

**DriveAway
Holidays**
Your road to freedom

Canada

Self-Drive Guide



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Take a Self-Drive Holiday in Canada

With over 25 years experience and award-winning service, let DriveAway Holidays plan your next self-drive adventure. We offer an extensive range of vehicles to suit everyone's need and budget at over 8000 locations in 130 countries worldwide. Enjoy the freedom of having your own rental car and discover the world at your own pace.

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

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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 on page 4 will help you find a car that suits your needs. This is internationally recognised code which will ensure you get the same standard of vehicle wherever you rent.

Automatic and Manual Transmissions

Generally, all hire cars in Canada will be automatic.

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 coverage excess of the rental car which depends on the category of vehicle you have booked and the rate type.

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.

What are 'premium location' fees?

Premium location fees apply when a vehicle is collected from an airport, railway or selected downtown locations. DriveAway's car rental prices usually do include the airport or 'premium location' fees for car rental collections in Canada. Check on your prepaid voucher to ensure that this included.

Rental Vehicle Coverage

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

Car Rental Companies in Canada will normally include:

- Third Party Coverage: Compulsory coverage 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 Insurance**.
- 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 Coverage: 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 Insurance

When renting a vehicle, the rental rates include basic coverage, however, in the event that the vehicle is stolen or accidentally damaged, there is usually a coverage excess amount which the driver is liable to pay to the rental company. To avoid any unexpected costs opt for DriveAway Hire Car Excess Insurance 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 723 972 or visit the DriveAway website.



ACRIS System

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 AWD	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			

The DriveAway Hire Car Excess Insurance is managed by Accident & Health International Underwriting Pty Limited, ABN 26 053 335 952, AFSL 238261 and underwritten by CGU Insurance Limited, ABN 27 004 478 371, AFSL 238291.

Driving In Canada

- Drive on the **right** side of the road, and 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 Quebec, 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 coverage, 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 become deported.
- It is against the law to carry open alcohol in the vehicle.

Car Rental FAQs

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.

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 coverage 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.

What do I do if I want to extend my car rental whilst I'm in the Canada?

Once the car rental has commenced you will have to call the depot where you initially collected the vehicle, and if the car is available, you will be offered additional days at the local rate.

Regions at a glance

- British Columbia
- Alberta
- Saskatchewan
- Manitoba
- Ontario
- Quebec
- New Brunswick
- Nova Scotia
- Prince Edward Island
- Newfoundland and Labrador
- Northwest Territories
- Nunavut
- Yukon



British Columbia

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 Nanaimo Marine Festival.
Vancouver Folk Music Festival.

September

Greek Festival - Victoria.

Attractions

Okanagan Wine Route - Featuring over 60 wineries.

Jump on a Train - Take a scenic tour on the Rocky Mountaineer and travel from the British Columbian South Coast through the Canadian Rockies.

Whale Watching - The best time to spot a whale in its natural habitat is from May through to October.

Experience the Outdoors - British Columbia offers a host of outdoor activities including alpine skiing and snow boarding in Whistler or kayaking through the waters of Gwaii Haanas National Park Reserve.

Experience the culture - Visit Victoria, also known as the Garden City. Have High Tea at the elegant Fairmont Express Hotel, or spend the day touring the exquisite gardens.

Shopping districts - Vancouver, Victoria and Whistler are home to high fashion shops and boutiques. If its wine and fruit you're after Thompson Okanagan has a great selection.

The Rockies

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.



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.



Alberta

Alberta is located in the western region of Canada, bounded by the 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 Folk Music Festival.

August

Rock'n August - Car show and live music, St. Alberta.

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).

Attractions

The Jasper National Park of Canada - World Heritage Site.

Winter sports - Experience dog sledding, ski joring (being pulled along on skies by huskies) or wildlife tracking.

Edmonton - Visit the world's largest shopping and entertainment complex, the Edmonton Mall, or enjoy the many attractions and museums.

The Tyrell Museum - Located in the north of Calgary, the Tyrell Museum is one of the largest dinosaur Museums and well worth a visit.

The Calgary Zoo, Prehistoric Park and Botanical Gardens - A favourite in Calgary amongst young and old alike.

Self-Drive Tours around Alberta

The Cowboy Trail

Follow Alberta's Cowboy Trail to see how the Old West 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.

