



## New U.S. Entry Requirements

The Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative (WHTI) is a new U.S. law requiring all travellers, including Canadians, to carry a passport or other appropriate secure documentation when travelling to the United States. Canadians entering and leaving the U.S. by different modes of transportation must carry documentation appropriate to each mode of transportation. See below for details.

- **Air Travel:** As of January 23, 2007, **Canadians entering or transiting the United States by air must present a valid Canadian passport or NEXUS card** (at kiosks at designated airports) to confirm their citizenship and identity.
- **Land and Sea Travel:** The same entry requirements for land and sea travel to the United States will come into effect at a later time. Canadians can continue to use such documents as their birth certificates and driver's licences to cross the Canada-U.S. border by land and sea until the WHTI is fully implemented.
- **Canadian Passport:** The Government of Canada continues to recommend that travellers carry a valid **Canadian passport** when visiting all destinations abroad, including the United States. A passport is the only universally accepted identification document, and it proves that you have a right to return to Canada.
- **NEXUS Card:** The **NEXUS** program is designed to expedite the border clearance process for low-risk, pre-approved travellers into Canada and the United States by air, land, and sea. NEXUS members can use self-serve kiosks at designated airports, employ dedicated lanes at land borders, and report by telephone at marine ports of entry. For details on NEXUS, visit [www.nexus.gc.ca](http://www.nexus.gc.ca) or call **1-866-NEXUS-26**.

For up-to-date information on the WHTI and travel to the United States, visit [www.voyage.gc.ca](http://www.voyage.gc.ca) or [www.cbsa.gc.ca](http://www.cbsa.gc.ca).

Where permitted by the laws of the country in question, the Government of Canada encourages Canadians to use their Canadian passport when travelling abroad and to present themselves as Canadians to foreign authorities. Note that you cannot use a Certificate of Canadian Citizenship instead of a Canadian passport to travel abroad. **A Certificate of Canadian Citizenship is not a travel document.** A Canadian passport is the only reliable and universally accepted travel and identification document available to Canadians for

the purpose of international travel. Canadian citizens returning to Canada who present other documents, such as a Certificate of Canadian Citizenship, birth certificate, provincial driver's licence, or foreign passport, instead of a Canadian passport, may face delays or be denied boarding by transport companies.

If you have questions or concerns regarding dual citizenship, contact the nearest Canadian government office or refer to our booklet *Dual Citizenship*.

### TRAVEL IN EUROPE

The member states of the European Union (not including the United Kingdom and Ireland), along with Norway, Iceland, and Switzerland, make up the Schengen Area, which aims for common rules regarding visas, asylum rights, and controls at external borders.

Most of the land border controls of countries that recently joined the Schengen Agreement were removed on December 21, 2007. These countries include the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia, and Slovenia. Controls for embarkation at ports and airports for travel between these countries and all other Schengen states will be removed by March 29, 2008. It is expected that Bulgaria, Romania, and Cyprus will fully enter the Schengen Agreement in 2009, removing land border controls with other Schengen

states in December 2008, and port and airport controls in March 2009. Switzerland's full participation in the Schengen Area may also begin in 2008.

In the Schengen Area, Canadian travellers do not need visas for short-term visits (up to 90 days), but some countries require you to register with local authorities within three working days of your arrival. It is important to get your passport stamped when entering the Schengen Area. The absence of an entry stamp from the initial Schengen port of entry could create difficulties during subsequent encounters with local police or other authorities.

It is important to confirm up-to-date entry requirements with the embassy or high commission of each destination country before departure from Canada. See our Travel Reports for country-specific information.