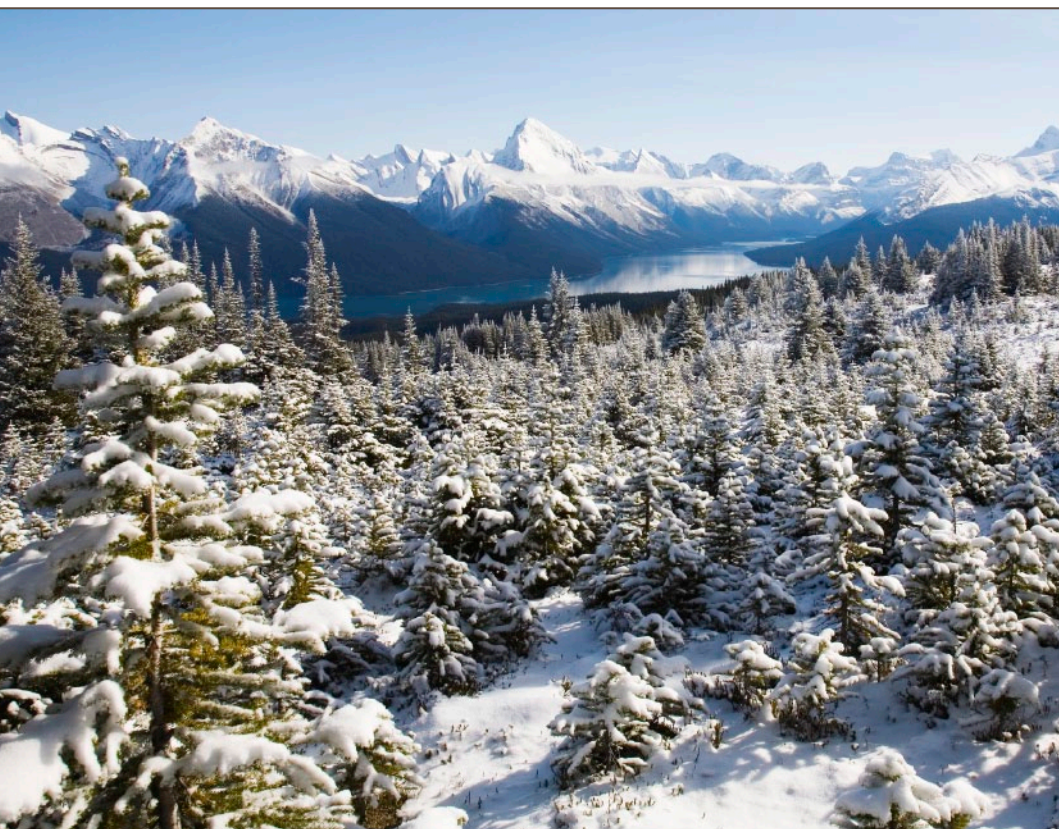


The destination guides

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Editorial

Canada welcomes a lot of immigrants each year: would you like to be one of them?

With an area of more than 9 million km², Canada is the second largest country in the world. Bilingual and multicultural, the country offers many opportunities. Canada is indeed one of the most popular destinations among expats: the government implemented numerous programs to keep attracting foreigners.

Formalities, job search, accommodation... You will have to face a lot of new challenges, to adapt to a new environment, to promote your skills, to understand social codes.

The Expat blog guide aims at providing you with concrete and useful information to manage successfully your expat project in Canada for you and your family.

Enjoy the reading and welcome to Canada!



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Being a true multilingual communication platform, its mission is to share a pragmatic vision of life abroad, through forums, directories, blogs of expats, a social network setting and downloadable expatriation guides. Everyone can participate and share his own experience.

A website by expatriates, for expatriates, with a constantly growing active community: Expat Blog is the most all-around expatriate network on the world wide web.





Canada

With an area of 9,984,670 km², Canada is the second largest country in the world. Composed of ten provinces and three territories, it extends from East to West from the Atlantic Ocean to the Pacific Ocean, and North to the Arctic Ocean, sharing a common border with the United States.

The capital of Canada is Ottawa. Among the different provinces and territories listed, we can name Ontario, Quebec, British Columbia, Alberta, Nova Scotia, Manitoba or Saskatchewan (see [Appendix C](#)). According to statistics from the World Bank, its population stood to 34,482,779 inhabitants in 2011.

Canada is considered as one of the world's richest nations. It is also a multicultural and bilingual nation, English and French being the two official languages.

Canada is a constitutional monarchy with a parliamentary system which recognizes Queen Elizabeth II's coronation since February 6, 1952. The Governor General of Canada is appointed by the Queen on the advice of the Prime Minister, but has no real power. Rideau Hall in Ottawa, and the Citadelle of Quebec

are the residences of the governor. The federal parliamentary system in Canada has a democratic tradition inherited from the British democracy of the sixteenth century. The legislative branch consists of the Parliament, with the Governor General representing the Queen, the Senate and the House of Commons.

