# Bon Voyage, But... Essential Information for Canadian Travellers




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### Travelling abroad? Travel Smart! Travel.gc.ca

Millions of Canadians travel, study or move abroad every year. They soon discover that every country they visit is different from Canada in many ways.

Each year, Global Affairs Canada helps thousands of Canadians who run into problems while they are travelling, working, studying and living in other countries. Some are beyond anyone's control, and others can be prevented. Take personal responsibility for your travel. Before you leave home, learn about the risks and take some steps to avoid problems so you can stay safe and have a better trip.

This booklet includes information on how to travel safely and lists some of the consular services available to Canadians abroad. Be sure to read it before leaving and keep it on hand while you are far from home.

**MORE TRAVEL PUBLICATIONS**

Take your first step to a safe and healthy trip abroad with help from our many publications. Download copies or order free print versions from **Publications**.

### What are Canadian consular services?

If you, or a loved one, are outside Canada and lose your passport, need urgent medical care, have been arrested or detained, or face an emergency, Canadian consular officials may be able to help you. This help provided to Canadians abroad is called "consular services".

You can reach consular officials 24 hours a day, seven days a week, through more than 260 points of service in 150 countries and through the Emergency Watch and Response Centre in Ottawa. If you get into trouble while you are abroad, contact the nearest Government of Canada office as soon as possible.

Each case is different, and the type and amount of help consular officials can give you depends on the situation. A natural disaster, violent conflict or political unrest, or the laws and regulations in other countries may mean that consular officials are less able to help you. Before you travel, make sure you know how to find the Government of Canada office abroad closest to your destination and understand the services it can and cannot provide.

### Government of Canada officials abroad can:

- give you a list of local doctors and hospitals if there is a medical emergency
- give you advice and the contact information for local police and medical services if you are a victim of robbery, sexual assault or other violence
- help if a person is missing or if a child is abducted outside of Canada
- replace a lost, stolen, damaged or expired passport
- help you with private money transfers
- contact your family or friends, with your consent, if you have had an accident or are held by police
- ask Canadian police to notify next of kin in case of a death abroad
- help to repatriate the remains of a loved one back to Canada
- help you to identify a funeral home with experience in international funeral arrangements
- ask for a prompt and transparent investigation into suspicious circumstances if there is an alleged or apparent crime or death (although they cannot interfere in an investigation or legal matter)
- give you a list of local lawyers
- give you sources of information on local laws and regulations

### Government of Canada officials abroad cannot:

- guarantee your safety and security while you are abroad
- post bail, pay legal fees or medical expenses
- refund your hotel costs if your trip is delayed or cancelled
- give legal advice, get involved in private legal matters or financial disputes
- get you out of prison
- ask foreign immigration officials to allow you to enter or exit a country
- solve immigration-related problems such as overstaying a visa and visa applications;
- take fingerprints or obtain criminal record checks
- help you find employment, accept your mail, store your personal effects or search for lost items for you
- investigate a crime or death abroad, which is the responsibility of local authorities
- ask local authorities to give you special treatment or to exempt you from the due process of local law
- take responsibility for a child who has been abducted by a parent involved in a custody dispute

### Emergency consular services

Emergency consular help is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. During office hours, contact the nearest Government of Canada office abroad. After office hours, contact the Emergency Watch and Response Centre in Ottawa. If you are asked to leave a message, we will return your call. Make sure your message is clear and that you leave a telephone number or contact address.

**STAY SAFE – STAY CONNECTED**

Connect with the world and stay up to date on travel advice for more than 200 destinations.

Read the Travel Advice and Advisories for information on safety and security, entry and exit requirements, health risks, laws and culture, natural disasters and climate and other important travel issues.

Pack the app! Download the Travel Smart app, your one-stop shop for international travel information and advice.

Register with Registration of Canadians Abroad to stay connected to Canada.

Sign up to receive daily emails on the latest updates to the Travel Advice and Advisories.

Visit Travel.gc.ca, follow its Twitter and Facebook accounts to stay in touch with Canada wherever you may be.

Our RSS feeds provide the latest information on your choice of countries.

## BEFORE YOU GO

### Be informed

Before you leave Canada, learn about your destination by reading our Travel Advice and Advisories and make sure it is safe to travel to or through there. Sudden civil unrest, disease outbreaks or a natural disaster could affect your travel plans and your travel insurance.

Find the contact information for the Government of Canada offices abroad in the countries you plan to visit and carry it with you at all times. Make sure you register with Registration of Canadians Abroad. Before you leave, give someone you trust your travel itinerary and contact details, your birth certificate and your travel insurance documents, and the emergency number for Global Affairs Canada's Emergency Watch and Response Centre.

