

Drive Canada

DRIVING GUIDE



...driving since 1988

Welcome

THE SELF-DRIVE SPECIALISTS

Welcome!

Thank you for downloading our Canada self-drive guide. As you're likely to be in the planning stage for your next holiday, with the help of our Tourism Partners, we've put together a selection of driving itineraries, along with suggested key attractions to visit along the way.

Here at DriveAway Holidays, we believe that there's no better way to experience freedom than by taking a self-drive holiday. As the leading specialist in Australia offering worldwide car hire and motorhome rentals, find the best deals from world-leading suppliers with the expertise and knowledge of our team; and take the road to freedom on your next self-drive holiday!

Drive Safely,

The DriveAway Holidays Team

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CANADIAN DISCOVERY



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Why Self-Drive

IN CANADA



In a country as large and diverse as Canada, the best way to see all the top sites is by car. Canada has a fantastic road and highway network that will allow you to enjoy all the interesting sites and attractions. This guide is aimed at the independent traveller who enjoys the comfort of travelling in their own vehicle. We have included information you'll need for a self-drive holiday in Canada, from hiring a car, road rules and some great ideas for touring the different regions of this enormous and wonderful country.



Renting A Car

IN CANADA



When selecting a rental vehicle, take into consideration where you will be travelling, how many people will be travelling in the vehicle, luggage size and the kind of driving you intend to do. DriveAway Holidays offers a vast range of vehicles from small economy sizes to larger full-sized cars, 4WDs, convertibles and luxury vehicles. The ACRISS system below will help you find a car that suits your needs. This is an internationally recognised code which will ensure you get the same standard of vehicle wherever you rent.

Collecting at an Airport in Canada

At most airports you will find your rental company has a desk in the arrivals hall, with the rental cars being located within walking distance. However, at smaller airports you may be required to collect your vehicle from a downtown depot. A courtesy transfer will be provided from the airport to the depot in this instance. Driveaway Holidays offer all-inclusive prices which generally include any location / airport fees and charges that may otherwise apply. Remember to check at time of booking to ensure your rental will include all airport fees.

ACRISS Car Rental Identification Codes

Class	Fuel Capacity	Type	Transmission	Fuel / Air Cond.
M = Mini	0.8 - 1.0	B = 2 Door	M = Manual	R = Yes
E = Economy	1.0 - 1.4	D = 4 Door	A = Automatic	N = No
C = Compact	1.2 - 1.6	C = 2/4 Door	N = Manual 4WD	D = Diesel Air
F = Full Size	2.0 - 3.2	L = Limousine	C = Manual 4WD	Q = Diesel No Air
P = Premium	2.0 - 4.2	S = Sports Car	B = Auto 4WD	H = Hybrid Air
L = Luxury	2.0 - 4.2	T = Convertible	D = Auto AWD	I = Hybrid No Air
X = Special	1.2 - 3.0	J = All Terrain	Examples: ECMN: E = Economy C = 2 or 4 door M = Manual N = No Aircon FDAR: F = Full Size D = 4 Door A = Automatic R = Aircon	E = Electric Air
		R = Recreational		C = Electric No air
		F = 4 Wheel Drive		
		X = Special		
		K = Commercial Van / Truck		
		P = Ute		
		X = Special		
		E = Executive		

Renting A Car

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



Do I need a credit card?

Yes. A credit card will be needed when collecting, which will be used for a security bond. The deposit is generally the insurance excess of the rental car which depends on the category of vehicle you have booked and the rate type.

Can I choose between Automatic and Manual Transmissions?

Most rental companies only hire automatic cars, so you will have a huge selection of automatics to choose from at the time of booking.

Can I collect my rental car in one Canadian city and drop it off in another Canadian city?

Yes, this is certainly possible, however in most cases there will be a one-way fee payable when you collect your rental. Check with your car rental supplier before you travel to find out any additional costs.

I'd like to visit USA on my holiday then return back to Canada. Is this possible?

In most cases, yes. There may be some restrictions travelling to Alaska and often this depends on the discretion of the collection depot. Make sure that you advise your car rental company before you travel as additional insurance may be required, depending on the pick up depot and the supplier.

Can I collect my rental car in Canada and drop it off in the USA?

Yes, this is possible but restrictions may apply. For example most suppliers only allow international one ways from Canada to northern US states such as Seattle, Detroit, New York and Boston. There will be a one-way drop off fee payable at the time of collection and there will usually be a minimum number of rental days (normally min of 2 days).

Can I drive in snow or icy conditions in Canada?

Most car rental vehicles in Canada come equipped with all-weather tyres, so driving in the snow is permitted. In certain provinces, snow tyres are mandatory so check with DriveAway Holidays as to whether you require any further equipment for driving in the winter months. Remember that conditions in winter can be extreme, so use your common sense and drive with caution on icy roads.

Can I travel into Alaska with the rental vehicle?

Most suppliers will permit travel into Alaska but restrictions will sometimes apply. Drivers must stay on paved roads or the insurance will become void. Check with your rental supplier before travelling into Alaska.

Insurance

EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW...

Canadian law requires all vehicles to have compulsory third party (CTP) injury insurance, although your car rental supplier should already have comprehensive insurance covering their cars. In the case of an accident it must be reported to the insurance provider immediately and an excess will be due.

Car Rental Companies in Canada will normally include:

- > **Third Party Insurance:** Compulsory insurance and will be included in your car hire price. This covers you for third party injuries and vehicle damage.
- > **Collision Damage Waiver (CDW):** This limits your financial liability for damage to the rented vehicle and is normally included in prepaid car hire prices. Rentals are normally subject to liability excess, which can be reduced at the time you collect your rental car or by taking out **DriveAway Hire Car Excess Refund Protection**.
- > **Theft and Loss Cover:** This limits your financial liability for the loss or theft of the rented vehicle and is generally included in the prepaid car rental price.
- > **Fire and Liability:** Limits your financial liability for bodily injury or death, and is normally included in the prepaid car hire price.
- > **Personal Accident Insurance:** This covers the driver for personal injuries and is generally not included in your car rental rate. It is considered an optional extra that you can take out upon collection of the car.

DriveAway Hire Car Excess Refund Protection

When renting a vehicle, the rental rates include basic insurance, however, in the event that the vehicle is stolen or accidentally damaged, there is usually an excess amount which the driver is liable to pay to the rental company. To avoid any unexpected costs opt for DriveAway Hire Car Excess Refund Protection which will offer a reimbursement for the supplier's damage and theft excess to a maximum for AU\$5,000. Simply add this onto your car rental booking prior to departure and you could save thousands of dollars in the long run! To find out more, simply call DriveAway Holidays on 1300 363 500 or visit the DriveAway website.



**EXCESS
REFUND
PROTECTION**



- Pre-Paid product
- For only AUD\$13.50 per day
- Paid in Australian dollars
- Claim up to AUD \$5,000

Call 1300 363 500
Visit www.driveaway.com.au

DriveAway Holidays has procured an insurance policy covering our financial exposure to this Car Hire Excess Refund Protection through syndicate underwriters at Lloyd's of London.

Driving

IN CANADA



- Drive on the right side of the road, the driver sits on the left hand side of the car.
- Respect the environment – don't litter. Keep your rubbish with you in the car until it can be disposed of properly.
- On country roads, be aware of wild animals that may wonder onto the road such as moose, elk or deer. In certain Provinces keep an eye out for bears and be sure to keep food locked away at night-time.
- In Québec, road signs are written only in French.
- If you are stopped by the police while driving in Canada, remain in your vehicle, switch the engine off and wait for instructions from the police officer.
- In winter a flashing blue light will define a snow removal vehicle, so stay well back when following.
- Be aware of road conditions, especially driving in winter as heavy snowfalls and icy conditions can make road trips hazardous. Snow tyres are required in some Provinces.
- Canadian roads can be quite long, so carry food and water with you on lengthy trips.
- Canada requires daytime running lights. Turn on your headlights whilst driving, regardless of the time of day.
- There are a couple of road tolls in Canada, so keep a couple of coins in the console just in case.
- If you are driving into Canada from the USA you will have to go through one of the 22 border crossings between the two countries. Make sure that you have your passport, licence and car rental agreement with you.

