

# **Canada's Learning & Enrichment Travel Themes**

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*Taken from LETA's travel and tourism guide, these themes can assist you in your efforts to design travel experiences, day activities and vacation packages. Organized by learning and enrichment theme from coast to coast, each theme provides questions and ideas that can give you the inspiration you need to get started or to enhance a product you may already have in-mind or developed.*

## **The Heritage of Canada's Aboriginal and First Nations**

What are Canadian aboriginal / first nations travel experiences?

Discover Canada's unique aboriginal heritage. Explore the frozen landscape in a traditional Inuit dog sled. Learn how to build an igloo. Learn how to tend the fire in a tee pee. Participate in a pow wow. Meet totem carvers. Complete your First Nations experience with excursions to historical sites, museums, galleries, interpretive centres, archaeological digs, and community artisan centres. There are so many exciting ways to share in this country's rich Aboriginal culture.

## **Canada's agriculture and farming tourism**

What are Canadian agriculture and farm experiences?

Visit a Prairie farm and learn the art of growing and harvesting food. View turn of the century machinery used by Canadian pioneers and early settlers. Tour organic farms and private gardens. Learn about the indigenous edible plants of Canada and their healing properties. Visit orchards and vineyards and participate in interpretative tours and tastings. Shop at colourful farmer's markets and sample local preserves and freshly baked pies. The list of enriching agri-tourism vacation opportunities in Canada is boundless.

## **Discover Canada's Arts & Culture**

What are Canadian visual and performing arts travel experiences?

Enhance your visit to Canada with learning and enrichment travel experiences in the visual and performing arts. Visit artist studios. Watch artisans at work. Participate in visual art workshops or guided gallery tours. Experience a variety of music, dance, theatre, or cultural festivals from coast to coast. Go 'behind-the-scenes' and meet the dancers, musicians, or choreographer following a symphony, ballet or opera performance. Enjoy a live interactive dinner theatre presentation. Watch painters, sculptors, carvers and artisans at work. Whether you prefer art, music, theatre, opera or dance, Canada offers a variety of hands-on and interactive cultural experiences for all ages and interests.

## **The wonderful history of Canada and the celebrated stories of Canadians**

What are Canadian historical experiences?

Marvel at stories told from native elders to sea captains. Explore Ottawa, the political capital of Canada. Dance a traditional Celtic jig or learn to powwow. Visit the vast range of historical museums, monuments, landmarks and interpretive centres. Discover the stories, people and events that shaped and inspired Canada's history.

## **Canadian cuisine - always in good taste!**

What are Canadian culinary experiences?

Wine and dine Canadian style. Learn trade secrets from the best chefs and wine fanciers in the land. Put your cooking skills to the test. Feast on lobster bake or a traditional sugaring-off meal. Learn about food and wine pairing from a professional wine sommelier. Sample only the best from Canadian's that understand the science of seasoning and the art of presentation!

## **Celebrate in Canada's multitude of cultural traditions**

What are Canadian ethnic culture travel experiences?

Canada's cultural mix is as diverse as its landscape. Here you can sample – and learn to cook – just about every ethnic cuisine that exists. Take an interpretive tour of Chinatown and discover the medicinal properties of herbs and plants. Join the rhythmic beat at a Caribbean festival. Learn to belly dance, bongo drum, or play the boran. Participate in a traditional jig and reel with Celtic dancers. Participate in a Swiss-style Oktoberfest, a First Nations sweat lodge, a Japanese tea ceremony, or even an Italian wedding! Celebrate in Canada's rich multicultural heritage and choose from a wide selection of guided and unguided cultural experiences.

## **Celebrating Canada's music, theatre, comedy, art, cuisine, wine and gardens**

What are Canadian festival and event experiences?

Throughout the year, Canada plays host to a number of events and festivals that are entertaining, educational and suitable for all ages. Experience winter carnivals, garden festivals, children's workshops, music performances, artist exhibitions and fringe theatre productions.

If you are seeking the opportunity to immerse yourself in Canada's culture, you can participate in festival workshops, go on private 'behind-the-scenes' tour, and meet festival performers or event organizers. There is a wide range of hands-on activities to choose from. Share a memorable vacation of treasured moments and life-inspiring learning experiences in Canada.

## **From conservation to eco-tourism, from industry to environment**

What are Canadian ecological travel experiences?

