

# Fact sheet

# Canada

## What to expect

- There can hardly be a more pleasurable way to experience Canada than by motorhome. You need to be confident enough to tackle a large, left-hand drive vehicle on the 'other' side of the road, but with a little concentration it doesn't take long to get used to and once on the open road it can be pure motoring joy.
- Campgrounds are different to those at home. Facilities are simpler, pitches smaller and there is no six metre rule. However this is usually made up for by the sites' locations.
- On escorted tours, the emphasis is on touring, so some days will involve long drives. Distances given are approximate and suggested places of interest are listed in the brochure and in the day book provided with your travel pack. How much or how little you do is up to you, but most members do a lot!
- Your tour escorts will be available throughout the tour to provide information, bring the group together while on site and to help out if any difficulties are encountered.



## Motoring Information

### Driving Licence

A full UK driving licence is accepted. The named driver must be at least 25 years old and nominated drivers must be at least 21 years old – both must hold valid licences. Any driving licence endorsement, other than for speeding or parking offences, must be declared when submitting your booking form.

### Vehicle Insurance

On individual, tailor-made holidays, basic public liability coverage is included in your vehicle rental fee with a maximum excess of CA\$5,000 for damage to your vehicle or the property of a third party. You can reduce the excess to CA\$500 by adding a Collision Deductible Reducer (CDR).

On Escorted Tours, your vehicle rental includes vehicle insurance with CDR. An imprint of a major credit card is required while the vehicle is rented.

### Driving in Canada

Canada has an excellent highway system. Rules of the road are similar to Europe. Vehicles drive on the right hand side of the road and seat belts are compulsory. Speed limits are 100 kmh on highways and 50 kmh in town and built up areas unless otherwise signposted.

When a yellow school bus stops and its red lights are flashing, traffic travelling in both directions must stop.

You are allowed to turn right through a red light provided that the way is clear except in some parts of Quebec.

It is a criminal offence to operate, or be in the care or control of a vehicle, whether in motion or not, with a blood alcohol content of more than 0.5mg. It is illegal to carry an open alcohol container in a moving vehicle or in a public place, but alcohol may be open in a parked vehicle if kept away from the driving area and the driver. The legal drinking age in British Columbia, Ontario and Nova Scotia is 19 years, and in Alberta it is 18.



## Fuel

Fuel is known as gasoline or gas. It is always unleaded and generally costs far less than fuel in the UK (between 90 cents and CA\$1.10, depending on the area). The price can vary depending on whether you use a 'full-service' or 'self-service' garage. Credit cards are widely accepted.

## Propane gas

Your motorhome heating and cooking facilities run off propane stored in a tank on the motorhome. You can fill up your propane tank at petrol stations. The attendants will fill it for you.

A propane tank should never be more than three quarters full.

## Electricity

Electricity is supplied at an alternating current of 115/120 volt, as opposed to the 220/240 volts in Europe. The frequency of Canadian electricity is 60Hz. Your motorhome will have the appropriate hook-up equipment. You will need to

purchase a voltage selector and universal adapter (available in most hardware or electrical shops in the UK) to use appliances such as a shaver or hair dryer in Canadian electrical sockets, unless your individual appliances have a feature to deal with this.

## Tolls/National park entry fees

These are not included in the holiday and you will need to pay them as you go. Members have allowed between £25 and £40 for these, but it will depend on where you go.



# General Information



## Passports and visas

A full ten-year passport is required by all British visitors to Canada. British citizens do not need visas for Canada. Your passport must be valid until at least 24 hours beyond your return flight to the UK. Holders of any non-British passport should check with the Canadian embassy in London before departing.

## Prohibited items

No sharp objects, even pen knives or nail clippers, scissors or files, must be taken into the plane cabin. All liquids may also be refused in cabin baggage, unless you can prove, with appropriate certification, that they are for essential use (please check your airline's documentation for its specific policy on this). Such items will be confiscated unless they are in checked hold baggage. Certain animal products, fresh fruit, plant materials or animal pests may not be allowed into the country.