### Your Canadian passport

A valid Canadian passport is the only reliable and universally accepted travel document that proves that you are a Canadian citizen and have the right to enter Canada. If you plan to travel outside Canada with your spouse or children, each family member needs a valid passport. If you are a dual Canadian citizen travelling by air, you must present a valid Canadian passport in order to board your flight to Canada.

**APPLYING FOR A PASSPORT**

Plan ahead and apply for a passport well before you book an international flight. Passport application forms, service locations and additional information are available at Canadian passports. Passport application forms are also available at passport offices and passport receiving agents.

To avoid delays, make sure your passport application is complete and includes the required documents and fee. Processing may take up to 20 business days from the time your completed application is received at a passport office, not including mailing time. A small number of cases may need more processing time for additional security, status or citizenship checks. Urgent, express and regular pick-up services are also available at select passport offices for a fee. Visit Canadian passports or Travel.gc.ca for more information.

Before you go, check with the embassy or consulate of your destination country in Canada for its rules and restrictions on passport validity. Some countries will not let you enter if your passport is due to expire within six months of the date you plan to return to Canada.

**KEEP YOUR PASSPORT SAFE AND DRY**

As the custodian of the passport and any other travel document previously issued to you or your child, you are responsible for keeping them in a safe and dry place at all times. You can help prevent water damage to your passport by storing it in a plastic folder or a waterproof wallet.

When you are not travelling, your passport should be stored in a secure location in your home where it is not easily accessible to others.

**Always keep your passport safe** and never tell anyone your travel document information unless it is absolutely necessary. A Canadian passport is a valuable document that should be kept in a safe place at all times. Do not leave it unattended in your luggage, vehicle, hotel room or elsewhere.

Scan or photocopy the identification page of your passport (page 2) and email the scanned image to yourself. Leaving your birth or citizenship certificate where it can be accessed by a trusted friend or family member may help in case you need to replace your passport while travelling.

If you must send your passport to a visa office, use a courier service that allows you to track your shipment. Include a pre-paid, self-addressed envelope with your visa application for the return of your passport. Keep a record of the tracking numbers on the mail labels so you can track both the delivery and the return of your passport. For more information, contact your destination country's embassy or consulate in Canada.

**REGISTRATION OF CANADIANS ABROAD**

Sign up for the **Registration of Canadians Abroad** service before you leave Canada or while you are abroad. If you are registered, we can help you if there is an emergency abroad, such as an earthquake or civil unrest, or inform you about a personal emergency at home.

This service is:
• free
• fast
• confidential
• mobile-friendly

For more information:

travel.gc.ca/register

+1 613 944 6788.

Download the Travel Smart app at travel.gc.ca/mobile.

*The personal information obtained through registration is confidential and is used in accordance with the provisions of the Privacy Act.

**IF YOUR PASSPORT IS LOST, STOLEN OR DAMAGED**

Report the loss or theft immediately to the Passport Program or to the nearest Government of Canada office to your destination and to the local police (in Canada or abroad).

To apply for a new adult passport, you must submit:

- a completed general application (not renewal) form, signed by your guarantor
- proof of your Canadian citizenship (e.g., a birth certificate or citizenship certificate)
- two identical photographs less than six months old, one signed by a guarantor
- a document proving your identity
- the required fee
- a completed **Statutory Declaration Concerning a Lost, Stolen, Damaged, Destroyed or Inaccessible Canadian Passport or Travel Document** form (PPTC 203)

See Canadian passports for more information or to replace a child's passport.

If you find your passport after it was reported lost or stolen, do not use it for travel. Once your passport is reported lost, it will be invalidated electronically and can no longer be used. Return it immediately to a passport office or the nearest Government of Canada office abroad.

**If your passport is damaged, apply for a new one.** Otherwise, you could face long delays at passport checkpoints, you could be refused entry or exit at border crossings, and you may not be able to board an aircraft.

### Visas and other entry requirements

You need to obtain a visa to enter certain countries. The most common visas are business, work, student and tourist. Be sure that you are aware of all entry requirements before you travel. Some examples of entry requirements include:

- certified criminal record check (provided by the RCMP)
- medical certificate
- proof of HIV testing
- yellow fever vaccination certificate

For more information, contact your destination country's embassy or consulate in Canada.

Some countries will allow you to enter only if you can prove you will be leaving and have enough money to support yourself during your stay. Be prepared to show your return or onward ticket, a bank statement or any visas that confirm that you plan to visit another country.

### Dual citizenship

Dual citizenship means that you are a citizen of more than one country. Dual (or multiple) citizenship is legal in Canada. However, it may not be legal in the other country or countries where you hold citizenship.

Use your Canadian passport when you are travelling abroad and present yourself as Canadian to foreign authorities if the laws of the country you are visiting permit. If you are a dual citizen and travel to the other country where you hold citizenship, local authorities could refuse to give you access to Canadian consular services. Travelling on your Canadian passport may help you to access these services if you need them.

