



The Canadian adventure



Canada has a lot to offer with low housing costs, high incomes and an excellent quality of life. Add beautiful urban surroundings, dramatic outdoor scenery plus a vibrant culture, and it is easy to see why Canada is the first choice for so many families and individuals looking to leave the UK.

Canada is a vast country, with huge differences from one part to another in culture, language and geography. It is important to do your research to make sure you choose the place for you.

If you're relocating under your own steam, try to plan an extended visit to help you find the best location. Make a list of the things that are most important to you and weigh up your options before committing to a particular city or region.

Travelling to Canada

It takes around six hours to fly to the east coast of Canada from the UK and approximately ten hours to touch down in the west. There are major airports located in Vancouver, Toronto, Ottawa, Halifax, Calgary and Edmonton, providing a handy domestic flight network.

Did you know, Canada is divided into six different time zones - from west to east, time differences range from eight to three hours behind the UK.

Living in Canada

Jobs

Government-sponsored websites, such as [Citizenship and Immigration Canada \(CIC\)](#) are packed with useful information about current skills shortages, paperwork employers need and how to get your skills or qualifications officially recognised.

Visas

Whether you're relocating to Canada as family or on your own, for a new job or for lifestyle reasons, bear in mind there are a number of different visas available. Costs and processing times vary for each visa, be sure to check the CIC for more information and regulation updates.

Moving checklist

If moving to Canada has caught your eye, what happens when it comes to the move? Here's our moving checklist to get you started.

- If you're moving with children, start researching schools or day care facilities.
- Decide what to do with your car – if it's not being shipped, start planning its sale.
- Get all your important paperwork in order – driver's license, birth and marriage certificates, dental and medical records.
- If you're not with an international bank you may need to consider moving accounts.
- Start to de-clutter your house, and reduce alcohol and food stocks – use up any frozen goods.
- Check any electrical items to ensure they are compliant for use in your new country.

Canadian culture

Canada is renowned for its love of all things sport, especially ice hockey – the country’s official winter sport. During the summer, American-inspired sports Lacrosse and football are popular. Skiing and hiking are great ways for all ages to take in Canada’s spectacular scenery.

The big cities like Montreal and Toronto are full of galleries, museums and theatres - attracting acts from all around the world. As well as cultural days out, there are plenty of great restaurants to enjoy too. From fine French cuisine to American-style diners, there’s something suit everyone.

National holidays

Statutory public holidays in Canada are New Year’s Day, Good Friday, Christmas Day and:

- Canada Day, 1 July - celebrates the unity of three colonies in 1867 that now form Canada
- Labour Day, first Monday in September - marks economic and social achievements of workers

Canada’s capital: Ottawa

- The country’s fourth largest city, situated in the southern region of the Ontario province
- Known as being the most educated city in Canada, Ottawa boasts high employment rates
- Ottawa is home to 12 national museums devoted to Canadian art, nature, science, technology and aviation
- With a great selection of parks, Ottawa has great ski trails in the wintertime and swimming pools, hike trails and bike paths for warmer months.

What you didn’t know about Canada...

- Canada earned its name by error. Explorer Jacques Cartier met local natives who invited him to their ‘kanata’. Not realising that kanata was the indigenous word for village, he thought it was the name of the country.
- Canada is the ninth most sparsely populated nation in the world, with just 8.6 people per square mile.
- The average life expectancy for a Canadian is 81.16 years – one of the highest in the world, despite Canadians eating more macaroni cheese than any other nation.

Five things you need to know about Canada

1. The local currency is the Canadian Dollar. It is usually written as C\$ or simply \$, and its currency code is CAD - it’s usually \$1.6 to the pound.
2. Canada’s official languages are English and French. A wide variety of indigenous languages are also spoken, yet the majority of the population are fluent English speakers.
3. In the winter temperatures fall below freezing, with temperatures soaring above 30 degrees Celsius in the summer.
4. CVs, known as resumes in Canada are short and concise, typically a page long. It may be worth getting the help of an expert to help you with your Canadian resume.
5. Tipping is an expected courtesy, between 15 to 20 per cent is acceptable.

Money

Costs

Make sure you have an idea of the cost of living in Canada, so you’re financially prepared for your big move across the pond.

Eating out – expect to pay around \$45 (£25) for a meal for two in a mid-range restaurant, with a typical fast food meal costing around \$7 (£4)

Transport – a one-way local bus ticket will cost about \$3 (£1.70), with taxis starting at \$3.50 (£2.00) and \$1.84 (around a pound) per km, although prices vary

Renting – a one-bedroom city centre apartment usually costs around \$1000 (£550) per month, rising to \$1675 (£920) per month for three bedrooms. Prices are usually 20 – 25% lower outside the city centre

Education

Education is compulsory up to the age of 16, and to 18 in some provinces. The Canadian government spends more on education per capita than any other country, with nine out of ten Canadians (89 per cent)* educated to an A Level equivalent standard – Canada boasts one of the world’s best public education system. Canadian qualifications from both school and university are recognised worldwide.

*Source: www.statcan.gc.ca/daily-quotidien/140107/dq140107b-eng.htm