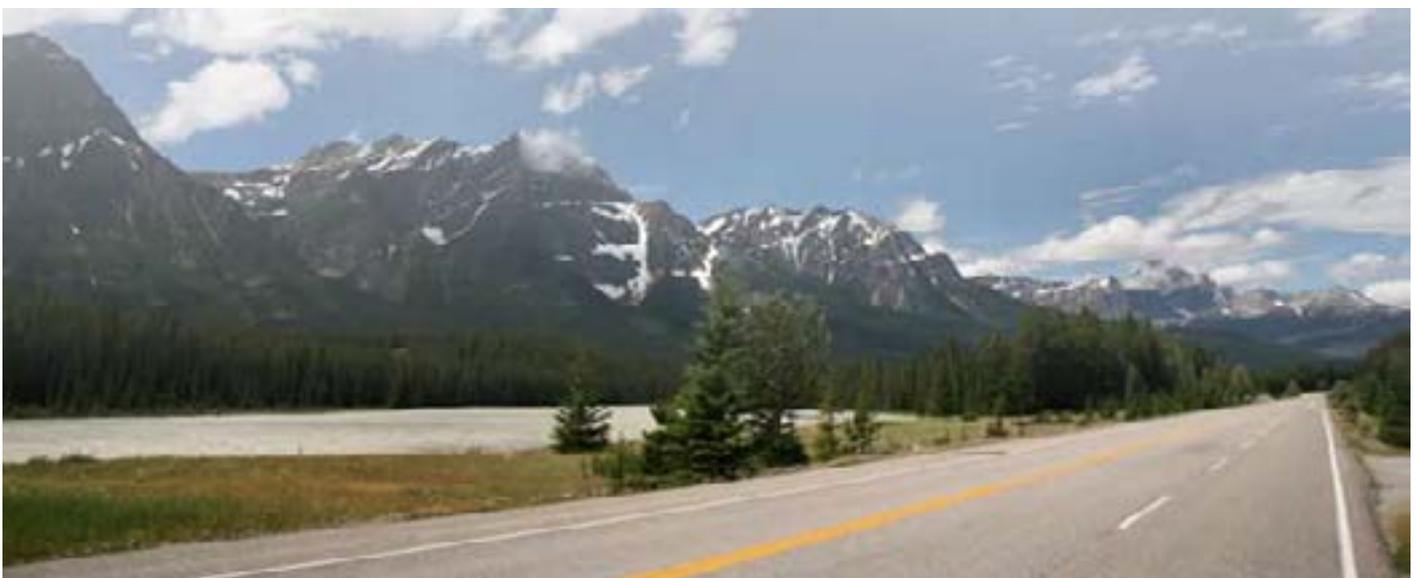


Make a stop at Pincher Creek, home to Kootenai Browns Pioneer Village. See also the world heritage site of Head-Smashed-In Buffalo Jump. Finish the journey off at Cardston, and you can visit the Remington Carriage Centre, where you'll see a huge collection of buggies, wagons and carriages. True cowboy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

The Icefield 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 230 kms will take approximately 3 hours of solid driving time, however be sure to allow more time to admire the famous breathtaking. This drive is one of the most spectacular driving routes in the world.



Canada's North

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 on the water 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.

Midnight Sun Golf Tournament - Yukon.

July

Nunavut Day.

Dawson City Music Festival - Yukon.

August

Yellowknife Arts Festival - Northern Territories.

November

Far North Film Festival - Yellowknife.

Attractions

Northwest Territories

Water Activities - Experience the thrill of white-water rafting or go canoeing down the Nahanni River in the southern Mackenzie Mountains.

National parks - Go hiking along one of the trails such as the Canol Heritage Trail.

Indigenous Culture - Take a tour through one of the villages and see how the tribal people live.

Nunavut

Inuit Culture - Experience an authentic Inuit experience and try dog sledding or ski-dooing.

Fishing - Cast a line and you might catch a crimson arctic char or a trophy lake trout.

Mountain ranges - If you're an experienced climber, Baffin Island would be an ideal choice.

Yukon

Yukon History - Visit S.S. Keno Historic Site of Canada, the Keno City Mining Museum or the Diamond Tooth Gertie's Gambling Hall.

