

Canada turns 150 with celebrations coast to coast

By Michelle Newman, For the Express-News | November 16, 2017



Photo: Michelle Newman / For The Express-News



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The magnificent Fairmont Empress Hotel takes center stage and is a hub of activity in Victoria's Inner Harbour.

Canadians look for any excuse to party, and this year is no exception as they celebrate the 150th anniversary of the unification of 10 provinces and three territories to form Canada. The big party, spreading coast to coast, lasts through December. But don't let that stop you from planning a trip in 2018.

On my many trips to Canada, I've discovered that our northern neighbors are some of the friendliest, most polite and down-to-earth people. Most speak English; they love Americans; the dollar is accepted; and it's a relatively safe destination.

Canada was originally built on the fur trade, which drove the economy for centuries. The Hudson Bay Company made a fortune supplying Europeans with beaver fur for men's felt hats until they went out of vogue and were replaced by silk hats.

Canada is like a huge cultural mosaic embracing and honoring its diversity. Each province is distinctly different and has its own personality. Whether you're into history, culture, nature or food, you're bound to find lots to do and see here.

Nova Scotia, Halifax

In Halifax, do as the locals do — head for the lively waterfront to feast on fish and chips. The Maritime Museum of the Atlantic documents the province's rich sea-going history, and also houses a fine collection of wooden artifacts salvaged from the Titanic. Visit Fairview Lawn Cemetery to pay your respects to 121 Titanic victims buried here.

Don't miss the daily high noon cannon salute at [Citadel Hill](#), Canada's most visited National Historical Site. Discover how the 78th Regiment Highlanders lived and worked, watch the changing of the kilted guards and visit the officers' barracks.

New Brunswick

Picturesque fishing villages dot New Brunswick's rugged coastline. Feast on succulent lobster in Shediac, "The Lobster Capital of the World," or stop at one of many rustic roadside stands for seafood chowder.

More Information

If you go:

U.S. citizens need a passport to enter Canada

The exchange rate is good at this time

VIA Rail Canada travels across Canada; the trains are clean, comfortable and on time - www.viarail.ca

For more info on Canada's 150 Anniversary: canada.pch.gc.ca

Canada travel info: destinationcanada.com

Alberta - Edmonton: exploreedmonton.com

Alberta - Calgary: visitcalgary.com

British Columbia: hellobc.com

British Columbia - Richmond: visitrichmondbc.com

British Columbia - Vancouver: tourismvancouver.com

British Columbia - Victoria: tourismvictoria.com

Manitoba - Winnipeg: tourismwinnipeg.com/media

Nova Scotia - Halifax: discoverhalifaxns.com

Quebec - Quebec City: quebecregion.com

A surreal spectacle awaits at the Bay of Fundy, a natural wonder with dramatic rock formations created by millions of years of erosion. You'll be awed by the force of Mother Nature's power with her 56-foot tides.

Toronto, Ontario

Toronto is a cosmopolitan city and financial center with soaring skyscrapers and ethnic neighborhoods. Eat your way around the 200-year-old St. Lawrence Market, which draws foodies from around the world for unique treats like Carousel Bakery's famous "peameal bacon sandwich" topped with honey mustard sauce.

Toronto is also home to Woofstock, North America's largest festival celebrating dogs and their pet parents with outrageous events like a canine couture fashion show, the "running of the pugs" and afternoon tea.

When it comes to a shoe obsession, everyone else takes a back seat to Toronto's Sonja Bata, who owns the world's largest shoe collection. The [Bata Shoe Museum](#) showcases her mind-boggling collection of more than 13,000 pairs of shoes, including footwear worn by Marilyn Monroe, John Lennon, Cher, the Dalai Lama, Queen Victoria and the pope. The architectural landmark museum provides a fascinating overview into the history and evolution of shoes.