



Visiting Canada

Entering Canada

Visitors to Canada must have valid travel documentation, such as a passport. In certain cases, a visa or Electronic Travel Authorization (eTA) may also be required. Visitors must present this documentation upon arrival at a port of entry. For more information on visas, eTAs, visiting Canada for business, and travelling with minors, please visit the [Government of Canada](#) website.

Like most countries, Canada has restrictions on certain goods you can bring into the country, this includes items such as firearms, animals and plants. You must declare all goods when you first arrive at your port of entry. For more information, visit the [Canada Border Services Agency](#).

Currency

The monetary system in Canada is comprised of Canadian dollars and cents. Although many businesses accept American currency, visitors are advised to exchange their traveller's cheques or homeland currency for Canadian currency. The best exchange rates can be found at chartered banks, credit unions, caisse populaires, and airport and border crossing exchange booths. Each financial institution sets its own exchange rate. Please note, some banks may charge a fee to cash travellers cheques.

Tourism Levy & Fees

Alberta has a four per cent (4%) levy and a three per cent (3%) Destination Marketing Fee on hotel rooms.

Goods and Services Tax

The five per cent (5%) federal goods and services tax (GST) is a value-added tax that applies to most goods and services. Similar systems of taxation are used in at least 48 other countries.

GST Rebate for Foreign Conventions

The Canada Revenue Agency may be able to support your convention with a rebate of the GST paid on a convention facility and a related convention supply. To learn more about GST rebates and eligibility, visit the [Canada Revenue Agency](#).

Your Event in Canada

Register your event with the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA)

Be sure to take advantage of Canada's International Events and Convention Services Program (IECSP). Developed by the federal government to encourage organizations to hold their events in Canada, this complimentary program facilitates the movement of goods and attendees in and out of the country. Registration of your event is easy and can be done with the [Canada Border Services Agency](#). You can contact the IECSP Regional Coordinator for Alberta by visiting the [IECSP Contact Page](#). Please register your event at least 30 days prior to the event start date.

Register your event with Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada's Special Events Unit

The Immigrations, Refugees and Citizenship Canada's Special Events Unit will provide you with information and support regarding Canada's visa and entry requirements and help to facilitate timely processing of visa applications. Registration can be completed with the [Government of Canada](#).

Work Permits

Work permit requirements will be outlined in the Letter of Recognition provided by the IECSP Regional Coordinator. More information can be found at [Immigration and Citizenship Canada](#).

Additional Resources

Our national partner, Business Events Canada (BEC), has created a guide outlining everything you need to know about planning an event in Canada. For more information, see the [BEC Planning Toolkit](#). To learn more about visiting Canada, visit [Canada Border Services Agency](#).