

ROAD CYCLING ROUTES IN THE SEA TO SKY

Communities in the Sea to Sky corridor are thrilled to host road cycling events and welcome cyclists for their training rides and enjoyment of area routes. There are a variety of rides to choose from, with a range of difficulty and lengths for all levels of riders. To get helpful directions plus repairs, parts and accessories, visit one of the many fine bike shops in Squamish, Whistler and Pemberton.

WEST VANCOUVER TO SQUAMISH

Spectacular views of Howe Sound riding north along Hwy 99 to Squamish will help to distract from the big climbs; starting and finishing at sea level. 45 km in length with a total ascent of 639 metres and maximum elevation of 247 metres. Start = Horseshoe Bay at Hwy 99. Finish = Squamish Downtown.

PARADISE AND SQUAMISH VALLEY

North of Brackendale across the Cheakamus River, the Paradise and Squamish Valleys await. These flat two-lane roads wind through dense forests with views of towering mountain peaks. Take Government Rd. from Squamish Downtown for a quieter ride. Paradise Valley Rd route is 24 km in length with 99 metres in accumulated elevation. Start = Squamish Downtown. Finish = end of Paradise Valley Rd. Squamish Valley Rd. (32 km from Downtown) is predominantly quiet with some industry traffic, and forks left at the Cheakamus River Bridge. Paradise Valley Rd. forks right.

GRANFONDO WHISTLER

Starting in downtown Vancouver, this 122-km route travels north along the area's stunning Sea to Sky highway. Enjoy beautiful views of Howe Sound and the Coast Mountain Range as you ride to Whistler on one of the world's most scenic highways. With the start and mid-points at sea level, most of the 1700 metres of total elevation gain are experienced after Squamish. Start = Downtown Vancouver. Finish = Whistler Village

WHISTLER OLYMPIC PARK

A beautiful ride with excellent views of the Callaghan Valley, site of the Ski Jump and Nordic events for the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games. 27 km in length with 520 meters of accumulated elevation. Start = Village Gate Blvd. at Hwy 99. Finish = Biathlon Stadium.

TOUR DE WHISTLER

A local's favourite with some excellent hill climbing. This ride does a loop of the valley, taking in nine climbs of significance. From the Village head north and ride through Alpine Meadows to Alta Lake Rd. Ride south past Rainbow Park and to the top of Stonebridge. Continue south on Alta Lake Rd, crossing Hwy 99 to climb through Bayshores to Kadenwood. The ride heads back north to the Village, taking in the climbs of Bear Ridge, Taluswood, Panorama Ridge, Base 2, and up Painted Cliff Rd. 52-km loop with 1300 meters of accumulated elevation gain. Start and Finish = Village Gate Blvd. at Hwy 99.

WHISTLER TO SQUAMISH

Although this section of Hwy 99 sees heavy traffic, recent upgrades have created a wide shoulder on which to ride. Even though the route is mostly downhill, be aware of the strong wind that often blows up the valley – it can make the final descent into Squamish harder than it seems! 58 km in length with 600 meters of accumulated elevation gain and 1300 meters of accumulated elevation loss. Start = Village Gate Blvd., Whistler. Finish = Downtown Squamish.



Credit: Christian Boone

WHISTLER TO PEMBERTON

A long-time locals' favourite, this ride is mostly downhill to Pemberton so be sure to save some energy for the ride back to Whistler. Some shoulders are narrow and turns are tight through the mountain pass. 32 km in length with 245 meters of accumulated elevation gain and 645 meters of accumulated elevation loss. Start = Village Gate Blvd. at Hwy 99. Finish = Pemberton Petro Canada.

IRONMAN CANADA ROUTE

From Whistler's Rainbow Park, ride north on Alta Lake Rd to Hwy 99, turn south on Hwy 99 before climbing up to Whistler Olympic Park, site of the Nordic skiing events during the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games. After descending back to the highway, pass through Whistler heading north to Pemberton. An out-and-back section on Pemberton Meadows Road allows breathtaking views of glaciated peaks, while riding on a completely flat section of road. Return to Whistler via Hwy 99. 180 km in length with 2632 meters of accumulated elevation gain and 2624 meters of accumulated elevation loss. Start = Alta Lake Rd. Finish = Whistler Village at Lorimer Rd.

PEMBERTON MEADOWS

An easy 50-km loop can be made by riding up to the end of Pemberton Meadows and back. This ride is mostly flat and takes you past the picturesque farms of Pemberton's thriving agricultural community. The views of Mount Currie on the return leg are stunning. The road is paved but there are no shoulders, so stay alert, keep to the right and please be respectful of farm vehicles moving along this road. 25 km in length with 129 meters of accumulated elevation gain. Start = Pemberton Petro Canada. Finish = Bridge over Lillooet River on approach to Hurley Road.