Driving Laws in Canada

- Seat Belts are compulsory for all passengers.
- Children less than 20kg must be secured in a child safety seat whilst in a moving vehicle, and children under 12 should travel in the back seat at all times.
- Motorcyclists must wear a helmet.
- Unless signposted, the maximum speed limit in Canada is 50km/hr and 80km/hr on highways. The speed limit on the rural highways is 100km/hr. Speeding may be monitored by speed cameras or radar traps.
- It is illegal to carry radar detectors in Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba, the Yukon and the Northwest Territories.
- It is illegal to talk on a mobile phone while driving in Canada.
- If a school bus stops and flashes red lights, traffic in both directions must come to a complete stop.
- Drivers must carry proof of insurance, drivers licence and registration papers at all times.
- In Canada it is legal to turn right at a red light after stopping (except in Montreal and Quebec City).
- If you arrive at an intersection with no traffic lights, you must give way to the vehicles that had arrived first. If two cars arrive at the same time the car to the right has the right-of-way.
- You must slow down to 50km/hr and give way to any vehicles that have their lights flashing such as police, fire truck, ambulance or tow truck.
- Drinking alcohol and driving is forbidden and is strictly enforced in every province. It is a crime to drive with a blood alcohol limit of 0.05 or above, so be smart: don't drink and drive. As a tourist exceeding this limit you could be deported.
- It is against the law to carry open alcohol in the vehicle.

Driving IN CANADA



Licence Requirements

A full driving licence is required to drive in Canada. All drivers must have held a full valid driving licence for a minimum of one year. Australian residents are not required by law to have an international drivers licence, although it is recommended since an international licence holds more credibility with Canadian traffic police. Contact your local motoring association for further information.

Min & Max Age Requirements

The minimum age for drivers renting a car in Canada does vary between suppliers. It's important to check this when booking a rental car, and also be sure to enquire about a young driver's surcharge which may apply to those under the age of 24. Generally, there is no maximum age, as long as the renter is fit and okay to drive. The majority of locations in Canada do not have a maximum driving age, however there may be restrictions for drivers aged 70-75 in some regions. In some cases, aged drivers may be required to hold a letter from their GP stating they are healthy and fit to drive. Check with the supplier for further details.

Parking

Parking is quite straightforward in Canada. Almost everywhere you can only park in the direction of the traffic. In narrow streets you can only park on one side of the road. In winter some streets ban parking altogether to allow for snow ploughs. Paid parking can be by meter at the side of the road, ticket machine or by parking attendant at a public parking lot. Clear signage saying where you can and cannot park is found on almost all streets. Enforcement of parking is usually done by the police and you can be towed away if you cause an obstruction.

Child Safety

- Children weighing 9kg or less are required to use a rear-facing car seat
- Children weighing 9-18kg must use a forward-facing child seat
- Children weighing 18-36kg and with a height of up to 145cm must use a booster seat.
- Many provinces, including British Columbia, Newfoundland and Labrador, Manitoba, Ontario, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, Saskatchewan and Yukon Territory, have banned smoking in cars where minors are present.

Road Tolls & E-Tags

There are only a few road tolls payable on bridges and highways. The Highway 407ETR (Express Toll Route) is one toll road in Canada that is fully electronic (no toll booths), hence the name 'Express Toll Route' (ETR). The 407ETR uses an overhead gantry which automatically collects your licence plate details, vehicle type and transponder details using a number of cameras and detectors. This will occur during entry and exit of the Highway, therefore the cost of your trip will then be determined on the distance travelled, time of the day, vehicle class and if a valid transponder was used. Rental vehicles that fail to pay the applicable toll, the supplier of the vehicle will forward the toll notice/invoice to the hirer and charge a administratio.

CANADIAN REGIONS & CITIES

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BRITISH COLUMBIA

ALBERTA

CANADA'S NORTH

SASKATCHEWAN

MANITOBA

ONTARIO

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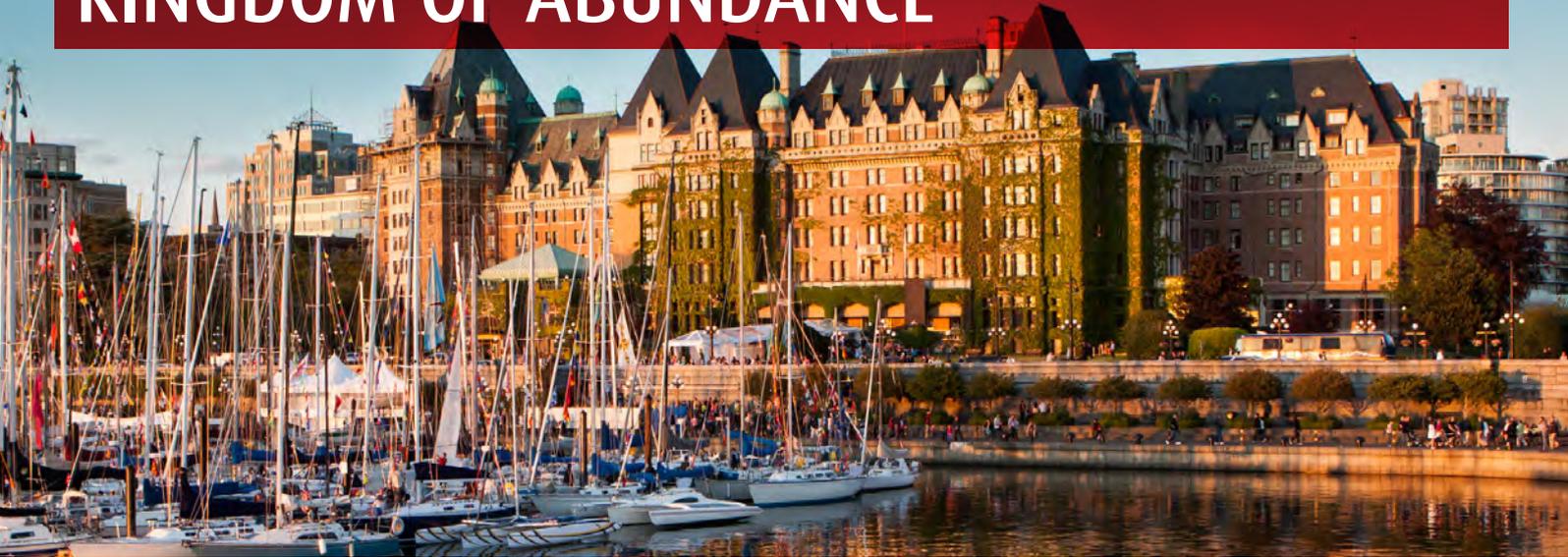
NEW BRUNSWICK

CANADA'S EAST COAST



British Columbia

KINGDOM OF ABUNDANCE



British Columbia is located in the west of Canada and is famous for its diverse natural beauty and picturesque scenery. The capital of British Columbia is Victoria, a quaint historic city located on the southern tip of Vancouver Island. British Columbia is rich with authentic experiences as well as beauty. If you are looking for adventure, then British Columbia is complete with snow capped mountains for skiing and snowboarding as well as opportunities to go kayaking and rafting. Visit British Columbia and discover why it was chosen to host the 2010 Winter Olympics.

Events

FEBRUARY

Winter Carnival - Over 100 events to choose from. Held in Thompson Okanagan.

MAY

The Annual Blossom Festival - The Rockies.

International Children's Festival - Thompson Okanagan.

