




Get in the Games

Don't let the athletes have all the fun: Experience an Olympic sport, up close and personal. By Liz Yokubison

Olympic fever is here. Wish you could soar off a ski jump or hit 50 mph on an icy luge track? The Whistler Sliding Centre won't offer bobsled rides to the public until 2011, but you can go for the gold at these five former Olympic venues right now.



RESORT	LILLEHAMMER, NORWAY	LAKE PLACID, NEW YORK	CALGARY, ALBERTA	PARK CITY, UTAH	TORINO, ITALY
OLYMPIC YEAR	1994	1980	1988	2002	2006
WHERE	Lillehammer Olympiapark	Olympic Sports Complex	Canada Olympic Park	Utah Olympic Park	Torino Olympic Park
SPORT	Skeleton	Biathlon	Luge	Nordic jumping	Bobsled
THE THRILL	Career facedown on a skeleton sled around 13 curves at speeds of 50 mph along the 3,600-foot track. Padding, helmet and instruction included.	Test your skills under adrenaline and pressure; skate ski to the shooting range and fire a .22-caliber rifle on the same course, using the same type of gun and bullets as the Olympians.	Slide solo—on your back, feet first—down the Olympic luge track on a sled you steer with your feet. You'll hit speeds up to 30 mph on the five-turn run. Instruction provided.	Take flight like an Olympian with the Visa Learn to Fly program. Start small with a leap off the five-meter (16-foot) jump and progress to the 10-, 20- and even 40-meter jumps (if you have what it takes). Instruction is provided by coaches from the National Sports Foundation.	Experience speeds of 80 mph and three Gs of force under the care of a professional driver. The bobsled carries three passengers 4,700 feet down the full length of the Olympic track.
COST	 \$136 for two runs	\$33; includes an hourlong skate-ski lesson and an hour-long shooting practice	 \$20 per run	\$40 for a two-hour session	 \$106
FINE PRINT	Must be 16 or older	Must be 12 or older; cost does not include trail pass (\$18; \$16 for kids 12–18)	Must be 12 or older and over four feet tall	Must be 5 or older and an intermediate skier	Must be 16 or older and at least four-foot-11
BONUS	"Bobrafting," an option for kids 10 and up, is a rubber bobsled that slides down the track with a professional driver, reaching speeds of 50 mph.	Whiteface Mountain, a former Olympic venue, is next door. Ski the downhill (Cloudspin to Broadway to Lower Valley) and GS (Thruway to Lower Valley).	Snowboard in the Source Terrain Park, with 30 jib features and an exact replica of the superpipe used in the 2010 Winter Games.	Free admission to the Alf Engen Ski Museum, which chronicles Utah's skiing legacy, and the 2002 Eccles Olympic Museum, where visitors can hold an Olympic torch.	Younger daredevils (and older ones, too) can slide down the landing ramp of the Olympic Ski Jumping stadium on inner tubes (\$14; \$10 kids under 14)
ALSO ON SITE	Bobsled	Skeleton and half-mile bobsled	Bobsled	Bobsled, skeleton and luge	Olympic halfpipe
INFO	olympiaparken.no	whiteface.com	winsportcanada.ca	olymparks.com	torinolympicpark.org