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Have you ever wanted to just *get away from it all*? Well, Whistler is one of the best places to do just that. If you have the money, travelling to, and spending time in Whistler can be one of the most relaxing vacations if you want to leave the stress of everyday life, yet stay close to home.

While you can drive in your own car to Whistler, a truly relaxing mode of transportation is taking the historic steam train the Royal Hudson to take you up. Instead of speeding along the Sea to Sky highway, you can lean back in your seat and take in the natural beauty that has made British Columbia 'supernatural.' If you choose to pay for the Parlour Class, you can brunch in the train on your way to Squamish. From there, you can take a motorcoach to Whistler, stopping off to take a walking tour of the beautiful Shannon Falls.

The Royal Hudson was given its designation by King George and Queen Elizabeth on their visit to Canada in 1939. The Royal Hudsons are the only steam engines still in mainstream service in North America.

Once arriving, you check yourself in to any one of the high class hotels in Whistler. If you plan on skiing, check in to any of the many hotels located slope-side, such as the Delta Whistler Resort on Whistler, or the Chateau Whistler on Blackcomb. Or if you plan to stay for several days, you can rent out one of the many condos around the slopes and ski to your heart's content. If you need to rent skis or buy lift tickets, you can do so online and save yourself some money, up to 20% if you book a couple days in advance.

Once on the slopes, there's nothing to do except ski, ski, ski! The entire experience is catered to the skier, having various services situated in key areas on both Whistler and Blackcomb mountains, and courteous staff at every lift. They even have kleenex available just before you sit on the lift in its 'sniffle station.' You can go all the way up the mountain and find a ski trail for any ski level. On a clear day, the view is absolutely spectacular with the snow covered trees, and the quaint look of the village below.

After a day of skiing, you can go to any of the villages and have a gourmet dinner, or just a drink at one of the many bars and pubs in both Whistler Villages before you head off to bed in your 5-star hotel, or comfortable condo.

The vacation ends with a motorcoach trip back down to Squamish where you can either take the train back down to North Vancouver, or you can take the MV Britannia and sail back to downtown Vancouver.

This vacation is nothing short of extravagant, but clearly memorable in every possible way. If a getaway is what you're after, the 'Royal' treatment to, at, and from Whistler is the way to go.