When you are flying to or transiting through Canada by air, you need a valid Canadian passport to board your flight to Canada. This means that, as a dual Canadian citizen, you cannot fly to Canada with your non-Canadian passport. If the other country where you hold citizenship needs you to enter and exit that country using a passport issued by its government, you will still need a valid Canadian passport for air travel to Canada. In this case, make sure you carry both passports when you travel.

If you are an American–Canadian dual citizen with a valid U.S. passport, you don't need a Canadian passport to fly to Canada. However, you will still need to carry proper identification and meet the basic requirements to enter Canada .

For more information, see: Dual citizens need a valid Canadian passport.

As a citizen of another country, you have to follow that country's laws and regulations. For example, you may have to register for military service or pay taxes there.

Dual citizenship can also cause problems in a third country if there is confusion over your citizenship. For more information, visit Electronic Travel Authorization (eTA).

**BEFORE YOU GO**

To avoid unpleasant surprises, find out if you, your spouse or any other family member is a citizen of another country. If so, contact the nearest embassy or consulate of that country in Canada to find out if you need to meet specific entry requirements. This could reduce the risks and difficulties for you and your family when you travel there.

Information about dual citizenship by country is also available in the Travel Advice and Advisories.

### Children travelling abroad

**All children, of any age, should carry a valid Canadian passport when they are travelling or living abroad.** You should also carry these important documents for each child:

- a photocopy of the child's birth certificate or Certificate of Canadian Citizenship
- divorce document
- consent letter for travelling abroad or custody documents
- death certificate if one or both parents are deceased

These documents will help prove your citizenship, residency and custodial rights when you return to Canada.

Check with each destination country's embassy or consulate in Canada about its entry conditions and necessary documents. Make sure you put some kind of identification, even a photocopy, in your child's pocket in case you are separated during your travels. Carry recent photographs of your child on your phone for emergency identification.

If a child is travelling abroad alone, with one parent or legal guardian, with friends or relatives or with a group, we recommend that they carry a consent letter for children travelling abroad or a court order. This can make travel simpler for Canadian children because it proves that they have permission to travel abroad from parents or guardians who are not with them on the trip. Immigration authorities may ask to see a consent letter when a child is entering or leaving a foreign country, and Canadian officials may ask to see one when a child is re-entering Canada.

The consent letter should be signed by any person or organization not travelling with the child that:

- has custody rights
- has guardianship rights
- has parental authority, or
- is a parent or guardian who has access to the child

Make sure you include the date when the child will be returning home. Any adult over the age of majority can witness the signing of a consent letter. Having the letter witnessed by a notary public may mean that border officials will be less likely to question it.

Speak with your lawyer if you are involved in a custody dispute or if one might develop while the child is abroad. Make sure your custody order or agreement permits the child to travel outside Canada. If you travel abroad with the child without the legal right to do so, you could be accused of parental child abduction. Canadian custody orders may not be recognized or enforceable in other countries without going to court and may not be enforceable at all in other countries. Some countries allow a parent involved in a custody dispute to ban a child from travelling back to Canada. Check with your destination country's embassy or consulate in Canada if you have any questions.

**Some airlines may provide additional services for an unaccompanied child for a fee.** If your child will be travelling alone, be sure to contact the airline to discuss its policy.

For more information, see Children and travel.

**FORCED MARRIAGE**

A forced marriage means that one or both people do not, or are not able to, consent to the marriage.

If you are in Canada and you think you will be taken to another country for a forced marriage, try to avoid travelling abroad if you can.

If you are at the airport about to be taken abroad against your will, try to report your situation to someone if you can do it safely.

If you are a Canadian in another country and believe that you will be forced to marry or have been forced to marry, contact the nearest Canadian government office.

Nobody under the age of 16 is allowed to get married in Canada. It is also a crime to take anyone who is under 16 out of Canada to be married in another country, even if the person wants to get married.

For more information, visit our Forced marriage page and read our publications Travelling with Children and International Child Abduction: a Guidebook for Left-Behind Parents.

### Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and two-spirit Canadians abroad

Most lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and two-spirit (LGBTQ2) Canadians do not have problems when they go abroad. However, laws and customs in other countries can be very different from those in Canada. This can result in increased risks. When you choose a travel destination, remember that in many countries same-sex relations, marriages and relationships are illegal and can be considered criminal offences. While you are outside Canada, you must follow local laws, even if they differ from Canadian laws.

If your passport or travel document includes an "X" designation observation, check with the embassy or consulate in Canada of all of the countries you intend to visit or transit through to enquire about their entry requirements. Until the Canadian government is able to issue passports with an "X" in the sex field, use the same sex that is printed on the bio page (page 2) of your travel document when you book your travel or apply for immigration documents such as visas. This will help avoid delays and problems at border entries and airline check-ins.

