

VISA REQUIREMENTS AND APPLICATION

Please refer to [IRCC website](#) to learn about a temporary resident visa (visitor visa) and the application process. Please note that visa applications are considered on a case-by-case basis based on the information presented by the applicant. While a special event code has been assigned to the event, it does not guarantee any advantage to the applicant, in terms of a positive visa outcome. The applicant must meet all the [eligibility](#) criteria in order to receive a visa.

[Processing times for visa applications](#) vary depending on the visa office and the time of the year. Participants are encouraged to check the processing times calculator for guidance, but generally we recommend applying **at least 12-16 weeks** in advance of the departure date to ensure the attendee receives the visa in time for the start of the event.

Biometrics Expansion

Since the summer of 2018, when you apply for a visitor visa, study or work permit (except U.S. nationals), or permanent residence you need to give your fingerprints and a photo. To facilitate repeat travel to Canada, applicants for a visitor visa, study or work permit will only need to give their biometrics once every 10 years. For additional information on whether or not you require a biometric, please refer to our [fast facts about Biometrics](#).

Electronic Travel Authorization (eTA)

Since November 10, 2016, visa-exempt foreign nationals must have an [Electronic Travel Authorization](#) (eTA) to fly to or transit through Canada. [Exceptions](#) include U.S. citizens, and travelers with a valid Canadian visa. Canadian citizens, including dual citizens, and Canadian permanent residents are not eligible to apply for an eTA.

VISA INVITATION LETTER

All delegates who require a visa to enter Canada may request an official *Letter of Invitation* from the conference organizers upon registration to help facilitate the immigration process. Please note that *Letters of Invitation* are only issued to delegates who have paid their registration fees in full. The letter aims to assist participants for their travel to Canada and does not imply any commitment for the Conference Organizer to provide financial support. Please note that cancellations after the pre-registration cut-off may result in a partial or full cancellation fee.

It is recommended you start the visa application process as early as possible. Processing times may vary by country.

A visa invitation letter is no guarantee to receive a visa and it is the sole responsibility of the attendee to contact the embassy or consulate to obtain the necessary paperwork for entry into the country.

HELPFUL LINKS

[Find out if you require a visa to travel to Canada.](#)

[Check processing times](#)

[Check your application status](#)

TRAVEL TO CALGARY

Arriving by Plane

Flying into Calgary, you will land at the [Calgary International Airport](#), northeast of downtown, and a 25-minute drive to the city centre. You can arrange for a car rental from one of several car rental agencies within the terminal. Just outside the terminal doors, local bus, taxi, limo, wheelchair accessible transportation (arrange in advance) or shuttle services to selected hotels are available.

Arriving by Train

Travelling to Calgary on a luxury train service provided by the [Rocky Mountaineer](#) is a popular option for visitors looking for a once-in-a-lifetime experience. Train tours departing from and arriving in Calgary provide a wonderful experience to begin or end your trip.

Arriving by Bus

Bus tours are a popular way to travel to Calgary and explore surrounding areas, like the Canadian Rockies, UNESCO World Heritage Sites, and the Canadian Badlands. Charter a group tour or book a single seat for a safe and reliable way to explore Alberta.

Many shuttle services are available to Calgary and from YYC Calgary International Airport to major hotels and motels. Private group bookings are also a great way to explore Calgary, Kananaskis, Banff, and beyond.

[Red Arrow](#) transportation operates intercity bus service in Alberta to Edmonton, Fort McMurray, Grande Prairie, Lethbridge, and Red Deer, and the [Prairie Sprinter](#) provides transportation to Medicine Hat.

GETTING AROUND IN CALGARY

Public Transit

Calgary's public transit network consists of buses and two Light Rail Transit (LRT) lines, known as the C-Train. The C-Train (the 'C' stands for Calgary) has 45 stations and is the only emissions-free, wind-powered public transit operation in North America. The C-Train offers a **fare-free downtown**, where commuters may hop on and off the train along 7th Avenue. Connecting conference delegates to Calgary's destinations, the C-train conveniently connects to the Calgary TELUS Convention Centre, Stampede Park and all quadrants of the city.