JUNE

Jazz Fest International- Victoria

JULY

The Marine Festival - Nainamo

Vancouver Folk Music Festival

SEPTEMBER

Greek Festival - Victoria

Self-Drive Tours Around British Columbia

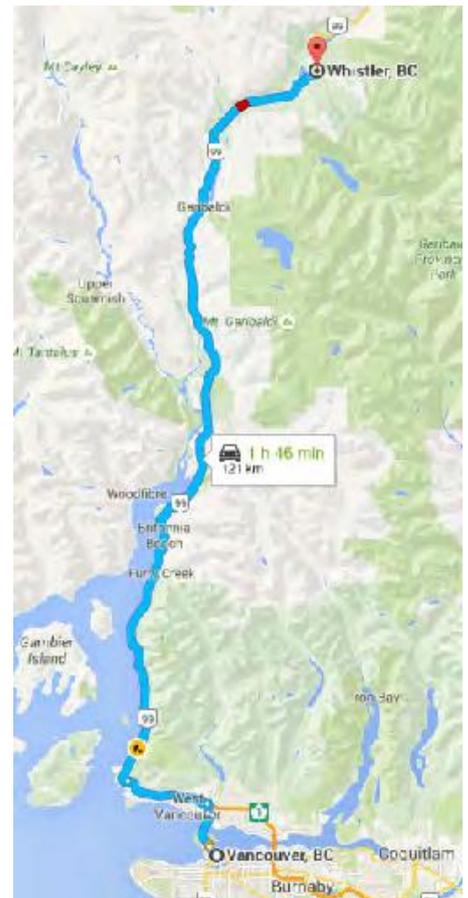
Sea to Sky Highway

Ranked as one of the top five road trip's in the world, Highway 99 from Vancouver to Whistler is sure to be a memorable journey. The Sea to Sky Highway is a 135km journey along a backdrop of glistening waters and famous scenic landmarks.

There is the island of Howe Sound, Shannon Falls and the snow-capped Coast Mountains. If you're looking for something to do along the way, be sure to check out the old mining town of Britannia Beach which has a mining museum and several arts and crafts stores. To reach Highway 99, head north from Vancouver for 30 minutes.

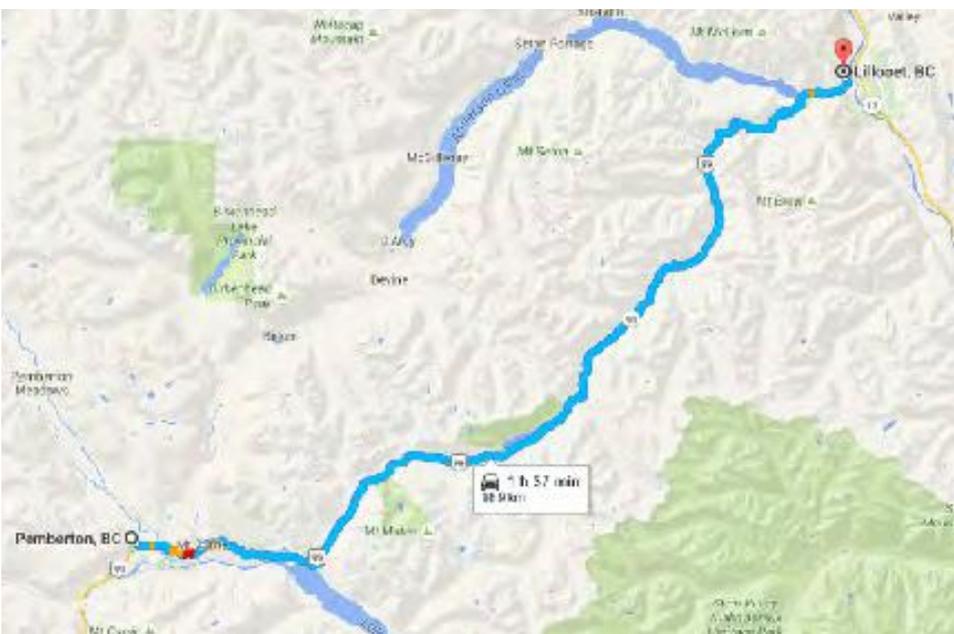


Whistler Village



Duffey Lake Road

The drive along Duffey Lake Road from Pemberton Valley to Lillooet and into British Columbia's Southern Interior is approximately 100 kms. Be sure to drive with caution as the road winds around one way bridges, steep hills and blind corners. However the scenery you pass is well worth the challenging drive. The road is surrounded with pristine waters, snow topped mountainous terrains, spectacular glaciers and wildlife. When you pass a creek, have a look to see if you can spot a family of bears having a drink.



- ### ATTRACTIONS
- » Stanley Park Vancouver
 - » Capilano Suspension Bridge
 - » Butchart Gardens
 - » Granville Island
 - » Whistler Village
 - » Beacon Hill Park



Shannon Falls

Alberta

LAND OF OPPORTUNITY



Alberta is located in the western region of Canada, bounded by the provinces of British Columbia and Saskatchewan. Famous for its rolling foothills, the impressive Alberta Rocky Mountains boasts rich cultural history. Be sure to visit Calgary and Edmonton; the two largest cities in Alberta which offer a more modest, small town atmosphere that is sure to delight even the big city folks!

Events

JANUARY

High Performance Rodeo - Calgary

FEBRUARY

Calgary Winterfest

JULY

Calgary Stampede - an annual rodeo, exhibition and festival held every July in Calgary, Alberta, Canada.

AUGUST

Rock 'n August - Car show and live music.

Reggae Festival - Calgary

SEPTEMBER

Symphony under the Sky - Edmonton

Edmonton International Film Festival - Featuring independent films.

OCTOBER

Banff Mountain Film Festival - Canadian Rockies.

NOVEMBER

Canadian Finals Rodeo - Edmonton

DECEMBER

Bright Lights Festival - Edmonton (late December through 'til early January).

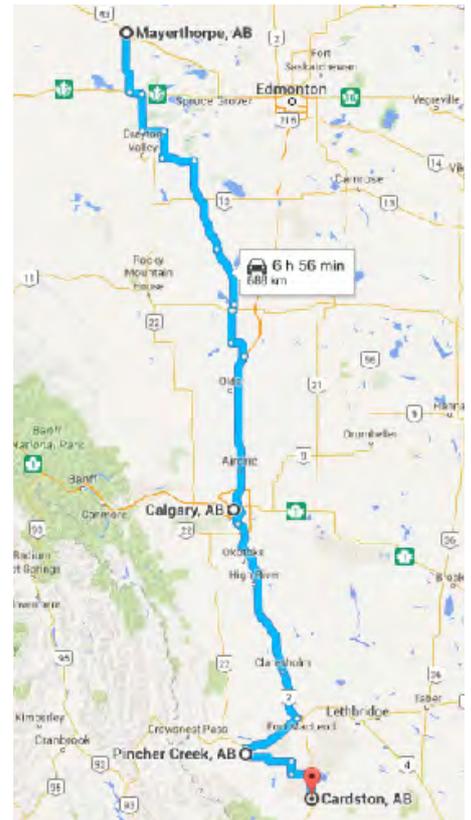
Self-Drive Tours Around Alberta

The Cowboy Trail

Follow Alberta's Cowboy Trail to see how the Old West once lived. This trail travels from Mayerthorpe, through Calgary then south to Pincher Creek and further along to Cardston close to the USA border. Enjoy the sights of the Canadian Rocky Mountains, travel along the Saskatchewan River and stop off in the town of Bragg Creek.

Make a stop at Pincher Creek, home to Kootenai Browns Pioneer Village. See also the world heritage site of Head-Smashed-In Buffalo Jump. Finish the journey off at Cardston and you can visit the Remington Carriage Centre, where you'll see a huge collection of buggies, wagons and carriages. True cowboy country!

Head-Smashed-In Buffalo Jump



The Icefields Parkway

The Icefields Parkway, Highway 93 is the road which connects Jasper, Alberta and Lake Louise. The jaw dropping scenery you will witness along the way is the reason for the National Geographic Traveller Magazine identifying the whole Banff-Jasper route as one of the top 20 'drives of a lifetime'.