Take a river adventure - Even if you're an experienced kayaker or rafter, a river adventure through Yukon is one like no other.

Aurora Borealis, Yukon

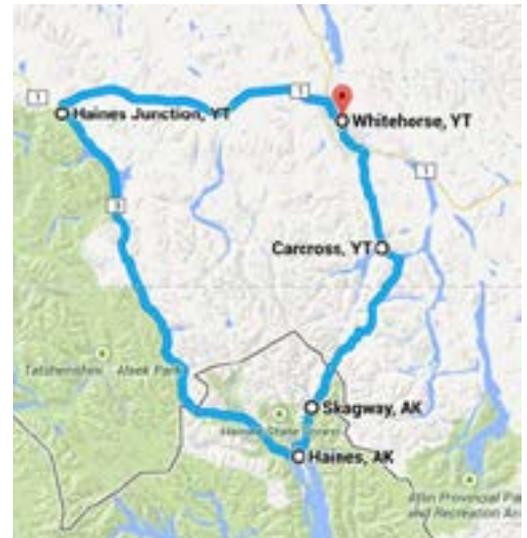
Self-Drive Tours around the North

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 landscape 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 stretched out to 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 8 KMs 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, here there is some beautiful architecture, shopping and attractions. 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.

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 Americas biggest eagle viewing area. 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 artic ground squirrels. Travel about two and a half hours and you will come to Dezadeash 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.



Alaska Highway, Yukon

Saskatchewan

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.

Attractions

Head outdoors - Visit the Price Albert National Park, spend the weekend camping, go for a hike on the Coulee Trail or try windsurfing.

Regina Golf Course

Marina Mini-Golf sports - A new 18-hole course with a marina and wildlife theme.

Visit the Royal Saskatchewan Museum in Regina - A must for those interested in the history of the province.

The Tunnels of Moose Jaw - Located in the Southwest region of the province this is the place to visit if you want to explore the historical tunnels connecting secret rooms and buildings below the city of Moose Jaw.

The Saskatchewan Science Centre - A hands on type museum in Regina where you can learn something, regardless of your age!

Saskatoon - The largest city in Saskatchewan. Visit the Western Development Museum, or visit the 'Train Bridge', the oldest bridge in the city.



Canadian Rockies, Saskatchewan

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.



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.



Manitoba

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. This amazing location offers some of the best wildlife viewing including beluga whales and polar bears takes place in the small northern community of Churchill, Manitoba.

Another province of Manitoba is Thompson which provides great opportunity for fishing and camping. From Thompson you cannot drive to Churchill however you can travel by either overnight by 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, we see over 3,000 beluga whales that 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 also offers summer Tundra Buggy excursions providing the opportunity to experience numerous bird species as well as wildlife including Arctic fox, Arctic hare, caribou and polar bears.

Events

April

Manitoba 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.

World Lily Festival - Neepawa.

August

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

November

Manitoba Livestock Expo - Brandon.

Best Things to See & Do

The Northern Lights - The best time to see this amazing light show is between January to March.

Lake Winnipeg and Lake Manitoba - The province's two biggest lakes offers a variety of water sports.

Fishing - You might even catch a trout, northern pike, channel catfish or an Arctic grayling.

The Manitoba Museum - Learn about the lives of the Plains Indians and the early prairie settlers or visit the nine galleries which feature science displays and five-story sailing ship displays.

The Manitoba Childrens' Museum - Explore the interactive galleries, take an imaginary train ride or deliver the news in a TV studio.

Visit the Parks - Take a trip to either Grand Beach Provincial Park or Whiteshell Provincial Park.

Cook's Creek Heritage Museum - Dedicated to Canada's Slavic Pioneers.



Self-Drive Tours around Manitoba

The Yellowhead Highway

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.



Highway 6

Highway 6 is the main highway which connects Winnipeg to Northern Manitoba. Along the route 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.



Ontario

Ontario is made up of 15 Regions and the most common for travellers are: Eastern Ontario, Southern Georgian Bay, Northern Ontario, South Western Ontario. All locations will provide travellers with different experiences and help them discover the historic highlights and hidden gems of Ontario.

