Dream Home?

Blog / Custom Home Construction / Squamish, Whistler, or West Vancouver: Which is Best for Your Dream Home?

British Columbia's North Shore and Sea-to-Sky Corridor are home to some of Canada's most stunning landscapes and they offer

an exceptional quality of life. Squamish, Whistler, and West Vancouver each provide unique advantages, from affordability and

Squamish, Whistler, or West Vancouver: Which is Best for Your

outdoor adventure to prestige and urban convenience. North Shore or Sea to Sky? West Vancouver, on Vancouver's North Shore, and the Sea-to-Sky Corridor communities of Squamish and Whistler, offer distinct

advantages and characteristics that make them desirable communities for living or building your luxury dream home.

breathtaking ocean views.

Urban proximity – just minutes from downtown Vancouver – is a key North Shore advantage, the perfect balance between urban convenience and access to nature. The North Shore is home to world-class mountain biking trails, three ski mountains, and

popular hiking spots such as Lynn Canyon. West Vancouver is known for its luxury homes, affluent neighbourhoods, and

Squamish still has that small-town feel with a growing population of over 24,000, offering local boutiques, craft breweries and farm-to-table dining options. Squamish offers year-round outdoor activities and dramatic landscapes including Shannon Falls and Mount Garibaldi. Compared to West Vancouver or Whistler, Squamish offers more affordable housing options.

A world-class resort town, Whistler is internationally renowned for its ski slopes, and for hosting the 2010 Winter Olympics. Whistler attracts outdoor enthusiasts and those seeking a mountain lifestyle, offering year-round outdoor recreation, including summer activities such as hiking, mountain biking, and golfing.



Stawamus Chief, and Shannon Falls and has become a hub for outdoor enthusiasts, families, and professionals looking for a balance between nature and modern amenities.

Squamish has a young population, with a median age of 37.9 years, and a growing population of approximately 24,000 (23,820 in 2021 Census). It's a family-friendly community, with 18.7% of the population under 14 years, and 20.4% between 35 and 44 years. Squamish offers excellent schools, parks, and recreational facilities making it ideal for families.

Squamish is a vibrant, growing community located along the Sea-to-Sky Highway, approximately halfway between Vancouver

(55 minutes) and Whistler (45 minutes). The town offers breathtaking natural landscapes that include Howe Sound, The

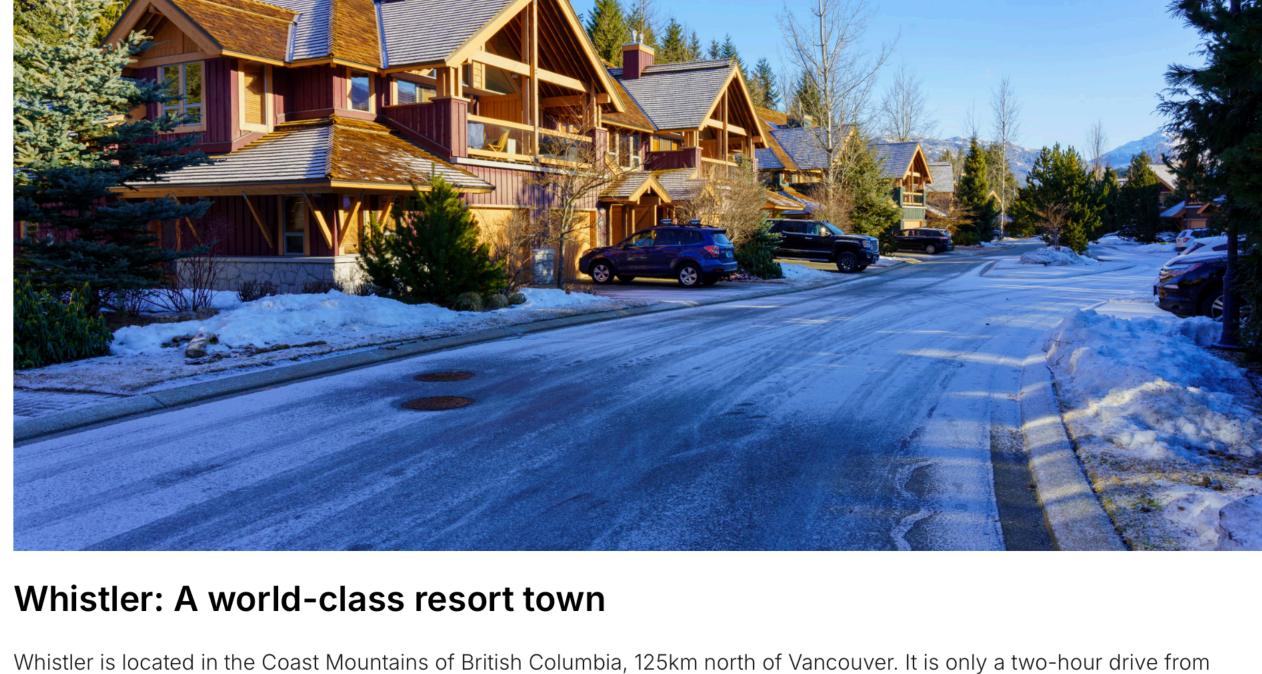
cost of housing is 16.7% higher than the national average, due to its growing popularity and proximity to Vancouver and Whistler. Squamish properties are a mix of single-family homes, townhouses, and apartments. Squamish has been touted as the Outdoor Recreation Capital for Canada. It's renowned for its hiking, mountain biking, rock

