

DESTINATIONS

CANADA | SKIING



CANADIAN SKI RESORTS

Canada is famed for its slopes, but where do you start?

Laura French looks at the options



WHISTLER

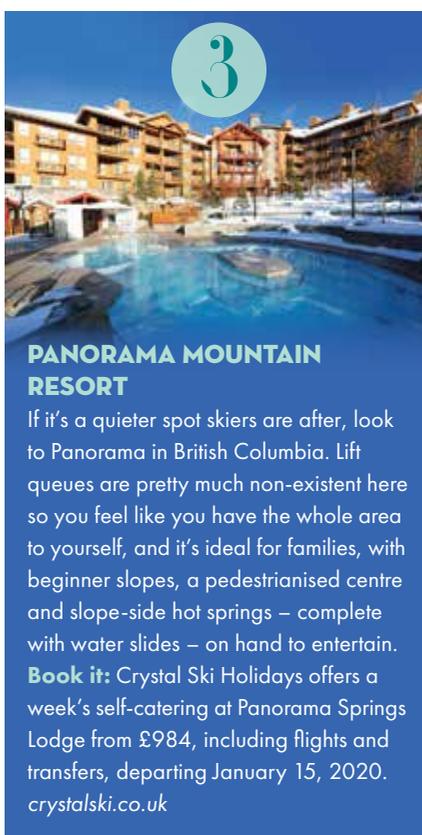
When it comes to sheer scale and unparalleled variety, nothing beats Whistler. It's the biggest ski area in North America and has slopes to suit every level, with more than 200 trails between the peaks of Whistler and the Blackcomb Mountains (linked by the Peak2Peak gondola). Greens and blues offer plenty for beginners, while challenging blacks, super-steep bowls and powdery off-piste tours make it a hotspot for the more advanced. It's also just a two-hour drive from Vancouver airport.

Book it: Canadian Affair offers 10 nights from £1,279, including flights, hotel accommodation and return transfers, in February 2020. canadianaffair.com

MONT-TREMBLANT

For clients after a shorter break, look to the east coast – specifically Mont-Tremblant, a short transfer from Montreal. Reliable snow, varied terrain, long peaceful runs and a car-free village filled with brightly coloured Quebec architecture make this an excellent alternative to European resorts. A decent beginners' area makes it a good choice for novices as well as those at a higher level, and the accommodation offers good value for money too.

Book it: Premier Holidays offers seven nights at Les Suites Ermitage Du Lac from £1,149, including return transfers and flights, on January 14, 2020. trade.premierholidays.co.uk



PANORAMA MOUNTAIN RESORT

If it's a quieter spot skiers are after, look to Panorama in British Columbia. Lift queues are pretty much non-existent here so you feel like you have the whole area to yourself, and it's ideal for families, with beginner slopes, a pedestrianised centre and slope-side hot springs – complete with water slides – on hand to entertain.

Book it: Crystal Ski Holidays offers a week's self-catering at Panorama Springs Lodge from £984, including flights and transfers, departing January 15, 2020. crystalski.co.uk

BANFF NATIONAL PARK

With their jagged, snow-dusted peaks plunging into crystal-clear lakes, the Rockies need little introduction. You'll find some of the world's most scenic skiing in Banff National Park, with a huge network of runs across the resorts of Lake Louise, Mount Norquay and Sunshine Village – all connected with a SkiBig3 pass. Snow conditions are excellent, there's plenty of wildlife, and you can take snowmobile trips into the wilderness.

Book it: Inghams offers a week's room-only at the Fairmont Chateau Lake Louise from £1,157 per person, based on four adults sharing, with airport transfers and flights on December 3. ingham.co.uk



SUN PEAKS

The second-biggest ski area in Canada, Sun Peaks combines family-friendly facilities with warmer climes than your average ski resort – it gets 2,000 hours of sunshine a year. There's also plenty of ski-in ski-out accommodation and every type of terrain – from long runs to glade skiing in the woods – and it's all set around a village designed in traditional Alpine style.

Book it: Powder White offers 14 nights at the Coast Sundance Lodge from £1,155, based on four sharing, including transfers and lift passes but not flights. powderwhite.com



PICTURES: Canadian Affair/Mike Crane; Shutterstock