## British diplomatic representation in Canada

The British Consulate-General is at:  
1111 Melville Street, Suite 800  
Vancouver, British Columbia, V6E 3V6  
Tel: (001) 604 683 4421  
Fax: (001) 604 681 0693

## Health

The Department of Health does not make any specific health recommendations for visitors to Canada. However, you may also like to check with your doctor before departure. Canada has no reciprocal health agreement with the UK, so you must have full medical insurance to cover the cost of any possible treatment required. For example, if hospitalised, charges are typically \$1000-\$2000 per day. Visitors bringing in medications should make sure that they also carry a doctor's certificate in order to avoid problems with customs. Please note that full and comprehensive medical and personal holiday insurance with Europ Assistance is available through Carefree Travel Service.

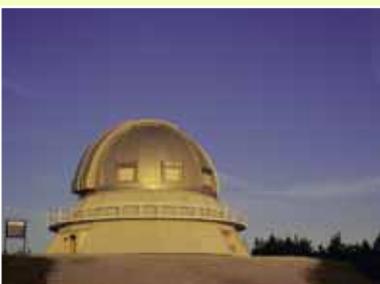
## Tourist Information

The address of Canada's tourist board in the UK is:  
Visit Canada  
PO Box 5396 Northampton  
NN1 2FA  
Tel: 0906 871 5000 (brochure requests – calls are charged at 60p per minute)

or  
Canadian Tourism Commission  
62-65 Trafalgar Square  
London, WC2N5DY  
Tel: 0207 389 9982  
Website: [www.travelcanada.ca](http://www.travelcanada.ca)  
Tourist information will be supplied with your travel pack before departure.

## Currency

The Canadian dollar is made up of 100 cents. There are (as of 21 February 2008) 1.98 dollars to the pound. Currency can be purchased in advance from your bank or from bureaux de change. Travellers Cheques in Canadian dollars can also be bought in advance from your bank. All major credit cards are recognised in Canada. Cash machines are found at banks and in retail areas throughout Canada. Most cash machines accept UK issued Visa and MasterCard cards. We recommend credit cards and travellers' cheques as the best way to pay for your purchases. You must carry at least one major credit card with you in order to leave a deposit with the motorhome hire company. Banks normally open from 1000-1600, Monday to Friday. Many banks now open on Saturday mornings as well.



### Time zone

British Columbia is eight hours behind Greenwich Mean Time, Alberta is seven hours behind, Ontario is five hours behind and Nova Scotia four is hours behind.

### Security

As elsewhere in the world, it is a very good idea to be generally vigilant about your property, both in terms of your motorhome and personal belongings. No-one wants unnecessary trouble while on the holiday of a lifetime!

### Weather and clothing

Bathed by currents of warm, humid air from the Pacific, the coast of British Columbia has the most moderate climate of any region in Canada. Vancouver and Victoria enjoy pleasant and relatively dry summers and mild, wet winters. Snowfalls are rare in low-altitude regions and when snow falls it generally melts the same day.

The Rockies have a much more severe climate. The mountains bring a much colder, longer and snowier winter. Summer, however, is just as warm as on the coast. However, weather can change at a moment's notice, so be prepared.

In Ontario, the presence of the great lakes has a moderating effect on the climate, which is not as continental as might be expected. You should still expect summers to be hotter than in the UK, with week long heat waves not uncommon. The autumn is a favourite for many, with its long, mild and sunny days and bracing nights. In the winter, temperatures average  $-5^{\circ}\text{C}$  with very variable weather. Climate on the Atlantic coast and in Nova Scotia is very variable. There can be heavy snowfalls that melt completely several times per winter. Summers are warm, but not hot, with temperatures around  $24^{\circ}\text{C}$ . Fog is very common, especially from April to June. You should bring plenty of light, comfortable clothing that can be easily layered, as well as enough warm outdoor clothing. Good rain gear is a wise precaution against inclement weather at any time of year.

A comfortable pair of shoes for walking and sightseeing is essential. Some members recommend smart clothes for dining out, but this is simply a matter of individual preference. Canadians usually have a very relaxed dress code.

### Tipping

As service charges are not normally added to bills, a tip of about 15 per cent on the pre-tax total is standard practice in bars and for taxi drivers. At the customer's discretion porters, room service and doormen at hotels and airports generally get \$1 per baggage item.

It is a very good idea to take some currency in small bills with you to cover tips on arrival.

It is also standard practice to tip tour guides, so you might like to have some small bills to hand as you leave excursion buses.

