



Postcard

WHISTLER OLYMPIC PARK

Some Olympic venues lose their shine after the torch flickers out, but **Whistler Olympic Park**—home to ski jumping, cross-country skiing, and biathlon events at the 2010 Winter Games—keeps the spirit alive amid the soaring, snowcapped peaks 75 miles north of Vancouver, B.C.

Today, any visitor can strap on cross-country skis and follow in the tracks of Petra Majdič, the Slovenian skier who gutted out a bronze medal despite breaking four ribs in training. Those who want to chase Olympic velocity can try baseboarding: a lie-down, face-first, hang-on-tight sled ride that can reach speeds of 40 mph. If you'd prefer to admire the cedars, firs, and valley views at a more relaxed pace, you can snowshoe across the soft powder or ride a toboggan on a mellow hill just down the slope from the Olympic ski jumps, where elite leapers still take flight in occasional competitions.

Although the cheering throngs have departed and the medals have already been handed out, snow lovers of all stripes can still win the day. —CHRIS WOOLSTON

Planning a trip? AAA Travel can help you chart a course for your next getaway. Visit AAA.com/travel or call (800) 529-3222.

Driving across borders

“Take time to adjust when driving abroad.”

—DOREEN LOOFBURROW,
AAA TRAVEL

GET THE RIGHT INSURANCE “Your car insurance does not always follow you into the country you’re visiting,” notes Loofburrow. If you’re driving in Canada, for example, you’ll want to verify that your domestic insurance is valid in our northern neighbor’s territory. If it is, you’ll need to carry a proof-of-insurance card. Check with your AAA travel or insurance professional to make sure you have all the necessary paperwork.

TAKE IT SLOW Crossing a border means entering another culture in multiple senses. “Be mentally prepared,” Loofburrow advises. “Driving abroad is not like driving in the United States. I once had a client spend 30 minutes trying to get out of a Paris roundabout.” Her advice is to ease into your trip and not pack too much into day one: “Give yourself time to get used to things,” she says.

KNOW THE SIGNS Since each country has different rules, Loofburrow recommends studying up on traffic signs and local laws online before hitting the road. She also advises getting an international driver’s permit, which is required in many countries and available through AAA. —LAURIE ISOLA