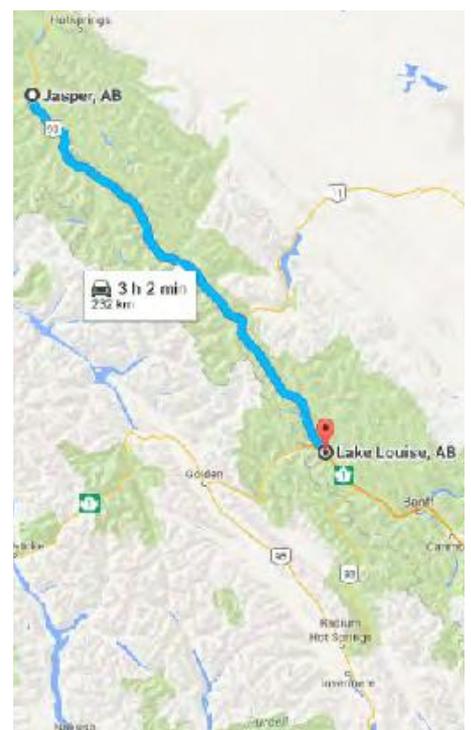
The journey from Lake Louise to Jasper is 230kms and will take approximately 3 hours of solid driving time, however be sure to allow more time to admire the famous breathtaking scenery. This drive is one of the most spectacular driving routes in the world!

Lake Louise



ATTRACTIONS

- » Banff National Park
- » Jasper National Park
- » Calgary Stampede
- » Fort Edmonton Park
- » West Edmonton Mall
- » Columbia Icefield



Canada's North

LAND OF THE MIDNIGHT SUN



This area covers the Northwest Territories, Nunavut and Yukon and is a playground for thrill seekers and nature enthusiasts. If you love an adventure you will find yourself at home in the Northwest! You may not come across a great deal of luxurious and plush 5 star resorts, but this rugged terrain is ideal for the hardy traveller. Follow a hiking trail through a National Park, spend the day white water rafting, canoeing or kayaking or try hunting or fishing.

Events

MARCH

Spring Fling - Northwest Territories.

APRIL

Earth Week - Northwest Territories.

JUNE

Open Sky Festival - Northwest Territories

JULY

Nunavut Day.

Dawson City Music Festival - Yukon

AUGUST

Yellowknife Arts Festival - Northern Territories

NOVEMBER

Far North Film Festival - Yellowknife.

Self-Drive Tours Around the North

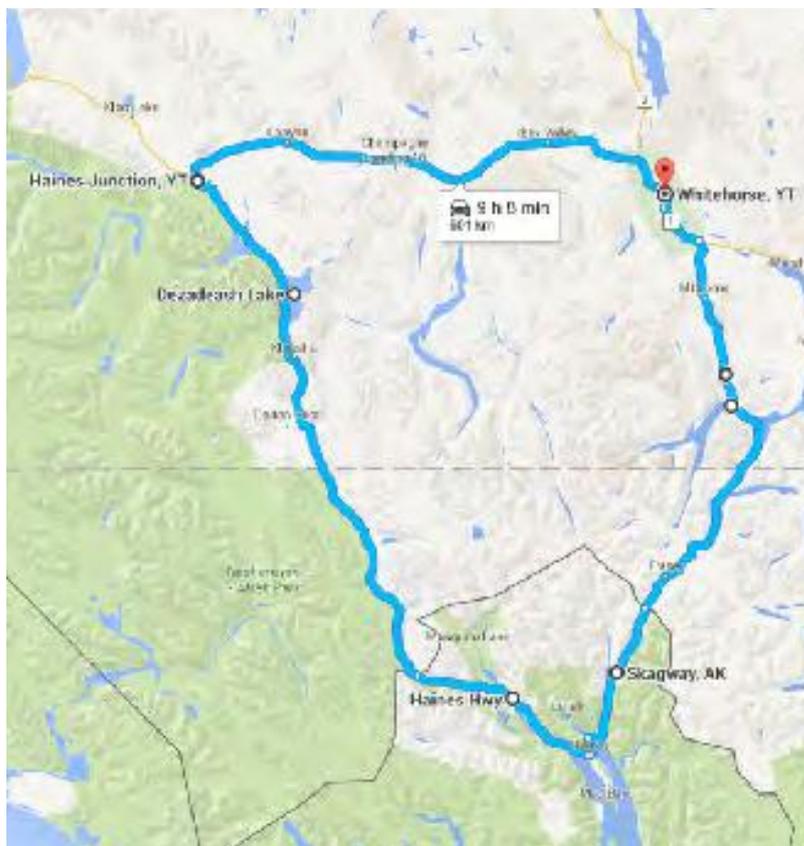
The Golden Circle - Yukon

Take a minimum 6-13 day trip around the Golden Circle and just see what Yukon has to offer. With crystal clear lakes, untouched forests and landscapes beyond compare it is no wonder there are more and more people are visiting this area throughout the year. The Golden Circle starts and ends in Whitehorse and stretches approximately 600kms.

The best way to see this drive is by car or alternatively a motorhome, stopping where you like along the way. You will first drive through picturesque Spirit and Emerald Lakes where the highway curves in and around. Another 8kms along the Golden Circle you will come to the Museum of Yukon Natural History which features a wildlife gallery, children's activities and a gift shop. Next stop is Carcross which is a historical quaint village situated on the shores of Bennett Lake, where you will find beautiful architecture, shopping and attractions.

ATTRACTIONS

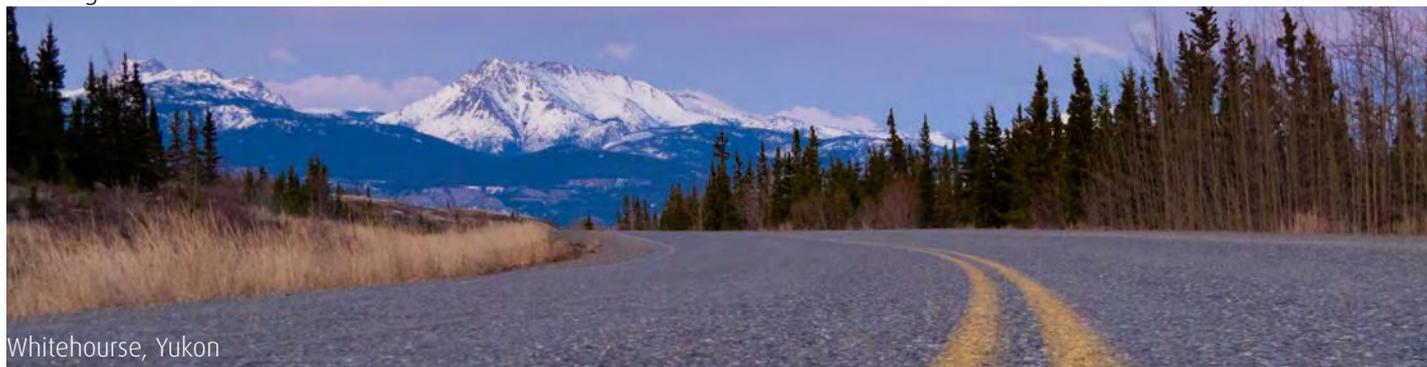
- » Miles Canyon Basalts
- » Takhini Hot Springs
- » Yukon Arts Centre
- » White Pass
- » Mount Elbert
- » Caribou Crossing Trading Post



Skagway is the starting point of the White Pass and Yukon Route Railway – one of the most scenic railways in the world. Make sure to have a look at the gold rush entertainment, flightseeing tours and try one of the historical walking tours.