In Eastern Ontario adventurers will love the first stop from Toronto, Kawartha Lakes, an inter connected web of scenic canals, lakes and rivers. Cruise alongside the picturesque Trent-Severn Waterway system in your car, and experience the highest hydraulic lift lock in the world. Or if you prefer, stay lakeside at a rustic cottage or luxurious resort and book a premier spa treatment. Cast your line for walleye or reel in a giant Muskie. Immerse yourself in the lore of canoes and kayaks at the Canadian Canoe Museum in Peterborough. Cycle the hills and valleys of rural Ontario.



Make Prince Edward County your tranquil base for a few days. Ontario's newest wine region is a hotbed for vintners, organic farmers and famous chefs that celebrate all things local. Sample the county's bounty on the Taste Trail and visit wineries, food artisans and tasting rooms. Sip award winning vintages, or if you'd prefer a pint, the local craft beers are worth getting thirsty over!

Explore the county's villages and hamlets by car or bike. Stop for a spot of tea in a small artisan bakery in Bloomfield. Take an afternoon and relax on the sandy beaches of Sandbanks Provincial Park, home of the world's largest freshwater sand dunes. Who would've thought the impressive city of Kingston started out life in 1673 as a fur trading station? Now historic limestone architecture and modern amenities greet you around every corner. Browse the bustling Kingston Public Market and stroll the city's beautiful waterfront. Take a break and down a pint at a pub that was a rumrunners' hangout during Prohibition.

Head north from Toronto to start your Georgian Bay tour at Ontario's first European settlement – Sainte-Marie among the Hurons near Midland. Hear native storytelling in a longhouse, learn about Huron medicine and watch a blacksmith perform his craft using the heat from a wood-burning fire. Situated on the Niagara Escarpment and overlooking the waters of Georgian Bay, Blue Mountain Resort near Collingwood offers diverse options for outdoor adventures, from nearby treetop walks and zip lines to cycling and a mountain coaster.

Explore the pedestrian-friendly Blue Mountain Village, full of boutiques, restaurants and lodges, plus year-round festivals. Rejuvenate at a local spa or stroll the white sandy shores of Wasaga Beach. Head north and enjoy a scenic drive along the Bruce Peninsula. At the tip is the quaint town of Tobermory where you can hike amid thousand-year-old cedars and across lofty limestone cliffs. Explore the waters of Fathom Five National Marine Park, view shipwrecks from a glass-bottomed boat and then sail over to the uniquely-shaped Flowerpot Island –



scuba divers, take note! Take a ferry to Manitoulin Island, named after Manitou, the native word for 'god.' Follow the Great Spirit Circle Trail, browse Aboriginal galleries, sample authentic cuisine and try your hand at traditional spirit rock painting and experience an Aboriginal Pow Wow.

Exit by the north end of Manitoulin by driving along the causeway and head to Killarney – the crown jewel of Ontario's provincial parks.

Ontario

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. Begin your tour in Sudbury, the urban hub of North eastern Ontario and an important mining centre. After a photo of the Big Nickel, go underground on a one-of-a-kind mining tour at Dynamic Earth.

Cruise scenic Lake Nipissing on the *Chief Commanda II* in North Bay. Ride the rails on the Dream Catcher Express in September and witness the glorious fall colours. Spend a couple of days in Temagami, known for hite pines that soar skyscraper-high. Stay in a lodge by a secluded lake. All aboard the Polar Bear Express! This four-hour train ride through wilderness brings you to Moosonee, at the edge of the gateway to the Arctic. Visit Moose Factory Island and sample bannock, a favourite snack made by Cree natives. Tour the Cree Culture Interpretive Centre and learn about the ancient and modern ways of the Mushkegowuk Cree People.

Head southwest through North Central Ontario to Sault Ste. Marie – a city at the heart of the Great Lakes. About an hour's drive north of Sault Ste. Marie, relax on the sandy beaches of Pancake Bay. Try the new sport of stand-up paddling or enjoy a sea-kayaking adventure on Lake Superior. Picturesque Thunder Bay is the main centre of north western Ontario and the perfect home base for day adventures. Driving west, visit Quetico Provincial Park, one of the great canoeing and camping destinations in the world. It's just one of many northern spots perfect for dropping a line in pristine waters and trolling for northern pike. South western Ontario is a place where you can explore the local flavours and cultures. Head west from Toronto for a nature lover's delight – the Royal Botanical Gardens. This year-round paradise features more than 1,080 hectares of gorgeous gardens and spectacular nature sanctuaries. See the world's largest collection of lilacs and enjoy the exotic colours of the indoor Mediterranean Garden.