climbing at the Smoke Bluffs and Stawamus Chief, kiteboarding on Howe Sound, mountaineering, scenic and powder-filled

snowmobiling & sled-assisted skiing, and skiing and snowboarding in nearby Whistler. The town is surrounded by over one

The cost of living in Squamish is 7-12% more than the Canadian average, but it's lower than nearby Vancouver or Whistler. The

million hectares of forest within the Sea-to-Sky Forest District.



Whistler gained global recognition during the 2010 Winter Olympics. Whistler Blackcomb is a world-class ski resort, and the town

each with its own character and amenities.

attracts roughly 4 million visitors annually for skiing, snowboarding, mountain biking, and hiking, 45 per cent in winter and 55 per cent in summer.

Vancouver and big city amenities and Whistler has maintained its serene mountain lifestyle, offering 13 cozy neighbourhoods,

energetic community with a mix of permanent residents and seasonal workers who thrive on its active, outdoor lifestyle. Like Squamish, Whistler has a youthful population with a median age of 37.9 years, with a permanent population of about 14,000 (13,980 in 2021 Census). 11.1% of the population is under 14 years old, with 24.6% between 25 and 34 years.

expenses such as groceries and dining out are higher than the national average, but they are comparable to Downtown

It's an

Vancouver. Real estate prices are among the highest in BC, driven by the high demand from both locals and investors and limited land

availability (only 505 sales in 2024). Average home prices (year-end) 2024) were \$3.14M for a chalet, \$1.75M for a townhouse,

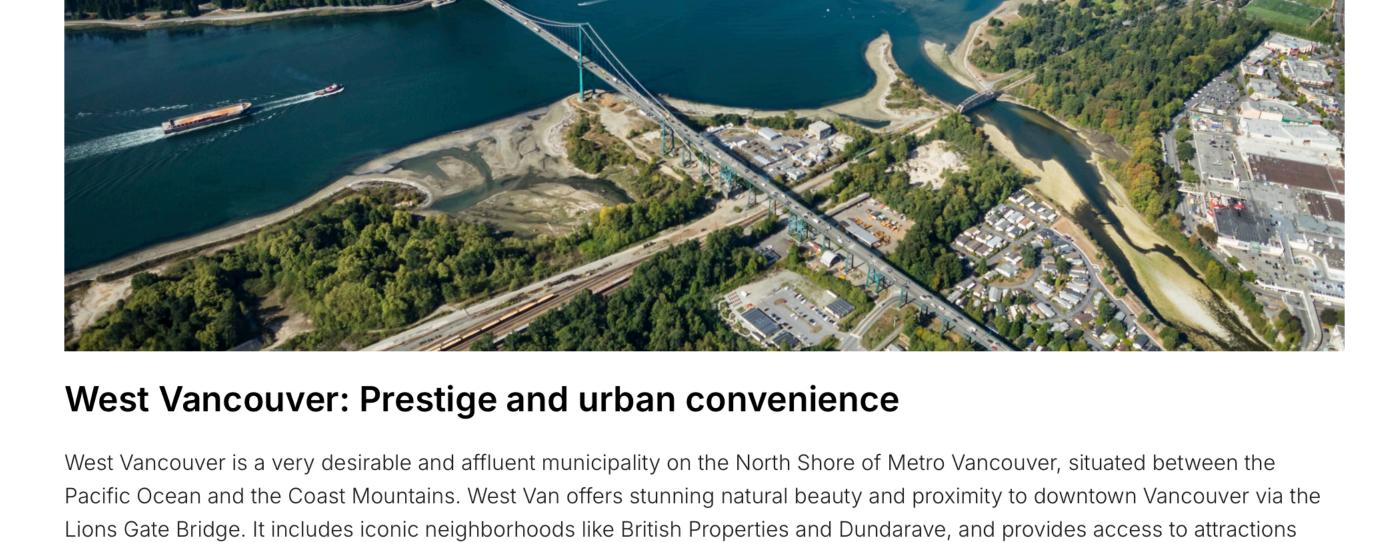
Due to its resort town status and luxury amenities, Whistler is one of the most expensive places to live in Canada. Everyday

