

[Canada] Top 13 Places

There are 10 provinces and three territories on the map of Canada—13 unique places to celebrate our country. *Our World* canvassed DFAIT staff for their recommendations on which places embody the nation, either geographically or emotionally. *A mari usque ad mare ad mare*, here are some snapshots of their favourite spots across the land.



photo: Sarah Tsang

SALT SPRING ISLAND, B.C.

The most populous of B.C.'s Southern Gulf Islands, Salt Spring is home to about 10,000 people, who are greatly outnumbered by fish and fowl. The island's largest village, Ganges, has a sizeable community of artists, among them the perennially favourite children's entertainer, Rafi. There are dozens of art galleries, music facilities and performing arts centres nestled among some of nature's most decorative sites. *Recommended by Sarah Tsang.*



KLUANE NATIONAL PARK AND RESERVE, Y.T.

In this southwestern corner of Yukon Territory, giant glaciers, rocky landscapes and a mercurial sky make you feel like you're walking across the earth at its most primordial. From Mount Logan, Canada's highest peak, you can enjoy one of the world's best views of the aurora borealis as its charged particles blaze across the ionosphere. *Recommended by Eric Nicholas.*



photo: Angela Santos

BANFF, ALTA.

The term "picturesque" seems most appropriate for Banff. If you ask random people the world over to describe what comes to mind when they think of Canada, the image of Alberta's snow-capped mountains, crystal-blue waters and green pine forests is never long in coming. *Recommended by Angela Santos.*



photo: Terry Parker

ULUKHAKTOK, N.W.T.

Despite temperatures that can fall to as low as -49° , Ulukhaktok is a great place to visit, especially for polar-bear enthusiasts and sports fishers. There are also artisan workshops and golf courses nearby. This tiny town of fewer than 400 people has everything you need to enjoy the good life. *Recommended by Colette Déry.*



photo: Tourism Saskatchewan

ATHABASCA SAND DUNES, SASK.

This is one of the world's most northerly dune fields, and Canada's largest. The site is ideal for camping off the beaten path, as there are no roads, communities, permanent residents or facilities in or near the park, and access is by float plane only. These lone and level sands stretch along the south shore of Lake Athabasca and make for a truly unique place in the Canadian landscape. *Recommended by Marcelo Lince.*

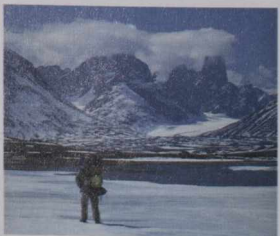


photo: Nunavut Tourism

AUYUITTUQ NATIONAL PARK, NUN.

During the summer months, this corner of Baffin Island is a gathering place for adventurous campers and mountaineers; it's less welcoming to the faint of heart! Mount Thor boasts the earth's longest purely vertical drop, with nearby Mount Asgard in close competition. *Recommended by Charles Enman.*