

Whistler Sliding Centre

Facts & Figures

www.WhistlerSlidingCentre.com



The Whistler Sliding Centre, operated by the not-for-profit organization Whistler Sport Legacies, is home to the fastest ice track in the world. After hosting the bobsleigh, luge and skeleton competitions during the Vancouver 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games, the Whistler Sliding Centre is now a National Training Centre for the three sliding sports and continues to challenge the sports' most elite athletes with professional events, recruiting camps and ongoing youth programs. Public visitors are also invited to tour the facility or experience the action first-hand with public bobsleigh (winter and summer) and skeleton (winter) rides down parts of the 1,450 meter-long ice track. The Whistler Sliding Centre also hosts a number of major sliding events, such as the IBSF Bobsleigh & Skeleton World Cup, the FIL Luge World Cup (both December 2016) and the IBSF Bobsleigh & Skeleton World Championships 2019.

Post-Olympic Use:

SPORT / Athlete Use year-round (winter: October – March on ice; summer: training on wheels)

- In December 2013, the Whistler Sliding Centre was appointed Sliding Sports National Training Centre for all three disciplines bobsleigh, skeleton & luge
- Training facility for bobsleigh, skeleton, luge:
 - Track used for on-going athlete training and recruitment programs by sliding associations (local, provincial, national and international athletes) by athletes of all ability levels, from grassroots to high performance
 - “Discover Sliding” sport programs introduce (targeted) participants to luge, skeleton and bobsleigh, offered in cooperation with provincial sliding associations
- Event venue:
 - One of 15 internationally sanctioned competition sliding tracks in the world
 - Whistler Sliding Centre regularly hosts national and international competitions for Luge (through FIL) and for Bobsleigh/Skeleton (through IBSF)
 - Numerous events per year on World Cup, Intercontinental Cup, North America’s Cup and Provincial levels (recent events: Dec 2016 Bobsleigh & Skeleton World Cup, Dec 2016 Luge World Cup; major event in 2019: Bobsleigh & Skeleton World Championships)

PUBLIC Use

- Winter (December until March/April)
 - Public sport experiences for bobsleigh (‘Thunder on Ice’) & skeleton (‘Lightning on Ice’)
 - Offered during the winter season (daily, early December until late March/early April)
 - \$179 plus tax/person for bobsleigh (1 run with pilot) or skeleton (2 solo slides)
 - Revenue from public sliding programs goes towards sport development
 - Suitable for everybody that is physically fit & meets the safety requirements

Whistler Sport Legacies

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- Public sliding was introduced in 2011 (skeleton in Jan 2011, bobsleigh in Dec 2011; luge not offered to the public as more training is required)
- Only track in North America that regularly offers skeleton rides for the public
- Summer (June/July until September)
 - Public bobsleigh rides “Rolling Thunder” (daily from June/July until early September)
 - Introduced in summer 2014; bobsleighs equipped with rubber wheels take up to 4 passengers and 1 pilot down the Olympic track
 - \$99 plus tax/person (1 run with pilot), kids, family & group discounts
- Year-round
 - Free self-guided interpretive tour outlining the history & operation of the track
 - Rental of the venue for weddings, corporate/recreational events, film/TV shoots etc.

Track Statistics:

| | | |
|------------------------------------|---|------------------------|
| Construction | Began in June 2005, completed for the winter 2007-08 | |
| Length | From top start to finish: 1,450 metres (16 corners) Public bobsleigh/start 2/3 up the track: 938 meters (10 corners) Public skeleton/start 1/3 up the track: 596 meters (6 corners) | |
| Elevation | At top of track 938 metres, at bottom of track 786 metres | |
| Vertical drop | 152 m, steepest in the world (max. track slope 20% at corner 2) | |
| Starting points | 7 official starting points along the track for bobsleigh, skeleton, luge, men/women | |
| Ice maintenance | The thin, two to five centimeter ice surface is produced and maintained daily by hand | |
| Cooling system/refrigeration plant | Track cooled with ammonia; fully computer operated Over 100km of refrigeration piping 4 compressors pump out 2100hp at maximum capacity LEEDS Gold standard from “Canada Green Building Council” | |
| # of runs per season on ice | Over 17,000 runs in one winter season (incl. public and athletes) | |
| Average speeds/G-Forces | Athletes: | Public: |
| | Bobsleigh: 150 km/hr, up to 5 G | 125 km/hr, up to 3-4 G |
| | Skeleton: 140 km/hr, up to 5 G | 100 km/hr, up to 3 G |
| | Luge: 145 km/hr, up to 5 G | (no public luge) |
| | Summer bob: (no athlete summer bob) | 90 km/hr, up to 2 G |

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General Information - Sliding Sports:

Bobsleigh

- Part of the official competition program since the first Olympic Winter Games in Chamonix in 1924.
- Women's bobsleigh was introduced in Salt Lake City in the 2002 Olympic Winter Games.
- The five-man bobsleigh was contested for the first and last time at the St. Moritz 1928 Olympic Winter Games.
- Following a sprint start after which the athletes jump in the sled, the bobsleigh travels down the track on four highly polished steel runners. Bobsleighs are equipped with brakes.

Luge

- Luge made its Olympic Games debut in 1964 in Innsbruck.
- Luge athletes start in a seated position, gripping start handles to propel them down a steep start ramp. They use gloves with small spikes on the fingertips to push themselves along the ice before laying feet first on their backs.

Skeleton

- Skeleton first appeared at the 1928 Winter Games and then again in 1948, both times in St. Moritz, the sport returned to the Olympic Winter Games program in 2002 in Salt Lake City.
- Skeleton athletes steer with their shoulders and knees by applying pressure to the sled.
- There are no brakes on a skeleton sled.

Further information:

- Whistler Sliding Centre, www.whistlerslidingcentre.com
- International Bobsleigh and Skeleton Federation, www.ibsf.org
- International Luge Federation, www.fil-luge.org
- Bobsleigh Canada Skeleton, www.bobsleighcanadaskeleton.ca
- Canadian Luge Association, www.luge.ca
- British Columbia Bobsleigh and Skeleton Association, www.slidebc.ca
- BC Luge Association, www.bcluge.ca

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