For Canadian Residents Traveling to the United States

Canadian citizens entering the U.S. by air are required to present a valid passport or a NEXUS card. Canadian citizens entering the U.S. by land or sea are required to present proof of travel documents according to the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative. Approved documents include a passport or passport card, Enhanced Driver's License, NEXUS trusted traveler program card, or FAST/EXPRESS or SENTRI enrollment cards. Please refer to the U.S. Department of State’s website travel.state.gov or the Canada Border Services Agency website cbgs-asfc.gc.ca for the most current requirements.

Beginning in October 2018, recreational marijuana will be legal in Canada. Although the possession and use of marijuana is legal in some U.S. states, it remains a prohibited, controlled substance under federal laws in any form and quantity, making it illegal to bring across the Canada-U.S. border. Further, it will remain illegal to drive impaired by marijuana in all U.S. states. All travelers who have smoked or used marijuana in Canada will be considered to have marijuana in their system. Therefore, even small amounts of marijuana in the system can result in arrest, prosecution, and incarceration.

If traveling to the United States with a child, carry documentation proving your custodial rights. A person under age 18 traveling to the United States alone or with only 1 parent or another adult, must have certified documentation proving that the trip is permitted by both parents.

United States Customs permits Canadian residents to bring, free of duty, for personal use and not intended for resale: clothing, personal items, and equipment appropriate to the trip, including 200 cigarettes, 50 cigars, or 2 kilograms of tobacco, or proportionate amounts of each, and 1 liter of liquor. Visitors in the United States for at least 72 hours who have not claimed this exemption in the preceding 6 months may bring gifts totaling $100 (USD) retail value. Concerned alcohol and valued at more than $5 retail, tobacco products and alcoholic beverages are excluded from the gift provision.

Use of cell phones and General Radio Service Station (CB) is unrestricted.

For Canadian Border Residents Traveling to Canada

The Canada Border Services Agency allows Canadian residents to bring, free of duty and taxes, goods any number of times a year, valued up to $200 (CAN) for visits to the United States between 24 and 48 hours, and up to $800 (CAN) for visits of 48 hours or more. All goods must accompany the purchaser (written declaration may be required). No duty is required for imported goods marked as made in Canada, the U.S., or Mexico.

You may claim a $200 (CAN) exemption on goods, excluding alcoholic beverages and tobacco products, if returning after an absence of 24 hours or more. If bringing back more than $200 worth of goods, a full duty and tax rate is levied on the entire value. This exemption may apply to any number of times in a year. No tobacco or alcohol may be carried if returning after an absence of less than 48 hours.

If returning after an absence of more than 48 hours but less than 7 days, the same rules apply to claims up to $300 (CAN). Alcohol and tobacco products may be carried and any goods claimed must be in your possession.

If returning after 7 days or more in the United States (not counting departure day from Canada) you may claim up to an $800 (CAN) exemption on goods. These goods, other than alcohol and tobacco products, need not accompany you (written declaration may be required).

Permitted within the $200 and $800 exemptions: up to 50 cigars, 200 cigarettes, 200 tobacco sticks and 200 grams (6.4 oz) of tobacco, and up to 1.14 liters (40 oz) of liquor or 1.5 liters (1.6 qts) of wine or 8.5 liters (9 qts) of beer or ale (or its equivalent of 24-ounce bottles of other alcoholic beverages). If the age of the minor is lower than the minimum legal drinking age of the province or territory, you may only enter or transport the amount of alcohol or tobacco products.

Special Surfaces: Canada has placed a surtax on imports of steel, aluminum, and other products from the U.S. For more information, visit: https://www.fn.gc.ca/access/tt/ftrcass-cmpnass-1-eng.asp

Special Tariff: When exceeding the $200 or $800 exemption, a special rate of 7 percent combined duty and taxes is levied on the next $300 value in goods (except tobacco and alcohol) exceeding the maximum exemptable amounts, provided goods are of U.S. origin. Regular duties apply on any additional amount. A 13 percent Harmonized Sales Tax (HST) applies to goods with a price of over $200. Goods and Services Tax (GST) and 8 percent provincial component, is charged on most goods and services supplied in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Newfoundland and Labrador. For information contact the Canada Border Services Agency before departing Canada. All extra goods must accompany you.

