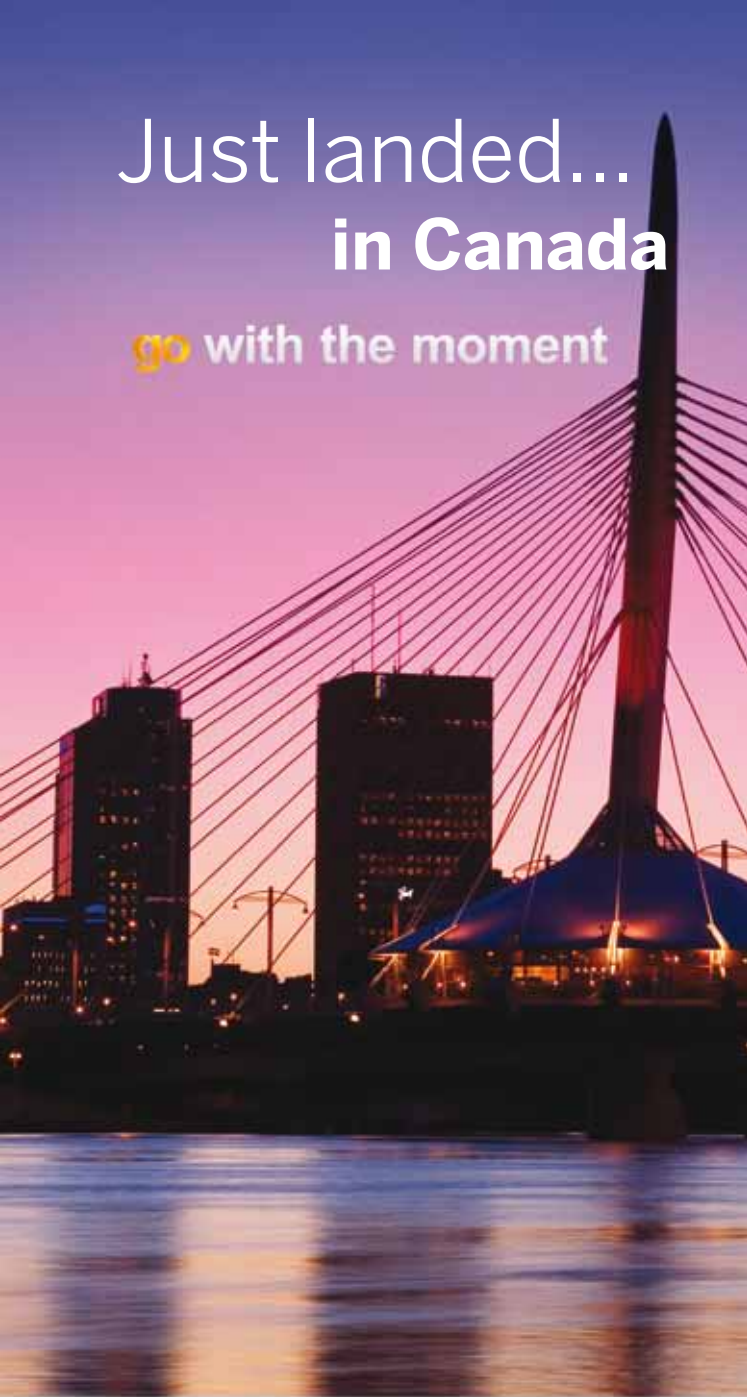


Just landed... in Canada

go with the moment



more people go with Visa.



CONTENT PROVIDED BY 



Canada

Canada is too polite to say so, but it's got the goods: a trio of cultured cities in Montréal, Toronto and Vancouver; an epic amount of terrain to play on outside the urban areas; and a welcoming, progressive vibe throughout.

The globe's second-biggest country has an endless variety of landscapes, from spiky mountains and glinting glaciers to spectral forests and wave-bashed beaches. That means there's plenty of action to be had, from snowboarding Whistler's mountains and walking on Banff's glacier to swimming off Prince Edward Island's pink-sand beaches or ice skating Ottawa's Rideau Canal.

But it's not all outdoor pursuits and exercise – Canada is a smorgasbord of food and events. Think lobster with a dab of melted butter in the Maritime provinces, poutine (golden fries soaked in gravy and cheese curds) in Québec and wild salmon and velvety scallops in British Columbia. And rocking the calendar is everything from Okanagan's icewine festival in January to Niagara's winter festival in December (and a whole lot in between).

FLYING INTO CANADA

Entering Canada is pretty straightforward. First, you'll have to show your passport (and your visa if you need one). The border officer will ask you a few questions about the purpose and length of your visit. After that, you'll go through customs.

Citizens of dozens of countries – including the USA – do not need visas to enter Canada for stays of up to 180 days. US permanent residents are also exempt. Nationals of other countries must apply to the Canadian visa office in their home country for a temporary resident visa (TRV).

