

Planning Your Trip to Toronto

Here are some important things to keep in mind when planning your trip:

Travel Documents/Passports and Entry Requirements

Visitors must have valid travel documents/passports to enter Canada to provide proof of their citizenship. Document requirements vary depending from which country you are traveling, the reason for your visit, and the length of your stay, and may include passport or a birth certificate, photo ID, and/or a visa. Learn more about travel documents and requirements at www.cic.gc.ca/english/visit/index.asp or www.toronto.ca/metropolis/english/usefulinfo.htm#customs.

NOTE: Special No-Fee Passports for US Federal Government Employees

In order to attend the Annual Meeting on business, it may be necessary for US government employees to obtain an official United States government no-fee passport from their appropriate agency office. Government employees should contact the appropriate office within their agency to discuss proposed dates of attendance and to confirm whether or not they will need this official passport.

Currency

Toronto's currency is the Canadian Dollar; currency exchange is available at banks and kiosks throughout the city and at the airport.

- For denominations under five dollars, the currency is coins
- US dollars are accepted in most Toronto establishments; however you will receive change in Canadian funds and exchange rates will differ from merchant to merchant
- Cash machines/ATMs are available in most banks, hotels, and shopping centers; please note that ATMs at the airport only accept ATM cards with the MasterCard logo on them

IMPORTANT NOTE: Don't forget to call your bank and credit card companies to let them know you will be traveling to Canada.

Customs, Immigration, and Admissibility

Upon entering Canada, you will be required to go through customs and immigration. Before you land, your flight crew will distribute a Travelers' Customs Declaration Card for you to complete; Declaration Cards are also available at the airport upon your arrival. For more information, visit www.toronto.ca/metropolis/english/usefulinfo.htm#customs.

Anyone with a criminal record (including a drunk driving conviction) may be excluded from entering Canada. If you were convicted of or committed a criminal offence outside Canada, you may overcome this criminal inadmissibility by applying for rehabilitation or you may be deemed to have been rehabilitated if at least ten years have passed since you completed the sentence imposed upon you, or since you committed the offence, if the offence is one that would, in Canada, be an indictable offence punishable by a maximum term of imprisonment of less than ten years. For more information, visit www.cic.gc.ca/english/information/applications/guides/5312ETOC.asp.

Health Insurance

Be sure to check with your health insurance provider about policy coverage away from home—particularly if you're insured by an HMO and/or Medicare/Medicaid.

Luggage

Restrictions for carry-on baggage policies and weight and size limits for checked baggage are different for international flights than for domestic flights. Be sure to check with your individual carrier as to weight and measurement restrictions and associated costs for overages.

Measurements

Canada uses the metric system for weights and measures. If you choose to drive in Canada, be aware the speed limits are posted in kilometers per hour instead of miles per hour.

Medication

If you are entering Canada with prescription drugs and syringes: keep the medication in its original, labeled container; include medical certificate with syringes showing they are for medical use and have them declared to Canadian Customs officials; bring an extra prescription in case your medication is lost and/or to attest to your need to take such prescriptions; and carry the generic name of prescription medicines.

Mobile Phone Service

Contact your service provider directly to inquire if service is available and/or the applicable rates.

Safety

Toronto's universal number for police, fire, and medical emergencies is 911.

Tax Rates and Tax Rebates

Most goods and services sold or provided in Canada are subject to the 5% Goods and Services Tax (GST). In Toronto (Province of Ontario), goods are also subject to an additional 8% Provincial Sales Tax (PST). When you leave Canada, you may be eligible for a tax refund on the goods you bought in Canada if you export them within 60 days. For more information, ask for a copy of the publication called Tax Refund for Visitors to Canada from the Canada Revenue Agency at www.cra-arc.gc.ca/menu-e.html or call (800) 66VISIT (1-800-668-4748).

Time Zone

Toronto is in the Eastern Time Zone (the same as Detroit, New York, and Florida).

For more information, visit www.aan.com/am.