Tickets and passes can be purchased with cash or credit card at all C-Train stations, with cash on the bus (change is not given), or at numerous drug stores, grocery stores, and convenience stores across the city.

Transit routes operate on varying schedules throughout the city. For complete information and to plan a trip, visit [Calgary Transit](#), or use Google Maps, which is completely integrated with Calgary's transit system.

Bike Sharing

Calgary has the most extensive urban pathway and cycle path network in North America, with approximately 850 kilometres of regional pathways and 95 kilometres of trails. Bike lanes run against many major streets in Calgary, including 12 Avenue SW, 8 Avenue SW, and 5 Street SW in the city centre. The popular dockless e-bike sharing program [Lime](#) is available in Calgary. Users can download the mobile application, locate, and rent bikes starting at \$1.00.

Scooter Sharing

The city of Calgary has also launched a 16-month electric scooter pilot project. There are two companies that are currently offering e-scooter services in Calgary – Lime and Bird. The scooter share program is also based on a dockless system and is simple to use. Those looking to rent an e-scooter will need to download the respective app and create an account. Rentals are charged per minute.

Taxi

Taxis charge a base rate and an additional surcharge at the airport. Most services have online and mobile booking apps. Most cabs accept credit, debit, and cash.

Note: Tipping drivers at least 15 per cent of the total cost of your cab or limousine ride is customary in the area.

Ride Sharing

Ride sharing is a convenient mode of transportation with several organizations offering digital service in Calgary. Download the **Uber** or **TappCar** (a regional ride share program) mobile applications to book a ride on the spot from a local driver. Memberships from other cities are usually valid for these services in Calgary.

Rental Cars

Exploring Calgary by car is a convenient way to discover our communities or take a quick trip to the Rocky Mountains. To navigate around the city, choose from the various rental car or car sharing companies that operate in Calgary.

THINGS TO DO IN CALGARY

Calgary is a city that is vibrant, sophisticated, and fun when it comes to entertaining its guests. Your experience could involve bobsledding down an Olympic course or listening to the Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra or participating in one of the many year-round festivals. Calgary has got it all for you!

CALGARY TOWER

Originally named the Husky Tower, the Calgary Tower was built to honour Canada's centennial. At the top of the Calgary Tower, a viewing platform and revolving restaurant put sightseers 191 meters high in one of the city's landmark buildings.

Until 1984, the tower was the tallest in the city. Though it no longer holds that title, there are still excellent views out over the city and beyond to the mountains.

Click [here](#) for admission rates.

Distance from TELUS Convention Centre: 550m.

DEVONIAN GARDENS

On the 4th level of the Core Shopping Centre, visitors will come somewhat unexpectedly upon the floral paradise of Devonian Gardens. Covering about one hectare of botanical gardens featuring over 500 trees, 50 varieties of plants, a 900 sq. ft. living wall, fountains, and fishponds. Despite Calgary's cold winters, they thrive under a glass ceiling.

Admission: The Devonian Gardens are free and open for the public to wander.

Distance from TELUS Convention Centre: 1.6km

TELUS SPARK

TELUS Spark is Calgary's Science Centre. Facilitators fuel curiosity. Exhibits and programs ignite a sense of wonder and excitement. Conferences and events act as a catalyst for innovation and new ideas. TELUS Spark is a place for people of all ages and abilities to let go and embrace the desire to explore and discover science, technology, engineering, art and math.

Click [here](#) for admission rates.

Distance from TELUS Convention Centre: 3.9km

HERITAGE PARK

Heritage Park Historical Village features dozens of reconstructed historical buildings and lively costumed interpreters from four different time periods. An old steam engine provides transport at the park, and the Gasoline Alley Museum offers an interactive experience with one-of-a-kind vintage vehicles.

Click [here](#) for admission rates.

Distance from TELUS Convention Centre: 10.3km

For more information on Calgary, please visit www.VisitCalgary.com.