GETTING FROM THE AIRPORT

To Toronto

Lester B Pearson International Airport is 27km northwest of downtown Toronto. The Airport Express bus runs to the Metro Toronto Coach Terminal and major downtown hotels (\$17). The cheapest option is the 192 Airport Rocket bus which runs to Kipling Station (\$2.75, exact change only), where you transfer free onto the Bloor–Danforth subway line using your bus ticket. A taxi to downtown costs \$46.

To Vancouver

Vancouver International Airport is 13km from downtown. SkyTrain's 16-station Canada Line operates a rapid-transit train service to downtown (\$7.50 to \$8.75). A taxi will cost \$30 to \$40.

To Montreal

Pierre Elliott Trudeau International Airport is about 20km west of downtown. Rte 747 (\$7 in exact change) is an express bus that stops at Lionel-Groulx métro station, the central train station and Berri-UQAM métro station. Bus 204 Est runs from Gare Dorval to the Lionel-Groulx métro station (\$2.75, in exact change). A shuttle bus connects the airport and Gare Dorval. A taxi costs a flat rate of \$38.



MONEY

Canada's currency is the Canadian dollar (\$). Many grocery and convenience stores, airports, and bus, train and ferry stations have ATMs and most are linked to international networks. If you're heading to Canada's more remote regions (such as in Newfoundland) you won't find an abundance of ATMs, so it is wise to cash up beforehand. Apart from in remote, rural communities, Visa is widely accepted in Canada. In fact, you'll find it difficult or impossible to rent a car, book a room or order tickets over the phone without a piece of plastic.

Tipping

Tipping in Canada is a standard practice. Tip restaurant waitstaff 15% to 20% (though use your judgement if service has been unacceptable), bar staff \$1 per drink, your hotel bellhop \$1 to \$2 per bag, hotel room cleaners \$2 per day and taxis 10% to 15% of the fare.

HOW MUCH?

B&B or room in a midrange hotel	\$80-180
Rental car	\$35-65 per day
Three-course meal in a top restaurant	from \$45 plus drinks
Ski day-pass	\$50-80

Tim Hortons doughnut	80¢
Hockey game ticket	\$25-90
1L gas	\$1.15
1L bottled water	\$1.50
Pint of microbrew beer	\$4-5
Souvenir T-shirt	\$12
Newspaper	\$1

LANGUAGE

English and French are the two official languages of Canada. You'll see both on highway signs, maps, tourist brochures, packaging and so on. In Québec, English can be hard to find, and road signs and visitor information will often be in French only. French is widely spoken in New Brunswick, particularly in the north and east. Nova Scotia and Manitoba also have significant French-speaking populations, and there are pockets in most other provinces. In the west of Canada, French isn't as prevalent.

Hello. *Bonjour. bon•zhoor*

Goodbye. *Au revoir. o•rer•vwa*

Excuse me. *Excusez-moi. ek•skew•zay•mwa*

Sorry. *Pardon. par•don*

Yes./No. *Oui./Non. wee/non*

Please. *S'il vous plaît. seel voo play*

Thank you. *Merci. mair•see*

Do you speak English?

Parlez-vous anglais? par•lay•voo ong•glay



MONEY TIPS FROM VISA

Visa Debit is accepted at ATMs across the world, so you can get the cash you need wherever you need it. Here are some tips from Visa to help you travel safe, avoid fees and have fun along the way.

How do I prepare to use my debit card before I go?

- Keep a copy of your banks' international numbers in your luggage in case you need to cancel lost or stolen cards.
- Before you leave, call and let your bank know the countries and dates you'll be traveling to so you're never stranded without a card.
- Check with your bank to see if your card has a daily spending limit or withdrawal restrictions.
- Many international ATMs accept only four-digit numeric PINs. If your PIN is longer, call your bank to get it changed.

How do I avoid fees when I use my ATM card abroad?

- To avoid unexpected fees, call your bank to get the info on ATMs abroad before your trip.
- While you travel, it's usually better to withdraw a few larger sums, rather than multiple small amounts. This way, you'll have fewer bank fees overall.
- By using ATMs you can often get the best exchange rates because they give you the official interbank rate and don't charge commissions.

How do I stay safe using ATMs in other countries?

- When you're getting cash from an ATM abroad be aware of your surroundings, use ATM machines in daylight and don't let anyone watch you enter your PIN.
- To be on the safe side, don't use ATMs that look unusual or offer unfamiliar menu options.
- If you lose your card, call your bank asap or call Visa Global Customer Assistance Services on the toll free Canada number: 001-800-847-2911.
- ATMs are all over Canada so you can access your cash when you need it.

more people go with Visa. | **VISA**