Vail Resorts Newsroom

# Whistler Blackcomb Welcomes 2026/27 Winter Season with New Chairlift, Elevated Après and Return of John Summit



- Showcase Quad, enhanced dining experiences and a packed calendar of music and events headline the season ahead
- Guests can experience it all on an Epic Pass, only available through December 6

Images Approved for Media Use Available HERE (Opening Day images will be added later today)

**WHISTLER, B.C. — November 20, 2026** — Whistler Blackcomb officially kicked off the 2026/27 winter season today with the opening of Blackcomb Mountain.

Lifts started spinning at 9:00 a.m., following opening day celebrations that included prizing and giveaways, coffee and donuts, a traditional welcome ceremony led by ambassadors from the Squamish Lil'wat Cultural Centre (SLCC) and opening remarks from Belinda Trembath, Vice President and COO of Whistler Blackcomb. The festivities continued throughout the morning with a bannerbreak; cookie handouts and DJ as guests enjoyed early-season turns. As conditions allow, terrain will continue to expand throughout the early season, building toward more than 8,100 acres of skiable terrain across Whistler and Blackcomb mountains. Guests can look forward to Whistler Mountain opening on Nov. 25, conditions permitting.

"As we kick off another winter season, we're thrilled to welcome guests back to the mountains and introduce several enhancements to the Whistler Blackcomb experience," said Belinda Trembath, Vice President and COO of Whistler Blackcomb. "From the new Showcase Quad to a packed lineup of events and elevated après and dining experiences, we're continuing to invest in what matters most to our guests while delivering the world-class skiing and riding Whistler Blackcomb is known for around the world."

### New Showcase Quad Enhances Alpine Access

This winter marks the debut of the new Showcase Quad, replacing the Showcase T-Bar, which had served guests since 1988. The new lift will provide more reliable access to Showcase and Blackcomb Glacier terrain while improving guest flow into advanced alpine areas.

The target opening date of the Showcase Quad is Dec. 19.

### A Winter Packed with Events and Entertainment

The 2026/27 season features a full calendar of signature events and experiences across the resort.

Highlights include:

- Free weekly Fire & Ice Shows, returning Sundays to Skiers Plaza beginning Jan. 3
- Oakley Community Days featuring demos, athlete appearances and Rail Jam competitions, Jan. 7-10, 2027
- The Peak to Valley Race, returning Feb. 26-27, 2027
- The National Brotherhood of Snowsports (NBS) Summit, March 13-20, 2027
- The return of John Summit, March 20-21, 2027
- The return of the World Ski & Snowboard Festival, April 2-11, 2027
- Ongoing après programming, DJ events and live music throughout the winter season

Guests can stay up to date on events and activities by visiting the Whistler Blackcomb Events page.

### Elevated Dining Experiences Across the Resort

From quick après stops to elevated alpine dining, guests will find experiences to complement every mountain adventure. This season brings new and enhanced offerings that celebrate the best of Whistler and Sea-to-Sky food culture.

Highlights include:

- Steeps Grill & Wine Bar, featuring an updated Pacific Northwest-inspired menu alongside new Caviar & Champagne service
- Christine's introducing On The Rocks, a new outdoor alpine bar experience
- Enhancements to both the menu and facilities at Pika's

Epic Pass holders continuing to receive 20% off food and beverage purchases through Epic Mountain Rewards.

### The Best Way to Experience the Season Is on an Epic Pass

Epic Pass continues to offer the best value while providing benefits such as 20% off food, lodging, lessons, rentals, Whistler Heli-Skiing and more through Epic Mountain Rewards. Passes go off sale after Dec. 6!

Additionally, programs such as Epic Friend Tickets and the new 20% savings on Epic Pass and Epic Local Pass products for guests aged 18-30 make it easier for pass holders to share the mountain experience with friends and family, helping grow participation in skiing and snowboarding. Guests who skied or snowboarded on lift tickets or an Epic Friend Ticket last season may be eligible to save up to $175 on this 2026/27 season's Pass!

Operating Hours Adjusted to Deliver More Light

In response to British Columbia's move to Permanent Daylight Savings, Whistler Blackcomb is planning to operate most valley and alpine lifts from 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. through to January 15. That's 30 minutes later than historical hours but still gives guests a full day on the mountain. Most Snow School programs will also begin 30 minutes later during the early season, with traditional operating hours expected to return around the Family Day and Presidents' Day holiday period.

### A Smoother Parking Experience for All

Parking in Whistler Blackcomb's owned and operated lots remains free for guests this winter, with enhancements designed to improve the arrival experience.

A new parking reservation platform will simplify the booking process, while continuing to provide a variety of options for guests. Lot 6 will serve as the designated carpool lot, while Lot 7 will offer reservation-based parking without occupancy requirements.

Guests reserving parking will be asked to provide a credit card and are encouraged to cancel reservations if plans change. Visit the Getting Here and Parking page for more information.

Guests can follow Whistler Blackcomb for daily updates, real-time mountain information and operational updates through the My Epic app and Whistler Blackcomb's social channels throughout the season.

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**About Whistler Blackcomb**

Whistler Blackcomb is North America's largest ski resort, with more than 8,100 acres of terrain, over 200 marked runs, 16 alpine bowls and three glaciers across two mountains in British Columbia, connected by the record-setting PEAK 2 PEAK Gondola. Guests visit year-round for skiing and riding, mountain biking, hiking, dining and events.

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