

*Dave Doroghy | Graeme Menzies*

111 Places  
in Whistler  
That You Must  
Not Miss



emons:

This book is dedicated to the memory of the great Canadian author Jake MacDonald. He entered my life at just the right time and left much too early. Thanks for your encouragement, advice, and friendship.

*Dave Doroghy*

To my former headmaster Col. Amyas Biss, who once observed that those insufficiently gifted with academic prowess might yet succeed if sufficiently endowed with character.

*Graeme Menzies*



© Emons Verlag GmbH

All rights reserved

Photographs by Dave Doroghy and Graeme Menzies, except see page 238

Cover icon: [shutterstock.com/Svetlana Foote](https://www.shutterstock.com/Svetlana_Foote)

Edited by Karen E. Seiger

Layout: Editorial Design & Artdirection, Conny Laue,

based on a design by Lübbecke | Naumann | Thoben

Maps: [altancicek.design](http://altancicek.design), [www.altancicek.de](http://www.altancicek.de)

Basic cartographical information from Openstreetmap,

OpenStreetMap-Mitwirkende, ODbL

Printing and binding: Grafisches Centrum Cuno, Calbe

Printed in Germany 2021

ISBN 978-3-7408-1046-7

First edition

*Did you enjoy this guidebook? Would you like to see more?*

Join us in uncovering new places around the world on:

[www.111places.com](http://www.111places.com)

## Foreword

This isn't our first *111 Places* book, but it is the first one we've written during a pandemic. Like everyone else, we had to get extra-creative, we had to be persistent, and we had to be patient. We also had to be safe. At the beginning of the project, we thought the biggest threat to our health would be bears – not a virus! On our first book, we reviewed each other's ideas face-to-face. On this project, many of our meetings were done screen-to-screen or conducted behind masks ... like a couple of book-writing gangsters.

With the writing and photography all done, our hope now is that readers will soon be able to get out and explore the places we've put in this book. Take a hike, have a meal, sample a brew, be amused, be challenged, and be entertained. We've found plenty for you to see and do in and around Whistler, the four-season wonderland.

When we wrote *111 Places in Vancouver That You Must Not Miss*, we felt it needed this Whistler version to accompany it. The two towns and their surrounding regions complement each other so well. Fortunately, our publisher agreed with us. We now feel like the picture is complete. From Vancouver to Whistler, with stops in between and beyond, these are the places that comprise our portrait of Whistler with 111 fun, quirky, beautiful, stunning, historic, hidden, tasty, and tantalizing marvels of Canada's West Coast.

For Dave, who has been visiting Whistler since he was a teenager and has a condo at Whistler's base, this has been an opportunity to share some of his favorite tales and tips – especially those relating to winter and skiing. For Graeme, a frequent visitor to Whistler since he and Dave both worked together on the 2010 Winter Olympics, writing this guidebook provided the perfect opportunity to explore further afield and discover summertime *off-piste* pursuits.

We hope you enjoy this book with friends in good health.

## 17—Britannia Shipwrecks

*Explore the mysteries of this watery graveyard*

The waters off Britannia Beach contain a large variety of marine life, including lingcod, large schools of striped perch, dungeness and decorator crabs, plumose anemones, sea cucumbers, sea stars, prawns, tube worms, barnacles, and kelp. And this shoreline is also a ship graveyard.

The decommissioned Canadian Coast Guard vessel *Ready* rests directly across the road from the Galileo Coffee Company and 30 metres (100 feet) below the surface. She was a 29-metre-long (95-foot-long), twin-screw, diesel-powered search and rescue cutter, built in North Vancouver at Burrard Dry Dock in 1963. She had four sister ships: *Racer*, *Rally*, *Rapid*, and *Relay*. After she was decommissioned, CCG *Ready* was acquired by the Maritime Heritage Society of Vancouver in hopes that they could restore the vessel and make her a part of a floating maritime museum at Britannia Beach. But on January 17, 2011, she sank under mysterious circumstances.

Resting near the CCG *Ready* is another mystery: an unnamed ship. All that is known about this one is that it has all the masts, rigging, and holds used for fishing. She is wood-hulled with a steel wheelhouse, and she was probably built in the 1950s. The *Cape Swain*, believed to have sunk in the late 1980s, is wood-hulled with steel sheathing and also appears to be a seine fishing boat. It was probably built in the 1940s or 1950s and may have started life as something other than a fishing boat, undergoing a conversion later in life.

In deeper waters, wreck divers will find the wood-hulled *La Lumière*. Built in 1944 at Wheeler Ship Building Corporation and originally named USS *ATR-64*, she served as a US Navy rescue tug during World War II. After the war, she was decommissioned from the Navy and sold for commercial service. The 50-metre-long (165-foot) tug sank under mysterious circumstances on May 9, 2008. Today, it too rests on a slope not far from shore.



