U.S.–Canada Border Information

For United States Residents Traveling to Canada

Border crossing requirements: Travelers are required to present proper travel documents for travel to Canada and to return to the United States.

Air travel: U.S. passport is required for travel by air to Canada and to the U.S.

Land or sea travel: Proof of citizenship and proof of identity are required for travel to Canada by land or sea. U.S. citizens returning to the U.S. from Canada by land or sea are required to present proper travel documents according to the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative. Approved documents include a passport or passport card, Enhanced Driver’s License, or NEXUS trusted traveler program card. Please refer to the U.S. Department of State’s website travel.state.gov for the most current information on these requirements. Canada citizens should refer to the Canada Border Services Agency website cbps-as-bgc.ca.

U.S. resident aliens: Alien Registration Receipt Card (Green Card) in addition to passport from country of citizenship.

Minors: All children must have their own travel documents. In lieu of a U.S. passport or passport card, U.S. children under 16 traveling to and from Canada by land or sea may also present an original or copy of his or her birth certificate, a consular Report of Birth Abroad, or a Naturalization Certificate.

Single parents, grandparents or guardians traveling with a minor must show documentation of legal custody and provide proof of citizenship for each child (the minor’s passport or a parent’s passport that includes the child).

When a child is traveling with only 1 parent, that parent should have a notarized letter of consent from the other parent or legal custody documents.

When a child is traveling alone or with an individual other than a parent, the minor should have a notarized letter of consent with phone number(s) from both parents or a custody document.

Legal Issues: Persons with felony convictions, driving while intoxicated records or other offenses may be denied admission into Canada. Contact the Canadian embassy or nearest consulate before travel.

Firearms: Canada has strict laws regarding the importing, exporting, possession, use, storage, display and transportation of firearms. These are federal laws that apply across the country.

Classes of firearms:
- Non-restricted (most ordinary rifles and shotguns)
- Restricted (mainly handguns)
- Prohibited (full automatics, converted automatics, handguns with a barrel length of 70cm (28 inches) or less, sawed-off shotguns and rifles, and .25-.32 caliber handguns, among others)

Handguns meeting the prohibited definition may be allowed as restricted firearms if the owner can prove they are to be used in competitive shooting. Visit the Canadian Firearms Centre at www.cfc-cfc.gc.ca for more information.

Yes: To bring a non-restricted or restricted firearm into Canada you must:
- Be 18 years of age or older
- Declare firearm(s) at first point of entry
- Get an Authorization to Transport (ATT) from a provincial or territorial Chief Firearms Officer before arriving at point of entry (Note: ATT not issued for hunting or self-protection purposes); call 800-731-4000 for more information

No: You may not bring into Canada a prohibited firearm or replica firearm, except replicas of firearms classified as antiques (a replica that looks exactly, or almost exactly, like a firearm but is not a firearm and cannot discharge projectiles or discharges only harmless projectiles).

Yes: The Canada Border Services Agency is responsible for all customs procedures.
- You may import non-restricted firearms for legitimate purposes: sporting or hunting; use in competitions; transit movement; or personal protection against wildlife in remote areas (customs officer must agree that circumstances warrant firearm possession)
- Register weapons with U.S. Customs before departure
- Upon return you must show proof that you had the weapon before departure
- Under certain circumstances individuals and businesses may import firearms for their use if proof of possession is presented

Non-residents may not import prohibited items.

Fees (in Canadian funds):
- Non-Resident Firearms Declaration – $25 covers all firearms listed on declaration
- Possession and acquisition license – $96 for non-restricted firearms; valid for 5 years
- Temporary Firearms Borrowing License (for non-residents) – $30; may renew once in a 12-month period at no extra cost (800-731-4000)
- Imported firearm registration fee – No fee to register or transfer a firearm

Prohibited
- Any large capacity cartridge magazine (limited to 5 rounds for semiautomatic rifles or shotguns, 10 rounds for handguns), any device designed to stop the sound of a firearm, any knife with a blade opened by spring pressure (e.g., switchblade), martial arts weapons (e.g., shuriken (shooting stars), nunchaku sticks), mace, blowguns, hand-held compact crankstaves and any other weapon declared prohibited by regulation