DUFFEY LAKE ROAD

The mother of all climbs! Enjoy spectacular mountain views in every direction as the road winds its way up from Lillooet Lake to Joffre Lakes Provincial Park – a 1000-metre climb over 13 km. 30 km in length with 1118 meters of accumulated elevation gain. Start = Pemberton Petro Canada. Finish = Joffre Lakes parking lot. Depending on your fitness level, start in either Whistler or Pemberton or continue all the way to Lillooet.

PEMBERTON TO D'ARCY

A scenic route with lots of ups and downs. Ride on Highway 99 to Mt. Currie then cross the railway tracks and head north on Portage Road. Reach the high point at Birken on Gates Lake (30 km) where riders can turn around, or carry on to D'Arcy on Anderson Lake (46 km). As always, stay right and be respectful of local traffic. Start = Pemberton Petro Canada. Finish = D'Arcy.

ROAD CYCLING IN THE SEA TO SKY

Routes and Safety Tips



KNOW THE RULES AND SHARE THE ROAD

There's room for all of us

Credit: Tourism Whistler, Mike Crane



Welcome to the roads of the Sea to Sky.

There are plenty of scenic routes to choose from in British Columbia's Sea to Sky region – Squamish, Whistler, Pemberton and the surrounding areas. The communities of the corridor want to ensure the best experience for everyone on the roads whether on a bike or in a vehicle.

While it's easy to get distracted with the beautiful scenery and views along the Sea to Sky Highway (Hwy 99), remember that road cyclists and drivers must share the road, obey all traffic signs, and follow the rules of the road. Additional care is required where highways are two-lane and the shoulder is narrow. Cyclists will need to ride more cautiously around drains, cracks, train tracks, and potholes on all roadways.

RULES OF THE ROAD

- Share the road and show respect.
- Cyclists have the same rights and duties as drivers of motor vehicles.
- Cyclists must ride as near as possible to the right side of the highway but that does not mean hugging the curb or edge of the road.
- Cyclists are permitted to ride to the left of the white line.
- Cyclists are not required to ride on any part of the highway that is not paved.

BC's *Motor Vehicle Act* assigns cyclists the same rights and responsibilities as drivers. Here are some tips for sharing the road – know your responsibilities and understand the rules so that everyone enjoys the highway and routes safely in the Sea to Sky.



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CYCLIST TIPS FOR SHARING THE ROAD

To minimize the risk of collisions or injuries, here are some tips for sharing the road so that everyone stays safe.

RIDE SINGLE FILE

Do not ride abreast of another cyclist on the roadway.

FOLLOW TRAFFIC DIRECTION

Ride in the same direction as vehicle traffic.

BE PREDICTABLE

Do not weave in and out of lanes.
Pass with care.

BE VISIBLE

Wear a helmet and use lights at night
(both required by law in B.C.).

HAND SIGNALS

Use hand signals when turning or changing lanes.

USE SHOULDER AREA

When stopped, move onto the shoulder and out of traffic.

REPORT A MAINTENANCE PROBLEM

For the Sea to Sky (Hwy 99) from Horseshoe Bay to Function Junction, Miller Capilano Corporation 1-866-918-1010. Function Junction north to Pemberton, Mainroad Howe Sound Contracting LP 1-866-904-0209.



DRIVER TIPS FOR SHARING THE ROAD

PASS CAREFULLY

When passing a cyclist, do so as if you were passing another car and allow at least one metre between your vehicle and a cyclist. At speeds above 60 km/h, allow even more room.

TURN CAUTIOUSLY

Cyclists may be moving faster than you think. Leave them plenty of room when turning onto or off a road.

MAKE SAFETY YOUR PRIORITY

That cyclist you see might be your friend, neighbour, co-worker, child, spouse, mother, grandchild, grandmother...

Municipalities in the Sea to Sky corridor are actively working with the BC Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure to improve maintenance, signage and infrastructure along Highway 99 as well as secondary roads in the Callaghan, Squamish/Paradise Valley, and Pemberton. The Sea to Sky Road Cycling Collaborative*, a group of representatives from across municipalities, is working together to build the Sea to Sky corridor's reputation as a premiere destination for road cycling, which offers routes and amenities for all levels of riders.

*The Sea To Sky Road Cycling Collaborative includes: the Resort Municipality of Whistler, Whistler Sport Legacies, the District of Squamish, the Squamish-Lillooet Regional District, the Village of Pemberton, the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure, IRONMAN Canada, GranFondo Canada, Tourism Whistler, Tourism Squamish, Tourism Pemberton, and the Squamish and Whistler Triathlon and cycling clubs.

RESOURCES

BC Cycling Coalition bccc.bc.ca
 Bike Sense BC bikesense.bc.ca
 MOTI Bike BC th.gov.bc.ca/BikeBC
 ICBC Road Safety icbc.com/road-safety

VISITOR INFORMATION

tourismsquamish.com
whistler.com
tourismpembertonbc.com