As you travel north west along the Haines highway you will drive past the Chilkat Pass, again be on the look out for amazing wildlife like moose, mountain goats, bears, golden eagles, coyotes and arctic ground squirrels. Travel about two and a half hours and you will come to Deadeash Lake where at one end you will find it to be a shallow lake abundant with fish. On the other side of the lake hike the Rock Glacier Trail for beautiful views of the valley and lake. Haines Junction is the headquarters of Kluane National Park and Reserve. In the National Park there is a variety of activities to partake and the locals are often friendly in assisting with your activity choice: glacier flightseeing, hiking, river trips, horseback riding, white-water rafting, canoeing and wilderness interpretation. As you near Whitehorse you will come across several dogsled kennels, these kennels offer interpretive tours that introduce tourists to the sport of dog mushing.

Renowned for its fishing, Haines is about an hour ferry ride from Skagway and offers many activities such as mountain biking, kayaking and rafting tours. The Sheldon Museum has some interesting features including examples of the traditional Chilkat blankets. Haines also offers great cafes and restaurants and is well known for the Dungeness and King crab, salmon, halibut and prawns. Drive along the Chilkat river and be on the look out for eagles. Around mid-November approximately 4,000 eagles feast on the annual salmon run and this area is known to be North America's biggest eagle viewing area.



Whitehorse, Yukon

Saskatchewan

NATURAL NORTHERN BEAUTY



Saskatchewan is located in the middle province of Canada's three Prairie Provinces, and is the largest city which is well worth a visit. If you are looking for a destination which has a variety of things to do and see, visit Saskatchewan. The combination of cultural history, outdoor activities and the picturesque scenery, all set the tone for a relaxing and enjoyable self-drive trip to Saskatchewan.

Events

MARCH

Gardenscape Show - An extensive show about yards and gardens.

MAY

The Annual Cathedral Village Arts Festival - Regina.

JUNE

Northern Saskatchewan International Children's Festival.

The Annual Saskatchewan Jazz Festival - One of the finest music festivals in the world.

JULY

Saskatoon Fringe Theatre Festival

Shakespeare on the Saskatchewan Festival.

DECEMBER

Festival of Trees - At the Western Development Museum.

Self-Drive Tours Around Saskatchewan

Regina to Yorkton

The drive from Regina to Yorkton along Highway 10 is approximately 186 kms and will take around two and a half hours of driving time. Along the way experience the history and cultural diversity of the area, with each stretch of road offering something new and exciting. Visit the Qu'Appelle Valley, marvel at St. Mary's Ukrainian Church or tour the Melville Heritage Museums. With so much to offer, Highway 10 is certainly worth a second look. Once you reach Yorkton, visit the Godfrey Dean Art Galley, tee off at the Deer Park Golf Course or shop in Downtown Yorkton.



Saskatoon



Highway 11, The Louis Riel Trail

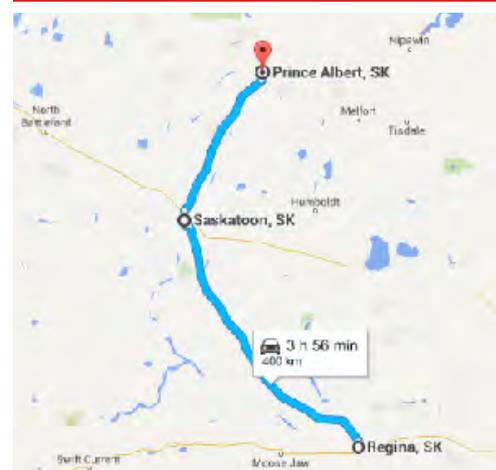
Highway 11 runs through Saskatchewan from Regina to Prince Albert and connects the province's largest three cities which are Regina, Saskatoon and Prince Albert. The length of the Highway is approximately 395 kms which passes by several museums, quaint towns and picturesque scenery. Highway 11 makes the perfect summer drive.

Regina Legislative building



ATTRACTIONS

- » Royal Saskatchewan Museum
- » MacKenzie Art Gallery
- » Saskatchewan Science Centre
- » Wanuskewin Heritage Park
- » Casino Regina
- » Cypress Hills Interprovincial Park



Manitoba

CANADA'S HEARTBEAT



Manitoba is a large province with the majority of its population within a 3 hour radius of the American border. Manitoba is also an exciting province offering great camping and fishing, cultural events, festivals and wildlife viewing. Manitoba offers some of the best wildlife viewing including beluga whales and polar bears, which can be found in the small northern community of Churchill.

Thompson a mining city in northern Manitoba, known as Wolf Capital, can be reached via Hwy 10 and Hwy 6, and provides great opportunities for fishing and camping. From Thompson you cannot drive to Churchill however you can travel by either overnight VIA Rail train or by air using Calm Air, the regional carrier. The summer months of July and August are a great time to visit Churchill. During this time, over 3,000 beluga whales come to spend the summer months in the Churchill River. Visitors can participate in beluga whale tours, and the more adventurous travellers can snorkel or kayak with the whales. Frontiers North offers Tundra Buggy excursions providing the opportunity to experience numerous bird species as well as wildlife including Arctic foxes, Arctic hare, caribou and polar bears.

Events

APRIL

Mintoba Maple Syrup Festival.

MAY

Pride Winnipeg Festival

JUNE

Winnipeg International Children's Festival, 'Kidsfest'.

Jazz Winnipeg Festival.

JULY

Winnipeg Fringe Festival - North America's second largest fringe festival featuring more than 100 performers.

AUGUST

Corn and Apple Festival - Featuring free entertainment, a parade and free corn on the cob and apple cider.

NOVEMBER

Manitoba Livestock Expo - Brandon

Self-Drive Tours Around Manitoba

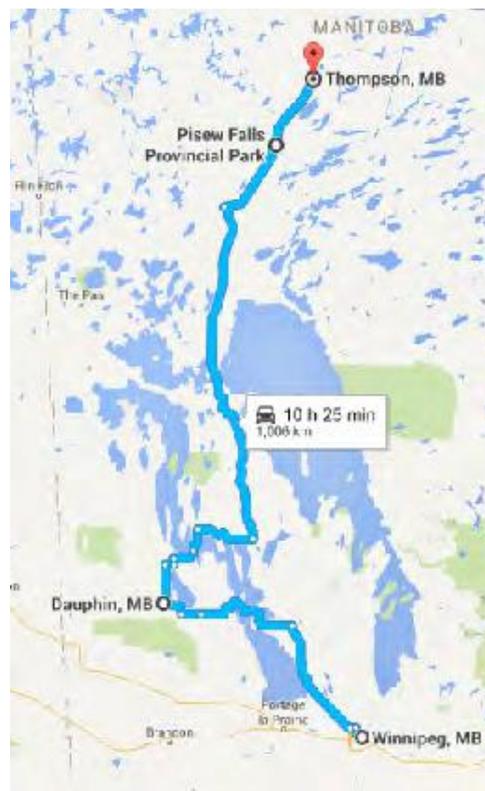
Highway 6 & 10

Highways 6 & 10 are the main routes that connect Winnipeg to northern Manitoba. Hwy 10 will take you along the western part of the province through small farming communities and up to Riding Mountain National Park. Driving NW from Dauphin, you'll connect with Hwy 6 which will take you to Pisew Falls Provincial Park and up to Thompson.

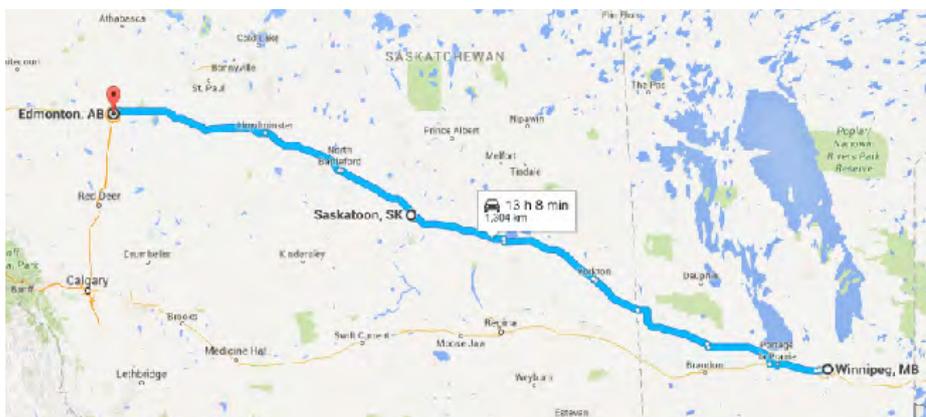
Along Hwy 6, you will travel through part of the Interlake region which features breathtaking natural beauty that will be sure to leave you captivated. Manitoba's Interlake is located north of Winnipeg and lies between Lake Winnipeg and Lake Manitoba.