Around 35 million people visit Canada every year. More than 90,000 foreign workers come here to work temporarily and more than 130,000 students come to study as well as to learn English and French.

Key figures:

Area: 9 984 670 km²

Population: 34,482,779 inhabitants (2011)

Capital: Ottawa

Languages: English, French

Currency: Canadian Dollar/ CAD\$

Regime: Federal parliamentary democracy

Prime minister: Stephen Harper



Formalities

- > Going to Canada
- > Passport, visa?

To settle in Canada, you should first determine which immigration program suits you best by visiting the Citizenship and Immigration Canada website. You can then apply either as a tourist, as a student, or as a temporary worker. You also need to consult the list of countries and territories whose members are authorized in Canada without a visa.

To immigrate to Canada permanently, you should seek information before you choose one of the several programs:

- Skilled Workers and Professionals
- Federal Skilled Trades program
- Skilled workers (Quebec)
- Canadian Experience Class
- Investors, entrepreneurs and self-employed
- Sponsor a family member
- Provincial Nominee
- Caregivers living
- Refugees

As from 2013, people from 29 countries and one territory applying for a temporary resident visa, study permit

or work permit must apply in person and give their fingerprints and a photography. You will find a list of these countries on [Appendix A](#). Data collection will be mandatory for all those coming from countries or territories mentioned and who apply for temporary residence as from December 2013.

Useful link:

Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) – Biometric Information Screening <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/visit/biometrics.asp>

Visa

You can go to Canada as a tourist, as parents or grandparents to visit your children or grandchildren, for business, and also through Canada without visiting. You might need a visitor visa if you are moving to Canada for a short stay. Moreover, if you are living in Canada with a study or work permit, you can apply for a visitor visa which will allow you to leave and come back afterwards.



To visit your children or grandchildren in Canada, you have to obtain a Super Visa by applying for a temporary resident visa. This will allow you to stay in Canada for up to two years.

To be eligible for a business visa, you must produce your identification documents, prove that you do not intend to stay in Canada for more than six months and that you will not engage in any profession during your stay. You must also prove that your business is located outside the country, as well as your source of income.

To extend your stay in the country, you must apply at least 30 days before your status expires. It is strongly advised to have specific documents in hand when you enter Canada.

[english/visit/apply-who.asp](http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/visit/apply-who.asp)

Super Visa <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/visit/supervisa.asp>

Business Visa <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/visit/business-who.asp>

Useful links:

Citizenship and Immigration Canada – Determine your eligibility to immigrate <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/immigrate/eligibility.asp>

Citizenship and Immigration Canada – Determine if you need a visa <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/visit/visas.asp>

Visitor Visa <http://www.cic.gc.ca/>



Working in Canada

- > Do I need a visa?
- > What are the procedures?

To work in Canada, your employer might be required to provide a Labor Market Opinion (LMO) from the Human Resources and Skills Development Canada (HRSDC). The LMO confirms that there isn't any Canadian nor permanent resident available and that the employer can fill a particular position with a foreign worker. For some kinds of jobs, a LMO is not necessary. A temporary resident visa may also be required.

Work permit

A work permit is not an immigration document: it's temporary but can be extended if you made your application in Canada. You must qualify under an immigration category, such as skilled workers. Resident caregivers meeting certain requirements can apply to stay in Canada permanently. Your spouse or partner and dependent children can apply to come to Canada with you.

Before applying for a work permit, you need to check if you qualify for it. You should apply for a work permit outside of Canada. But you can also submit your application when you enter the country or even when you are already in Canada. However, keep in mind that you have to meet the same requirements.

Requirements and processing time for your application depend on the kind of work you wish to do in Canada, and also if your family members want to work in the country. If you are entitled to work in Canada, members of your family may also benefit of the same terms as those on the license issued. However, your eligibility depends on the place from which you submit your application.

You will have to convince the officer that you will leave Canada when your employment contract comes to an end. You must also prove that you have enough money to meet your needs and those of your family during your stay in the country. You need to show respect for the law, prove that you do not represent a threat for the country and have no criminal record. You can be requested to submit a police certificate. You must be in good health and you may be asked to undergo a medical examination if necessary.



You must not intend to get employed by an ineligible employer. You should also not have worked in Canada for four years since April 1st 2011. On your arrival, you may have to provide any additional documentation required by the immigration agent, to determine your eligibility to stay in the country.

Get a new temporary resident visa

To be able to go back to Canada after your visa expires, you must apply for a new temporary resident visa before your departure if you are already in Canada under a valid temporary resident status, a study permit or a valid work permit. If you are a temporary resident lawfully admitted to Canada and you have a residential address in Canada, or if your current temporary resident status is still valid and your current visa has expired or was only valid for one entry, you must obtain a new temporary resident visa to be able to enter again the country.