Individuals are not included and may be with or without members of your party. You may be asked to verify the length of your visit. Dated receipts normally constitute proof. Goods (excluding alcoholic beverages, tobacco products and advertising material) up to $60 (CAN) retail value may be brought in.

For U.S. Residents Traveling to Canada

Prohibited: Articles considered detrimental to the general welfare of the United States are prohibited entry: narcotics and dangerous drugs, drug paraphernalia, obscene audio and video, subversive or treasonable writings, dangerous toys, toxic or poisonous substances) and switchblade knives. Any goods originating in embargoed countries, including the following, are prohibited: Burma, Central African Republic, Côte d’Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Eritrea, Iran, Iraq, Liberia, Libya, North Korea, Russia, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, Ukraine, Yemen. Please note embargoes are not limited to these countries.

Restricted items include automobiles, biological materials (disease organisms and vectors for research), ceramic tableware, cultural treasures, firearms and ammunition, articles bearing marks or names copying or simulating trademarked articles or trade names (watches, cameras, perfumes), pirated copies of copyrighted articles (books, CDs, DVDs, video- and computer programs), agricultural goods (plants and animal products) and pets, wildlife and fish.

You may bring into the United States an unlimited amount of money, however, if you transport more than $10,000, you must file a FinCen 105 with U.S. Customs. Failure to comply may result in civil, criminal and/or forfeiture penalties. Monies include currency, traveler's checks, U.S. or foreign coins in circulation, money orders and negotiable instruments or investment securities in bearer form.

For a currency reporting filer contact: U.S. Customs, 1300 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20229, 877-CBP-5511.

While some agricultural products of Canadian origin (fruits, some plants with phyto-sanitary certificates, meats, etc.) may be brought into the United States, many are restricted to prevent the introduction of plant and animal pests and diseases. All must be declared at the U.S. border. Visit the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service at www.aphis.usda.gov or U.S. Customs at http://www.cbsa-asfc.gc.ca/tpa-apa/menu-eng.html for more information.

Border crossing requirements: Travelers are required to present proper travel documents for travel to Canada and to return to the United States.

Air travel: U.S. passport or passport card is required for travel by air to Canada and to the U.S. Exemptions include active U.S. military, travelers with a NEXUS card, and U.S. Lawful Permanent Residents with a Permanent Resident Card or other evidence of permanent residence status and required documents.

Land or sea travel: Proof of citizenship and proof of identity are required for travel to Canada by land or sea. U.S. citizens returning to the U.S. from Canada by land or sea are required to present proper travel documents according to the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative. Approved documents include a passport or passport card, Enhanced Driver's License, or NEXUS travel document. Please refer to the U.S. Government’s website travel.state.gov for the most current information on these requirements. Canada citizens should refer to the Canada Border Services Agency website cbgs-asfc.gc.ca.

Beginning in October 2018, recreational marijuana will be legal in Canada. Taking marijuana or any product containing cannabis into Canada will remain illegal and can result in serious criminal penalties both at home and abroad. For more information, visit: https://travel.gc.ca/travelling/cannabis-and-international-travel

U.S. resident aliens: Alien Registration Receipt Card (Green Card) in addition to passport from country of citizenship.

Minors: All children (under age 18) must have their own travel documents. In lieu of a U.S. passport or passport card, U.S. children under 16 traveling to and from Canada by land or sea may also present an original or copy of his or her birth certificate, a consular Report of Birth Abroad, or a Naturalization Certificate.

Single parents or traveling with a minor must show documentation of legal custody, provide a birth certificate and proof of citizenship for each child (the minor’s passport or a passport that includes the child). When a child is traveling with only 1 parent, that parent is recommended to have a notarized letter of consent from the other parent, or legal custody documents.

