



HELPFUL INFORMATION FOR CANADIAN TRIPS

Border Crossing

- For travel to Canada, a Passport Book or Passport Card is always needed when leaving or returning to the U.S. by motorcoach. Children 16 and under can cross the Canadian border using only a U.S. Birth Certificate (original or copy). Children under 18 not traveling with both parents must have special notarized approval from both parents.
- We strongly recommend your passport be valid for six months beyond the trip's completion. In addition, we recommend that you make at least two photocopies of your passport; one to be left with someone at home who will assist you in the event your passport gets misplaced/lost/stolen, and one to be kept in your room safe while traveling.
- Anyone with a criminal record (including misdemeanors or Driving While Impaired (DWI)) may be barred from entering or removed from Canada and must obtain a special waiver well in advance of any planned travel.
 - To determine whether you may be inadmissible and how to overcome this finding, please refer to the Canadian government's website:
<https://www.canada.ca/en/services/immigration-citizenship/enforcement-violations.html>
- Those persons traveling to Canada, who are not U.S. citizens, may have additional requirements for border crossing.
- For further information on entry requirements for Canada, travelers may contact the Canadian Embassy at 501 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington D.C. 20001, tel. (202) 682-1740; or the Canadian consulate in New York at (212) 596-1600.
- Starr Transit Co. Inc. cannot accept liability for any passenger refused entry into any country due to failure of the passenger to carry correct documentation. If you are refused at the border, it will be your responsibility to return to the U.S. and to provide yourself accommodations and transportation.

Miscellaneous

- In addition to your Passport, bring a photo ID, and your Health Insurance card. You may want to check with your health insurance provider about your international coverage.
- We recommend that you purchase international phone cards prior to departure or contact your cell phone provider for international service.
- You will not need a power plug adapter or voltage converter when staying in Canada. The power plugs and sockets in Canada are type A and B, so your power plugs will fit, however it is recommended you pack a 3-to-2 prong adapter in case type B sockets are not available. The standard 120V voltage is the same as in the US so you don't need a voltage converter.

- The legalization of cannabis in Canada did not change Canada's border rules. Taking cannabis or any product containing cannabis across international borders is illegal and can result in serious criminal penalties both at home and abroad. This is the case even if you are travelling from places that have legalized or decriminalized cannabis. Transporting cannabis used for medicinal purposes is also illegal. If you are detained at the border due to possession of cannabis, the bus tour will continue without you.
- Fresh fruits and vegetables are not permitted.
- To avoid paying duties and taxes, do not bring more than 1.5L of wine or 1.14L of liquor.
- Do not bring weapons of any kind, including fireworks, mace and pepper spray.

Currency Exchange

- Casinos usually give the best exchange rates, typically with no fee. Canadian currency must be used at Canadian Casinos.
- There are Cash Exchange Offices and Banks usually within walking distance in the major cities Starr visits; please note these establishments may charge an exchange fee.
- Using your ATM card at an ATM machine (found regularly across Canada) will allow you to take out Canadian currency and will usually give you a desirable exchange rate. Check with your bank to see if they will charge you any transaction or exchange fees. It's always favorable to exchange a larger amount in one transaction than to do several small exchange transactions but be mindful of the amount you take out since you will have whatever is left over converted back to US\$ once you arrive back in the US.
- Canadian Duty Free does not always exchange money back to US currency, but you can spend what's left over.

Making Purchases

- Before your travel, notify your credit card company/bank that you are traveling to Canada to avoid having your card denied because you are out of the country.
- Most tourist destinations and restaurants in the Canadian cities we visit accept US currency (however, be careful of an un-posted exchange rate).
- Many US credit card companies (including debit cards) will charge a transaction or foreign exchange fee (1-3%) for any international purchase; check with your bank before your trip.
- Discover Card and American Express are not accepted everywhere.
- In tourist destinations like Niagara, if you use US currency, ask if they'll give you change in US currency. Some will, some won't.
- Gratuities for meals, housekeeping, etc. are always welcome and accepted in US currency.
- Metro/Rail uses Canadian currency.
- Do not get traveler's checks; they are not recognized in many places.
- Vending machines use Canadian currency only.

Currency

- There are no one dollar bills in Canada. Instead, they use a coin with a picture of a loon commonly known as the "loonie" and a 2-dollar coin referred to as the "two-nie."
- The bills in Canada are different colors so it makes them very easy to tell them apart. For example, the \$5 bill is blue.
- Pennies are no longer in use in Canada; all bills are rounded off (up or down).
- Coins are similar in Canada as in the US. Keep in mind the nickel is slightly bigger and sometimes can get confused with the quarter.

We hope you find this information helpful! Keep in mind, we are not responsible for any errors or omissions related to travel to Canada. Have a wonderful trip!