Lake Manitoba



The Yellowhead Highway



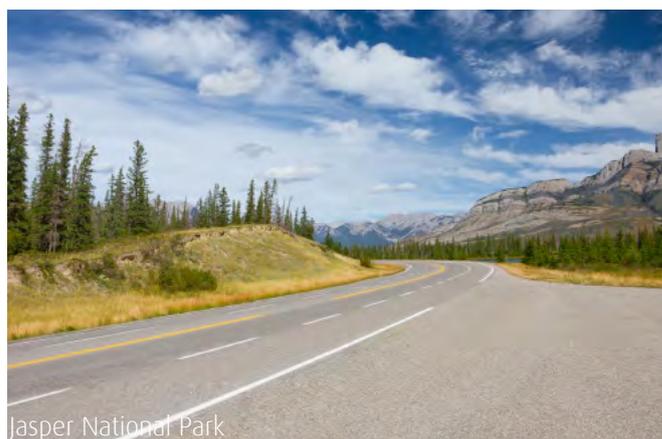
ATTRACTIONS

- » The Northern Lights
- » Lake Winnipeg
- » Lake Manitoba
- » Cook's Creek Heritage Museum
- » The Manitoba Children's Museum
- » The Manitoba Museum
- » Assiniboine Park
- » Mennonite Heritage Village

Route 16, also called the Yellowhead Highway is a historical road which connects Winnipeg with other Canadian cities such as Saskatoon and Edmonton. The highway navigates through five national parks, ninety provincial parks and three national historic sites. The scenery throughout Western Canada embraces lush mountain terrains, and takes you through the blossoming Fraser Valley and into the Port of Vancouver.



Port of Vancouver



Jasper National Park

Ontario

WILD WILDERNESS & BIG CITY FUN



Welcome to Ontario's big, beautiful north country – a region rich in rugged beauty and full of opportunities to enjoy the magnificent outdoors. Discover great boreal forests and countless rivers and lakes. Though sparsely populated, the north offers a diverse array of cultural attractions and urban centres close to nature. No matter where you are in this vast land, you'll find lots to see and do. Ontario is made up of 15 Regions and the most common for travellers are: Eastern Ontario, Southern Georgian Bay, Northern Ontario and South Western Ontario. All locations will provide travellers with different experiences and help them discover the historic highlights and hidden gems of Ontario.

Events

JANUARY

Miss Universe Canada Pageant - Toronto.

FEBRUARY

Winter City Festival - Toronto

APRIL

Shakespeare Festival, Stratford - April to November

JUNE

North by Northeast Festival - The week-long music and arts festival in Toronto.

SEPTEMBER

Family Fest, Toronto

Toronto International Film Festival

OCTOBER

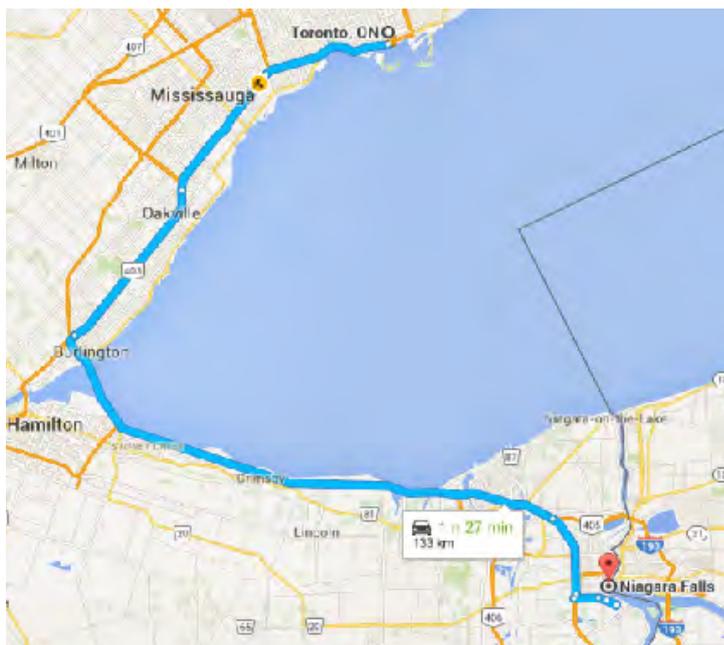
Live music - Events hosted by the Hard Rock Cafe in downtown Toronto.

Self-Drive Tours Around Ontario

Toronto to Niagara Falls

The drive from Toronto to Niagara Falls is approximately 132 kilometres and will take around two hours. From Toronto, take the Queen Elizabeth Way (QEW) towards Hamilton and St. Catharines through to Highway 402. Visitors departing from other destinations in Southwest Ontario may also travel on Highway 20, which leads directly to the falls or on Highway 3 which takes you along several small roads and takes you straight into the city.

Once you reach Niagara Falls, you will find there is something for everyone. Not only can you experience the spectacular falls, but there are also a range of activities which make Niagara Falls a world class destination. Experience the nightlife, try your luck at the Fallsview Casino or sample some of the city's gourmet food and wine.

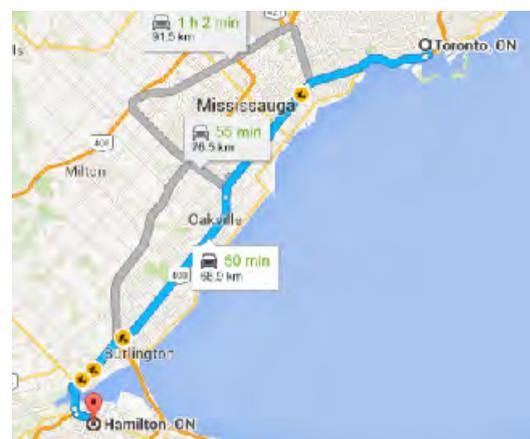


- ### ATTRACTIONS
- » CN Tower
 - » Niagara Falls
 - » Royal Ontario Museum
 - » Ripley's Aquarium of Canada
 - » Casa Loma
 - » Lake Ontario

Driving To Hamilton

If you are looking for a great way to spend the day, Hamilton is an ideal choice. To get there, follow the Queen Elizabeth Way (QEW) and then take Highway 403 west toward Hamilton. If you are departing from London, Ontario, continue along Highway 401 east towards Toronto, take exit 235 to Highway 403, Hamilton / Brantford and continue until you reach Hamilton.

There are countless activities to do in Hamilton. Tour the art gallery of Hamilton, explore the Canadian Football Hall of Fame and Museum, visit one of the 65 waterfalls or tee off at the Apollo Valley Golf Club.



Québec

LA BELLE PROVINCE



Québec is located in east-central Canada and has a predominately French speaking population. It's largest city is Montreal, the second largest city in Canada, and the province capital is Québec City. Whilst Montreal is often referred to as Canada's cultural capital, Québec City is a charming, picturesque city reminiscent of a quaint European township. As you stroll down the cobblestone streets, admiring the delightful old buildings and listening to the background sounds of the French language, you could not be blamed for forgetting you are in Canada.

Events

JANUARY

Winter Carnival - Québec City

MARCH

Fête des Neiges - Snow Festival in Montreal.

