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Why Now is the Time to Travel to Canada

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by Ellie Storck February 11, 2016

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Why Now is the Time to Travel to Canada

If you've been waiting for the perfect moment to take a trip to Canada, now is the time to book. The exchange rate for the Canadian dollar—also known as the “loonie”—is hovering right around 70 cents to the U.S. Dollar—a 13-year low, which gives Americans about a 30 percent discount on Canadian prices. So, not only does that mean that airfares to the region will likely drop, but also steep prices for luxury excursions (think whale-watching, scenic helicopter rides, trains through the Rocky Mountains) could see a significant decline. As if the news about Canadian national parks being completely fee-free in 2017 weren't exciting enough!

From coast to coast, there's ample opportunity for every kind of traveler to explore the north. Indulge in fine dining and luxury accommodations in cities like [Toronto](#) and [Montreal](#); wilderness expeditions and whale-watching from [Vancouver](#) to Nova Scotia; ice skating in [Quebec City](#); skiing on some of the world's best powder at esteemed resorts in [Whistler](#) and [Banff](#); feasting on seaside oysters on [Prince Edward Island](#); traversing the vast Canadian Rocky Mountain range by train—the list goes on and on. Canada is the second largest country in the world, so it's no surprise that travelers have the opportunity to engage in a host of incredible experiences, from culinary exploration, to up-close encounters with nature, to vibrant cultural festivals.

So when is the best time to go? Those looking to cash in on some snow sport activities should cross the border while the powder is still fresh, but the combination of the weakened dollar and cheap gas prices bodes well for summer travel—especially a shore-to-shore road trip.

The takeaway: Americans, go ahead and confirm that reservation. And Canadians, get ready for what could be a major influx of tourists in the coming months.



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Visit Montreal

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A visit to Montreal is a must for every type of traveler. The perfect combination of English and French influences, this city is bursting with a rich cultural history—as well as some of the best hotels, restaurants, and sights to see in Canada. Treat yourself to lunch at one of Montreal's most famous dining experiences, [Le Club Chasse et Pêche](#) (the hunting and fishing club), where guests feast on some of the city's finest fare—starters include the likes of boar with lobster ravioli, salsify, and pearl onions; while the dinner menu features dishes like king salmon with sunchoke and suckling pig with fingerling potatoes.

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Visit Quebec City

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Quebec City is one of the oldest in North America, and remains a cultural hub of French-Canada. The Old Town was named a UNESCO World Heritage site in 1985, and the walled city continues to charm visitors. Amble along cobblestone streets, take in beautiful views of the St. Lawrence River, and enjoy a trendy shopping and culinary scene. The best thing to do: walk, eat, and drink—and eat some more. For drinks, pop into the bar at the Frontenac, and for lunch head to Chez Boulay, which features a menu that changes with the season. For dinner, it's Légende: think monkfish prepared just so, fresh foie gras, and guinea fowl with oyster mushrooms.

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