

Essentially summer in Whistler!

This always seems such a short season but use this guide to summer fun and you'll have terrific memories for those short dark days before the ski season starts. The following are my must do summer essentials! Sharon Audley

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- 1)** Sunday farmer's market starts on Father's day every summer from 11 to 4 in the Upper Village. Crafts, produce, baking & gelato are a few of the local based offerings.
- 2)** Cheakamus Lake is an excellent choice for an early season hike or a mid summer retreat from the heat. The elevation gain is minimal and the trail is a great starter mountain bike trail as well as hike. After meandering through an old growth forest you can check out the lake from the shore. If you ski you will have viewed the lake from the alpine in winter or from High Note trail in the summer.
- 3)** Joffre Lake hike is an hour drive from Whistler but well worth the trip. At 11 km return and 400 meters elevation gain this another good choice for someone new to hiking. The walk features not one but three stunning turquoise blue lakes. The first lake appears within a few minutes and the second after a rather rugged walk with some boulder hopping. This trail is sure to turn anyone into a hiking enthusiast.
- 4)** Spend a day at Lost Lake. When I first moved to Whistler it took me several years to find it. Today there is an extensive trail network that could keep you exploring for a weekend. Bring the bikes, blankets, bathing suits and charcoal briquettes. Finish the day of play with a barbeque at the beach.
- 5)** Canoe or kayak the River of Golden Dreams on a steaming summer day. Rentals are available at Wayside Park and set out across Alta Lake to enter the river and wind your way out to Green Lake.
- 6)** Crankworx runs August 7 to 15th and brings the same festive vibe to the Village as did the Olympics. Free concerts, Deep summer photo challenge along with incredible athlete's competing at a variety of events.
- 7)** Pemberton Slow Food Cycle on August 15 this summer. A flat but scenic ride through Pemberton Meadows farmland in which you can go as far as you want depending on your group's ability. Helmer's farm is a must see.
- 8)** Nothing says summer like a Barbeque at the Roundhouse. Go up in the afternoon and enjoy one of the great hikes in the alpine. They range in length from 20 minutes to many hours. There will be a hike that meets the age and ability requirements of all groups. After the hike enjoy the buffet dinner with spectacular views around the valley. This event sells out regularly so buy your tickets in advance. If you can only do one thing in Whistler this is it!
- 9)** Celebrate pain in the month of September. The Cheakamus Challenge is a point to point cross country race over 70 km. On the weekend of the 25 & 26th the Whistler Spirit Run in the Olympic park offers runs for all ages from 2 km to 10 km. On the 26th the Rubble Creek run takes place in Garibaldi Park. One of the most spectacular trail runs you will find. Participants climb the Helm Creek trail, cross the Cinder Flats and descend through Taylor Meadows out to Rubble creek. How many runs take place with racers holding cameras in their hands? Over 3000 feet of climbing and a 4000 foot descent over 25 km.
- 10)** Close summer out while picking up some new gear at the Turkey sale on the Canadian Thanksgiving. This sale has expanded to cover all the shops in town. Some of the best buys are found wandering through the Village. Rental bikes being sold off along with bike gear as well as an excellent assortment of ski and snowboard gear and clothing. The weekend is also the perfect start to the coming winter.