APRIL

Festival de la Gastronomie du Québec - Québec City

JUNE

International Jazz Festival - Montreal.

Les FrancoFolies de Montreal - Annual Music festival in Montreal.

JULY

Just for Laughs Comedy Event - Montreal

Canada Day Celebrations - Held on the 1st of July

Nuits d'Afrique - Montreal

AUGUST

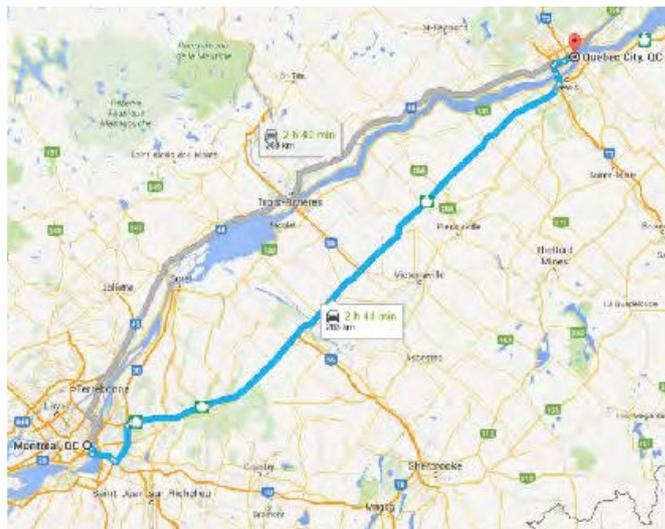
World Film Festival - Montreal

Self-Drive Tours Around Québec

Montreal to Québec City

If you're staying in Montreal and are looking for the perfect way to spend the day, head to Québec City. The drive is approximately three hours and there are two routes to choose from. The quickest way is to take Route 20 along the south shore. However if you have a bit more time and are interested in taking a more scenic route, head east on Route 40.

Once you arrive in Québec City, the old-world trappings and French resemblances are overwhelmingly beautiful. Take a walk around the city, dine in one of the many fabulous restaurants or visit the city's oldest church; Basilique-Cathédrale Notre-Dame.



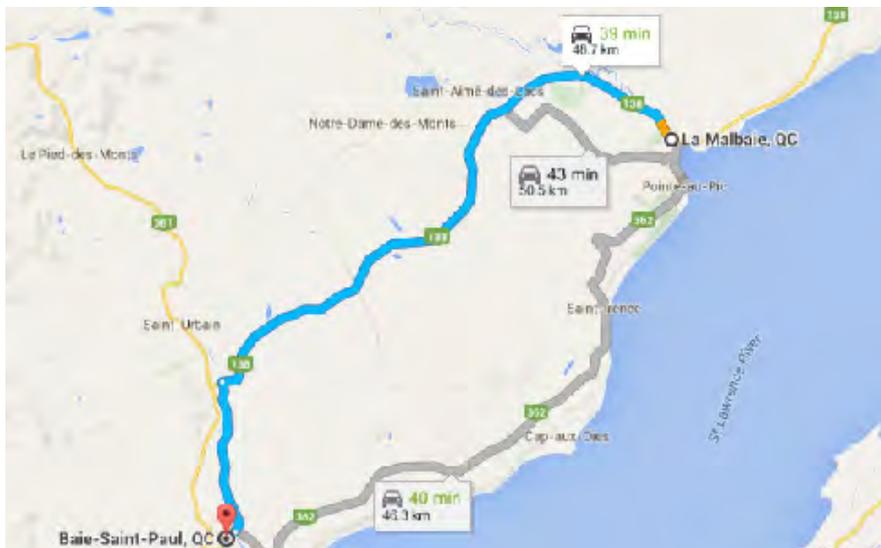
Basilique-Cathédrale-Notre-Dame

ATTRACTIONS

- » Old Quebec
- » Citadelle of Quebec
- » Musée de la civilisation
- » Montmorency Falls
- » Château Frontenac
- » Cathedral-Basilica of Notre-Dame de Québec
- » Plains of Abraham

La Malbaie to Baie-Saint-Paul

The drive from La Malbaie to Baie-Saint-Paul is approximately 51 kms and will take around 45 minutes. As you pass the picturesque villages of Les Éboulements, Saint-Irénée and Saint-Joseph de-la-Rive, prepare to be enchanted. To get there, continue along Boul Notre Dame for 3.8 kms and then proceed on route 138 for 41 kms. Turn left at Rue De la Lumiere and then continue on Rue Ambroise-Fafard.



Baie-Saint-Paul

New Brunswick

ADVENTURE AWAITS...



New Brunswick is located adjacent to the state of Maine and is the largest of Canada's Maritime Provinces. Whether you stay for a week or for a month, you can be sure that around every corner you'll find something different to do. Whether you're the adventurous type or interested in the cultural history, New Brunswick offers something for everyone.

Events

FEBRUARY

Cambellton's Regonal Snow-Fest.

MARCH

Dalhousie's Winterfest - Featuring numerous activities for both children and adults

JUNE

Edmundston Jazz and Blues Festival.

Campellton Salmon Festival.

JULY

Annual Rock and Roll Festival, Miramichi

Highland Games and Scottish Festival.

AUGUST

Summer Music Festival.

NOVEMBER

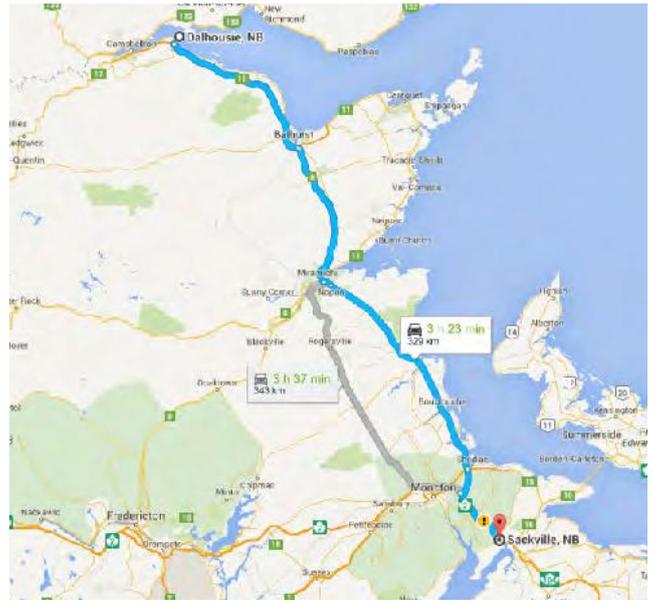
Annual spirits and Scotch Whisky Festival - Federicton.

Self-Drive Tours Around New Brunswick

Acadian Coastal Drive

The Acadian Coastal Drive is surrounded by long stretches of spectacular beaches, fragile ecosystems and traditional Acadian culture. The route follows the entirety of the east coast of New Brunswick from Dalhousie in the north to Sackville in the south. Along the way, stop at the historical villages and coastal towns, all which house unique attractions.

If you're looking for a place to cool off during the trip, be sure to visit Parlee Beach Provincial Park which boasts some of the warmest saltwater beaches north of Virginia. As well as swimming, you will find a host of other activities to keep you busy such as volleyball, football and sand sculpture competitions.



