

VANCOUVER 2010 PARALYMPIC WINTER GAMES

Summary

On July 2, 2003, Vancouver, Canada was named Host City of the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games. The Vancouver Organizing Committee for the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games was incorporated on September 30, 2003.

The 2010 Paralympic Games will be staged in Vancouver & Whistler from March 12 to March 21st, 2010.



Winter Paralympic Games Quick facts:

- Estimated Number of Countries: 40 +
- Estimated Number of Athletes & Officials: 1,350
- Estimated Number of Media: 10,000
- Number of Sports: 5

Paralympic Villages

Whistler Olympic and Paralympic Village

The Whistler Olympic and Paralympic Village site is located within the scenic Cheakamus Valley. Designed for 2,400 athletes and officials, the Whistler Olympic and Paralympic Village is less than 20 minutes from all the Whistler competition venues. A short shuttle ride will take athletes to the heart of Whistler Village and the nightly medal ceremonies at the Whistler Celebration Site in the town's centre.

Sports Venues

Athletes attending the 2010 Paralympic Winter Games will compete in alpine skiing, biathlon, cross-country skiing, ice sledge hockey and wheelchair curling. All events will take place in two major hubs: Vancouver and Whistler, BC.

Alpine Skiing

Events in alpine skiing will be held on Whistler Mountain. The Whistler resort hosts more than 2 million guests each year and is ranked amount the top ski resorts in North America. From peak to finish the elevation is 810 m and its proximity from the Whistler Olympic Village is a mere 5 km. The Paralympic alpine skiing events will take place on Franz's Run.



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Paralympic Schools Program



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Nordic Events

The Nordic sports of Biathlon and Cross Country Skiing will be held in Callaghan Valley 14kms from the Whistler Olympic and Paralympic Village. All the Paralympic cross-country skiing and biathlon events will start and finish from the Olympic cross-country stadium and will use parts of the Olympic cross-country competition trails. Competition courses include a 5-kilometre course for the standing classes and a 3.75-kilometre course for the sit-ski classes.

Sledge Hockey

Sledge Hockey will be held at UBC Winter Sports Centre. This centre is located at the University of British Columbia approximately 13km from the Paralympic Village. The arena will seat 7,200 spectators. The arena is currently under construction and will be completed by the summer of 2008.

Wheelchair Curling

Wheelchair Curling will be held at Hillcrest/Nat Bailey Stadium Park. Nat Bailey is located in a lively Vancouver Community which is approximately 4km from the Paralympic Village. This arena can seat 6,250 spectators.

For more information on the Vancouver 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games visit:

<http://www.vancouver2010.com/en>





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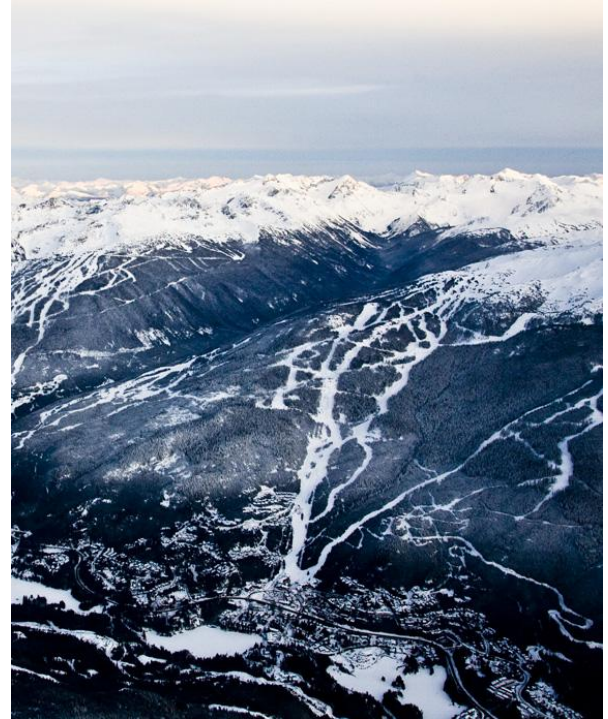


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Organizing Committee

On July 2, 2003, Vancouver, Canada was named Host City of the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games. The Vancouver Organizing Committee for the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games was incorporated on September 30, 2003.

Vancouver 2010's mandate is to support and promote the development of sport in Canada by planning, organizing, financing and staging the XXI Olympic Winter Games and X Paralympic Winter Games in 2010. Its responsibilities include the sports venues, Olympic and Paralympic Villages (which will host athletes and officials), Media Villages, the Main Press Centre and the International Broadcasting Centre. The Vancouver 2010 Organizing Committee will also coordinate transport and medical services, arrange temporary Games structures, and plan and promote the Olympic and Paralympic cultural program.



Vancouver 2010 is governed by a Board of Directors representing all levels of government, the Canadian Olympic Committee, Canadian Paralympic Committee and local First Nations. Together, Vancouver 2010 organizers and partners are committed to hosting an inclusive and sustainable Games.

Volunteers will play a leading role in Vancouver 2010. People of all ages will join the Olympic and Paralympic Movement, helping to promote the Olympic and Paralympic spirit of solidarity and friendship between nations.

Forty countries are expected to participate in the 2010 Paralympic Winter Games, including an estimated 600-800 athletes and 5,000-8,000 volunteers. The 10-day competition will take place in March 2010 following the Olympic Winter Games.



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Paralympic Mascot

The Vancouver 2010 Paralympic Winter Games emblem represents the harmony that exists between athlete, sport, and environment. A dynamic human form is created by the valley, mountains, and sun of the West Coast, and reflects the athletes' mountainous inner strength and personal transformation as they push themselves to new heights in the pursuit of excellence.

The emblem symbolizes the heart of the Vancouver 2010 Paralympic Winter Games, a celebration that will bring together Paralympic athletic heroes and Canada's passion for sport and nature in one of the world's most breathtaking winter playgrounds.



vancouver 2010
PARALYMPIC GAMES
JEUX PARALYMPIQUES



Paralympic Mascot

Sumi

Sumi is an animal spirit who lives in the mountains of British Columbia. Like many Canadians, Sumi's background is drawn from many places. He wears the hat of the orca whale, flies with the wings of the mighty thunderbird and runs on the strong furry legs of the black bear.

Sumi's name comes from the Salish word "Sumesh" which means "guardian spirit." Sumi takes his role very seriously. He works hard to protect the land, water and creatures of his homeland. Sumi is a great fan of the Paralympic Games. He's determined to learn all the sports, so he can play and race with his animal friends all winter long.

Transformation is a common theme in the art and legend of West Coast First Nations. Transformation represents the connection and kinship between the human, animal and spirit world. Revered animals, such as the orca whale, the bear and the thunderbird, are depicted in transformation through masks, totems and other forms of art. The orca is the traveler and guardian of the sea. The bear often represents strength and friendship. And the thunderbird — which creates thunder by flapping its wings — is one of the most powerful of the supernatural creatures.



SUMI