\$747K for a condo and \$2.29M for vacant land. Rentals in Whistler are competitive due to a shortage of long-term rental properties. Many of the homes are made available as short-term vacation rentals. Year-round outdoor activities in Whistler include skiing, snowboarding, hiking, guided fly fishing, whitewater rafting on the glacial

Green River, golfing on four championship golf courses, and water sports on five pristine lakes. Whistler is a world-class 4-

season recreation destination, with access to Whistler Blackcomb's ski slopes and extensive mountain biking trail network.

The pedestrian-friendly Whistler Village offers shopping, dining, and cultural and athletic events like the Whistler Film Festival, the Whistler Writers Festival, the Whistler Wine Walk and Ultra Trail Whistler epic trail running event. Whistler neighbourhoods are surrounded by rugged mountains, alpine lakes, old-growth forests, glaciers and waterfalls. Residents enjoy breathtaking views with easy access to nature.



such as Cypress Provincial Park, Ambleside Beach and Park Royal Shopping Centre, Canada's first covered shopping mall.

The municipality is known for its luxurious lifestyle, excellent schools, outdoor recreation opportunities, and cultural vibrancy. It

Like Whistler, West Van is one of Canada's most expensive housing markets. The average home price is over \$3 million, and

has a population of approximately 44,000 (44,122 2021 Census), with a population density of 506.1/km². The median age of the

luxury properties can sell for up to \$30 million. West Vancouver is known for its exclusivity, with world-class amenities, luxury shopping, fine dining, and prestigious neighbourhoods; and that affluent lifestyle comes with a premium cost of living. A very low crime rate and excellent public and private schools make it a great community in which to raise a family.

\$2,500-\$3,000

~37.9

~24,000

45 min

population is 47.6 years, and 28.5% of residents are 65 or older.

Rental (2-Bedroom)

Commute to Vancouver

Median Age

Population

Resources

COMMENT

NAME *

13 - one =

District of Squamish

Resort Municipality of Whistler

West Vancouver Luxury Home Builders

The municipality is surrounded by mountains and the Pacific Ocean, offering breathtaking views and access to outdoor activities like hiking, skiing, sailing, kayaking, and scuba diving. Outdoor enthusiasts enjoy parks like Lighthouse Park and Cypress Provincial Park and ski resorts such as Grouse Mountain, Cypress Mountain, and Mount Seymour. Ambleside Park and the West Vancouver Seawall are popular family-friendly spots.

Cost Comparison of Squamish, Whistler, and West Vancouver

demand, particularly if interest rate cuts make these homes more affordable for high-income buyers.

Squamish **Factor** Whistler **West Vancouver** Average Home Price ~\$1.2M ~\$2.5M ~\$3M+

\$3,500-\$5,000

~37.9

~14,000

1.5-2 hrs

\$,500-\$5,000+

~47.6

~44,000

15-20 min

The average home price in BC is \$955,500 (December 2024), and in Greater Vancouver, it's \$1,275,672. The national average home price is \$705,600. Home prices in Squamish are above both the BC and national averages but remain lower than Whistler and West Vancouver. Whistler has the highest prices among the three communities and is nearly triple the national average. Prices in West Vancouver are also significantly higher than both regional and national averages but slightly lower than in Whistler	r.
Home prices in Squamish are expected to rise in line with the Greater Vancouver Area, with a forecasted 7% increase in residential prices this year. Whistler's luxury market may see more moderate growth due to its already high prices, but the scarcity of inventory could maintain upward pressure on home prices. West Vancouver's luxury properties may see sustained	

amenities. For professionals, retirees and families who want to live in one of BC's most naturally beautiful and prestigious municipalities, near downtown Vancouver, West Vancouver delivers exclusivity, waterfront appeal, top-tier schools, and luxury real estate.

For those drawn to an active resort lifestyle and luxury living, Whistler provides a tourism-driven environment with world class

Each of these communities has its charm, so choosing the right one depends on your lifestyle, personal priorities and budget.

For outdoor enthusiasts and young families, the town of Squamish offers accessibility to both Vancouver and Whistler, outdoor

What's it Like Living in a Passive House in Squamish or Whistler?

District of West Vancouver Squamish Luxury Home Builders Whistler Luxury Home Builders

Which Community is Right for You?

recreation and adventure, a strong sense of community and affordability.

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