Explore Canada's landscape in a way that is safe and responsible. Participate in activities that shed new light on sustainable tourism practices and meet people who are passionate about preserving the quality of the land in which they travel. Go on a guided tour through a rain forest and learn about the biodiversity of a natural water shed. Walk with a wildlife conservationist and learn about endangered animals such as the grizzly bear and black bear. Participate in an outdoor adventure workshop and learn about waste management, water conservation and alternative energy.

## **Canada's gardens and garden-inspired vacations**

What are Canadian garden travel experiences?

Whether you have a budding interest in gardening or are an avid grower, Canada offers diverse horticultural attractions from coast to coast. Choose an enriching travel package that focuses on the art of gardening and plant science or the sculptural creations inspired by flowers and design. Discover extraordinary public and private gardens. Go on interpretive guided tours and learn about conservation and bio-diversity relating to the insect world. Or participate in garden-inspired festivals, events and competitions.

## **Canada's geological diversity and mining industry**

What are Canadian geological and mining travel experiences?

Since the gold rush days, mining has played a major role in the exploration of Canada's West and the development of the country's economy. Find out more through interpretative demonstrations at local mines. Learn the history of mining through a costumed re-enactment. Discover the challenges of drilling for oil. Enjoy a private tour of a diamond mine. Or simply pan for gold. Find out the story behind the Canadian Shield - a Precambrian rock formation stretching from Labrador to Saskatchewan and the nickel mines in Northern Ontario. There are many hands-on learning experiences available from coast to coast.

## **Canada's natural wonders**

What are Canadian nature experiences?

Canada showcases the power of nature and offers a fascinating lineup of natural phenomenon, including the highest tides in the world! Come and walk on the ocean floor, hike to Lakes in the Clouds, watch drifting icebergs, marvel at glacier-carved fjords and rejuvenate in natural hot springs. Canada is home to some of the most varied land forms in the world, making it a natural playground for learning and enriching travel experiences.

## **Canada's national parks, wildlife sanctuaries and vast marine ecosystems**

What are learning travel wildlife experiences?

Take a guided canoe trip in the arctic wilderness. Learn the art of animal tracking. Participate in conservation activities. Be at one with nature as caribou migrate and eagles soar overhead. Share the history and spirituality of the landscape. There are so many exciting ways to participate in Canada's natural beauty and commitment to wildlife preservation. Canada's abundance of national parks, wildlife sanctuaries and vast marine ecosystems make it an ideal destination for learning and enriching travel vacations.

## **Canadian wines, wineries, vineyards, tastings and tours**

What are Canadian wine travel experiences?

Breathe in the fragrant scent of lavender. Gaze upon lush vineyards and bountiful orchards. Smile at the sound of a popping cork. Taste award-winning wines, delectable cheeses and homemade pies. Learn about organic vintages. Try your hand at fruit picking and celebrate the harvest.

Just a mere sampling of the many ways you can indulge the senses, and increase your knowledge and appreciation for food and wine, when you spend an enriching vacation in Canada's wine country.

## **Understanding Canada's military and political heritage**

What are Canadian military and government travel experiences?

Visit Canadian museums from small to large that honour Canada's military heritage and remember the nations that participated in past conflicts. Go on interpretive tours to historical landmarks, interpretive centres, and famous monuments. Meet costumed interpreters and watch live re-enactments of historical events. Learn about the two founding European Nations of Canada, Britain and France, and the history of political leaders that helped build this nation.

## **Exploring Canada through the eyes of anthropologists and archaeologists**

What are Canadian anthropological and archeological travel experiences?

For years, archeologists and anthropologists have been sifting and interpreting the layers of Canadian soil. Their quest to find the answers of our past has unveiled collections of artefacts, bones and the footprints of human and animal existence.

Experience Canada through the signs and traces of our past. See fossilized bones of countless millions of dinosaurs. Work with museum staff at excavation sites. Learn technical skills such as the mapping and jacketing of fossils.

## **Canadian architecture and world class architects - linking cities and a nation**

What are Canadian architectural travel experiences?

Throughout Canada, houses, churches, commercial buildings, museums and forts have been restored to preserve the architectural wonders of our past. Historically, Canadian architecture evolved from European traditions. Visit Canadian churches dating from the French regime and see architectural influences from 17th and 18th century France. Tour military sites or government buildings and see influences from 19th century England. Stay at world class hotels and resorts designed by some of Canada's top contemporary architects. Discover Canada's legendary Chateaus and 'castle' hotels built in the last century.

With a strong emphasis on vernacular architecture, Canada has a variety of regional architectural trends.

## **Hydro-electric dams, mines, logging mills, fish hatcheries and farms throughout Canada**

What are Canadian industry & trade travel experiences?