No:
- Fireworks forbidden in many of Canada’s national and provincial parks, game reserves and adjacent areas.
- Parks and Hunting Regulation Information: Newfoundland and Labrador 800-563-6353 or 709-729-2830; Prince Edward Island 888-734-7529 or 902-366-4444; Nova Scotia 800-665-0000 or 902-425-5781; New Brunswick 800-561-0123 or 506-789-4982; Quebec 1-877-206-5667 or 514-873-1715; Ontario 800-668-2746 or 416-314-0944; Manitoba 800-665-0040 or 204-945-3777; Saskatchewan 877-237-2273 or 306-787-2300; Alberta 800-272-3782 or 780-427-4321; British Columbia 800-435-5622 or 250-767-1643; Northwest Territories (Western NWT) 800-661-0786 or 867-873-4059; Nunavut 888-669-2888; Yukon 860-661-0494.
- Note: Provinces and territories also have their own laws regulating the transportation of firearms through their areas, usually in connection with their hunting regulations. For further information on the entry of firearms, applying for a license or to obtain authorization to transport a firearm, contact: Canadian Firearms Centre at 800-731-4000.

Personal Baggage:
- Admissible into Canada on a temporary basis without payment of duty and taxes
- Customs may require a refundable security deposit at time of entry
- Deposits not normally required for health- or pleasure-related visits as long as all items are exported at trip’s end

Personal baggage that may be taken into Canada on a duty- and tax-free basis includes clothing and personal items, sporting goods, automobiles, vessels, aircraft, snowmobiles, cameras, personal computers, food products and other items appropriate for the purpose and duration of the visit.

Tobacco products – Those meeting age requirements (18 years in Alberta, Manitoba, Northwest Territories, Nunavut, Saskatchewan, Quebec and Yukon; 19 years in other provinces) may bring in 50 cigars, 200 cigarettes, 200 grams of tobacco and 200 tobacco sticks.

Alcohol – Those meeting age requirements (18 years in Alberta, Manitoba and Quebec; 19 years in other provinces and territories) may bring in limited alcoholic beverages: 40 ounces (1.14 L) of liquor, 1.6 quarts (1.5 L) of wine or 9 quarts (8.5 L) of beer (orale (equivalent to 24 12-ounce bottles or cans).
- Amounts exceeding the allowable quantities noted above are subject to federal duty and taxes, and provisional/territorial liquor fees
- Pay provincial fees at customs at the time of entry in all provinces and Yukon
- Illegal to bring more than the allowable alcohol quantity into Northwest Territories and Nunavut
- Articles purchased at Canadian duty-free shops are subject to U.S. Customs exemptions and restrictions; those purchased at U.S. duty-free shops before entering Canada are subject to duty if brought back into the United States.

Prescription Drugs: Persons requiring medication while visiting Canada are permitted to bring it for their own use. Clearly identify and carry in original packaging with a label listing the drug and its intended use. Have a copy of the prescription and prescribing doctor’s phone number.

Gifts: Items not exceeding $60 (CAN) in value, excluding tobacco, alcoholic beverages and advertising matter, taken into or mailed to Canada are allowed free entry. Gifts valued at more than $60 are subject to regular duty and taxes on the excess amount.

Pets and Plants: You must have a certificate for a dog or cat age 3 months and older. It must clearly describe the animal, declare that the animal is currently vaccinated against rabies, and have a licensed veterinarian signature.
- Collar tags are not sufficient proof of immunization
- Be sure the vaccination does not expire while traveling in Canada
- The certificate is also required to bring the animal back into the United States.

Exempt From These Rules: Assist dogs; healthy puppies and kittens under 3 months old with a health certificate, signed by a licensed veterinarian, indicating that the animal is too young to vaccinate.

Plants or plant material must be declared. For information, contact: Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA), 1400 Merivale Road, Ottawa, ON K1A 0Y9; 613-225-2342.

Radio Communication Equipment:
- Cell phone, PCS phone, citizens band (CB) or Family Radio Service radio allowed without prior registration
- Use of aircraft, marine or amateur radio allowed without prior authorization
- All other types of radio transmitting stations allowed for non-U.S. citizens with authorization letter from Industry Canada’s Radiocommunication and Broadcasting Regulatory Branch

Special Permits: A CITI (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species) permit is required for any endangered species brought into Canada, including those kept as pets, and for any items made from them (e.g., coats, handbags, shoes). For information contact: Canadian Wildlife Service, (613) 997-1840.

An Export Permit may be required to take out of Canada objects more than 50 years old (e.g., fossils, archaeological artifacts, fine and decorative art, technological objects or books and archival material). Contact: Movable Cultural Property Program of Canadian Heritage, 25 Eddy St., 9th Floor, Gatineau, Quebec, Canada K1A 0M5; (819) 937-7761.
An Import Permit may be required for the importation of clothing, textiles, steel and certain agricultural products in excess of minimum quantities. For information contact: Department of Foreign Affairs and Int’l Trade, Export and Import Controls Bureau, Tower C, 4th Floor, LB Pearson Bldg, 125 Sussex Dr., Ottawa, ON K1A 0G2.