When a child is traveling alone or with an individual other than a parent, the minor should have a notarized letter of consent with addresses and phone number(s) from both parents or a custody document. A photocopy of the parents’ or legal guardian’s signed passports or national identity cards should be attached to the letter.

Legal issues: Persons with felony convictions, driving while intoxicated records or other offenses may be denied admittance into Canada. Contact the Canadian embassy or nearest consulate before travel.

Firearms: Canada has strict laws regarding the importing, exporting, possession, use, storage, display and transportation of firearms. These are federal laws that apply across the country.

Classes of Firearms:
- Non-restricted (most ordinary rifles and shotguns)
- Restricted (mainly handguns)
- Prohibited (full automatics, converted automatics, handguns with a barrel length of 105mm (4 inches) or less, sawed-off shotguns and rifles, and .25 or .32 caliber handguns, among others)

Handguns meeting the prohibited definition may be allowed as restricted firearms if the owner can prove they are to be used in competitive shooting. Visit the Canadian Firearms Program at www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/cfp-pcaf/index-eng.htm for more information.

Yes: To bring a non-restricted or restricted firearm into Canada you must:
- Be 18 years of age or older
- Declare firearms at first point of entry to a border services officer
- Get an Authorization to Transport (ATT) from a provincial or territorial Chief Firearms Officer before arriving at point of entry (Note: ATT is not issued for hunting or self-protection purposes); call 800-731-4000 for more information

No: You may not bring into Canada a prohibited firearm or replica firearm, except replicas of firearms classified as antiques (a replica that looks exactly, or almost exactly, like a firearm but is not a firearm; it cannot discharge projectiles or discharge only harmless projectiles. You, the Canada Border Services Agency is responsible for all customs procedures.

- You may import restricted firearms for legitimate purposes: sporting or hunting; use in competitions; transit movement; or personal protection against wildlife in remote areas (customs officer must agree that circumstances warrant firearm possession)
- Register weapons with U.S. Customs before departure
- Upon return you must show that you had the weapon before departure
- Under certain circumstances individuals and businesses may import firearms

Non: Non-residents may not import prohibited items.

Fees (in Canadian funds):
- Non-Resident Firearm Declaration – $25 covers all firearms listed on declaration
- Possession and acquisition license – $60 for non-restricted firearms only, and $80 for any combination of non-restricted, restricted, or prohibited, for valid 5 years
- Temporary Firearms Borrowing License (for non-residents) – $30: may renew once in a 12-month period at no extra cost ($731-4000)
- Imported firearm registration fee – No fee to register or transfer a firearm

Prohibited: Any large capacity cartridge magazine (limited to 5 rounds for semiautomatic rifles or shotguns, 10 rounds for handguns), any device designed to stop the sound of a firearm, bulkup stocks, any knife with a blade opened by spring pressure (e.g., switchblade), martial arts knives (e.g., shuriken, throwing stars, nunchaku, stilettos), mace, blowguns, handheld compact crossbows and any other weapons declared prohibited by regulation.

While AAA makes every effort to provide accurate and complete information, AAA makes no warranty, express or implied, and assumes no legal liability or responsibility for the accuracy or completeness of any information contained herein.
Personal Baggage:
- Admissible into Canada on a temporary basis without payment of duty and taxes
- Customs may require a refundable security deposit at time of entry. Your deposit will be refunded when you leave Canada with the goods
- Deposits not normally required for health- or pleasure-related visits as long as all items are exported at trip’s end

Special Surtax: Canada has placed a surtax on imports of steel, aluminum, and other products from the U.S. For more information, visit: https://www.pm.gc.ca/eng/acs/ft-ccasp-ccmfis-1-eng.asp

Personal baggage that may be taken into Canada on a duty- and tax-free basis includes clothing and personal items, sporting goods, automobiles, aircraft, snowmobiles, cameras, personal computers, food products and other items appropriate for the purpose and duration of the visit.

