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5 Canadian travel destinations to celebrate 150



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Our neighbours to the south and around the world are learning what Canadians have known all along. The New York Times and Lonely Planet both recently named Canada the number one destination to visit in 2017, just in time for our 150th birthday.

Travel within parts of the country is already seeing a boost. If you're thinking of exploring some of the fantastic sights in our own national backyard, consider an Air Canada flight pass, which is a prepaid series of electronic flight credits offering convenient, flexible and cost-effective travel within a selected geographic zone at a locked-in cost, so there are no surprises on price. Here are five must-see spots to discover.

Montreal. This modern city with old-world European charm is doubling down on the festivities as it turns 375 this year. Look out for a designer Jacques Cartier bridge illuminated by thousands of LED lights. Other special attractions include an open-air museum along Sherbrooke Street commemorating the 50th anniversary of Expo 67, and Cite Memoire, a nighttime event where images and music are screened on the walls of historic buildings in Old Montreal.

Toronto. Visit popular family attractions like the Aquarium; go shopping on West Queen West; or venture into quirky areas like the Distillery District, the Junction and Ossington. The Toronto Islands are also a great spot for families and independent travellers alike — Ward's Island is the local favourite for a relaxing break from the city.

Vancouver. Nestled on the coast of British Columbia, Vancouver combines big city, rich cultural offerings, with easy access to mountains, Pacific Ocean beaches, and breathtaking scenic landscapes. Be sure to check out the Granville Island farmers' market and get there in style aboard the Aquabus or a water taxi.

Calgary. A trip to Calgary wouldn't be complete without a visit to its world-famous rodeo event, the Calgary Stampede, held in July. Don't miss a day trip to Banff National Park and Lake Louise, part of the Canadian Rockies with gorgeous mountain views, waterways and adventure.

Halifax. The heart of the Maritimes, Halifax's bustling waterfront has beautiful views and fun events on the boardwalk, like jazz and busker festivals. There are many beaches within minutes of downtown, and hidden islands best visited by kayak. If you're into books or architecture, be sure to check out the new, international design award-winning central library.

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