a full day, it's back to Kelowna and perhaps a night on the town in this university city!

Meal inclusions: Breakfast at Samesun Kelowna

Moose Accommodation: Samesun Kelowna

### **Day 6: Okanagan Snow Day 2**

Another free day today, and with two other mountains in range, we could visit Big White Ski Resort or Apex Mountain Resort. Either way, it's another full day in the Okanagan snow with multiple activity options available! Or choose to stay in Kelowna, explore the waterfront and shops downtown, or even take another winery tour. Your choice, but if you're not stomping the snow, we recommend the (delicious beverage that comes from) stomped grapes!

Meal inclusions: Breakfast at Samesun Kelowna

Moose Accommodation: Samesun Kelowna

### **Day 7: Kelowna to Vancouver**

On our final day, we'll travel the Coquihalla Highway back to the coast. But first, we'll stop in the town of Hope, the "Chainsaw Carving Capital" to admire some of the 80 plus chainsaw carvings on display in the town centre. Note to any old school movie fans; Hope is where Rambo: First Blood was filmed. Please contain your excitement! Then it's on to Vancouver for hugs, tears and final goodbyes as your Western Canada snow-fari adventure comes to a close!

Meal Inclusions: Breakfast at Samesun Kelowna

Moose Accommodation: There is no accommodation included tonight. You will need to make your own arrangements.

## **Joining Your Trip**

### **Vancouver**

We pick up from the following hostel locations in Vancouver on Day 1 of this tour. Please be ready and waiting in the hostel lobby 15 minutes prior to your scheduled pick up time.

<b>Hostel Name</b>	<b>Pick Up Time</b>	<b>Hostel Address</b>
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HI Vancouver - Downtown	08:05	1114 Burnaby St, Vancouver
Cambie Hostel on Seymour	08:20	515 Seymour St, Vancouver
Samesun Vancouver	08:30	1018 Granville St, Vancouver

**NOTE:** if you are staying anywhere else in Vancouver, you will need to make your own way to one of these locations. We recommend joining the tour at the Samesun where the Moose office is located.

## Finishing Your Trip

### Vancouver

On the final day of the tour, we drop off at all of the hostel locations in Vancouver listed in the Pick Up section above. If you are staying elsewhere, you will need to make your own way there from one of the above locations. Under normal circumstances, expect to be dropped off in Vancouver around 4:00pm.

**NOTE:** we strongly recommend that you DO NOT book onward travel on the final day of the tour, since traffic or other unexpected circumstances may cause delays.

## Accommodation

We know that a good night's sleep is important, especially after a busy day of travelling with lots of fun activities. We choose hostels and backpacker properties that offer budget value, as well as great facilities, and a welcoming atmosphere.

On an accommodated tour all your accommodation is included for the standard nights of the trip, at a Moose discounted rate. You'll be staying in mixed gender hostel dorm rooms. By staying in shared rooms you get a chance to meet more people, hang out with other Moose travellers, and have paid less than you would booking a private room or hotel.

**NOTE:** if you wish to stay in gender-specific dorm rooms, you can request this at the time of booking. Our hostel partners will try to accommodate your request, but we cannot guarantee it will be possible.

### Accommodation Locations

Day & Location	Hostel Name	Address	Phone Number
Days 1 & 2: Whistler	HI Whistler	1035 Legacy Way, Whistler	+1 604 962 0025
Day 3: Vancouver	Samesun Vancouver	1018 Granville Street, Vancouver	+1 604 682 8226
Days 4 to 6: Kelowna	Samesun Kelowna	245 Harvey Ave, Kelowna	+1 250 763 9814
Day 7: Vancouver	none <sup>1</sup>		

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**Notes:**

1. You will need to make your own reservation for the final night of the tour.

**Do I Ever Need To Book My Own Accommodation?**

You **ONLY** need to make your own reservation for your pre & post tour nights in Vancouver.

**Daily Departure Times**

We depart from the included accommodation at the following times on each day of the tour:

Day & Location	Hostel Name	Departure Time
Day 1: Vancouver	See Joining Your Trip section above	
Day 2: Whistler	N/A - Free Day	
Day 3: Whistler	HI Whistler	16:30
Day 4: Vancouver	Samesun Vancouver	08:30
Days 5 & 6: Kelowna	N/A - Free Day	
Day 7: Vancouver	Samesun Kelowna	09:00

**Meals**

Your included meals are listed in the **What's Included** section above. Included meals do not include beverages, except for free tap water, and as such, you will need to purchase your own drinks.

Speaking of tap water, it's clean and safe to drink almost everywhere in Canada, unless specifically noted at the water facility. We strongly encourage you to bring a reusable water bottle that you can refill from a tap, rather than purchasing disposable plastic water bottles that contribute to pollution. A reusable coffee or tea mug is also a great idea!

To help you save money, we make grocery stops almost every day so you can self-cater, and all of the hostels we stay at have kitchens that are available for Moose use (that rhymes!) As such, you can prepare your own breakfast or dinner at the hostel if it's not already included. On occasion, your Moose guide may organize an optional group dinner, where you can choose to pitch in a few dollars, and then help with cooking or clean up. It's fun and inexpensive! Or they may suggest an optional group dinner at a good value local restaurant. On travel days, lunch will typically occur en route. Your Moose guide will either stop in a town where you'll have several options for lunch, or you will stop in the morning to pick up lunch supplies for a picnic in the wilderness later in the day. Remember, don't feed the wildlife!

We recommend budgeting approximately CAD\$20 to \$40 per day for non-included meals. Restaurants will be more expensive, and remember to account for Canadian tax (5%) and tip (15-20%). Note that alcohol in the Province of BC is also subject to an additional 10% tax.

## Transportation

Our buses are safe and comfortable mini-coaches, seating anywhere from 11 to 24 people. They have extra large windows for catching all the great views, air-conditioning and heating to keep cool or warm, and a sound system to keep the tunes rolling!

## Optional Activities

Why not enhance your trip by participating in one of the below adventure activities during your tour?

The optional activities listed below are not operated by Moose, except for the free hiking, swimming and wildlife spotting activities. Moose arranges the activity as an agent of the local supplier. If you choose to participate in an optional activity, your contract will be with the activity provider and their conditions will apply. Some activities are seasonal, weather dependent, or require minimum numbers to participate.

**NOTE: the prices and activities listed below are approximate and subject to change. Winter 2021/22 rates have not yet been confirmed.**

ACTIVITY	APPROX. COST (CAD)	LOCATION
Skiing and snowboarding lift ticket (full day)	from \$95	Whistler, Okanagan
Ski/snowboard rental (all equipment)	from \$50	Whistler, Okanagan
Ski/snowboard lesson	from \$100	Whistler, Okanagan
Snow tubing	from \$15	Whistler, Okanagan
Ice skating with rental	from \$10	Whistler, Okanagan
Ziplining	\$159	Whistler
Bungee jumping	\$115	Whistler
PEAK 2 PEAK gondola ticket	\$65	Whistler
Axe throwing	from \$36	Whistler
Cross country (Nordic) skiing with rental	from \$55	Okanagan
Snowshoeing with rental	from \$50	Okanagan
Fat tire biking with rental	from \$55	Okanagan
Winery tour & tasting (in addition to the included wine tasting!)	from \$119	Okanagan