Tobacco products: Those meeting age requirements (18 years in Alberta, Manitoba, Northwest Territories, Nunavut, Saskatchewan, Quebec and Yukon; 19 years in other provinces) may bring in 50 cigars, 200 cigarettes, 200 grams of manufactured tobacco and 200 tobacco sticks.

Alcohol: Those meeting age requirements (18 years in Alberta, Manitoba, and Quebec; 19 years in other provinces and territories) may bring in limited quantities of alcoholic beverage: 40 ounces (1.14 L) of liquor, 1.6 quarts (1.5 L) of wine or 9 quarts (8.5 L) of beer or ale (equivalent to 24 12-ounce bottles or cans).
- Amounts exceeding the allowable quantities noted above are subject to federal duty and taxes, and provincial/territorial liquor fees.
- Pay provincial fees at customs of the time of entry in all provinces and Yukon.
- Illegal to bring more than the allowable alcohol quantity into Northwest Territories and Nunavut.

Articles purchased at Canadian duty-free shops are subject to U.S. Customs exemptions and restrictions; those purchased at U.S. duty-free shops before entering Canada are subject to duty if brought back into the United States.

Prescription Drugs: Persons requiring medication while visiting Canada are permitted to bring it for their own use. Clearly identify and carry in original packaging with a label listing the drug and its intended use. Have a copy of the prescription and prescribing doctor’s phone number.

Gifts: Items not exceeding $60 (CAN) in value, excluding tobacco, alcoholic beverages and advertising matter, taken into or mailed to Canada are free entry. Gifts valued at more than $60 are subject to regular duty and taxes on the excess amount.
- Collar tags are not sufficient proof of immunization
- Be sure the vaccination does not expire while traveling in Canada
- The certificate is also required to bring the animal back into the United States

Exempt From These Rules: Assist dogs, healthy puppies and kittens under 3 months old with a health certificate, signed by a licensed veterinarian, indicating that the animal is too young to vaccinate.

Plants or plant material must be declared. For information, contact: Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA), 1400 Merivale Road, Ottawa, ON K1A 0Y9; 800-442-2342.

Radio Communication Equipment
- Cell phone, PHS phone, citizens band (CB) or Family Radio Service radio allowed without prior registration
- Use of aircraft, marine or amateur radio allowed without prior authorization
- All other types of radio transmitting stations allowed for non-U.S. citizens with authorization letter from Industry Canada’s Radio-communication and Broadcasting Regulatory Branch

Special Permits: A CITIZENS (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species) permit is required for any endangered species brought into Canada, including those kept as pets, and for any items made from them (e.g., coats, handbag, shoes). For information contact: Canadian Wildlife Service, 800-668-6767.

An Export Permit may be required to take out of Canada objects more than 50 years old (e.g., fossils, archaeological artifacts, fine and decorative art, technological objects or books and archival material). Contact: Movable Cultural Property Program of Canadian Heritage, 25 Eddy St., 9th Floor, Gatineau, Quebec, Canada K1A 0M5; (819) 997-7761.

An Import Permit may be required for the importation of clothing, textiles, steel and certain agricultural products in excess of minimum quantities. For information contact: Department of Foreign Affairs and Int’l Trade, Export and Import Controls Bureau, Tower C, 4th Floor, LB Pearson Blvd., 125 Sussex Dr., Ottawa, ON K1A 0G2; 800-267-6376.

Vehicles
- Vehicles entering Canada for touring, including trailers not exceeding 8 feet 6 inches (2.6 m) in width are generally subject to quick and routine entry procedures.
- To leave or store a car, trailer or other goods in Canada while you leave the country you must pay import duty and taxes or present a valid permit. Canadian Customs officials issue permits at point of entry.
- You may not store a vacation trailer in Canada during the off-season.
- Vehicle registration cards required for Canadian travel.
- If driving a car other than your own, you must have written permission from the owner to use it, and only the person granted permission may drive the car.
- If driving a rented car, you must possess a copy of the contract.
- A valid U.S. driver’s license is valid in Canada for time period specified by the individual provinces and territories.
- In all Canadian provinces and territories, except for Alberta, British Columbia, and Saskatchewan, it is illegal to use radar detectors, even if unplugged.
- Seat belts required for the driver and all passengers throughout Canada.