The Learning & Enrichment Travel Alliance represents individuals, businesses and organizations who understand the value in hands-on learning activities and interactive access to facilities of interest to any visitor. If you are interested in learning more about Canadian hydro-electric dams , mines, logging mills , fish hatcheries and farms, search our travel directory to discover the vast range of opportunities to explore Canada's industry in a way that is up-close and personal.

## **Hands-on language programs in Canada**

What are learning travel language experiences?

Canada is a great place to learn English or French as a second language. Offering immersion programs to the young and young at heart, Canadian language programs blend culture, cuisine, exploration and interactive fun with the learning experience. Visit beautiful rural towns and island communities throughout the country. Enrol at one of the many Canadian Colleges, private schools or home-stay programs. Participate in fun field trips as well as enriching hands-on activities. Whether you are seeking professional development through language studies or looking for an enriching vacation, there are a number of options to choose from throughout Canada.

## **Water energy, water travel and the world of water**

What are Canadian water travel experiences?

Learn about the wonders of one of Canada's greatest resources, water. Visit Canadian aquariums that reveal the mysteries beneath the sea. Experience the magnitude and force of water when you visit some of Canada's largest waterfalls. Go whale watching with an interpretive guide or go on a scuba dive with a marine biologist. Learn how to navigate with the power of wind through the art of sailing. Paddle lakes and rivers by raft, canoe or kayak and learn about this force of nature that has shaped the Canadian landscape and served as a natural highway for Canadian voyageurs. Visit fisheries, bogs, wetlands, rainforests, icebergs and glaciers with interpretive guides.

## **Holistic vacations for the spiritual traveler**

What are Canadian spiritual or wellness travel experiences?

If the focus for your next vacation is on wellness or spirituality, Canada offers a multitude of travel experiences that cater to many faiths and lifestyles. Go on a spiritual retreat and participate in yoga classes while learning the art of meditation. Visit historical churches dating from the 18th and 19th century. Meet with religious groups and participate in workshops, conferences and seminars on world religions. Discover the spirituality of Canada's aboriginal cultures and refresh your soul in a serene wilderness setting. Or simply treat yourself to a spa experience and learn about the mind body connection through aromatherapy, cleansing, breathing and the art of relaxation.

## **Canadian science museums cover everything from virtual reality to solar energy**

What are Canadian science & technology travel experiences?

Canada offers a variety of science and technology events, museums, programs and tours for adults and families. See state-of-the-art electronic projections and multi-media presentations. Climb inside a giant 800 year old Western Red Cedar. Learn about building a beaver dam. Stroke the thick coat of a grizzly bear. Test your wits against a variety of puzzles and optical illusions. Learn about the recipe for creating electricity, the history of paper or the mechanics of the human body. Go on a fascinating journey through our Solar System.

## **Canadian Survivor - weathering the Canadian elements**

What is a Canadian wilderness survival travel experience?

Can you build a shelter? How is it possible to light a fire without matches? Can you forage for food and purify water? What plants are edible? What plants are healing? How do you build a snow fort? How do you treat hypothermia? What do you do in an avalanche? What do you do if you encounter a bear? How are mountains made? What happens after a forest fire?

These survival experiences represent only a fraction of the questions that can be answered in wilderness survival courses that are offered throughout Canada. Survival travel is more than seeing the sites. It's about taking calculated risks and exploring the vast Canadian wilderness in a way that emulates real-life survival. Turn your next Canadian wilderness adventure into a learning experience.

## **Travel experiences for photographers**

What is a Canadian photography travel experience?

There are a number of group and private photography excursions throughout Canada that provide hands-on activities and instruction for both amateur and experienced photographers. Learn how to take travel pictures like a pro while on vacation. Find out the best locations, the best lighting techniques and other valuable tips from some of Canada's best photographers. Combine wildlife and nature viewing with photography. Explore Canada's vast landscape in a serene wilderness setting. Capture your learning vacation on film.

## **Canada's cultural scene**

What is learning cultural and lifestyle travel?

Canadians have a unique culture that is represented by a combination of cultures from around the world and First Nations people. Although English is the most commonly spoken language, visitors will quickly discover a multitude of languages, cuisine, music, arts, and heritage experiences that make up the cultural fabric of Canada.

French-Canadians are based largely in Quebec and New Brunswick, but cultural traditions and language can be found from coast to coast. Canada represents a nation where each individual 'people' may join the nation and still retain their identities, complete with traditions, languages, arts and customs. This is what makes up the cultural fabric of Canada.