

Traveller's Tips for Entering Canada

Whether you've been gone for only a few hours, or for several days, returning to Canada means a stop at a CBSA office. You can meet your customs and immigration obligations quickly, and with minimal disruption, if you keep these tips in mind:

Make a full declaration

If you are not sure what to declare when you arrive in Canada, declare all items first and then discuss them with the officer.

Bring ID

Carry proper identification for yourself and all children travelling with you. For returning Canadians, proper identification includes a Canadian birth certificate, a Canadian passport, a permanent residence card, a citizenship card, or a certificate of Indian status. Except for US citizens, all travellers entering Canada are required to have a valid passport and/or travel document. Visitors from some countries will need a Temporary Resident Visa. US citizens should carry proof of their citizenship. Permanent residents of the US should bring their green card.

Travelling with children

Our officers watch for missing children and may ask detailed questions about the children who are travelling with you. If you have legal custody, or if you share custody, have copies of relevant legal documents. If you are not the guardian, carry a letter of permission or authorization for you to have custody when entering Canada.

Prohibited goods are not souvenirs

Switchblades, brass knuckles, replica handguns, tasers and pepper spray are all examples of prohibited items that have been seized from travellers. Travellers who are found with prohibited goods could face charges and prosecution.

Animal/plant products

Some fruits, vegetables, meats and plants from other countries cannot be brought into Canada. For example, travellers are not allowed to bring in the following produce: apples, crab apples, pears, peaches, corn on the cob, potatoes, nectarines, apricots, plums, prunes, loganberries and Utah/Wisconsin cherries. Please advise CBSA officers of any plant or animal products that you are bringing into Canada.

Keep all your receipts handy

CBSA officers may ask you to show receipts for the goods you've purchased while out of the country. They may also ask to see your hotel receipts to verify the length of your stay outside Canada.

Be patient

Summer holidays and long weekends usually mean longer lines at the border. Be sure to add this travel time to your itinerary.

Check Border Wait Times

Check our Web site (www.cbsa.gc.ca) for the latest waiting time of the border crossing along your route. You can also access border wait times on your mobile Web-enabled device (Web-enabled cell phone, PDA) at: wap.gc.ca or www.gc.ca and select "services" and "border wait times."

For more information on entering into Canada, please visit www.cbsa.gc.ca or call Border Information Services at **1-800-461-9999**.