**Address** Howe Sound, Britannia Beach, BC V0N 1J0, [www.britanniabeach.com/diving-in-britannia-beach](http://www.britanniabeach.com/diving-in-britannia-beach), [hello@britanniabeach.com](mailto:hello@britanniabeach.com) | **Getting there** From the Sea to Sky Highway, take the Copper Drive exit at Britannia Beach. Take the pedestrian crosswalk over the highway and walk back south or to the shoreline to see the shipwrecks' final resting places. | **Hours** Unrestricted | **Tip** One of the abandoned docks you see nearby was featured as Captain Hook's Dock in the TV series *Once Upon A Time* (season 2, episode 4).

## 26 Cloudraker Skybridge

*The highest suspension bridge in Canada*

Suspension bridges aren't for the faint of heart, and Cloudraker Skybridge, with its James Bond-worthy moniker, is no exception. It sways 600 metres (2,000 feet) above the Whistler Bowl. Its cage metal bottom lets you see right through its grates, giving you a completely mind-blowing, 360-degree experience. The bridge is made up of 101 steel modules linked together like a string of pearls, each section weighing 228 kgs (500 lbs). They connect Whistler Peak and its West Ridge on four cables, each one tensioned to over 36,000 kgs (80,000 lbs).

What on earth would possess anyone to build a suspension bridge in the extreme altitudes at the top of Whistler Mountain, a dizzying 2,240 metres (7,350 feet) above the valley floor? That's easy to answer: the view. There is no better place to admire the famous Black Tusk, an unusually shaped, imposing 2,300-metre (7,608-foot) pinnacle of volcanic rock, and the dozens of other incredible peaks that surround it, than from the spectacular Cloudraker Skybridge. Until the bridge was built in 2018, those breathtaking views were reserved for experienced skiers who could catch glimpses of them from the Peak chairlift. But know this before you go: if it is windy on the day you're crossing the bridge, it will sway.

After overcoming any feelings of acrophobia and having made it from one end of the 130-metre-long (427-foot-long) bridge to the other, you might as well challenge yourself to one more vertigo-inducing experience: the Raven's Eye Cliff Walk. This triangular, metal platform is just a few steps away from the suspension bridge you just crossed. It extends out 12.5 metres (41 feet) and hangs a whopping 50 metres (164 feet) above the ski run below. But this platform is stationary and doesn't sway, so you can take a deep breath and marvel at all the glorious sites around you, including Rainbow Mountain, Alta Lake, and the Valley below.

**Address** The top of Whistler Mountain, Whistler, BC V0N 1B4, [www.whistlerblackcomb.com](http://www.whistlerblackcomb.com) | **Getting there** Take the Creekside Gondola or the Village Gondola. | **Hours** See website for lift schedule | **Tip** If bridges get you high, take the moderate 8.7-kilometre (5.4 miles) Brandywine Trail Loop hike to the Cal-Cheak Suspension Bridge, starting at the Cal-Cheak Recreation Site ([www.sitesandtrailsbc.ca](http://www.sitesandtrailsbc.ca)).