For more information, visit your destination's Travel Advice and Advisories page and Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and two-spirit Canadians abroad.

### Travellers with disabilities

If you have visual, hearing, mobility or other impairments you may have difficulty having your needs met in certain countries. See Travelling with disabilities for information on:

- government services for travellers with disabilities
- how to obtain extra assistance when you are going through airport security screening
- parking privileges
- travelling with a service animal

Contact your destination country's embassy or consulate in Canada to find out about the services available for travellers with disabilities. Check with your airline and the website of the airport at your destination to familiarize yourself with its services for travellers with disabilities.

### Protecting your health

The Public Health Agency of Canada strongly recommends that you visit a travel medicine clinic or your health-care provider **six weeks before your planned departure date**. Your health care provider will assess your need for vaccinations or preventive medication and inform you of precautions you can take to reduce risks to your health while you travel. Visit Find a travel health clinic to find a travel medicine clinic near you.

**VACCINATION, PREVENTIVE MEDICATION AND PERSONAL PROTECTIVE MEASURES**

International travel can expose you to infectious diseases not frequently seen in Canada. Ensure that your routine immunizations – including tetanus, diphtheria, whooping cough (pertussis), polio, measles, mumps and rubella – are up to date. You may need proof of yellow fever vaccination to enter some countries. Be aware that some vaccinations and preventive medications can take time to become effective. For more information on vaccine recommendations and other health advice for specific countries, see the Travel Advice and Advisories.

If you are travelling with infants or small children, you may need to arrange an alternative or accelerated childhood immunization schedule for them. For more information, visit Tips for healthy travel with children.

The Zika virus is a newly emerging disease that can spread through the bite of an infected mosquito or through sexual contact with someone who is infected with the virus. There is no vaccine to prevent or medicine to treat Zika virus. All travellers to countries or areas with recent or ongoing risk of Zika virus infection should protect themselves from mosquito bites at all times.

Pregnant women or those planning a pregnancy should avoid travel to Zika-affected countries or areas, as Zika virus can increase the risk of serious birth defects to an unborn child. If you cannot avoid or postpone travel, talk to a health care professional about the risk of Zika infection in pregnancy and follow strict mosquito bite prevention measures. Men who have travelled to a Zika-affected area and whose partners are pregnant should use condoms correctly or avoid having sex for the duration of the pregnancy. For more information on the Zika virus, including a list of countries with recent Zika virus infection, visit Zika virus.

**MEDICATION**

If you take medication, be sure to pack an extra supply and carry a copy of your original prescription listing both the generic and trade names of the product in case your medication is lost or stolen or you are away longer than expected.

Do not try to save luggage space by combining medications in one container. Keep all medications in the original, labelled container to avoid problems at customs.

Some medications that are sold over the counter in Canada are illegal or require a prescription in other countries. Contact your destination country's embassy or consulate in Canada for information on whether your medication is legally available in the country you plan to visit. Before you travel to certain countries, you should obtain a note from your doctor stating the medical reasons for your prescription and the recommended dosage.

If you need syringes for a medical condition, such as diabetes, it is important that you take along an adequate supply. You should also carry a medical certificate that indicates the syringes are for medical use. See Travelling with medication for more information.

It is illegal to enter or leave Canada while carrying cannabis, even if you have a medical document from a health care provider or are going to places where it is legal, such as Amsterdam, Netherlands, or the U.S. states of California, Colorado or Washington. You will encounter problems with your destination's law enforcement if you are carrying cannabis while you are travelling abroad. Documentation that authorizes you to possess cannabis for medical purposes applies only in Canada.

**WHEN YOU RETURN TO CANADA**

If you are not feeling well when you return to Canada, see Post-travel medical problems at the end of the Coming Home section.

**TRAVEL INSURANCE**

Your Canadian health insurance will not cover your medical fees while you are outside Canada. Your provincial or territorial health plan may pay for none, or only a very small part, of the costs if you get sick or are injured while abroad. For more information, contact your provincial or territorial health authority. You could spend years paying for the costs of treatment for an illness or accident you suffered in another country. **The Government of Canada will not pay your medical bills**.

It is up to you to buy the best travel insurance you can afford and to understand the terms of your policy. Some activities that are considered to be "risky" may not be covered. Your travel insurance should include health, life and disability coverage that will help you avoid the cost of hospitalization or medical treatment outside Canada.

If you are flying, make sure you are insured for flight cancellation, trip interruption, lost luggage and document replacement. This will save you from major trip interruptions and extra costs. If you are driving, make sure you have driver and vehicle coverage in case you have an accident.

