

# Garibaldi Provincial Park

## 2010 Olympic Venue

Garibaldi Provincial Park, located in the traditional territory of the Squamish people, forms much of the backdrop to Whistler/Blackcomb, site of the downhill events of the 2010 Winter Games.

Sitting in the heart of the Coast Mountains, the park takes its name from the towering 2,678 metre peak, Mount Garibaldi. Garibaldi Park is known for its pristine beauty and spectacular natural features.

Just 70 km north of Vancouver, the park offers over 90 km of established hiking trails, and is a favourite year-round destination for outdoor enthusiasts.

### Interesting Garibaldi Park Facts

- The southern portion of Garibaldi Park is home to the Garibaldi Volcano, part of the Garibaldi Volcanic Belt and made up of Mount Garibaldi, Atwell Peak, and Dalton Dome. This stratovolcano, so named because of its conelike layers of hardened lava, rock and volcanic ash, last erupted 10,000 to 13,000 years ago under glacial ice. It is this event that is responsible for forming some of the fascinating geological features in the park, such as Opal Cone, the Table and Black Tusk.
- The "Barrier" is a natural rock formation created by the volcanic explosion of Mount Price thousands of years ago; the lava created a natural dam for the melt streams from nearby glaciers. As a result Garibaldi Lake formed. The lake reaches depths of up to 300 metres in places and is rich in silt (or 'rock flour'), which gives the lake its characteristic milky blue colour.



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### History

In 1860, while surveying Howe Sound on board the Royal Navy ship H.M.S. Plumper, Captain George Henry was impressed by a towering mountain dominating the view to the northeast. Captain Richards chose to name the 2,678 metre mountain Mount Garibaldi, after the great 19th century Italian patriot and soldier, Giuseppe Garibaldi, a guerrilla general whose exploits and valour were held in high esteem.

In 1907, a party of six Vancouver climbers reached the summit of Mount Garibaldi. The views from the peak inspired summer climbing camps at Garibaldi Lake, leading to the creation of a park reserve in 1920 and full park designation in 1927.

### Wildlife

There are 27 species of mammals, nine species of fish, including three salmon species, and nearly 100 species of birds. The most common mammals observed by visitors are the Douglas squirrel, hoary marmot, pika and mountain goat. Large mammals inhabiting the park year-round include cougar, coyote, bobcat, Columbian Blacktail Deer, wolverine, black bear and the occasional grizzly bear.

### Size and Location

The park is 194,650 hectares and has five key access points, all along Highway 99, the Sea to Sky Highway, south to north.

### More Information

<http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/bcparks/explore/parkpgs/garibaldi/>

For more help or to request pictures  
[parkinfo@Victoria1.gov.bc.ca](mailto:parkinfo@Victoria1.gov.bc.ca)

