



Canada Border
Services Agency

Agence des services
frontaliers du Canada

Canada

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Travel Tips for 2024-2025





Approach

- Before peak periods, including long weekends and holidays, the CBSA will issue a national **news release**, supported by **media relations outreach** and **social media**. This includes proactive local Canadian and US media outreach as well as the use of regional social media accounts.
- Interviews with CBSA spokespersons in regions will be proactively offered to media outlets.

Key Messages

- The CBSA wants travellers arriving in Canada to have a smooth border experience; you can help us by doing a few key things ahead of time.
- Before heading to a **land** border, travellers should always check the Canada Border Services Agency's [website](#) for estimated border wait times at select land ports of entry.
- Whether travelling by land, air or water, travellers can help speed up processing times by always coming prepared with their [travel documents](#).
- Travellers should be prepared to [declare imported goods](#).
- The Agency has established modern processes to improve the experience for air travellers, like the Primary Inspection Kiosks, eGates and [Advance Declaration](#).

Top travel tips for travellers: Know before you go

- Plan ahead, expect delays and check [border wait times](#). Travellers crossing the border by land are encouraged to cross during non-peak hours such as early morning. The Monday of holiday long weekends tend to be the busiest.
- When [travelling with children](#), it is recommended that the accompanying adult have a consent letter authorizing them to travel with the child if they share custody or are not the parent or legal guardian. Border services officers are always watching for [missing children](#), and in the absence of the letter, officers may ask additional questions.
- Have your [travel documents](#) handy. Whether travelling by land, air or water, travellers can help speed up processing times by always coming prepared with their travel documents.

Top travel tips for travellers: Know before you go

- Save time with [Advance Declaration](#). You can make your customs and immigration declaration up to 72 hours in advance of your arrival into Canada at the Toronto, Vancouver, Montréal, Winnipeg, Halifax, Québec City, Ottawa, Billy Bishop, Calgary and Edmonton international airports. Data shows that using this can reduce your time at a kiosk or eGate by up to 50%.
- Be prepared to declare. All travellers must declare their goods upon entry into Canada. For returning residents, have your receipts readily available for goods purchased or received while outside of Canada. Travellers should be aware of everything that is inside their vehicle and are responsible for its contents. You are encouraged not to travel with firearms, but if you choose to do so, be sure to check the [rules on importing firearms](#) and other [restricted and prohibited goods](#), which includes pepper spray and certain knives.
- Know your exemption limits. Returning residents planning to make purchases or pick up online purchases across the border should be aware of their [personal exemption limits](#), including alcohol and tobacco. You are encouraged to use the [CBSA duty and taxes estimator](#)

Top travel tips for travellers: Know before you go

- Cannabis: Don't bring it in. Don't take it out. Bringing cannabis across the border in any form, including oils containing tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) or cannabidiol (CBD), without a permit or exemption [authorized by Health Canada](#) is a serious criminal offence subject to arrest and prosecution, despite the legalization of cannabis in Canada. A medical prescription from a doctor does not count as Health Canada authorization.
- Travelling with medication? Make sure you understand [your responsibilities](#).
- Bringing traditional Indigenous medicines or ceremonial goods to Canada? Medicines such as sage, cedar, sweetgrass, peyote and tobacco are recognized as sacred items and can be brought across the border. However, plant materials are subject to regulations and inspections.

Top travel tips for travellers: Know before you go

- If you are travelling with a pet or planning to import an animal into Canada, you will need the [right paperwork](#) at the border to meet Canada's import requirements.
 - Will you be going to the U.S. with a dog? As of August 1, 2024, there are updated documentation requirements for all dogs entering the U.S. from Canada. For more information, visit [Dogs travelling to the United States](#).
- **Not sure? Ask a CBSA officer.** The best thing you can do to save time is to be open and honest with the CBSA officer. Be sure to follow all instructions they provide to you. If you are not sure about what to declare, don't hesitate to ask. Our officers are here to help!

Seasonal Travel Tips

- **Leave gifts unwrapped.** If travelling with gifts, make sure they are unwrapped or in gift bags in case border services officers need to inspect the contents.
- **Bringing turkey or chicken across the border?** Poultry products must be for human consumption and retail packaged and labelled as a "Product of the USA." Homemade food or leftovers containing poultry cannot be brought into Canada. Check the latest [Information for travellers: Restrictions on poultry and birds from the United States](#) before bringing these products across the border.

Seasonal Travel Tips

- Bringing fireworks into Canada? Consult [Importing, exporting and transporting fireworks](#) to ensure that the ones you are bringing in are authorized.
- If you are coming to Canada for **camping**, note that bringing [firewood](#) from outside of Canada is not permitted as invasive insects and diseases can exist in it. Help protect our forests; buy local and burn local.

Boaters and the CBSA

- Boaters planning to travel in or near Canadian waters, or enter Canada by boat should review [Reporting requirements for private boat operators](#) before making travel plans. All travellers entering Canada by boat must report to the CBSA without delay.
- Boaters must report to the CBSA immediately at a [Designated Reporting Site](#) if they come to port, anchor, moor or make contact with another vessel.

Boaters and the CBSA

- You must report [restricted and prohibited goods](#) on board, such as [firearms](#), to the CBSA and obtain the necessary permits (if required), even if you meet the conditions for a reporting exception. Undeclared restricted and prohibited goods found on board will be seized and you could face criminal charges.
- Under Canadian immigration law, foreign nationals, including passengers on board commercial passenger conveyances, are required to always carry proper identification and a valid visa (if necessary) for entry in Canada.
- For more information, visit the [Reporting exceptions](#) page.

Boaters and the CBSA

- As the operator of a boat entering Canadian waters with the intent to disembark, it is your responsibility to report to the CBSA.
- For vessels carrying **fewer than 30 passengers**, there are two ways to report in order to enter Canada at an open designated marine reporting site.

Telephone Reporting Centre

- At a [telephone reporting site](#), follow the instructions posted on location to contact the CBSA's Telephone Reporting Centre and **request** clearance to enter Canada.
- Toll free: 1-888-226-7277
- Only the operator may leave the boat to place the call. Everyone else must remain onboard until the CBSA authorizes entry.

Direct Reporting Sites for Marine Private Vessels

- Report directly in-person at one of the [open designated marine reporting site locations](#), staffed by the CBSA.
- Passenger groups of 30 or more entering Canadian waters, you cannot be cleared by telephone upon arrival. You may seek clearance at a direct reporting site for marine reporting site.
- You must notify the CBSA at least 72 hours before you arrive in Canadian waters in writing, including:
 - the details of your arrival
 - a request for CBSA clearance
- For more information, contact **Border Information Service (BIS):**
Toll free: 1-800-461-9999

Failure to Report

- The CBSA and its law enforcement partners are actively monitoring Canadian waterways. Failure to report to the CBSA may result in detention, seizure or forfeiture of your boat and/or monetary penalties.
- If you fail to report, even if your purpose is non-discretionary (non-optional) such as to refuel, you may face severe penalties. The minimum fine for failing to report to the CBSA upon entry to Canada is CAN\$1,000.
- Failure to report may also affect your immigration admissibility and ability to re-enter Canada in the future.
- Foreign nationals who provide false information could also be denied entry and be banned from returning to Canada.

Contact Information

- Telephone Reporting Centre telephone reporting line:
Toll free: 1-888-226-7277
- NEXUS telephone reporting line:
Toll free: 1-866-99-NEXUS (1-866-996-3987)
- Border Information Services:
Toll free: 1-800-461-9999
- Immigration Refugee Citizenship Canada:
1-888-242-2100