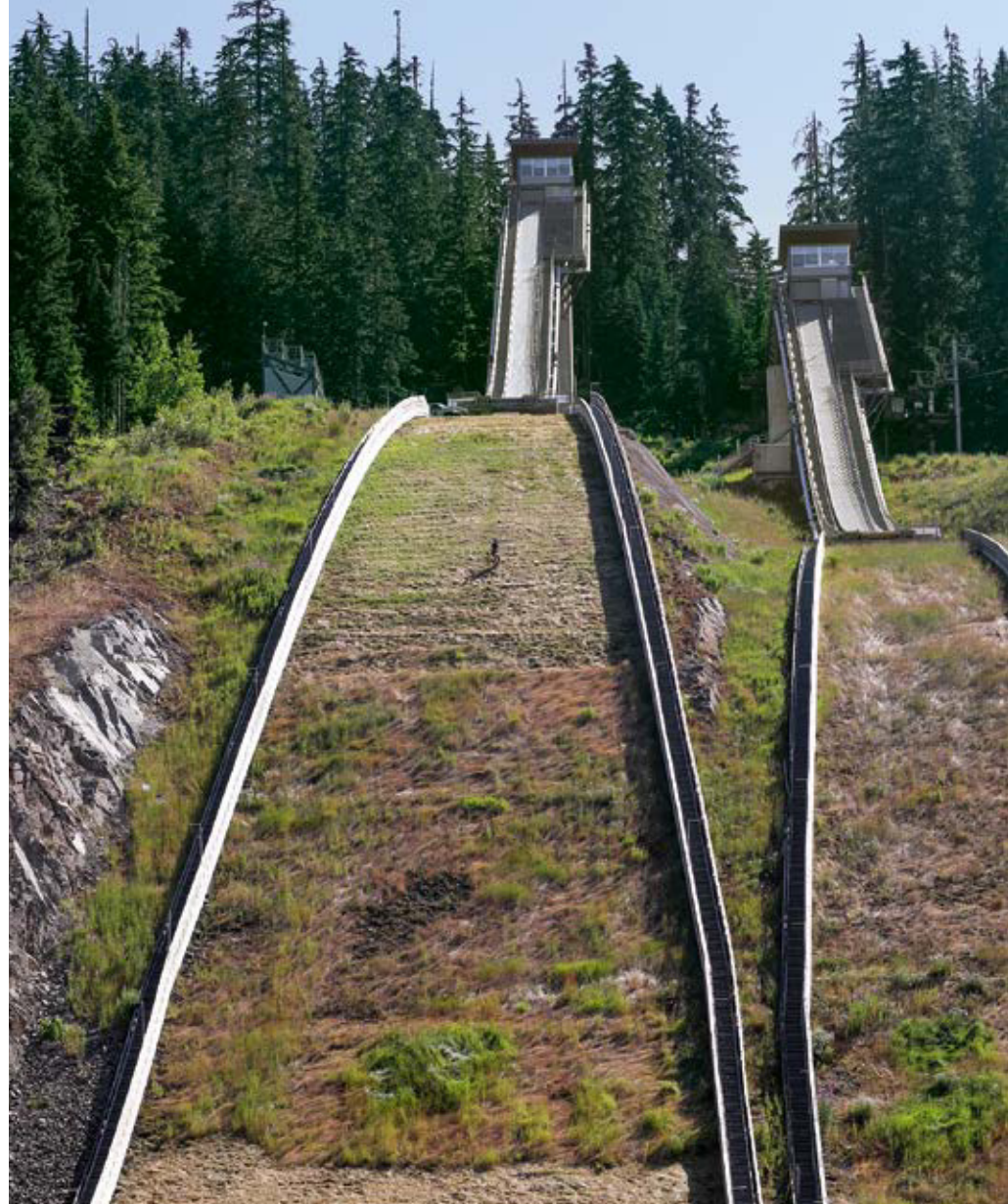
## 65—The Olympic Ski Jumps

*No women allowed*

Huge ski jumps, the kind you see every four years at the Winter Olympics, are uncommon and expensive structures. The sport used to get good television ratings but ranks low in general participation. Think about it: how many parents do you know who encourage their kids to take up ski jumping? Besides, there are very few big ski jump training facilities left in Canada. There was one in Calgary built for the 1988 Olympic Winter Games, but it has shut down, and there was one in Thunder Bay, that has closed too. But the one built in 2007 for the 2010 Olympic Winter Games is still operational.

Because these jumps are so majestic and massive to behold, and because they are becoming so rare, it's worth the trip up to the Callaghan Valley to see the 95-metre and the 125-metre jumps, even with no events or snow. If you're fortunate enough to time your visit with a competition, though, nothing beats watching the athletes, skis attached, rocketing through the air after launching themselves off one of those long ramps at speeds of up to 95 kph (60 mph).

It's an amazing sport to watch, but during the 2010 Olympic Winter Games, ski jumping got worldwide attention for all the wrong reasons. Leading up to the Games, the IOC outraged ski jumpers worldwide by excluding women. They declared the women's sport not developed enough for inclusion in the Olympic Games, while claiming men's ski-jumping was an acceptable event. In 2008, a group of women athletes sued the IOC for gender discrimination. The IOC's position was there must be at least two world championships held in a sport for it to be considered sufficiently developed to be part of the Winter Olympic Games. So there were no women launched off those ramps at the 2010 Games. However, the IOC reversed their decision and let women participate in the 2014 Winter Games held in Russia.



**Address** 5 Callaghan Valley Road, Whistler, BC V0N 1B0, +1 (604) 964-0059, [www.whistlersportlegacies.com](http://www.whistlersportlegacies.com) | **Getting there** From the Sea to Sky Highway, exit at Callaghan Valley Road and drive 10 kilometres (6.2 miles) to the ski jump. | **Hours** See website for seasonal hours | **Tip** Located on the upper level of the Day Lodge is a café open daily throughout the season for a hearty meal or a warm drink. They can accommodate most dietary needs too (5 Callaghan Valley Road, [www.whistlersportlegacies.com/whistler-olympic-park/day-lodge](http://www.whistlersportlegacies.com/whistler-olympic-park/day-lodge)).