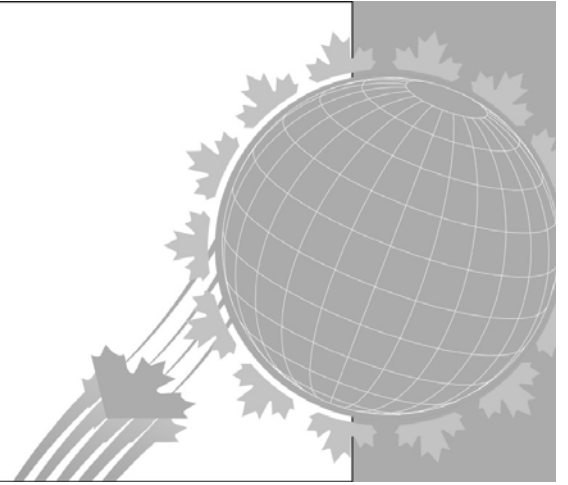




# CROSS BORDER SHOPPING TIPS



Whether you've been out of the country for a few hours or for several days, returning to Canada means a stop at a Canada Border Services Agency office. The customs, immigration and food, plant and animal clearance process can be completed with minimal disruption, by keeping the following tips in mind:

1. **PLAN YOUR TRIP:** Recent fluctuations in the value of the Canadian dollar have resulted in significant increases in traveller volumes at the border. The CBSA has taken additional measures to help reduce wait times, however, travellers are advised to add some extra travel time to your itinerary and be patient.
2. **IDENTIFICATION:** You must carry proper identification for yourself and any children travelling with you. Proper identification includes a Canadian passport, Canadian birth certificate, a permanent residence card, a citizenship card or a certificate of Indian Status.
3. **OUR MISSING CHILDREN:** Our officers look for missing children and may ask detailed questions about the children who are travelling with you. If you have legal custody of the child(ren) or if you share custody, have copies of relevant legal documents. If you are not the custodial parent or not the parent or legal guardian of the child(ren), carry a letter of permission or authorization for you to have custody when entering Canada.
4. **DECLARATIONS AND RECEIPTS:** Each traveller should have their receipts in hand when they arrive at the port of entry. Have your receipts separated by commodity such as: non-taxable groceries, children's clothing (12 and under), adult clothing, electronics, etc. If you are not sure what to declare when you arrive in Canada, declare all items first and then discuss them with the officer. Calculate the total amount of all your purchases.
5. **WAIT TIMES:** The busiest time to cross the border at most locations is between 15:00 to 19:00. Visit [www.cbsa.gc.ca](http://www.cbsa.gc.ca) for more detailed information about border wait times (updated every hour) to help you plan your border crossing.
6. **PERSONAL EXEMPTIONS:** After each absence of **24 hours or more**, you can claim up to CAN \$50 worth of goods without paying any duties. You must have the goods with you when you arrive and **you cannot include tobacco products or alcoholic beverages in this exemption**. After each absence of **48 hours or more**, you can claim up to CAN \$400 worth of goods without paying any duties. After each absence of 7 days or more, you can claim up to CAN \$750 worth of goods without paying any duties.

7. **ALCOHOL AND TOBACCO:** If you have been **outside Canada for at least 48 hours and are of legal age**, you can bring in these amounts of alcohol and tobacco products, free of duty and tax, as part of your personal exemption:

- **ALCOHOL:** 1.14 L (40 oz.) of liquor; or 1.5 L of wine; or 24 x 355 ml (12 oz.) containers of beer.
- **TOBACCO:** 200 cigarettes; 50 cigars or cigarillos; 200 tobacco sticks; and 200 g (7 oz.) of manufactured tobacco.

**For more information:**

- Border Information Services: 1-800-461-9999
- [www.cbsa-asfc.gc.ca](http://www.cbsa-asfc.gc.ca)