Working Holiday Visa

If you want to acquire working experience in Canada, you can apply for a Working Holiday Visa (WHV). This will allow you to work for any employer in any Canadian province. It is an agreement on youth mobility signed by many countries with the Canadian

government in order to further facilitate travel between the signatory countries, while making the process simpler.

Foreign students as well as Canadian students wishing to undertake part of their university studies in another institution, and also those who want to participate in the Student Guide Program can benefit from the program. Some of the participating countries are Australia, France, Belgium, Ireland, Italy, United Kingdom, Germany, Japan, Spain and Netherlands among others.

The WHV is a temporary visa enabling students aged 18 to 35 years to work on the Canadian territory. This visa is part of the International Experience Canada program (IEC) which allows students to gain work experience in Canada. You do not need a job to qualify for this program. However, the program is limited in some countries to people under 30. You must wait until the opening of the visa program by the Canadian government, usually in late November in order to apply for the visa.

The processing fees for work permits are CAD 150. The length of validity of the permit will vary according to your country of citizenship. Make sure you have a valid passport when you apply for the visa. You must also have



proof of funds for a minimum amount of 2,100 euros issued by your bank. This will help you prove that you have sufficient funds to stay in Canada and cater for your daily needs. You should consider updating your resume and attach it to your application, as well as a letter to justify your stay in Canada.

You will also need to subscribe to a health and repatriation insurance for the length of your stay. You will have to provide proof of insurance to the immigration officer upon your arrival in Canada.

Useful links:

Citizenship and Immigration Canada – Determine if you need a visa <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/work/apply-who.asp>

Citizenship and Immigration Canada – Apply for a work permit <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/work/permit.asp>

International Experience Canada – Apply for a WHV <http://www.international.gc.ca/experience/index.aspx>

Setting up a business

If you wish to start a business in Canada as an expat, you must

determine whether you are authorized to own and exploit a business in the country. You should also know to what extent your skills and qualifications will be recognized in Canada and what are the regulations regarding your industry. If your field is regulated, you might need to obtain a license or a certification.

If you already own a business in your home country, you can still check with the various government agencies providing programs and services to support entrepreneurs. To be an entrepreneur in Canada you should familiarize yourself with the rules and laws established by the Canadian government and prepare yourself for coming challenges. There are rules and laws established by the federal and provincial governments such as business licenses, regulations related to health and safety, environment and protection of your employees, as well as standards for wages and working conditions. Choose the type of structure you want for your business and register it with the provincial authorities such as the Canada Revenue Agency.

Developing a business plan will eventually contribute to the success of your business. This will allow you to specify your business activities, discover the current market, start planning your activities, explain your business



operations, identify potential risks, as well as to provide the annual financial estimates of your business. You can seek legal advice before you get started. You are advised to subscribe to a commercial insurance in order to protect your business against any type of incident such as fire or theft.

Useful link:

**Canada Revenue Agency –
Information on business and tax**
[http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca/tx/bsnss/
menu-eng.html](http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca/tx/bsnss/menu-eng.html)

Investing in Canada

The Canadian government launched the visa program for starting a business in Canada in April 2013. It is a world premiere which offers sought-after entrepreneurs permanent residency as well as access to a wide range of partners. Canada is becoming a popular destination for entrepreneurs who can contribute to the Canadian economy and propel it forward in the global economy.

The program has been established by the CIC with the collaboration of Canada's Venture Capital, Private Equity Association (CVCA) and the National Angel Capital Organization (NACO). Its objective is to identify

and designate capital funds venture and providential investors. Thus, expat entrepreneurs wishing to start a business in Canada can obtain permanent resident status with the support of Canadian investors involved.





Labor market

> How to find a job?

You should start gathering information on the Canadian labor market before your arrival. Your diploma and skills have to be recognized in the region. Check if your occupation exists in Canada, if it is regulated and what are the criteria to be able to work in your field in the province of your choice.

Find a job

Canada offers a wide variety of jobs and industries. Although job search can take a lot of time and effort, the country is a popular choice for expats around the world because of the numerous opportunities offered. Several sectors, including industry, information technology, finance, tourism and culture are experiencing strong growth.

Start preparing your resume if you do not already have one or update it. Many Canadian companies do not consider candidates who do not send their CV along with their application. Write a letter based on the selection

criteria of the position. You can subsequently contact the Canadian Social Services to help you find a job. You might as well check the classified ads in newspapers or websites specialized in job offers. You should master job interviews techniques, improve your language skills in English and French from the outset. To be able to work in Canada, a Social Insurance Number (SIN) is compulsory.

Good to know:

The labour market is based on several industries such as forestry economy, mining, construction, telecommunications, technologies as well as tourism and fisheries. The Canadian government wants to ensure job creation in order to attract more immigrants.