Go back in time to quaint St. Jacobs, a village steeped in Mennonite heritage. Browse unique antique, craft and furniture shops, and purchase some of the finest quilt work in the world. Visit the Maple Syrup Museum of Ontario and taste lots of sweet syrup. Stay overnight in a charming inn and enjoy cuisine that showcases the bounty of regional growers.

You can't travel across the pond without visiting picturesque Stratford, located on the Avon River. Sound familiar? It might have something to do with the town's founders being big fans of William Shakespeare! Enjoy a riverside picnic and listen to live music. Stroll the beautiful Shakespearean Gardens, modelled on a traditional English garden. Savour the flavours at many fine restaurants with menus dedicated to local ingredients and when the day is done, retire to a welcoming B&B or inn.

Lake Erie's North Shore and Pelee Island have the soil and microclimate to grow great grapes. Tour the wineries along the coast, sipping and sampling along the way. Or visit the Pelee Island Winery and Pavilion, and taste acclaimed vintages while you enjoy a BBQ lunch. Stay overnight at Caesars Windsor and try your luck at the casino. Head east along Hwy. 401 back to Toronto.



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 café in downtown Toronto.

Attractions

Toronto

The CN Tower - Located in downtown Toronto, the CN Tower was once the tallest building in the northern hemisphere and is a popular tourist attraction.

The Eaton's Centre - The Eaton's Centre is one of the largest malls in Ontario and is full of chic shops, entertainment and a variety of restaurants and cafes.

The Royal Ontario Museum - From kids to adults, the ROM offers interactive exhibits that are ideal for everyone.

The Toronto Zoo - The perfect family day out, features over 5000 animals and exciting activities located in the Rouge Valley of Toronto.

Paramount Canada's Wonderland - If you're after another way to keep the kids happy, Canada's Wonderland is a sure-fire way to keep them entertained.

Ottawa

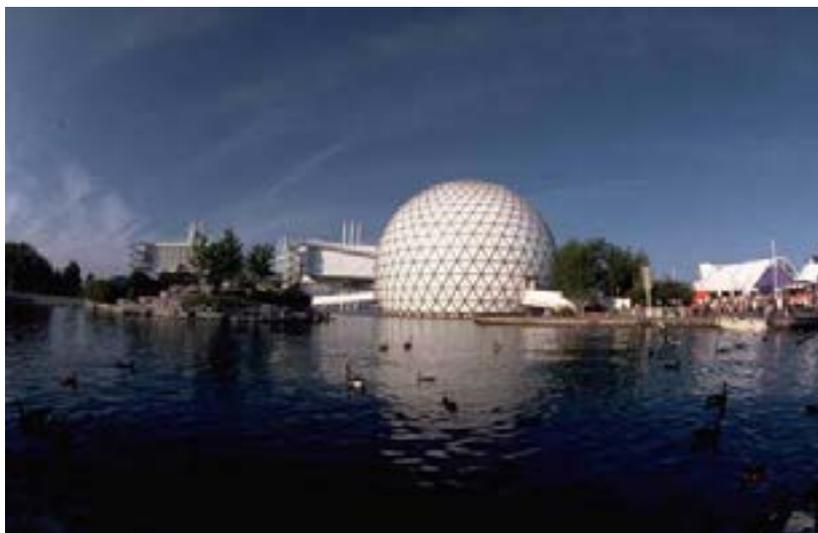
The Canadian War Museum - The perfect opportunity to learn about Canada's rich military times from past to present.

Parliament Hill - The three Gothic Revival style buildings are a symbol of national pride for Canadians and a must see for those interested in Canada's historical sites.

The National Gallery of Canada - Featuring exhibits from artists such as Raphael and Carracci.

The Ottawa Kayak School - Learn how to kayak at or try white-water rafting.

Bungee jumping - At Great Canadian Bungee.



Self-Drive Tours around Ontario



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 numbers of 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.



Driving from 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.