WELL ON YOUR WAY

The Aussie Mind on Your Way gives you valuable advice on how to protect your health and safety while you're abroad, in circumstances as varied as:

- thinking about travel health risks
- preventing travellers' illness during and after international travel
- staying safe in health emergency abroad
- obtaining consular services if you have a health emergency.

To order a copy, call **1-800-267-8376** (in Canada) or **613-944-4000** (Ottawa area and outside Canada).

Carry your insurance information with you when you are travelling. Leave a copy of the information with a friend or relative at home or e-mail it to them.

Your provincial or territorial health insurance plan will stop covering you if you live outside Canada for a certain length of time. If you are planning to be abroad for some time, you should buy insurance that will provide you for yourself and your family with the same insurance coverage before you leave Canada.

**TRAVEL ADVISORIES AND INSURANCE POLICIES**

Whenever you are planning a trip, you should check the Travel Advice and Advisories page for your destination at least twice: once when you are planning your trip and again just before you leave. If there is a Travel Advisory for your destination, get more information about the risks and dangers before you leave for your trip or while you are gone, your travel health insurance or your trip cancellation and interruption insurance may not cover you if you travel against a Travel Advisory.

**Travelling by car**

Be sure that your insurance covers you for accidents. In some countries, a driver may be questioned and/or detained by police after even a minor accident. You may have to obtain an International Driving Permit and/or additional insurance to drive in certain countries. For more information, see the Travel Advice and Advisories or the Canadian Automobile Association.

**Travelling and money**

Canadian money and traveller's cheques are not often accepted abroad. Before you leave Canada, speak with a bank or foreign currency agent to find out the best currency to carry to your destination.

Be sure that you have a small amount of local currency with you when you arrive. Some airports levy a local currency is a scene. There may also be limits on the amount of money you can take into or out of a country. Contact the embassy or consulate of your destination or the embassy or consulate in Canada's embassy or consulate in Canada.

**You are responsible for your own safety and for your financial needs abroad.** Note debit or credit cards may not be accepted in your destination country. Check with your financial institution to find out which debit and credit cards are accepted in your destination or purchase them where you can use your debit card without a fee.

Before you leave, arrange to have enough money if you need it.

**Protecting your valuables**

Before you are about to enter the metro out of the country, use the free identification service available at any Canada Border Services Agency office in Canada. If you are the victim of a crime while you are travelling, call your local police and the nearest Government of Canada office abroad for assistance.

Here are some more recommendations:

- Do not wander into unknown areas. Find out how safe they are before you go there.
- Never leave your drink unattended and don't accept drinks from strangers. Drinks may be spiked with drugs that could put you at risk of sexual assault and robbery.
- Be aware of the laws and customs of your destination in the Travel Advice and Advisories and Before You Go sections.
- Do not pick up hitchhikers or cross borders with people you have just met.
- Watch your luggage and handbag. Make sure the zipper on your bag is closed. Keep your bag in front of you.
- Consider avoiding public events or meetings, across a border for someone else.
- Be especially suspicious of religious cults. Some are dangerous. Others are not.
- Hide your valuables by using a money belt or a case with hidden sections.
- Remember to carry as much cash as you can in Canadian dollars. It is usually not a good idea to carry large amounts of foreign currency. Keep your passport, credit cards and insurance papers together. If they are lost or stolen, you risk being left with no identification or money.
- Think carefully about where you keep your valuables, passport and important documents. Contact the Travel Advice and Advisories for your destination for information on common local scams and crime trends.

**Getting laws and customs**

When you are travelling or living in a foreign country:

- You must obey the laws of that country. See Travel Advice and Advisories for your destination.
- Learn about the local way of life. Respect the country's laws, religions, culture, class structure and economic conditions. Although you may not agree with some of its customs, traditions or practices, you must respect them while you are there.
- Assume different rules. In many countries, actions that are legal in Canada may be gender-specific and may be illegal, immoral or offensive in your destination. Be aware of this.
- Be especially respectful of religious sites, customs and practices. Do not take photographs of people. Many are off limits to foreigners or people who are not members of that faith. Ask permission before taking photographs of military facilities, buildings or border crossings.
- Never take photographs of military facilities, a harbour where naval vessels are docked or airports. Doing so may result in your camera being confiscated, a fine or even your arrest and detention.

If you are a Canadian victim of a serious violent crime in a foreign country, you may be eligible for emergency financial assistance through the Canada's Victims Fund. For more information, visit Financial Assistance for Canadians Victimized Abroad or call the Victims Fund Manager at 1-866-600-5111.

**Crime and punishment**

Thousands of Canadians are in prison in foreign countries for a wide range of offences. The legal systems of other countries are different from the Canadian justice system.

While in a foreign country, you are subject to its laws and regulations. **The Canadian citizenship does not mean that you are excluded from local laws**, and if you commit a crime, not being aware of the law is not an excuse.