Toronto is one of the most popular choices for expats. The city offers a wide variety of jobs and industries. Several sectors, including industry, information technology, finance, tourism and culture are experiencing strong growth. Moreover, Toronto has developed a mentoring program for immigrant professionals in collaboration with the CASIP (Consortium of Agencies Serving Internationally Trained Professionals); it focuses on jobs such as engineering, accounting, finance, purchasing, human resources and facilities management.



In Calgary, you can also find dedicated programs such as Immigrant Services Calgary which provides mentoring services to expats, especially for professional women. The agency has a professional assessment system and a language center helping immigrants with workshops on career planning, strategies for job search, writing a resume, etc. MAPLE 2.0 is another national project bringing together employers and professionals trained to create more employment opportunities for immigrants in the region.

The Saskatchewan Immigrants Nominees Program (SINP) enables you to apply to permanent job offers through a selection process.

Saskatchewan Immigrants Nominees Program – SINP <http://www.saskimmigrationcanada.ca/sinp>

Work as a student

You can work on the campus as an international student without permit while studying under certain conditions: being enrolled as full-time student in a public or private post-secondary educational institution (the institution should receive at least 50% of its funding from government grants or be authorized by provincial statutes to confer degrees) and having a valid student permit.

To be able to work off campus, you must be registered as a full-time student in a participating post-secondary institution funded by the government or an eligible private school. You should also have received your work permit. Thus, you should not work more than 20 hours per week during regular academic sessions. During holidays, you are allowed to work full time.

Useful links:

Hire immigrants – Find a job in Canada <http://www.embaucheimmigrants.ca/>

Consortium of Agencies Serving Internationally Trained Professionals – CASIP <http://www.casip.ca/>

Immigrant Services Calgary <http://www.immigrantservices-calgary.ca/how-can-we-help/career-education-planning>



If you are 18 to 35 years old and if your country has signed an agreement with Canada, you may also have the opportunity to work in the country through the International Experience Canada program. Working in Canada will help you gain work experience. It will also enable you to develop a network of business contacts for the future, and help you to settle in Canada after graduation. Some programs offer work permits for international students and their spouses.

Useful link:

Education in Canada – Study and work in Canada <http://www.educationau-incanada.ca/>

Proud of your San Francisco's Golden Gate Bridge picture?

Add it up to the album [Expat-blog.com](http://www.expat-blog.com)!



Studying in Canada

- > How to choose a university?
- > How to proceed?

Before going to study in Canada, you must apply for a study visa. This permit is issued by an immigration officer and allows you, after being admitted to the country, to stay to attend a professional or academic general training program. You will need it if you intend to enroll in a university, college or other approved educational institution.

If you come from a country or territory whose citizens require a temporary resident visa to enter Canada, you will receive it at the same time as the study permit. However, you will not need a permit if your program lasts less than six months. Note that you must first be accepted as a student before applying for a license.

To be eligible to receive a study permit, you must convince the visa officer that you will leave Canada at the end of the period during which

you are allowed to stay in Canada. You also need to prove that you have been accepted by an educational institution in Canada and that you have enough money to pay your for your tuitions, to meet your daily needs and the ones of your dependents. You may also be asked to prove that you do not represent a risk to Canada and undergo a medical examination. You must produce all the necessary documents to the visa officer who will review your application.

Make sure your forms are properly filled out, including the questionnaire for the visa application. You must submit two passport-size photographs of yourself and of each accompanying person, a valid passport for each applicant, a copy of the personal information page of your current passport, plus the original and a photocopy of your letter of acceptance from a Canadian educational institution where you registered establishment. If you plan to study in Quebec, you will need a Quebec Selection Certificate (CSQ).

In addition, you must produce proof of sufficient funds to cover all your expenses during your first year of study, even if you already have paid for the tuitions. You will be required to submit a copy of your bank statements for the last three months.



Choosing a university

You should start the procedures at least eight months before departure. Canadian universities generally process the requests from November to April. Send your complete file to each university you wish to apply.

Fees may vary according to the different universities. To be eligible, you must hold a bachelor's degree or any other equivalent degree. Some universities in Canada may ask you to prove your level of English through formal tests such as IELTS (International English Language Testing System) and TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language).

Canadian universities are funded by the national government, but the programs offered are managed independently by the various provinces and territories. Diplomas awarded by these universities are modeled on those of the American system, making them internationally recognized and thus facilitating equivalence in further studies.

The most famous Canadian universities are the University of Toronto, the University of British Columbia, the University of Alberta, Queen's University, the University of Waterloo, McMaster University, the University of Western Ontario, or the University of Calgary.

Useful information

Foreign students holding Canadian professional titles and a Canadian work experience may apply for permanent residency without having to leave Canada.

Useful links:

Citizenship and Immigration Canada – Studying <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/study/index.asp>

Citizenship and Immigration Canada – Find out if you need a visa <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/visit/visas.asp>

**875 000 members
already registered!**

**Welcome,
newcomers!**





Accommodation

> How to find housing in Canada?

