



Everything You Need to Know About Touring in Canada!

by Jean Barth

Every year the Model T Ford Club International invites us to an adventure (tour) in a different area. Usually it's in the USA, but this year our adventure is taking us to Prince Edward Island in Canada. Colin Knowles, head of the Tour Committee, and I want to help you prepare for your Canadian experience. Colin is a Canadian and I love to travel in Canada, so we want to share some information that should help you have a great tour.

Prior to Leaving Home

- Have your passports ready for each member of your traveling party. If you don't have one, get one NOW. If you already have a passport, check to be sure it is current.
- Check your vehicle and health insurance to be sure you are covered in Canada.
- Notify your credit card company that you will be traveling in Canada. Using credit cards makes the dollar exchange easy, as they do the conversions for you.
- Take some cash with you. Get your dollars changed to Canadian dollars at your bank or wait and do it at the border. But do get it changed.

Welcome to Canada!

Your first introduction to Canada will be at a border crossing. Nothing to fear, just be prepared.

- Have your passport ready. Everyone in your vehicle must show a valid passport to enter Canada.
- Have vehicle registration and insurance ready to show the attendant, if asked.
- Remove sunglasses before you enter the inspection booth area.
- Follow signs for what lane you are to be in.
- Get rid of any fruit or vegetables that you have in the car, trailer, or motorhome or they will be confiscated at the border.
- Be friendly, be serious, be honest, and be patient. The border agents are trained professionals and there to do a job.

Laws to be Aware Of

- **Leave your guns at home!** You cannot take firearms into Canada. It is a serious offense and could land you in jail.
- Do not use cell phones when driving, as there is a very hefty fine for this.

Conversions

- The tour book will state mileage, as that is how odometers in the Model T are calibrated, but signs along the roads will state kilometers. For easy conversion, multiply the number of kilometers by 0.6 to get the number of miles. (Example: 100 kilometers/hour x 0.6 means you are going about 60 mph; or 60 kilometers is 36 miles.)
- Gasoline is sold by the liter. There are 3.8 liters in a gallon. Multiply the number of liters by 4 to get the approximate cost of a gallon of gas. (Not that it makes any difference, as it is what it is!)
- Temperatures in Canada are in Celsius. To convert to Fahrenheit, multiply the Celsius temperature by 2 and add 32. (Example: $(19^{\circ}\text{C} \times 2) + 32 = 70^{\circ}\text{F}$)
- US dollars and Canadian dollars are not the same, so remember to get Canadian dollars before you arrive. In Canada, \$1 and \$2 are coins, not paper money. A \$1 coin is called a "loonie" and a \$2 coin is called a "twoonie".

Eating...Our Favorite Part!

Food is a very important topic - be adventurous and enjoy!

- There will be lots of good seafood throughout the week. (Lobster is "lobster", not "lobstah", as in neighboring New England.)
- "Poutine" is French fries, covered in gravy and cheese curds. To die for, so be sure to try it!
- "Donairs" is an Atlantic Canadian specialty. It consists of spiced beef wrapped in a pita bread with tomatoes, onion, and a bit of a sweet sauce.
- "Soda" doesn't exist; it's "pop" or a "soft drink".
- Tea is served HOT! If you want iced tea you have to specify, as it is not a popular drink in Canada.
- *Tim Horton's* is the Canadian donut/coffee giant and often referred to as Tim's or Timmie's. No *Dunkin' Donuts* to be found!

Come to Prince Edward Island and have a wonderful time. You will be glad you made the trip!

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