Toronto



Quebec Province

Quebec 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 Quebec City. Whilst Montreal is often referred to as Canada's cultural capital, Quebec 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

Events

January

Quebec City's Winter Carnival

March

Montreal's Fête des Neiges - Snow Festival

April

Quebec's Festival de la Gastronomie du Quebec

June

Montreal's International Jazz Festival

Les FrancoFolies de Montreal - Annual music festival

International des feux Loto-Quebec - Montreal's International Firework Festival

July

Montreal's Just for Laughs Comedy Event

Canada Day Celebrations - On the 1st July.

Montreal's Nuits d'Afrique

August

Montreal World Film Festival.

Attractions

Quebec City

Visit the Historic District of Quebec - Wander through the cobblestone streets of the old city of Quebec and experience the culture and history of this romantically European city.

Water sports - Quebec offers white-water rafting on the Rivière Rouge or if you're after something a bit less adventurous, perhaps try boating, canoeing or sailing.

Ride the Funicular - A cable car linking Haute-Ville and Basse-Ville.

Visit the oldest shopping district in North America - Quartier Petit Champlain Shopping District has everything from designer clothing to home-wares.

Chateau Frontenac - Said to be one of the most photographed hotels in the world!

Citadelle of Quebec - A military fortress and a significant landmark. Tour the Montreal Botanical Gardens which features over 20,000 different plant species.

Montreal

Markets by the St. Lawrence River - Shop with the locals and perhaps taste some Quebecois Cheese at the Marche du Vieux-Port.

Nightlife in Montreal - Mix with the hip and trendy at Crescent Street. You will find an abundant array of bars and nightclubs, located just down from Montreal's University Campus.

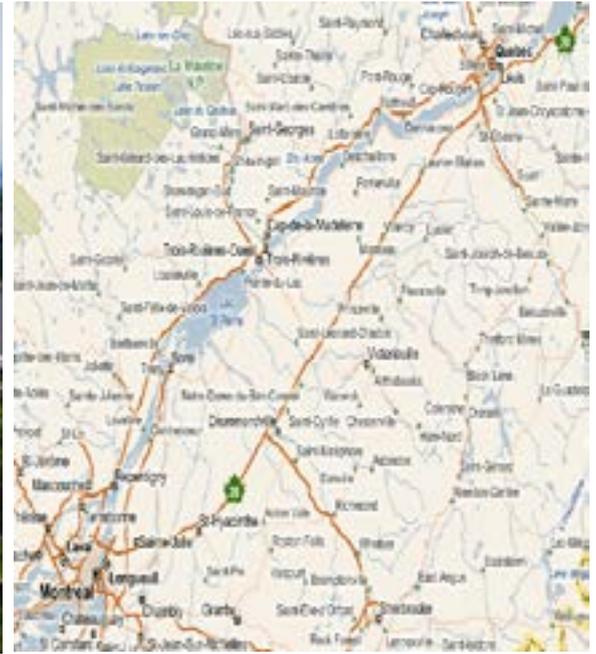
Quebec City

Self-Drive Tours around Québec

Montreal to Quebec City

If you're staying in Montreal and are looking for the perfect way to spend the day, head to Quebec City. The drive is approximately three hours and there are two of 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 Quebec 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.



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

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

Campbellton's Regional Snow-Fest.

March

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

June

Edmundston Jazz and Blues Festival
Campbellton 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 - Fredericton.

Attractions

The Cape Jourimain Nature Centre - Breathtaking scenery in an eco-friendly environment.

The Kingsbrae Garden - This award winning garden will make every enthusiastic gardener green with envy.

The New Brunswick Museum - Explore the history of New Brunswick and see amazing sculptures, paintings and exhibitions.

The Boardwalk in St. John - Evenings come alive with musical activities.

Whale Watching Cruise - Explore the waters of the Bay of Fundy aboard the 'Mister Matthew'.

