

Visiting Canada Regulations



Every year, more than 35 million people travel to Canada to enjoy the many opportunities the country has to offer, besides¹ visiting family and friends.

If you want to visit Canada, you must first find² out if you need a visitor (or a temporary resident) visa.

Many people do not have to apply for³ a visa⁴ to visit Canada. These include most European citizens, for example Italians, and United States citizens and permanent residents. However, they must carry proper identification for themselves and all children travelling with them. They mustn't stay longer than six months. Moreover, if they want to travel to Canada for reasons different from business or pleasure, for example for study or temporary work, they must apply for a visa anyway⁵.

Some nationals (China, Indonesia, Thailand, Taiwan or Philippines) don't have to apply for a visa if they are on transit⁶ to the USA, but they must have a valid USA visa.

If your state is not included in the list of exempted nationals or you are a stateless individual you mustn't try to enter Canada without a visa, even if you are in transit to another country. You have to decide which visa is suitable for your trip: are you going to Canada as a tourist, a visiting relative or a business visitor? In fact, visa application procedures vary according to the type of visa.

All visitors must have a valid individual travel document, such as⁷ a passport; be in good health; convince an immigration officer that in their country of origin they have ties⁸, such as a job, home, financial assets⁹ and a family, that will take them back; convince an immigration officer that you will leave Canada at the end of your visit and have enough money for your stay.

After your arrival in Canada, you mustn't apply later than 30 days before your status¹⁰ expires if you wish to change your Canada visitor status: extend your visit or stay; change the type of permit you hold (for example, from a student to a work permit); change a condition of your permit (for example, if you are studying and you want to change schools, or if you are working and you want to change your job).

EXERCISE 1

Match the words from the text to their synonym or definition.

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| 1. BESIDES | A. Official authorization to enter a foreign country |
| 2. FIND OUT | B. Link |
| 3. APPLY FOR | C. Possession |
| 4. VISA/PERMIT | D. In addition to |
| 5. ANYWAY | E. Short stop to change transportation |
| 6. TRANSIT | F. Official position or condition of a person in a country |
| 7. SUCH AS | G. Discover |
| 8. TIE | H. Make an official request |
| 9. ASSET | I. For example |
| 10. STATUS | L. In any case |

► COMPREHENSION EXERCISE 2

¹Decide if the following statements are true or false. ²Correct the false ones.

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| 1. ALL foreigners must have a visa to enter Canada. | _____ |
| 2. ALL foreigners must carry a passport. | _____ |
| 3. The maximum permitted stay for non-visa tourists is three months. | _____ |
| 4. Some nationals need a visa just to transit in Canada. | _____ |
| 5. There is only one type of visa. | _____ |
| 6. You don't have to be healthy to visit Canada. | _____ |