

## Travel Tips for US Citizens traveling to Canada

### Passport Information

1. Very Important: You need a valid passport to enter Canada. The passport must contain at least one blank page and must not expire for at least 6 months after your intended departure date.
2. When asked about your reason for entering Canada, you are not there for work, you are attending a conference. Work is sometimes interpreted as employment which may cause a red flag with custom officials.
3. If you are a frequent traveler having a TSA pre-check rating or Global Entry status makes it easier to go through security and customs. It may take four to six months to get this approval and costs \$80-\$100. The process can be started by visiting [www.tsa.gov/precheck](http://www.tsa.gov/precheck). Once approved you create a profile with each airline you use, and enter your TSA number. Your ticket will show TSA approved on it and you may then use the TSA line at security.

A border screening agent will ask some or all of the following questions, "Where do you live? Citizens of what country? What is the purpose of your visit? How long will you be staying? Are you bringing anything to leave (gifts, etc.)? Are you bringing in any firearms, tobacco or alcohol? Do you have any criminal convictions?" If travelling with children, you may also be asked, "Do your children have proof of identity?" To avoid delay, be prepared with simple straightforward answers to the questions.

### Leave at Home Document

"Just in case" information to leave with family or friends:

- Your cell phone number
- Hotel contact information
- Passport number and issue date
- Credit card "800" number for emergency situations

### Language

French is the official language of Québec but English is widely spoken in tourist areas (attractions, hotels, restaurants and boutiques in tourist areas).

### Money

Canadian and American dollars are not at par. American currency is accepted in most establishments at variable exchange rates. Major credit cards such as American Express, MasterCard and Visa are accepted almost everywhere. With the advent of automated teller machines, visitors can do banking through network systems like "Plus", "Circus", "Interac", etc. and enjoy excellent rates of exchange.

### Time zone

Quebec City operates in the Eastern Time zone.

### Weather

In June, the average high temperature is 72°F, and a cooler 52°F in the evening. Be prepared for a light rain to fall in Quebec in June.

### What to wear

In spring and summer, a light sweater or coat sometimes comes in handy on cool evenings. Québec is a walking city, so comfortable shoes are a must.

### Gratuities

With very few exceptions, tips are not included in the final tabulation of restaurant bills. Tips are usually 15% of the total bill, excluding taxes. Cab drivers, bellhops and hairdressers are usually tipped at the customer's discretion.