Acadian Culture

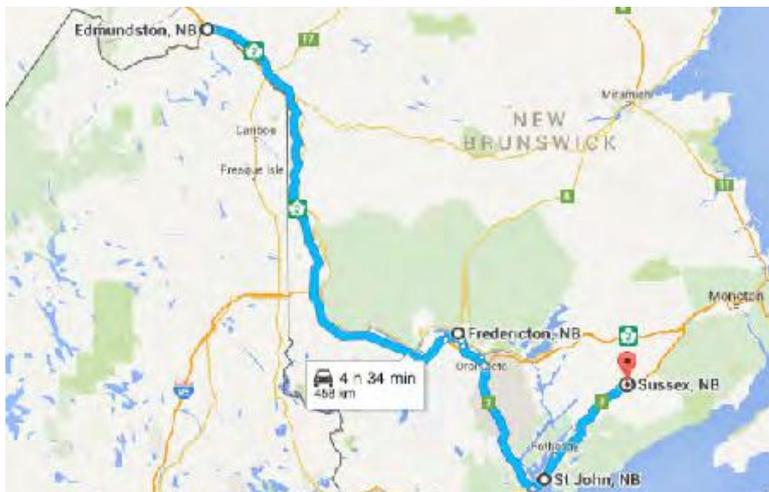


ATTRACTIONS

- » Bay of Fundy
- » Hopewell Rocks
- » Reversing Falls
- » Irving Nature Park
- » Magnetic Hill Zoo
- » Roosevelt Campobello International Park

River Valley Scenic Drive

The River Valley Scenic route winds along the 400km St. Johns River from the capital city of Edmundston, south to Fredericton and Saint John then north east to Sussex. Along your journey across the most picturesque river in Atlantic Canada you will pass many historical and culturally significant sites. Travel across the world's longest covered bridge, stop to see the largest waterfall in New Brunswick; Grand Falls Gorge or simply enjoy the amazing scenery and cultural charm along the way.



World's Longest Covered Bridge

Canada's East Coast

COVES, CLIFFS & LIGHTHOUSES



The East Coast, including Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, Newfoundland and Labrador, offers a holiday experience like no other. With the many breathtaking and exquisite natural wonders to explore, museums to visit, World Heritage Sites to discover and culinary experiences to savour, this is not one to miss!

Events

FEBRUARY

Pictou Winter Carnival - Nova Scotia

MARCH

ViewFinders Film Festival - Nova Scotia

MAY

Newfoundland Horticultural Society Spring Flower Show.

JUNE

Scotia Festival of Music - First two weeks of June, Nova Scotia.

Greek Summer Festival - Nova Scotia

JULY

Annual Garden and Nature Exhibit- Newfoundland.

Jazz and Blues Festival- Prince Edward Island.

AUGUST

Conception Bay Folk Festival - Newfoundland

SEPTEMBER

The Canadian Atlantic Blues and Beyond Festival- Nova Scotia

OCTOBER

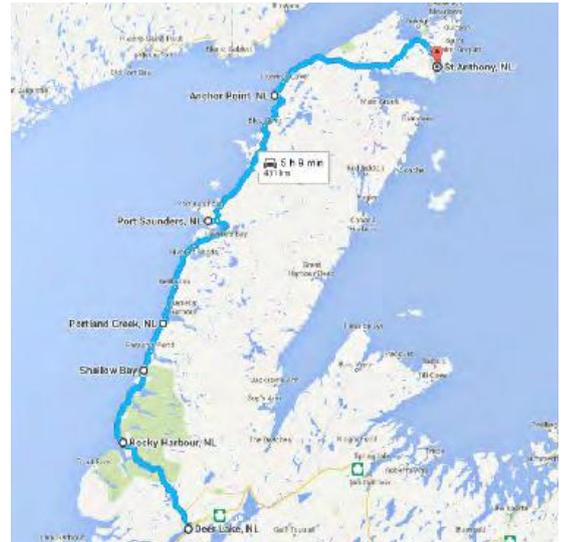
Art of Night - An annual festival bringing art to the streets of Halifax.

Self-Drive Tours Around the East Coast

The Viking Trail

The Viking Trail begins at the intersection of Route 1 and Route 430 near Deer Lake and is the largest themed highway in Newfoundland and Labrador. The spectacular trail stretches over coast and land which presents opportunities to see 10,000 year old icebergs and witness whales migrate.

The land along the route was discovered by Vikings 1,000 years ago and as such there is a rich cultural presence to the area. The museums along the way are filled with the artefacts of archaeological digs and the ancient native settlement at L'Anse aux Meadows National historic site will have you thinking you have stepped back in time. This route is also the only way to access the UNESCO World Heritage Sites at Gros Morne National Park of Canada and L'Anse aux Meadows National Historic Site of Canada.



L'Anse Aux Meadows Viking Settlement

ATTRACTIONS

- » Hopewell Rocks
- » Iceberg Viewing – Newfoundland
- » Whale Watching – Bay of Fundy
- » L'Anse aux Meadows National Historic Site
- » Joggins Fossil Cliffs
- » Saint-Pierre and Miquelon

The Cabot Trail

The Cabot Trail in Nova Scotia is one of the most famous scenic drives in Canada. The route is approx 298 kms long and loops around the northern tip of Cape Breton Island. The drive altogether is approx 5 hours; however this time does not include any stopovers. Once you get on the Cabot Trail, you must either complete the loop or turn around and go back. There are no roads that allow you to cut across the centre of Cape Breton Island.

Along the route you will find an abundance of activities to do and sights to see, that you may want to consider allocating two or three days to explore everything that lies along the Cabot Trail. Cape Breton Highlands National Park boasts world class hiking trails and you can discover cultural history of the area at one of the many museums and galleries along the way.



Cape Breton Highlands National Park



Peggy's Cove Lighthouse

Visiting Canada

GUIDE TO STAYING SAFE



Stay Safe

Canada is considered one of the safest countries to live in and to travel around. Crime in Canada does occur however this is not a serious problem. It's always a good idea to keep your valuables out of view in your parked car to avoid potential thefts.

Don't make yourself a target by showing off expensive jewellery and cash in public. Keep your money and credit cards in a safe place. Respect the local customs and laws. Your common sense is the most valuable possession you can have.

Parts of Canada can be prone to winter storms that include ice storms and blizzards. Particularly in Eastern Canada. Carry an emergency kit with you in the car just in case. Especially in winter make sure you're wearing adequate winter clothing to avoid hypothermia.

Stay Healthy

Canadian hospitals and medical services are amongst the world's best in terms of quality, but can be very expensive for those without insurance. Your comprehensive travel insurance should cover any medical costs including medical evacuation. A stay in hospital can begin at CAD1,000 per day, so make sure that your insurance covers you for the whole time you'll be away and be clear on what is not included.

In the event of an emergency, call 911 for an ambulance that will take you to the hospital emergency room (ER). For routine medical care, head to a walk-in clinic, where you'll receive regular medical care. Pharmacies and drug stores carry most prescriptions, however, as with most other medical care in Canada it can be expensive, so it's best to have your prescriptions filled before you go. Carry all medication along with a letter from your GP explaining your medical conditions.

Visiting Canada

MONEY MATTERS



Currency

Canadian Dollar (CAD = C\$) = 100 cents. Notes are in denominations of C\$100, C\$50, C\$20, C\$10 and C\$5. Coins are in denominations of C\$2 (toonie), C\$1 (loonie), and 25¢ (quarter), 10¢ (dime), 5¢ (nickel) and 1¢ (penny).

Currency Exchange

You can change money at the airport, banks or currency exchange in Canada. Some major hotels and stores will exchange currency but often for a much lower rate than a financial institution.

ATMs

ATM's are located at banks, stores and airports, and international bankcard systems (Interac, Plus, Cirrus and Maestro) will work at most ATM's in Canada.

Credit & Debit Cards

Major credit cards are widely accepted across Canada, except in remote rural communities where cash is the only option. Carry a copy of your credit card numbers separately from the cards and report any lost or stolen credit cards immediately.

Tax

Goods and services tax, or the GST, is a 5% federal tax applied to most goods and services provided in Canada. There are other regional taxes: PST (provisional sales tax) and the HST (harmonised sales tax) that range from 5-13% depending on the region or province and the product provided. GST is added at the cash register and not to the price tag of the product you're buying.

Tipping

Tipping is common in Canada. Usually gratuities are not added onto restaurant bills, however you should reward good service 15-20% of the total bill. Hairdressers, barbers and taxi drivers should be tipped about 15%. Porters, bellhops and doormen at hotels, airports and railway stations should be tipped \$1-2 per item carried.

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