If you want to settle in Canada, you should first determine whether you want to buy a house or an apartment, or simply rent a place to live. You will find houses and apartments for rent in the classifieds section of local newspapers. You can also visit websites offering rental services.

In Canada, housing can be rented from the first day of the month, but some are also available from the 15th of the month. You can find accommodation at any time of the year. You must however reserve your moving truck or professional movers in advance.

To rent a house you must usually sign a one-year lease which is a legal binding contract between you and the owner. However, make sure you have read and understood the contract before signing it.

After having made your decision, you will need to build a good credit history in Canada. Canadian banks will rely on it to determine if they will grant

you a bank loan or not. If you prefer to rent, this history will help the owner determine if you are eligible to fulfill your obligations for renting. For more information, please visit the website of the Financial Consumer Agency of Canada.

Regulations

The owner may ask you to pay a security deposit to rent the unit you have chosen. This is an amount the owner will keep in case you damage the premises. This amount is usually equal to one month's rent. It will be totally refunded if you do not cause any damage to the premises until your departure. However, in certain Canadian provinces, the law prohibits landlords from asking for a security deposit. Contact your provincial or territorial government if you want to know about the laws in force in the area you choose to live in. Note that you can also subscribe to a housing insurance to protect your home.

Buying a house or an apartment

To buy a house or a flat, it is best to contact a real estate agent. You can also check the classifieds or real estate agencies websites. Remember that buying a house can be quite expensive because you have to deal



with many costs, namely those of the real estate agent, lawyer or notary, as well as other expenses related to the purchase of the house. You must, of course, take into account the annual property tax, home insurance, registration fees, various taxes associated with the purchase of a house, as well as maintenance, heating services, electricity, water and sewerage.

You can also benefit from financial aids for the purchase of a house in Canada. For more information, you can consult the Canada Revenue Agency website.

Prices

The province of Alberta offers a variety of affordable housing compared to other major Canadian cities. The average price of a house in Calgary is between 38% and 48% lower than in other major cities representing an average of CAD 222,860. To rent an apartment in Calgary, the average price was CAD 1,113 per month in 2012.

In Vancouver, property costs vary between CAD 30,000 and 60,000. Rental can vary between CAD 900 and 1,500 monthly. To rent a 4 ½ apartment, for example, you need an average of CAD 1,169 per month.

Renting an apartment with a bedroom

in Toronto will cost at least CAD 850 monthly. If you are looking for housing closer to the city center, you will need between CAD 500 and 1,500. If you opt for a luxury apartment, rental price can go up to several thousand dollars monthly.

Useful links:

National Post: <http://classifieds.nationalpost.com/>

Classified Extra: www.classifiedextra.ca

View It: www.viewit.ca

Craigslist <http://calgary.en.craigslist.ca/hhh/>

Vancouver Sun <http://classifieds.vancouver.sun.com/>

Gabino Home <http://canada.gabinohome.com/en/rent+flat/toronto>

Canada Revenue Agency website – Get help to buy a house <http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca/menu-eng.html>



Health care

> Health care system

> Do I need a health-insurance?

Once in Canada, you may need to undergo a medical examination similar to the one you did before becoming a Canadian resident. This will help in monitoring people who may suffer from a non-active infectious disease. You should contact the health authorities of the province you live in within 30 days following your arrival. You will also need to subscribe to a health insurance like all Canadian citizens. This system aims at making sure that all residents of the country have access to health care provided by doctors and hospitals.

The health program consists of several provincial and territorial health care plans with common characteristics. Health insurance will avoid you paying directly most health services. To qualify, you just have to show your insurance card to the hospital or medical clinic. However, health insurance differs from one province to another and cannot be applied in some of them. In this case, you may

need to take a temporary private health insurance.

On arrival, do not delay to register to public health insurance. You can get the application documents from a doctor, hospital, pharmacy or from a support organization for immigrants. You can also get the form on the website of the Ministry of Health.

You must have in your possession your identity documents such as your birth certificate, passport or permanent resident card when you make your request. The insurance card mentions your personal data such as your name, address, date of birth and gender. You must have it with you when you show up in a hospital or clinic. In some provinces, only adults receive a health insurance card on which are registered data for each family member while in others, each family member receives its own health insurance card.

Useful information

Make sure you always have your card with you. Do not to lend it to anyone and do not lose it. You could lose the benefits it gives you if you lend it to someone else. Criminal charges may also be brought against you and you can be expelled from Canada. If you lose it, you may be required to pay a replacement fee.



Private health insurance

You may have to wait some time before receiving your health insurance card. You should then consider subscribing to a temporary private health insurance in the first days following your arrival in Canada.

Private health insurance applies to services such as dental care, private rooms in hospitals, drugs and glasses which are not covered by public plan. Some employers may offer you the opportunity to subscribe to health insurance. Learn more about the criteria and conditions before giving your consent.