If you find yourself in trouble, Canadian consular officials abroad can provide you with a list of lawyers and interpreters and your family and friends. If there are undue delays in you are suffering from torture treatment, they can ask for you to receive the same treatment as other detainees **according to the laws of the country in which you are detained.** They cannot get you out of prison. Read Assistance for you, get you out of jail or pay your fines.




It is illegal to have sexual relations with children everywhere. Most countries strongly enforce laws against the sexual exploitation of children. Canadians who are convicted of doing so at home or abroad can be subject to severe penalties, such as a prison sentence of up to five years. For more information, see Child Sex Tourism: It's a Crime.

**Judicial process**

Never assume that another country's legal system is the same as Canada's. "Innocent until proven guilty" is not always the case.

If you are suspected or accused of a crime, you may be detained for an unknown length of time without bail. In most countries, you may not have a right to a lawyer or to a trial in your own language.

Some countries do not recognize or respect:

- religious freedom
- freedom of expression, speech or the press
- differences in sexual orientation
- human rights.

For instance, you may be charged just for being with a person who is suspected or found guilty of a crime.

Even if you are accused or convicted of a political or religious demonstration, you may be considered a participant and be rounded up with those involved.

If you are detained or arrested in a foreign country, you have the right to notify Canadian consular officials, closely ask them to contact the nearest Government of Canada office abroad or Global Affairs Canada in Ottawa. Consular officials can't get you out of jail. However, Under the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations, they must advise you of your right to contact a consular representative. They do not, however, have the power to demand release of Canada office abroad that you have been detained or arrested unless you are in the area.

For more information, see Arrest and detention.

**Illegal drugs**

Penalties for illegal drugs may be readily available in some countries, but buying, using, importing and exporting them are prohibited almost everywhere. If you buy and use drugs, even in countries where such practices are common, you can be charged, fined or end up with a long prison sentence.

**True confessions: Canadians imprisoned abroad**

Learn from the real-life stories of young Canadians imprisoned abroad. Read about their experiences in True confessions: Canadians imprisoned abroad.

# COMING HOME

**Departure tax**

In some countries you must pay a departure tax or service fee at the point of departure. Make sure you set aside enough money to local funds to pay it. See the Travel Advice and Advisories for your destination for information.

**Declare everything**

You must declare all goods you acquired while outside Canada, including purchases, gifts, prizes and awards that you are carrying with you or that are being shipped to you. You must declare commercial goods you purchased while outside Canada, as well as any commercial samples you made to your vehicle, vessel or aircraft while you were out of the country. Keep your original receipts for purchases as proof of value. Be prepared to pay duties and taxes on items, always declare it to Border Services Officer.

For more information on laws, restrictions, entitlements and obligations that apply to Canadian residents returning to Canada with less than a year, visit I Declare: A guide for residents returning to Canada.

If you have any other questions about what you can bring home, contact the CRA's Border Information Service.

**Duty- and tax-free personal exemptions**

When you return to Canada, you may be entitled to a personal exemption, depending on the length of time you were away. Your personal exemption allows you to bring goods of a certain value into Canada without paying duty or taxes. The personal exemption is the value that may apply to certain goods purchased or taxes. See the Tobacco Products section, below.

| **If you have been away for at least...** | **...your personal exemption is...** | **with the following conditions:** |
|---|---|---|
| 24 hours | Personal exemptions do not apply to same-day cross-border shoppers | |
| 24 hours | Goods worth up to Can$200 | Alcoholic beverages and tobacco products are not included in this amount. Details below. |
| 48 hours | Goods worth up to Can$800 | If you bring goods worth more than Can$200, you cannot claim the $200 exemption that you can usually claim. Details below. |
| 7 days | Goods worth up to Can$800 | You must have the goods with you when you enter Canada. |
| | | You may include alcoholic beverages and tobacco products, within the limits specified below. Details below. |
| | | If you bring in goods worth more than Can$800, you must pay full duty and taxes on the entire over Can$800. |
| | | You must have the goods with you when you enter Canada. |
| 7 days or more | Goods worth up to Can$800 | You may mail goods worth up to Can$800 each month to yourself or your possession when you enter Canada. Mail goods must be marked "Personal effects being mailed from abroad." |
| | | You must have the goods with you when you enter outside of Canada. Declare the duty-free value Canada. But do include the day you return. |

**ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES**

If you have been away from Canada for 48 hours or more and you meet the minimum age requirements of the province or territory where you enter Canada, you can include limited quantities of alcoholic beverages (wine, beer, liquor) in your duty-free allowance or personal exemption. You are allowed to bring back only one of the following maximum quantities of alcoholic beverages duty and tax free:

- up to 1.5 litres of wine (two 750 ml bottles)
- up to 1.14 litres of liquor (one bottle) or 8.5 litres of beer or ale (two bottles), however, all
- up to 8.5 litres of beer or ale (approximately 24 cans or bottles [355 ml each]).