Vehicles
- Vehicles entering Canada for touring, including trailers not exceeding 8 feet 6 inches (2.6 m) in width are generally subject to quick and routine entry procedures.
- To leave or store a car, trailer or other goods in Canada while you leave the country you must pay import duty and taxes or present a valid permit. Canadian Customs officials issue permits at point of entry.
- You may not store a vacation trailer in Canada during the off-season.
- Vehicle registration cards required for Canadian travel. If driving a car other than your own, you must have written permission from the owner to use it. If driving a rented car, you must possess a copy of the contract.
- A valid U.S. driver’s license is valid in Canada for time period specified by the individual provinces and territories.
- In all Canadian provinces and territories, except for Alberta, British Columbia, and Saskatchewan, it is illegal to use speed detectors, even if unplugged.
- Seat belts required for the driver and all passengers throughout Canada.

Headlights: Driving with daytime running lights is required for all car models after 1990.
- In Alberta, British Columbia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island, lights must be turned on when light conditions restrict visibility to 500 feet (150 m).
- In Manitoba, lights must be turned on when light conditions restrict visibility to 200 feet (60 m).
- In Yukon, Nova Scotia, Northwest Territories and Nunavut, headlights must remain on all times.
- Elsewhere in Canada, driving with headlights on during all hours of the day is advised.

FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY LAWS IN CANADA
When an accident involves death, injury or property damage, Canadian provinces and territories require evidence of financial responsibility. You may be asked to show this evidence at any time.

U.S. motorists should check with their own U.S. insurance companies on acquiring proper evidence of financial responsibility, which could include a yellow Non-Resident Inter-Province Motor Vehicle Liability Insurance Card (accepted as evidence of financial responsibility throughout Canada). You must also present a valid driver’s license or$current permit from the U.S. or another nation.

The minimum liability insurance requirement is $200,000 (Canadian dollars) in all provinces and territories except Quebec, which requires $50,000. Should the courts’ judgments exceed these figures, motorists held accountable are responsible for paying the full amount.

If traveling in Quebec, discuss your collision, disability and bodily injury coverages with your insurance agent. Since Quebec’s minimum requirement does not include bodily injury coverage, coverage of $200,000 or more is recommended. Consider additional coverage (i.e., trip accident policy).

For United States Residents
Returning to the United States
U.S. citizens returning to the U.S. from Canada by air must have a passport. Those returning by land or sea are required to present proper travel documents according to the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative. See page 1.

Everyone who seeks entry into the United States – whether foreign visitors, U.S. citizens, or U.S. lawful permanent residents – must be inspected at the point of entry. Random searches may be conducted by U.S. Customs and Border Protection agents.

U.S. Exemptions for a Stay in Canada No Less Than 48 Hours
- You may bring back tax- and duty-free articles not exceeding $200 in retail value.
- The exemption may include no more than 50 cigarettes, 10 cigars, 5 fluid ounces (150 milliliters) of alcoholic beverage or 200 milliliters of perfume containing alcohol.
- A family may not combine purchases.
- If purchases exceed the $200 exemption, you lose the exemption and all purchases become subject to duty.
- All goods must be declared.
- All articles claimed under this exemption must accompany you on your return.

For Canada Residents Traveling to the United States
Canadian citizens entering the U.S. by air are required to present a passport. Canadian citizens entering the U.S. by land or sea are required to present proper travel documents according to the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative. Approved documents include a passport or passport card, Enhanced Driver’s License, NEXUS trusted traveler program card, or a secure Certificate of Indian Status. Please refer to the U.S. Department of State’s website travel.state.gov or the Canada Border Services Agency website cbps-as.gc.ca for the most current information on these requirements.

If traveling to the United States with a child, carry documentation proving your custodial rights. A parent under the age of 18 or the legal custodian of a minor or another adult must have certified documentation proving that the trip is permitted by both parents.

United States Customs permits Canadian residents to bring, free of duty, for personal use and not intended for sale: clothing, personal items and equipment appropriate to the trip, including 200 cigarettes, 50 cigars or 2 kilograms of tobacco, or proportionate amounts of each, and 1 liter of liquor.

Visitors in the United States for at least 72 hours who have not claimed this exemption in the preceding 6 months may bring gifts totaling $100 (US) retail value. Perfume containing alcohol and valued at more than $5 retail, tobacco products and alcoholic beverages are excluded from the gift provision.

Use of cell phones and General Radio Service Station (CRS) is unrestricted.