Useful link:

Citizenship and Immigration Canada – Information about health care <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/newcomers/after-health.asp>

Banking

> How to open a bank account?

To open a bank account in Canada, you must decide first where you want to open your account and compare the different options available before making a decision. Major Canadian banks offer several types of accounts and services. There are also minor banks offering reduced services and facilities.

Talk with a representative to determine which type of account best suits your needs. Seek information about the administrative costs although opening an account is free of charge. You will also have to tell the bank where you used to carry out your banking transactions in the past and answer questions related to your credit history in the country where you lived before your move.

You will have to produce your identification documents such as your passport, social insurance or permanent resident card number, as well as documents certifying your address, such as a driver's license or phone bill. If you do not have



these documents, you will need to be accompanied by someone who can confirm your identity to the bank. However, the bank reserves the right to confirm whether the person is eligible to identify you.

Useful links:

Bank of Canada

www.bankofcanada.ca

Business Development Bank of Canada www.bdc.ca

Farm Credit Canada www.fcc-fac.ca

Royal Bank of Canada
www.rbcroyalbank.com

Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce www.cibc.com

Scotiabank www.scotiabank.com

National Bank of Canada
www.nbc.ca

Laurentian Bank of Canada
www.banquelaurentienne.ca

Rights and responsibilities

The Financial Consumer Agency of Canada provides information on financial products and services and informs consumers about their rights and responsibilities related to their banking transactions. Note that a bank cannot deny you the right to open an account, even if you are unemployed, if you are bankrupt, or if you do not put money in the account. However, the bank may ask you to make a deposit if you order for checks.

If you are working or studying in Canada, you can ask if there is a special partnership between your employer or university so that your banking fees be minimized.

Credit card

It may be difficult for newcomers to obtain a credit card in Canada. This is because you do not yet have a credit history in the country. In case of difficulty, you can try to ask your employer to vouch for your easy access to credit.

Interest rates, authorization limits, as well as terms of payment and annual fees vary according to different institutions.



Tax system

- > Do I have to pay tax?
- > What are the criteria?

Residents are taxed on the basis of their residence, not citizenship. Thus, a permanent resident of Canada can apply for Canadian citizenship and a Canadian passport three years after his arrival. They are taxed on their income from all over the world, but offshore trusts are allowed for new permanent residents. Canadian citizens who do not reside in Canada do not pay tax on their worldwide income while non-residents pay tax only on some Canadian-source income and capital gains. In addition, property rights or inheritance rights are nonexistent.

Most Canadian residents must fill in a tax return for the tax year. The Canadian government collects taxes on behalf of all provinces except Quebec. This allows Canadian residents to enjoy the various programs such as social assistance for people in need, employment insurance for laid-off employees, as well as compensation for victims of accidents.

If you are a newcomer, you must use the general tax and benefit package of the province or territory of residence on December 31st of the taxation year. Note that rates and tax credits vary from one province to another. This is why you must use the appropriate form. The deadline for submitting your tax return is April 30th of the year following the tax year. If you or your spouse have a business in Canada, you have until June 15th of the year following the tax year.

You must file a tax return if you have tax to pay or if you want to request a refund. You may be entitled to certain credits or payments even if you do not have to notify income or pay taxes. To receive credit or payment for the GST/HST (Goods and Services Tax/ Harmonized Sales Tax) or payments from the Canadian Child Tax Benefit or benefits and credits granted under certain related provincial or territorial programs, you must fill a tax return.

Important note:

You only pay tax on your income from Canadian sources for the period when you were not a resident of Canada. When you become a resident of the country, you must indicate in your Canadian tax return income from all sources that you gain for tax purposes. You may have paid more



tax than you should. You will then be entitled to a refund and if you have not paid enough, you will be required to pay the difference.

Useful links:

Citizenship and Immigration Canada – Information on income tax <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/newcomers/after-money-income.asp>

Canada Revenue Agency – Information about tax <http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca/tx/nrrsdnts/ndvdl/nwcmr-eng.html>





Driving in Canada

- > Is my driver's license valid in Canada?
- > Do I need an international driver's license?

To drive a car in Canada you do not need an international license. You simply need a valid driver's license. There are two conditions for your driver's license to be accepted. Firstly, it must use the Latin alphabet and secondly, it must have been obtained for more than a year. If you are from Europe, you will need a B type driving license and if you come from Switzerland, you must hold a pink license, which is the only one valid. This will allow you to rent a car, and even buy a second hand car in Canada.

If you want to bring an international driver's license, you should also have your national driver's license. You have the legal obligation to have your driving license in your possession when you drive. You must also

have the registration certificate of the vehicle, as well as proof of insurance for your vehicle.

Each province and territory of Canada has its own laws and regulations regarding traffic and driver's license. Some of them have signed a reciprocity agreement with other countries to ensure the recognition of certain foreign driver's licenses.