### Shopping

Canada has excellent shopping, particularly enjoyable in markets and at native craft shops. Canadian shops are open from 0900-1800 and later in department stores, usually about 2100. There is also a growing number of shops which are also open on Sundays. Vancouver and Toronto, particularly, are a shopper's paradise. Whether you are looking for fashion items, native arts and craft, antiques, ceramics or simply souvenirs, you'll find everything you want there. You will also see plenty of other items to take your fancy when you are on the road. Shopping for food and drink is easy, with supermarkets that are very similar to home. You may also find that fresh produce is often sold at roadside stands in fruit and vegetable growing areas.

Mineral water can be bought but all tap water is drinkable unless marked otherwise.



Before you travel, be sure to make **photocopies** of all the documents you are taking with you – including your **Passport, driving licence** and insurance documents – take one set with you and **keep** in a **separate place** from the originals and leave one set at home with someone who can send them to you if needed.

### Bringing goods into the UK

You are entitled to the allowances shown below

- 200 cigarettes; or 100 cigarillos; or 50 cigars; or 250g of tobacco
- 60cc of perfume
- 2 litres of still table wine
- 250cc of eau de toilette
- 1 litre of spirits or strong liqueurs over 22 per cent volume; or 2 litres of fortified wine, sparkling wine or other liqueurs such as port or sherry and
- £145 worth of all other goods including gifts and souvenirs.

If you want to bring back more, you will have to declare it to customs on your way back and pay Customs duty and VAT. For more information, visit <http://customs.hmrc.gov.uk> and select the "Travel home page" icon.



### Local taxes

A tax of 7 per cent is levied on almost all goods and services in Canada and is known as GST. Most provinces also have a Provincial Sales Tax (PST), ranging from 6 to 10 per cent. The PST tax is 7.5 per cent in BC and 8 per cent in Ontario. There is no PST tax in Alberta. In Nova Scotia, the GST and PST have been replaced by a 15 per cent Harmonized Sales Tax (HST). Any taxes on your motorhome hire, hotel room, campground fees, welcome meal and any listed excursions have been included in your holiday cost. You may be able to claim back GST – and in some cases provincial tax – on goods bought in Canada and taken out of the country. A booklet that includes a refund application form is available at Canada Customs offices, duty-free shops, tourist information centres and some hotels.

### Further information

For further information visit:  
[www.travelcanada.ca](http://www.travelcanada.ca)  
[www.tourismvancouver.org](http://www.tourismvancouver.org)  
[www1.travelalberta.com](http://www1.travelalberta.com)  
[www.vancouverisland.com](http://www.vancouverisland.com)  
[www.britishcolumbia.com](http://www.britishcolumbia.com)  
[www.hellobc.com](http://www.hellobc.com)  
[www.novascotia.com](http://www.novascotia.com)  
[www.ontariotravel.net](http://www.ontariotravel.net)

### Lonely Planet guides

The Lonely Planet guide to Canada is also recommended. All Lonely Planet guides can be ordered from Carefree.

## Motorhomes and Floor Plans

### 20ft motorhome and floor plan



### 22ft motorhome and floor plan



### 20ft motorhome

Length: 6.4m – Height: 3.3m – Width: 2.4m  
Engine: V8 petrol 6 litres, automatic transmission

### 22ft motorhome

Length: 7.1m – Height: 3.3m – Width: 2.45m  
Engine: V8 or V10 petrol, automatic transmission

### 24ft motorhome

Length: 7.7m – Height: 3.3m – Width: 2.4m  
Engine: V8 petrol 6 litres, automatic transmission

### 27ft motorhome

Length: 8.2m – Height: 3.3m – Width: 2.5m  
Engine: V10 petrol, automatic transmission

### 29ft motorhome

Length: 8.75m – Height: 3.3m – Width: 2.5m  
Engine: V10 petrol, automatic transmission

### 24ft motorhome and floor plan



### 27ft motorhome and floor plan



### 29ft motorhome and floor plan



Carefree Travel Service, The Camping and Caravanning Club, PO Box 309, Coventry CV4 8YT

To book call **0845 130 7701**

Visit [www.campingandcaravanningclub.co.uk/travelabroad](http://www.campingandcaravanningclub.co.uk/travelabroad)