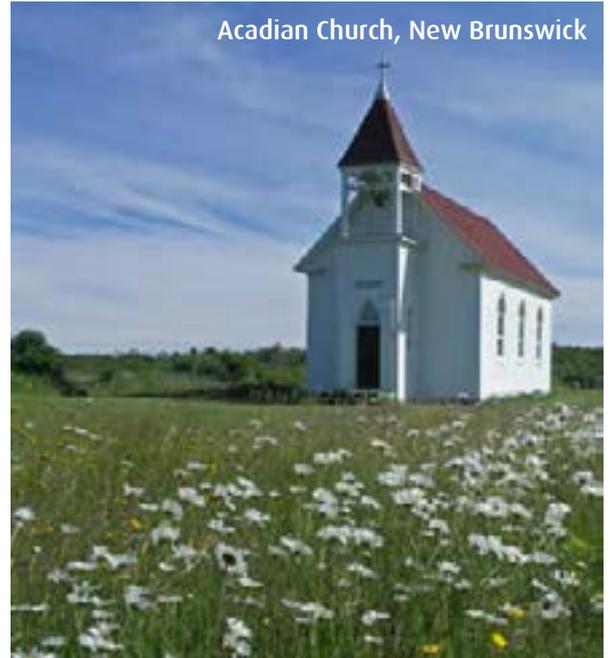
Enjoy the outdoors - Go hiking through ancient valleys, visit the sandy beaches of the Acadian coast or spend the day windsurfing, boating or golfing at Parlee Provincial Park.

Self-Drive Tours around New Brunswick

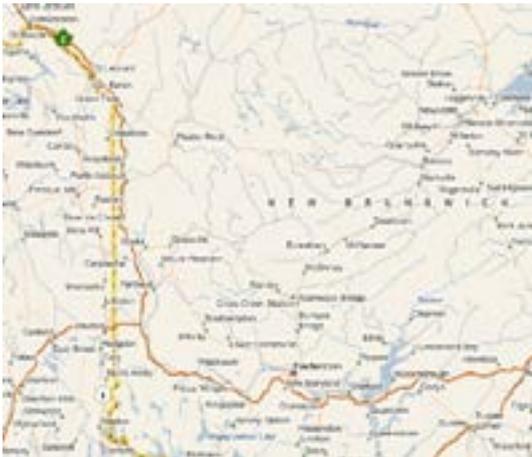
Acadian Coastal Drive

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 Church, New Brunswick



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 magnificent scenery and cultural charm along the way.



Fredericton, New Brunswick

Canada's East Coast

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 in 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.

Attractions

Nova Scotia

Visit one of the 27 Museums - Take a guided tour of the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic or explore the Joggins Fossil Institute.

Bay of Fundy - As high as a four storey building; Bay of Fundy has the highest tides in the world.

Local produce - Savour fresh and exciting local produce such as seafood, blueberries, maple syrup and Digby scallops; just to name a few.

Prince Edward Island

Traditional Lobster Supper - Stop off at Saint Ann's Church on Route 224, any day except Sunday and sample some of the finest local seafood on offer including mussels, chowder, lobsters as well as salad, traditional homemade pie and tea.

The Founders' Hall Museum - If you're a bit rusty on the story of Confederation, take an interactive journey through history from past to present.

The Anne of Green Gables Museum - The famous author and one of Canada's most famous females, 'Anne of Green Gables' was born on the north shore of Prince Edward Island.

The Confederation Bridge - This bridge links Prince Edward Island to mainland New Brunswick.

Newfoundland and Labrador

Get out and about in the fresh air - Watch the Humpback Whales, visit the sea caves and remote pebble beaches, explore Gros Morne National Park, go on a boating tour, or spend the day golfing, kayaking or canoeing.

UNESCO World Heritage Sites - Gros Morne National Park and L'Anse Aux Meadows National Historic Site.

The art of Newfoundland and Labrador - Visit the Coast of Bays Art and Exploration Centre of the Sir Wilfred Grenfell Art Gallery.

Peggys Lighthouse, Nova Scotia

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 coastland which presents opportunities to see 10,000 year old icebergs and witness whales migrate.