In Canada you will drive on the right side of the road. To drive safely, you must be aware of all signs and traffic regulations. You should check with the Department of Transport in the province you live in.

To obtain a driver's license, you should consult the agency or organisation responsible for issuing driver's licenses in your province. Regulations related to the issue of a driver's license generally vary in different provinces and territories. A driver's license may be granted in stages in some of these regions. Different limits can thus be set for drivers.

You can use your foreign license during the first month succeeding your arrival in Canada. To keep your driving privileges, you will ultimately take a driving test consisting of a theoretical and a practical component. Thus, you need to learn the Canadian traffic rules. Note that the cost of obtaining



this license may depend on where you live and the content of your file.

Practical advice

You should also take driving lessons prior to your exam even if you already know how to drive. Some private companies offer paying driving lessons. You can consult the yellow pages of your phone directory to contact Canadian driving schools. Once you have obtained your driver's license you will be able to drive anywhere in the country. However, your license must be renewed regularly. A recent picture of you will also be included.

**Looking for real-life
and true stories?**

**Check the
blogs directory
Expat-blog.com!**



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Useful link:

**Citizenship and Immigration
Canada – Information about
driver's license** <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/newcomers/after-transportation-driving.asp>



Moving to Canada

> What can I bring with me?

Prepare yourself mentally and physically to start a new life. After identifying the location and type of life that suits you best, you need to plan your move. You should get familiarized to Canada and its lifestyle to know what you can take with you when you move. Gather information first on what is allowed in the country before undertaking the procedures and estimate the volume of your belongings in order to get an idea of the cost of moving.

Make a list of your priorities before moving. Do not take things that you will not need immediately and get rid of those you will not use much in Canada. You will then have to decide how you will carry your belongings to Canada, either by doing it on your own or by hiring an international mover. The quantity and weight of luggage you can carry by plane and boat is limited. If you are moving to Canada from the United States you can rent a small van you could drive.

Take time to pack your stuff carefully before loading. Do not take fragile items with you. Check your belongings before loading them on the vehicle, especially if you have hired an international mover. You will obtain a list of items you can bring to Canada when you move on the Canada Border Services Agency website.

Customs

On arrival in Canada, you will be directed to the customs control of the airport. You will have to produce your passport to the officer, as well as a list of your belongings and the customs declaration form you got in the airplane. If you have only one or two bags of clothes, a camera and a laptop and you do not intend to bring other goods, you do not have to provide this list.

On your first visit in Canada, you can import free of duty your personal and household goods such as furniture, dishes, silverware and appliances. However, it is better to buy them once in the country. You also agree to not allow a resident of Canada to use your personal belongings, to sell or throw them away, to take them back with you when you leave Canada, and to pay a deposit refundable at customs



if necessary. If you are a temporary resident in Canada, you may be required to pay 5% of the entire value of your belongings.

Importing a vehicle

If you wish to import a vehicle, a car, a van or a truck, you must check if it meets the safety standards and emissions as defined by Transport Canada. The provincial authorities may ask you to present a safety certificate for vehicle registration.

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Useful links:

Canada Border Services Agency
– List of items you can bring to
Canada [http://www.cbsa.gc.ca/
menu-eng.html](http://www.cbsa.gc.ca/menu-eng.html)

Transport Canada website –
Importing a vehicle [http://www.
tc.gc.ca/eng/roadsafety/safevehi-
cles-importation-index-443.htm](http://www.tc.gc.ca/eng/roadsafety/safevehicles-importation-index-443.htm)



Practical life

> Transports, Phones and Internet, Leisure

Transports

In Canada, there are several ways to travel from one region to another. To travel in urban areas, you can opt for subway, bus, taxi, or bike, while to move out of town, which means longer distances, you may travel by plane, by train or by bus. Make sure you choose the safest means, comparing the price beforehand. Canada has a fairly extensive national bus line. There are many connections to Canadian and US destinations, as well as lines at national and regional level. Taking the bus may be faster than the train. You can travel long distances at very affordable rates.

Useful links:

Geryhound - www.greyhound.ca

Intercar - www.intercar.qc.ca

Air Canada - www.aircanada.com

Westjet - www.westjet.com

Via Rail - www.viarail.ca

Many people prefer to rent a car to go around Canada. There are car rental companies almost everywhere in the major cities and airports. Other people prefer carpooling rather than renting a car. Many companies offer this kind of service in Canada. You can simply register with one of these companies, specifying the place where you want to go, and wait to be notified when there is another person willing to make the same trip.

