

Winter Olympics grace Vancouver's peaks

From Feb. 12 through Feb. 28, 2010, an estimated 5,500 athletes and officials from more than 80 countries will participate in the 21st Winter Olympic Games in Vancouver. It is also

estimated that the games will be broadcast to about 3 billion people worldwide. The Opening and Closing Ceremonies will take place in front of an audience of about 55,000 people.

Surrounded by mountain wilderness and nearby ocean the city is strongly committed to environmental sustainability in all the projects needed to service the games.

Olympic venues in Vancouver

The city of Vancouver was founded in 1886 and the combined greater Vancouver area is now home to about 2.2 million people. It's the main western transportation hub in Canada, and is one of the country's largest industrial centers. Terrain elevations for the games will range from sea level in Richmond to 3,068 feet in Whistler.

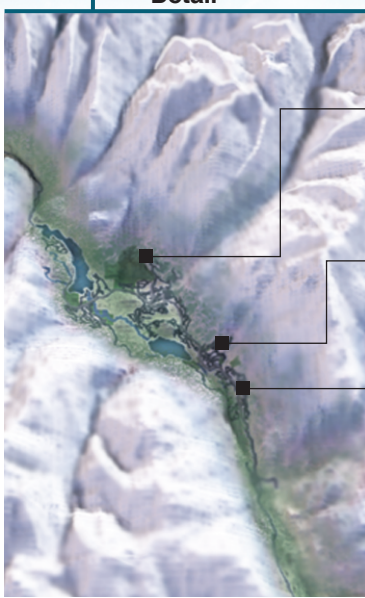
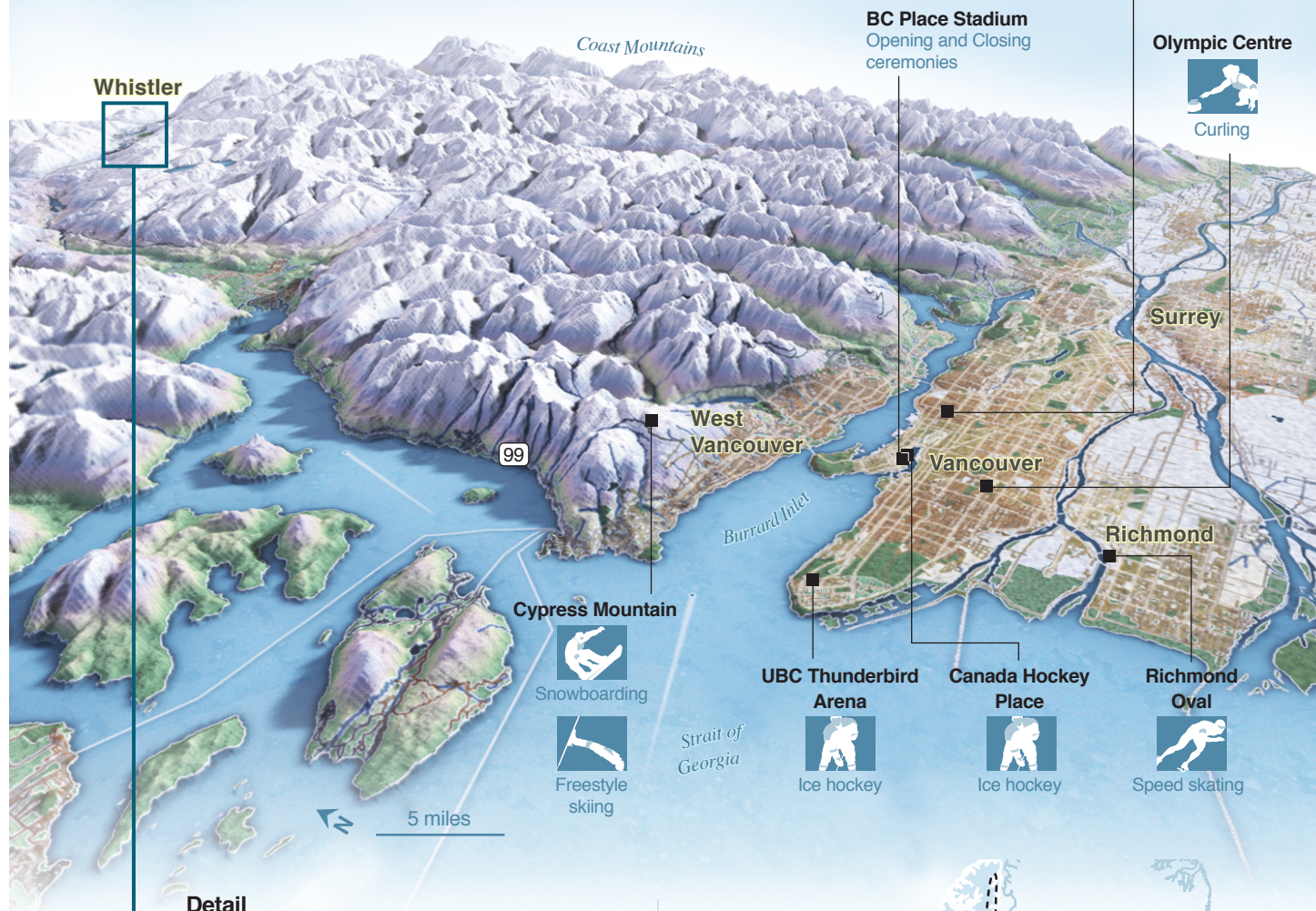
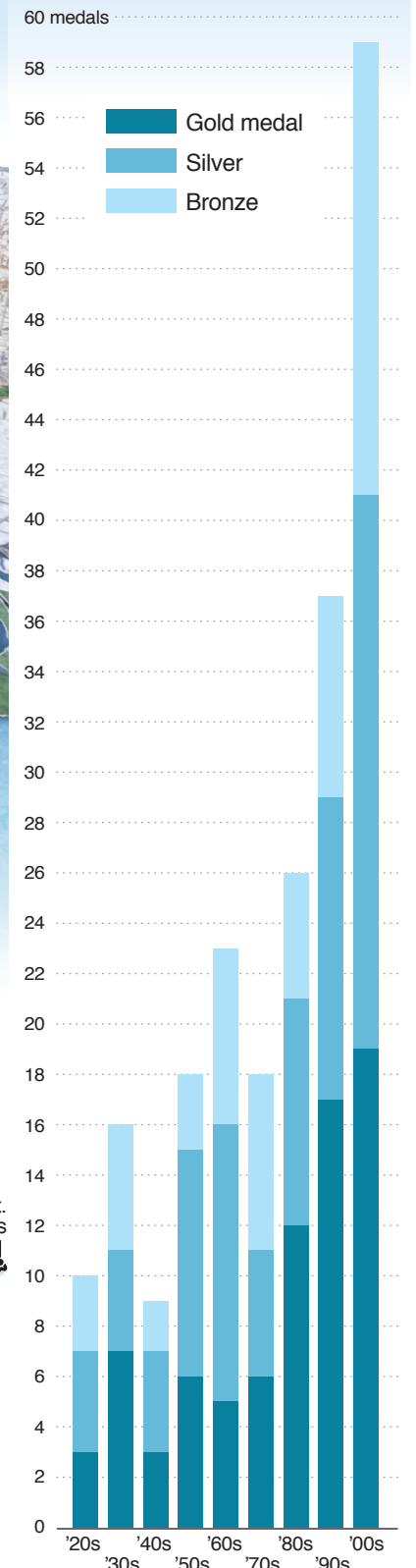
Pacific Coliseum



Figure skating Short track speed skating

U.S. medal count on the rise

The United States has won 216 Winter Olympic medals since 1924, and 59 of them in the past decade.



