CANADA

The official name is simply Canada and the Capital city is **Ottawa**. The official languages are English (70%) and French. Canada is a member of many international organizations such as G8 *[Group of eight]* or NATO, but mainly is the member of **the Commonwealth** – organization of English speaking countries with Queen Elizabeth II. as its head of state. Canada is a **constitutional monarchy** and the currency is **Canadian dollar**.

**1) LOCATION**

Canada is situated in the North America continent. In the South borders on the USA and in the northwest on Alaska. Canada stretches from **the Atlantic Ocean** in the east to **the Pacific Ocean** in the west. In the north lies **the** [**Arctic Ocean**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arctic_Ocean)and [Greenland](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Greenland) is to the northeast. Canada is the second-largest country in the world with about **10 million km2**.

**2) POPULATION**

The first inhabitants were **Vikings** and **Eskimos**. The most popular religion is **Christianity** with 77% of population. The second one is **Islam** *[Izla:m]*, that includes only 2 % of population. What is really interesting is a **population density**, that is only 3 inhabitants per square kilometer. Canada is a **federation** composed of **10 provinces** ([Alberta](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alberta), [British Columbia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/British_Columbia), [Manitoba](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manitoba), [New Brunswick](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_Brunswick), [Newfoundland and Labrador](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Newfoundland_and_Labrador), [Nova Scotia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nova_Scotia), [Ontario](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ontario), [Prince Edward Island](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prince_Edward_Island), [Quebec](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Quebec), and [Saskatchewan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Saskatchewan)) and **3 territories** ([Northwest Territories](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Northwest_Territories), [Nunavut](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nunavut), and [Yukon](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yukon)). Canada has about **33 million inhabitants.**

**3) LANDSCAPE**

West part of Canada is mountainous, there is Cordilleras mountain range, that follows to the USA. Central of Canada is a changeover from hilly West to lowland East. This area is full of **lakes**, such as Great Bear Lake, Great Slave Lake or Lake Winnipeg. In East part, there is **the Hudson Bay** and around this bay is **the Artic Lowland**. Between Canada and Greenland is **the Baffin Bay**, that then follows to **the Davis Strait** and then to **the Labrador Sea**. The most famous rivers are: the Yukon River, the Mackenzie River or the Saint Lawrence River. The highest peak is **Mount Logan** with 5959 meters below the sea level.

**4) CLIMATE**

Average winter and summer **temperatures** across Canada **vary** from region to region. In oceanic regions, snow can cover the ground for almost six months of the year. On the east and west coasts, average high temperatures are generally around 20 °C while between the coasts, the average high temperature ranges from 25 to 30 °C.

**5) ECONOMY**

Canada´s economy is traditionally based on **natural resources**. As the main natural resources we can consider oil and gas. **Oil** reserves are the second-biggest in the world. Canada is an exporter of many minerals, such as gold, aluminum, lead and Canada is the world´s biggest producer of **nickel**. Canadian economy is also dominated by the **service industry** and **agriculture**.

**6) CITIES**

Vancouver: the winter Olympic games in 2010

Calgary: Financial centrum of Canada, centre of winter sports

Toronto: Largest city, CN tower

Ontario: Baťa shoe museum

**7) SYMBOLS OF CANADA**

Things that people most associate with Canada:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Canoe | major form of transportation |
| Ice Hockey/ Lacrosse | Most popular winter/summer sport |
| the Moose | Large animal across Canada, especially near lakes |
| the Loon | Its sound brings Canadians back to a peaceful |
| the Maple leaf | National symbol of Canada |
| the Beaver | Canadian national mascot |

**8) HOLIDAYS**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Name** | **Date** | **Character** |
| New Year´s Day | January, 1st | Celebrates the first day of year |
| Easter Monday | Monday after [Easter](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Easter) Day | Celebrates the [resurrection of Jesus](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Resurrection_of_Jesus). |
| Victoria Day | Monday preceding May 25th | Celebrates the birthday of the current Canadian monarch |
| Canada Day | July, 1st | Celebrates Canada's 1867 Confederation |
| Labour Day | First Monday in Sempteber | Celebrates economic and social achievements |
| Thanksgiving Day | Second Monday in October | Celebrates the harvest of the past year |
| Remembrance Day | November, 11th | Commemorates Canada's war dead |
| Christmas Day | December, 25th | Celebrates the [birth of Jesus](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nativity_of_Jesus) |
| Boxing Day | December, 26th | Giving gifts |