Useful links:

Auto Escape
www.autoescape.co.uk

Kangaride
<https://www.kangaride.com/>



Phones

Each of the ten provinces in Canada has its own communication regulations and services. There is no national server in Canada. Several providers offer communication services such as fixed phone lines, international calls, Internet, as well as mobile telephony and cable TV. In general, you will have to pay an amount ranging between CAD 30 and CAD 45 for basic local telephone service. This entitles you to unlimited local calls in your area code. You may be required to pay a security deposit when you apply. The price of the amount paid will be given according to the amount you spend on telephone services. This money is returned to you with an interest rate in effect after twelve months.

Useful links:

Bell Canada www.bell.ca

Rogers (Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick, Newfoundland)
www.rogers.com

Virgin Mobile (Ontario)
www.virginmobile.ca

Videotron (Quebec)
www.videotron.com

Internet

You can choose between telephone line, ADSL and cable. However, all these options are not available in all regions. If you have a laptop, you can access Wi-Fi against payment in several institutions such as airports, hotels and cafes. Telephone access to the Internet can cost CAD 20 a month. As for ADSL, the number of options and packages available vary according to the different cities. In general, services in the range of 128kbps and 256kbps cost around CAD 30 per month while those around 10mbps cost an average of CAD 55 per month.

Leisure

To escape the routine of restaurants, cinema and bistro, you can choose from numerous attractions such as zoos, theme parks, national and provincial parks, waterfalls and rivers and mountain ranges.

There are some forty national parks across the country, as well as provincial parks specially designed to protect ecosystems. Visitors can discover various wonders of nature. You will find shelters with naturalists to guide you through your walk, as well as camping facilities and picnic areas.



Appendix A

> List of countries and territories whose citizens must provide their biometric data

September 2013:

Columbia
Haiti
Jamaica

October 2013:

Albania
Algeria
Democratic Republic of
Congo
Eritrea
Libya
Nigeria
Saudi Arabia
Somalia
South Sudan
Sudan
Tunisia

December 2013:

Afghanistan
Bangladesh
Burma (Myanmar)
Cambodia
Egypt
Iran
Iraq
Jordan
Laos
Lebanon
Pakistan
Sri Lanka
Syria
Vietnam
Yemen
Palestinian Authority



Appendix B

> List of countries from which a visa is required to travel to Canada

A - B

Afghanistan
Albania
Algeria
Angola
Argentina
Armenia
Azerbaijan
Bahrain
Bangladesh
Belarus
Belize
Benin
Bhutan
Bolivia
Bosnia and Herzegovina
Botswana
Brazil
Bulgaria
Burkina Faso
Burundi

C - D

Cambodia
Cameroon
Cape Verde
Central African Republic
Chad
Chile
Columbia
Comoros
Congo
Costa Rica
Cuba
Czech Republic
Djibouti
Dominican Republic

E - F

Egypt
Ecuador
Eritrea
Ethiopia
Equatorial Guinea
Fiji

G - H

Gabon
Gambia
Georgia
Ghana
Granada
Guatemala
Guinea Republic
Guinea-Bissau
Guyana



H - K

Haiti
Honduras
India
Indonesia
Iran
Iraq
Israel (only Israeli citizens Holders of a valid travel document, In lieu of National Passport)
Ivory Coast
Jamaica
Jordan
Kazakhstan
Kenya
Kyrgyzstan
Kiribati
Kosovo
Kuwait

L - M

Laos
Lesotho
Lebanon
Liberia
Libya
Lithuania (only holders of non-biometric passport)
Macao (R.A.S.)
Macedonia
Madagascar
Malaysia

Malawi
Maldives
Mali
Morocco
Marshall (Islands)
Mauritius (Island)
Mauritania
Mexico
Micronesia, United States
Mongolia
Montenegro
Mozambique
Myanmar

N - Q

Namibia
Nauru
Nepal
Nicaragua
Niger
Nigeria
North Korea
Oman
Pakistan
Palau
Palestinian, Authority
Panama
Paraguay
People's Republic of China
Peru
Philippines

Poland (only holders of non-biometric passport)
Qatar

R - S

Republic of Moldova
Romania
Russia
Rwanda
St. Lucia
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines (St. Vincent)
Salvador
Sao Tome and Principe
Saudi Arabia, United
Senegal
Serbia
Seychelles (Islands)
Sierra Leone
Somalia
South Africa
Sri Lanka
South Sudan
Sudan
Suriname
Swaziland
Syria



T - Z

Tajikistan
Taiwan (except holders of
ordinary passports issued
by the Ministry of Foreign
Affairs in Taiwan that
contains a personal identifi-
cation number)
Tanzania
Thailand
Timor Leste
Togo
Tonga
Trinidad and Tobago
Tunisia
Turkmenistan
Turkey
Tuvalu
Uganda
UAE
Ukraine
Uruguay
Uzbekistan
Vanuatu
Venezuela
Vietnam
Yemen
Zambia
Zimbabwe



Appendix C

> Map of the Canada's provinces and territories with their Capital





The destination guides

- > Find all the destination guides on www.expat-blog.com Section [Download](#)
- > The next destination guides:



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