Headlights: Driving with daytime running lights is required for all car models after 1998.
- In Alberta, British Columbia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island, lights must be turned on when light conditions restrict visibility to 500 feet (150 m).
- In Manitoba, lights must be turned on when light conditions restrict visibility to 200 feet (60 m).
- In Yukon, Nova Scotia, Northwest Territories and Nunavut, headlights must remain on at all times.
- Elsewhere in Canada, driving with headlights on during all hours of the day is advised.

FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY LAWS IN CANADA
When an accident involves death, injury or property damage, Canadian provinces and territories require evidence of financial responsibility. You may be asked to show this evidence at any time.

U.S. motorists should check with their own U.S. insurance companies on acquiring proper evidence of financial responsibility, which could include a yellow Non-Resident Int-Province Motor Vehicle Liability Insurance Card (accepted as evidence of financial responsibility throughout Canada). Those not carrying proper proof may be subject to a substantial fine in some jurisdictions in Canada. If renting a vehicle, check with the rental car company. The minimum liability insurance requirement is $200,000 (Canadian dollars) in all provinces and territories except Quebec, which requires $50,000. Should the courts’ judgments exceed these figures, motorists held accountable are responsible for paying the full amount.

If traveling in Quebec, discuss your collision, disability and bodily injury coverages with your insurance agent. Since Quebec’s minimum requirement does not include bodily injury, coverage of $200,000 or more is recommended. Consider additional coverage (e.g., trip accident policy).

For United States Residents Returning to the United States

U.S. citizens returning to the U.S. from Canada by air must have a passport. Those returning by land or sea are required to present proper travel documents according to the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative. See page 1.

Everyone who seeks entry into the United States – whether foreign visitors, U.S. citizens, or U.S. lawful permanent residents – must be inspected at the point of entry. Random searches may be conducted by U.S. Customs and Border Protection agents. U.S. Beginning in October 2018, recreational marijuana will be legal in Canada. Although the possession and use of marijuana is legal in some U.S. states, it remains a prohibited, controlled substance under federal laws in any form and quantity, making it illegal to bring across the Canada-U.S. border. Further, it will remain illegal to drive impaired by marijuana and other drugs.

Exemptions for a Stay in Canada No Less Than 48 Hours
- You may bring back tax- and duty-free articles not exceeding $600 in retail value
- Any amount over the $600 exemption is subject to duty
- The exemption is allowed once every 30 days
- A family related persons living in the same household may combine their exemptions, even if articles claimed by one member exceed that individual’s $800 amount
- Exemptions based on fair retail value (keep receipts of all purchases as proof of fair retail value)
- Exempt artwork purchased is restricted 100% for personal or household use or as gifts, but not sold for sale
- The exemption may include 100 cigars, 200 cigarettes and 1 liter of liquor per person over age 21 (customs enforces state liquor laws)
- All articles claimed under this exemption must accompany you on your return

U.S. Exemptions for a Stay in Canada Less Than 48 Hours
- You may bring back tax- and duty-free articles not exceeding $200 in retail value
- The exemption may include no more than 50 cigarettes, 10 cigars, 5 fluid ounces (150 milliliters) of alcoholic beverage or 150 milliliters of perfume containing alcohol
- A family may not combine purchases
- If purchases exceed the $200 exemption, you lose the exemption and all purchases become subject to duty
- All goods must be declared
- All articles claimed under this exemption must accompany you on your return

Gifts
- Gifts up to $100 fair retail value may be sent to friends or relatives in the United States provided no recipient receives more than 1 gift per day (need not be included in the $600 exemption)
- Gifts containing tobacco products, alcoholic beverages or perfume containing alcohol valued at more than $5 are excluded from this provision
- Write on outside of package the contents, retail value and “Unsolicited Gift”