

Dual Citizenship

WHAT TRAVELLERS SHOULD KNOW

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Dual citizenship occurs when a person holds the citizenship of more than one country. Canadian law permits this; you can remain or become a citizen of another country and still be recognized as a Canadian.

But dual citizenship (also called dual nationality) is not legally recognized in all countries. This can lead to serious difficulties for Canadians when they are in the country of their second citizenship. It can also create problems in third countries if there is any confusion over what citizenship was used to obtain entry.

How is dual citizenship obtained?

In some cases, you may not be aware that you're a citizen of another country. A second citizenship may result from:

- an application for citizenship
- place of birth
- family connections, including place of birth of one of your parents or even grandparents
- marriage
- extended residency

Advantages

Many Canadians remain or become citizens of another country because of the advantages, including:

- employment opportunities
- entitlement to social programs, such as pensions
- property ownership
- unrestricted residency