



Photo: Tourism Canada

Enjoying 'Old Montreal' at night

Variety is one of the highlights of a Canadian vacation. Visitors to Canada are not restricted to any one type of holiday: the choices are limitless – ranging from the great outdoors to the vibrant cities and involving historic sites, reconstructions of the past, soaring towers, amusement parks, museums, spectacular scenery and living history.

This means holidaymakers can enjoy several experiences in one Canadian visit. If it is a quiet fishing retreat for Dad, shopping for Mum and amusement parks for the children, all can be arranged within close proximity; Canadian cities have extensive and often unique shopping districts, some have large and exciting amusement parks and all are accessible to part of the extensive network of waterways across the country.

Tour operators in the UK, many of whom are members of CHTA, a consortium of travel companies featuring Canada in their programmes, offer escorted tour, fly-drive, motor home, adventure and special interest holidays. Add-on packages can also be arranged, allowing families to combine touring with visiting friends and relatives.

Escorted sightseeing by coach may involve a specific area or a number of areas. In the Quebec City-Toronto corridor, some tours highlight cities while others are based on specific themes like pioneer days. In the Maritimes, escorted coach tours along the Cabot Trail offer a combination of historic themes and some of the world's most dramatic coastal scenery. In the west, escorted tours are available through the spectacular scenery of the Canadian Rockies passing Jasper National Park, the Columbia Icefield, Athabasca Falls and Banff; others include Vancouver with Stanley Park, Gastown and Chinatown or Victoria with its magnificent Butchart Gardens. Coach tours in the North offer views of the beautiful Kluane Lake and National Park, or Dawson City and Poverty Bar where visitors can try their luck panning for gold. Short tours highlighting attractions within each city are also available.

Cross-Canada escorted coach or rail tours enable visitors to see the wide variety of sights across the country including Northern Ontario's wilderness of forests and waterways and the vast farmlands and prairies of Western Canada. Rail tours feature high-domed observation cars for panoramic viewing. There are also a number of special escorted-rail tours like Ontario's 'Polar Bear Express' which runs north from Cochrane to Moosonee.

Escorted cruises range from major inland passage tours to mini-tours like Kingston and the Thousand Islands, Lake Superior Islands, Lake Winnipeg, Vancouver to Victoria or Victoria to Seattle.

Fly-drive holiday packages are available year-round with arrangements catered to individual needs. Two popular all-inclusive tours are 'Discover the Mountains' in the west and 'Discover the Cities' in the east. Other fly-drive packages offer partial arrangements, or only the flight to Canada and an automobile upon arrival. To assist independent travellers Tourism Canada has published a book, *Touring Canada*, outlining 56 automobile trips that take in major attractions and events across the

country. There are also publications focusing on inexpensive bed-and-breakfast or self-catering accommodation.

For visitors who would like to experience the great outdoors, beautiful scenery and camping, a wide range of well equipped campers and motor homes are available. Campgrounds across the country are excellent, clean, accessible, have extensive facilities and are inexpensive. And for those who prefer to 'float' along, there are completely equipped houseboats.

There is no limit to the type of adventure or special interest holiday that can be arranged in Canada, from mountain climbing to golfing or cycling, canoeing to backpacking or trekking, skiing to whale watching, trail riding, white water rafting, ornithology or special events like the Calgary Stampede. Cultural enthusiasts might select a holiday in Toronto, the third largest theatre centre in the world, or attend one of the many festivals across the country. Three oceans and millions of lakes and rivers offer almost every conceivable variety of fish, with holiday packages offering everything from deep sea fishing to flycasting for salmon, to wilderness fishing for Northern pike or jumbo whitefish. For camping enthusiasts, numerous adventure holidays are available with special wilderness packages aimed at groups of 12 to 30 young people between 20 and 30 years of age.

Family vacations can be booked at resorts, farms and ranches as well as in cities. Resorts across the country feature a full range of recreational facilities and offer unique vacation possibilities. Farm holidays from Prince Edward Island through Ontario can offer anything from beaches, good value, friendly people to a great deal of fresh air and sunshine while ranch vacations across the Prairie provinces and British Columbia feature trail riding and cook-outs. Cities offer all the cosmopolitan advantages – including shopping, night-life, and culture.

There is tremendous value in booking a Canadian holiday: aside from numerous bed and breakfast places across the country, a typical hotel or motel room offers two double beds and children sharing with their parents are free. Accommodation costs per night range from £3 – £4 in youth hostels or camp grounds to £10 – £25 in moderate hotels or motels to £50+ in deluxe hotels. Food costs vary from being equivalent to the UK prices to about 60 per cent less. There are also extensive discounts and special rates available for OAPS (senior citizens), children, students, families and groups. Summer air-fares range from £250-£450 but this year's off-season rate is very low: only £184 to Toronto or £199 to Vancouver.

*Additional information on holidays in Canada is available from Tourism Canada at Canada House, Trafalgar Square, London. Counsellors are on hand from 9am to 5pm weekdays to respond to written, telephone and in-person enquiries.*



Photo: Windsurfer

Windsurfers will be competing in the Flying Sails competitions



Photo: Tourism Canada

Motor home holiday at Porter's Lake Provincial Park

Panning for gold on an adventure holiday in the Yukon



Photo: Tourism Canada