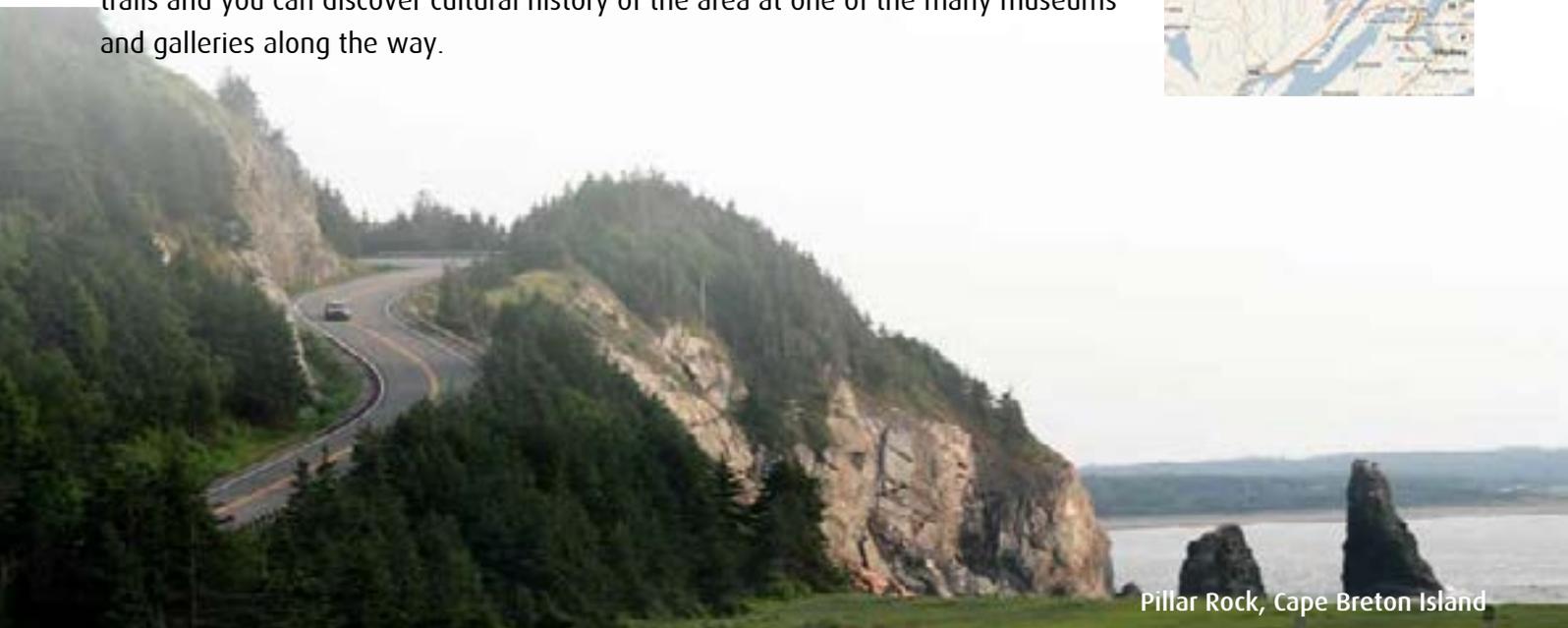
The land along the route was discovered by Vikings 1,000 years ago and as such there is a rich cultural presence to the area. The museums along the way are filled with the artefacts of archaeological digs and the ancient native settlement at L'Anse aux Meadows National historic site will have you thinking 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.



The Cabot Trail

The Cabot Trail in Nova Scotia is one of the most famous scenic drives in Canada. The route is approximately 298 kms long and loops around the northern tip of Cape Breton Island. The drive altogether is approximately 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.



Pillar Rock, Cape Breton Island

Climate and Weather

Due to its vast size and widely varied landscapes, it is always a good time to visit Canada. Many visitors arrive in summer due to the more pleasant temperatures and the ability to enjoy more outdoor activities; yet spring and autumn have fewer crowds, lower prices and a more relaxed atmosphere. In the southern regions, summer lasts from late May to early September, but in the northern regions summer only lasts from mid-June to mid-September.

Much of Canada is covered in snow for the majority of winter, and with the official ski season running from December to late March, this is the perfect destination for a ski holiday.



Winter in Toronto

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 medical 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.

Stay Safe

Canada is considered one of the safest countries to live and to travel. 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.

Canadian 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.

Banking Hours

Standard banking hours are Monday to Thursday 9.30am to 4.00pm, and open til 6.00pm on Fridays.

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.

American Express: ph: 1 905 474 0870 www.americanexpress.com

Mastercard: ph: 1 800 307 7309 www.mastercard.com

Visa: ph: 1 800 847 2911 www.visa.com

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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