**TOBACCO PRODUCTS**

If you have been away from Canada for 48 hours or more and you are 18 years old or older, you are allowed to bring back the following maximum quantities of manufactured tobacco products into Canada without paying duty or taxes, when you meet the minimum age requirements:

- 200 cigarettes
- 50 cigars
- 200 grams of manufactured tobacco; and
- 200 tobacco sticks.

Note: If you wish to import cigarettes, manufactured tobacco and tobacco sticks duty-free as part of your personal exemption, you must be at least 18 years old in the province of your final destination. You will find tobacco products sold at duty-free stores marked this way.

Cigarettes, manufactured tobacco and tobacco sticks that are not marked "duty-paid Canada direct acquittal" are subject to a special duty rate. For more information, check the tobacco products section of Section C, Goods to declare, of I Declare.

**Illegal souvenirs**

Canadian law requires that you declare all plants, plants, animals and related products that you bring into Canada. If you do not declare these goods, they may be confiscated and you may face penalties or prosecution. If you are considering bringing back:

- meat, eggs, dairy products
- fresh fruit or vegetables
- plants, plant products such as articles made from wood, soil or related matter, or
- animals or products derived from them, be sure to declare them.

Contact the Canadian Food Inspection Agency beforehand for guidance — it could save you a lot of time, money and aggravation and timely information on import requirements. Read Bringing Plants, Bring Pets Canada? or the Canadian Food Inspection Agency website.

For information on importing weapons, see Firearms and Weapons Firearms Program.

Canadians may be prosecuted in Canadian courts for certain acts committed against children while they are travelling outside Canada. In addition to foreign laws prohibiting cultural property, Canada has laws that make it illegal to import or export cultural property without a permit, whether or not the object is brought to Canada. For more information, see Cultural Property Export and Import Act.

**POST-TRAVEL MEDICAL PROVISIONS**

If you are ill or injured after you've left the country you have been exposed to a contagious illness or disease while you were travelling, tell a screening officer or quarantine officer as you enter Canada. If you are a passenger aboard a ship or aircraft, tell the captain. If you are aboard the staff that you are ill.

If you become sick or hurt yourself after returning to Canada, see your doctor. Tell the doctor, without delay, where you've been and what you've been doing, especially if you've been in a rural area. Explain your travel history and what, if any, treatment or medical care you've received (e.g., blood transfusions, injections, dental care, etc.).

# FOR MORE INFORMATION

**Global Affairs Canada**

**CONSULAR SERVICES**

**Travel.gc.ca**

125 Sussex Drive
Ottawa ON K1A 0G2

**General inquiries**

613-944-4000 (in Canada and the U.S.) or 613-944-6788
TTY: 1-800-394-3472 (in Canada and the U.S.) or 613-944-1310
travel@international.gc.ca

**Emergencies**

613-996-8885 (call collect from abroad, where service is available)
sos@international.gc.ca

**Publications** (free)

Access or order our safe travel publications online or by calling 1-800-267-8376 (in Canada) or 613-944-4000.

**Travel Advice and Advisories (free)**

Travel Advice and Advisories provide factual information on safety and security, entry and exit requirements, health conditions, laws and culture, natural disasters and climate for more than 200 countries and territories. Sign up to receive updates by e-mail.

1-800-267-8376 (in Canada) or 613-944-4000

**Government of Canada offices abroad**

**EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION**

| | |
|---|---|
| **Outside Canada** | **+1 613 996 8885** (call collect to Ottawa, where service is available)<br>sos@international.gc.ca<br>Consular assistance from any Canada office abroad (emergency and non-emergency)<br>Register with us! travel.gc.ca/register |
| **Within Canada (non-payment needed)** | **1-800-387-3124** (in the U.S. and Canada and the U.S. only)<br>**613-996-8885** (call collect) |
| **Emergency passport services within Canada (weekends and statutory holidays)** | **1-800-567-6868** (toll-free from Canada only) |
| **TTY** | (For persons with a hearing loss.)<br>**613-944-1310**<br>**1-800-394-3472** (toll-free from Canada and the U.S. only) |
| **SMS** | **613-209-3333** (carrier charges may apply) |
| **Email** | sos@international.gc.ca |
| **Internet** | travel.gc.ca |
| **Online** | Complete an Emergency Contact Form at travel.gc.ca/emergencies |

**Canada Border Services Agency**

**Border Information Service**

Information on how to cross 24/7. Officers available Monday to Friday, 08:30 to 16:00 local time, except holidays.