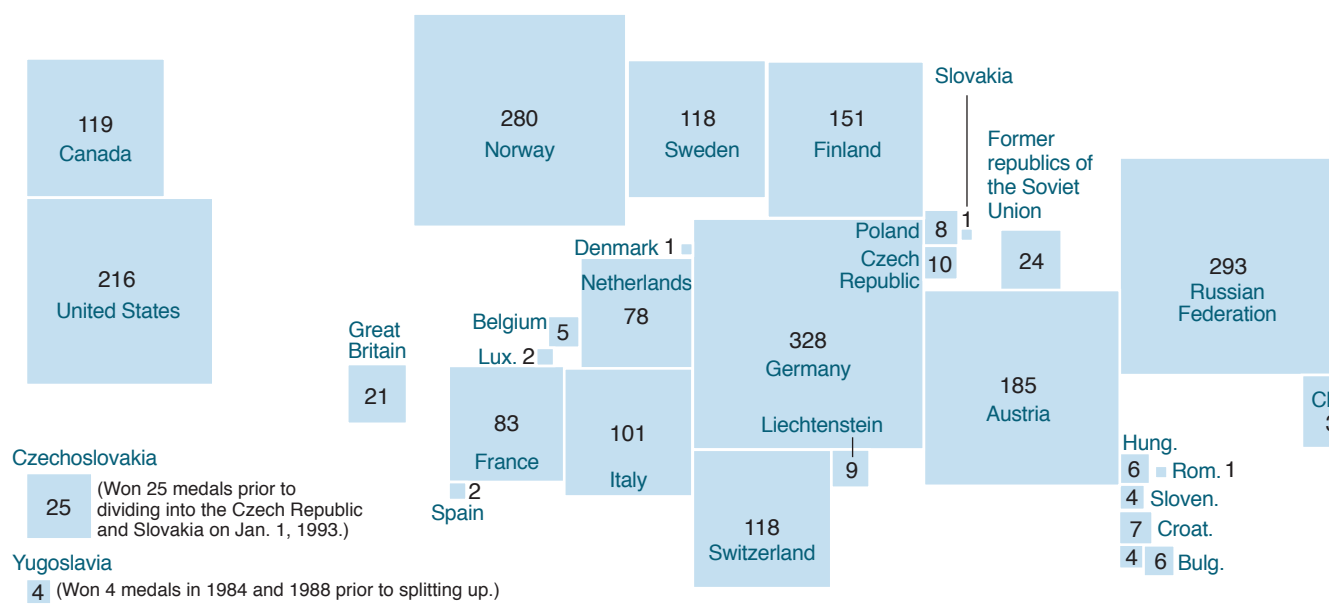
Torch relay route

Oct. 30, 2009 - Feb. 12, 2010

Land — Air — Ferry



The relay begins in Victoria, British Columbia, and finishes in Vancouver after nearly 28,000 miles across Canada.



Medal winning countries 1924-2006

Since the first Winter Games, Germany has 17 percent more medals than the second-most winningest country, Norway. This was accomplished even though Germany was not invited to compete in the 1924 and 1948 games.

Note: 2009 country names apply; former Soviet Union republics have been grouped into one corresponding square.

■ 1 New Zealand

SOURCES: International Olympic Committee; The Vancouver Organizing Committee; USGS

Philip Holm • AP



<AP> OLY 2010 VENUE PREVIEW 012510: Graphic shows a 3D elevation map of Vancouver with the surrounding venue sites and events at each venue; U.S. medal count by decade and an abstract map of participating countries with total medals won since 1924; 5c x 14 1/4 inches; 245.5 mm x 370 mm; with any related Olympics stories; PH; SVD; CK; ETA 12:30 p.m. <AP>

It is mandatory to include all sources that accompany this graphic when repurposing or editing it for publication.



Retransmission of a graphic originally posted Dec. 28.