

Directory

CONTENTS

Accommodations	843
Activities	845
Business Hours	846
Children	846
Climate Charts	847
Customs	847
Dangers & Annoyances	848
Discount Cards	848
Embassies & Consulates	848
Festivals & Events	849
Food	849
Gay & Lesbian Travelers	850
Holidays	850
Insurance	851
Internet Access	851
Legal Matters	852
Maps	852
Money	852
Post	853
Shopping	854
Solo Travelers	854
Telephone	855
Time	856
Tourist Information	856
Travelers With Disabilities	856
Visas	857
Volunteering	858
Women Travelers	858
Work	858

ACCOMMODATIONS

In Canada, you'll usually be choosing from a wide range of B&Bs, chain motels, hotels and hostels. Provincial tourist offices (see p856) publish comprehensive directories of accommodations and some take bookings online.

In this book we list options in all price categories, and they're arranged from least to most expensive. The budget category comprises campgrounds, hostels and simple hotels and B&Bs where you'll likely share a bathroom. Rates rarely exceed \$80 for a double.

Midrange accommodations, such as most B&Bs, inns (*auberges* in French), motels and some hotels, generally offer the best value for money. Expect to pay between \$80 and \$160

PRACTICALITIES

- Electrical supply is 110V AC, 50/60Hz.
- The most widely read newspaper is the Toronto-based *Globe and Mail*. Other principal dailies are the *Montréal Gazette*, *Ottawa Citizen*, *Toronto Star* and *Vancouver Sun*.
- *Maclean's* is Canada's weekly news magazine.
- The Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC) is the dominant nationwide network for both radio and TV. The Canadian Television Network (CTN) is the major competition.
- The NTSC system (not compatible with PAL or Secam) is used for videos.
- Canada officially uses the metric system, but imperial measurements are used for many day-to-day purposes. To convert between the two systems, see the chart on the inside front cover.

for a comfortable, decent-sized double with a private bathroom and TV.

Top-end accommodations (more than \$160 per double) offer an international standard of amenities, including fitness and business centers and other upmarket facilities.

Most properties have rooms set aside for nonsmokers, and some smaller properties, especially B&Bs, ban smoking altogether. In this book, we have used the nonsmoking icon (⊗) to mean that *all* rooms within a property are nonsmoking. Air-conditioning is not a standard amenity at most budget and midrange places. If you want it, be sure to ask about it when you book.

Prices listed in this book are for peak-season travel (usually summer, from late May to early September) and, unless stated otherwise, do not include taxes (which can be up to 17%). If breakfast is included and/or a bathroom is shared, that information is included in our listing.

It's best to book ahead during summer peak season, during ski season at winter resorts,

and during holidays (p850) and major events (p849), as rooms can be scarce. In winter, prices can plummet by as much as 50%. Membership in the American Automobile Association (AAA) or an associated automobile association, American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) or other organizations also yields modest savings (usually 10%).

Online agencies such as www.orbitz.com, www.expedia.com, www.travelocity.com and www.hotels.com may fetch better rates than booking directly with a hotel. **Tripadvisor** (www.tripadvisor.com) is a handy resource that features reader and published reviews and simultaneously searches the above-mentioned agencies for rates. **Travelaxe** (www.travelaxe.com) adds in filters to help you narrow down your search (eg distance, price, comfort level); it requires a free software download for its 'pro' version. Also check hotel websites listed throughout this book for special online rates.

B&Bs

B&Bs (*gîtes* in French) are essentially converted private homes whose owners live on site. People who like privacy may find B&Bs too intimate, as walls are rarely soundproof and it's usual to mingle with your hosts and other guests.

Standards vary widely, sometimes even within a single B&B. The cheapest rooms tend to be small with few amenities and a shared bathroom. Nicer ones have added features such as a balcony, a fireplace and an en suite bathroom. Breakfast is always included in the rates.

Not all B&Bs accept children. Minimum stays (usually two nights) are common, and many B&Bs are only open seasonally. **Bed & Breakfast Online** (www.bbcanada.com) is an online booking agency representing properties nationwide.

Camping

Canada is filled with campgrounds – some federal or provincial, others privately owned. The official camping season runs from May to September, but exact dates vary by location.

Facilities vary widely. Backcountry sites offer little more than pit toilets and fire rings, and have no potable water. Unserviced (tent) campgrounds come with access to drinking water and a washroom with toilets and sometimes showers. The best-equipped sites feature flush toilets and hot showers, and water,

BOOK ACCOMMODATIONS ONLINE

For more reviews and recommendations by Lonely Planet authors about accommodations, check out the online booking service at lonelyplanet.com/hotels. You'll find the true, insider lowdown on the best places to stay. Reviews are thorough and independent. Best of all, you can book online.

electrical and sewer hookups for recreational vehicles (RVs). Private campgrounds sometimes cater only to trailers (caravans) and RVs, and may feature convenience stores, playgrounds and swimming pools. It is a good idea to phone ahead to make sure the size of sites and the services provided at a particular campground are suitable for your vehicle.

Most government-run sites are available on a first-come first-served basis and fill up quickly, especially in July and August. Several national parks participate in Parks Canada's **camping reservation program** (☎ 877-737-3783; www.pccamping.ca; reservation fees \$10.90), which is a convenient way to make sure you get a spot. Provincial park reservation information is provided in destination chapters throughout this book.

Nightly camping fees in national and provincial parks range from \$12 to \$26 for tents up to \$36 for full hookup sites; fire permits often cost a few dollars extra. Backcountry camping costs about \$10 per night. Private campgrounds tend to be a bit pricier.

Some campgrounds remain open for maintenance year-round and may let you camp at a reduced rate in the off-season. This can be great in late autumn or early spring when there's hardly a soul tramping about. Winter camping, though, is only for the hardy.

Homestays

How do you feel about staying on the couch of a perfect stranger? If it's not a problem, consider joining an organization that arranges homestays. The groups following charge no fees to become a member, and the stay itself is also free.

Couch Surfing (www.couchsurfing.com)

Hospitality Club (www.hospitalityclub.org)

Hostels

Canada has independent hostels as well as those affiliated with Hostelling International (HI). All have dorms (\$26 per person on aver-