1-800-461-9999 (toll-free in Canada)
204-983-3500 or 506-636-5064 (from outside Canada)
1-866-335-3237 (TTY in Canada)

**Canada Revenue Agency**

**International tax and non-resident enquiries**

800-959-8281 (toll-free in Canada and the U.S.)
Monday to Friday 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. local time except holidays
+1 613 940 8495 (outside Canada and the U.S., collect calls accepted)
Monday to Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. ET except holidays

**Canadian Automobile Association**

1-800-222-4357
*222 on mobile

**Canadian Firearms Program**

Hours of Operation: Monday to Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. nationwide.
1-800-731-4000 (toll-free in Canada and the U.S.)
1-506-624-5626 (all countries outside Canada and the U.S.)
cfp.pcaf@rcmp-grc.gc.ca

**Canadian Food Inspection Agency**

**National Import Service Centre**

1-800-835-3486 (toll-free in Canada and the U.S.) 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. ET
+1 289 247-4099 (local calls and all other countries)

**Canadian Heritage**

**Movable Cultural Property Program**

Hours of operation Monday to Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. ET
819-997-7055 (toll-free)
819-997-7761
pch-bpm-mcp.pch@canada.ca

**Canadian Public Health Association**

Publications (5)
Travel Immunization Record
To order:
publications@cpha.ca

**Canadian Air Transport Security Authority**

**Prohibited Items and Baggage Screening**

Hours of Operation: Monday to Friday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. ET
1-888-294-2201 (toll-free)
twitter.com/CATSAGC
facebook.com/CATSAGC

**Canadian Transportation Agency**

**For travel complaints**

**By letter**

**Take Charge of Your Travel: Guide for persons with disabilities**

1-888-222-2592
info@cta-otc.gc.ca

**Environment and Climate Change Canada**

**International trade in protected animals and plants.**

855-804-9670 (toll-free in Canada and the U.S.)
ec.cites.ec@canada.ca

**Health Canada**

**Information for Canadians Travelling Outside of Canada**

hc-sc.ca/ftc-vg-cl-ca

**Immigration and Citizenship Canada**

Hours of Operation: Monday to Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. nationwide, holidays excepted
Automated telephone service available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
1-888-242-2100 (toll-free in Canada only)

### Justice Canada

**Financial Assistance for Canadians Victimized Abroad**
1-888-606-5111
Victims-Abroad-Fund-Manager@justice.gc.ca

### Passport Program

**Passports, certificates of identity and travel documents**
1-800-567-6868 (toll-free in Canada and the U.S.)
+1 819 997 8338 (outside Canada and the U.S.)
TTD (for the hearing impaired):
1-866-255-7655 (toll-free in Canada and the U. S. from 7:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. ET)
From outside Canada and the U.S.: +1 514 283 5197

### Public Health Agency of Canada

**Travel Health Notices**
**Travel Health and Safety**
**Yellow Fever Vaccination Centres in Canada**

### Transport Canada

**Transportation of Dangerous Goods (CANUTEC)**
613-992-4624 (call collect)
canutec@tc.gc.ca or tdg-tmd@tc.gc.ca

## Traveller's Checklist

**A safe and trouble-free trip begins with these important steps:**

- Bring a copy of **Bon Voyage, But ...** and check the Travel Advice and Advisories for your destination (**travel.gc.ca/advice**).
- Consult a health-care provider or visit a travel medicine clinic preferably six weeks before you travel.
- Pack the app! Download the Travel Smart app ( **travel.gc.ca/mobile**), your one-stop shop for international travel information and advice.
- Follow the travel.gc.ca Facebook **(@travelGoC)** and Twitter **(@travelGoC)** accounts to stay in touch with Canada wherever you are.
- Carry a Canadian passport that is valid well beyond the date of your anticipated return to Canada.
- Obtain any required visas well in advance.
- Leave copies of your itinerary and insurance policy with friends or family.
- If travelling with children, carry documentation proving your right to accompany them (e.g., a consent letter or court document). Leave a copy of this documentation with friends or family as well.
- Purchase travel insurance.
- Plan your itinerary and budget and include extra funds in case of emergency.
- Anticipate financial needs: local currency, traveller's cheques, departure tax.
- Take care of health needs: vaccinations, prescription medication, medical certificates, supplies, extra eyeglasses, doctor's contact information.
- If you or someone travelling with you has dual citizenship, check with the embassy or consulate of your destination country to make sure you avoid problems.
- Sign up for the Registration of Canadians Abroad service at **travel.gc.ca/register**.
- Carry an Emergency Contact Card with the coordinates of the nearest Government of Canada office in your destination country (see **travel.gc.ca/card**).
- Obtain an International Driving Permmit, if required.
- Make sure you check the rules on baggage, documentation and airport security.
- While abroad, keep receipts of your purchases and make special arrangements for any food, plants or animals you are bringing back to Canada.

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