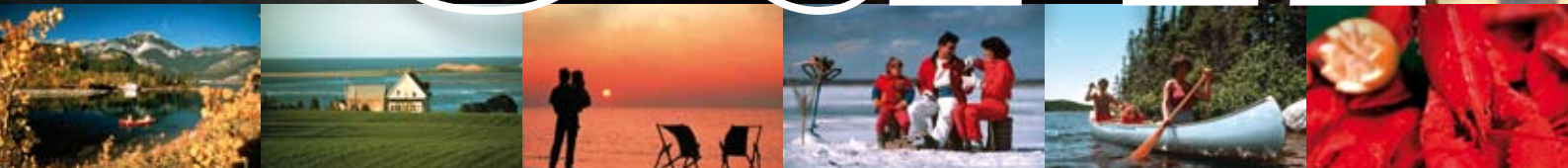


can



Bordering with the United States and Alaska and washed by three oceans, the Atlantic, the Pacific and the Arctic, - Canada, the second largest country in the world – with its 10 million km², offers a wonderful mosaic of landscapes, where fertile plains, high mountain ranges and extensive forests meet the icy tundras of the Arctic, one of the most amazing areas on the planet.

It is thought that the first inhabitants of these lands arrived some 30,000 million years ago – crossing the strip of land that joins Alaska and Siberia. The Vikings would be the first European visitors who arrived on this coast and tried to settle in the north of country, in the cold lands of Terranova, around the year 1000 A.D.

In the 16th century, when the first French and British explorers began to travel across North America, the territory was occupied by native peoples with very different cultures and religions, who lived from hunting, fishing and agriculture. The opportunities offered by the fur trade were decisive in setting up the first colonies in Canada.

At the beginning of the 17th century, a French explorer, Samuel de Champlain, founded the city of Quebec.

land of contrasts

Canada



Many years of prosperous economic activity brought in new waves of settlers, and started the rivalry between the colonies of New England and New France. In the 18th century, the war in Europe between the two countries was transferred across the Atlantic, and concluded with victory by the British.

In the Treaty of Paris, signed in 1763, New France was handed over to the victors. This did not prevent London from later recognizing the French Civil Rights document – granting also the freedom of religion and language for the French-speaking Canadians, who settled mainly in the Atlantic provinces of Ontario and Quebec.

After the 2nd World War, and in the sixties, successive waves of immigrants coming from all corners of the world arrived in Canada in search of a better way of life. This gave rise to a prosperous, multi-cultural society that has managed to combine economic development with the protection of its rich ecological inheritance.

The population of Canada is approximately 32 million inhabitants, of which around 90% are concentrated along the southern border of the country. Its capital, Ottawa, is situated in the far east of Ontario, and is reputed to be a peaceful city, with many museums and an active cultural life.



all photos - canadaturism.com

HAPPY





Worthy of mention are the neo-gothic style Parliament building, the War Museum, the Royal Mint and the National Gallery, which houses the most important art collection in the country. Ottawa is also famous for its mounted police, the Royal Canadian Mounties.

Not far away, the largest city in Canada, Toronto, stands out for its modern skyline and the CN Tower, the highest free-standing structure in the world. An example of Canadian architecture is found in the Irish quarter of Cabbagetown, and the best conserved buildings of the town are in Cork Old Town. It is also worth paying a visit to the Harbourfront or to one of the museums in the city, such as the Bata Shoe Museum. Just two hours away are the cataracts at Niagara Falls, one of the most famous attractions of the country.

Montreal, founded as the centre of the fur trade, is nowadays a cosmopolitan city, ideal for shopping and night life. It is the second largest French-speaking city in the world, after Paris. The underground labyrinth where endless restaurants, shops and bars are located one after the other, provides a cosy refuge for the inhabitants of Montreal, when the weather turns bad.

One city that is sure to conquer the heart of any visitor is Vancouver, which is amongst the most beautiful in the whole country. Built on a hill, the views of the Pacific Ocean are spectacular.





all photos - canadaturism.com

The mild climate of the area permits its inhabitants to enjoy a casual way of life, California style.

ONE CITY THAT IS SURE TO CONQUER THE HEART OF ANY VISITOR IS VANCOUVER, WHICH IS AMONGST THE MOST BEAUTIFUL IN THE WHOLE COUNTRY.

Vancouver has many tourist attractions, both for the inhabitants of the area and for visitors, with special mention of the leafy Stanley Park, - one of the largest urban parks in the world - and its charming old town, the Victorian-style Gastown area. Another of the attractions of this city is the ability to practice surfing on the beach, or whale-spotting from nearby Vancouver Island.

But what Canada is really known for are its magnificent natural, open spaces, like the Rocky Mountains - situated all along the frontier between Alberta and British Columbia - within the national parks of Banff and Jasper. These two parks are linked by the Columbia Icefield, a gigantic ice cap dating from the last ice age, formed by some thirty glaciers. In the first of these parks, the Banff, you will see one of the most beautiful attractions in the country, the Moraine Lake, with its spectacular, turquoise-blue water.

The three great Canadian plains extend between the Rockies and the provinces of Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba, and are filled with golden wheatfields and sunflower fields. In Alberta you will find the Head-Smashed-In Buffalo Jump, considered as the heritage of the Blackfoot Indians. In the Riding Mountain National Park, which covers an area of 3,000 km², you can still see bison pasturing in the meadows.

BUT WHAT CANADA IS REALLY KNOWN FOR ARE ITS MAGNIFICENT NATURAL, OPEN SPACES, LIKE THE ROCKY MOUNTAINS, SITUATED ALL ALONG THE FRONTIER BETWEEN ALBERTA AND BRITISH COLUMBIA

Although the great distances of the Canadian territory might invite the visitor to use air travel as a means of transport, if you have the time available, it is always

**Official name: Canada - Surface area: 9,070,139 km² - Political system: Federation of 10 provinces - Population: 31,590,000 h. - Capital: Ottawa (1,010,500 inhabitants)
Currency: Canadian Dollar - Nationalities and ethnic races: 28% of British origin, 23% of French origin, 3% of Italian origin, 2% ethnic races and minorities of other origins.
Languages: English, French and 53 native languages**

cheaper and more interesting to travel by land. The bus service is the most popular means of public transport in the country and is more economical than the up to now more limited train service. For the visitor who prefers the idea of travelling across Canada in traditional style, we recommend making the trip in “The Canadian”, a stainless steel train dating from the fifties with its domed, observation car, that covers the stretch from Toronto to Vancouver.

For the majority of people, a rented car would be the best way to get to know the country. Languages: English, French and 53 native languages

INFORMATION ON CANADA:

Depending on the area, summer begins in May and lasts until August/September. Spring is pleasant and winter is cold. The average summer temperature is approximately 20°.

Some 50 million tourists visit the country every year, 90% of whom come from the USA. Spanish nationals require a passport with at least 6 months validity in order to visit Canada. Visitors from other countries should consult with the Consulate or Embassy. For further information, you can enter the website at: www.canada-es.org.

The international airports of Canada are in Vancouver, Toronto, Montreal and Halifax. Travellers from the EU do not require a visa if they do not intend to stay for more than three months. Visitors from Portugal, the South African Republic, Hong Kong, North Korea, Taiwan, some of the East European countries and the developing countries will need a visa. The entry stamp is free of charge for a stay of less than three months.

The high season commences in June and lasts until September. We recommend visiting the Winter Carnival in the city of Quebec – held between February and March – the Montreal Jazz Festival in June, and the Ottawa Jazz Festival in July, as well as the First Nations Festival, with traditional handicrafts, dancing and trips in war canoes.

