

Canada

advanced version

1 Geography

Canada is located in the northern Hemisphere, it borders with the USA in the south and north-east, where lie borders with Alaska. Canada is surrounded with oceans and has the longest coastline of all the countries in the world. There is Atlantic Ocean on the east, Pacific Ocean in the west and Arctic Ocean in the north. Islands like New Scotland, Newfoundland, Victoria, Baffin and Vancouver belong to the largest Canadian islands. Canada is the 2nd largest country in the world, but has only 36 million inhabitants. The climate varies from Arctic climate in the North to moderate climate in the east and west.

The longest river is Mackenzie River with its length over 1 700 km. Other long rivers are Yukon, St. Lawrence, Fraser and Columbia. There are several great lakes in the southern border with the USA and their names are Lake Superior, Ontario, Huron and Erie. Niagara falls are between lakes Ontario and Erie. Other great lakes are Great Bear Lake, Great Slave Lake and Lake Winnipeg. The highest mountain is Mount Logan with 5 959 metres.

2 History

The European settlers arrived to Canada in the 15th century. However Vikings discovered the land of Canada more than thousand years before. The first explorer John Cabot who sailed from Britain to Canada in 1497 discovered Newfoundland. Quebec was one of the first largest settlements established by French explorer. Quebec was taken by British corsairs, but soon retaken back by French troops during the 30 Years War in 17th century.

The competition between Britain and France over the lucrative trade on American continent resulted in Seven Years War. France lost the war and French territory became British. During the War of Independence, the newly formed USA hoped that Canada will join the war against Britain. However Canada did not go into war, because French-Canadians were tired from recent war and unlike the US colonists, Canadians needed to export their goods to Britain. The name of the British colony is derived from the native Indian tribes word “Kanata” that means a community or a village. In 1898 famous Klondike Gold Rush started in Northwest Territory of Canada.

Canada participated in both world wars. Canada as a part of British Empire sent 400 000 soldiers to Europe in the First World War to help Britain and France. In total 60 000 Canadians died in the First World War. During the Second World War Canada fought again with Allies and again paid high price, over 45 000 Canadians died. The Canadian process of independence started and Canada had its own flag with red maple leaf since 1965 and has its own constitution since 1982. Nowadays Canada is independent with its Prime Minister as head of Government, but with British monarch Queen Elisabeth II as head of state. Canada is part of many international organizations like United Nations, World Bank, International Monetary Fund, World Health Organization and NATO. Canadians soldiers are present in all the NATO missions and help in United Nations peacekeeping missions around the world.

3 Political system

Canada has its own Constitution since 1982 and has its independent federal parliamentary system. The head of state is British monarch Queen Elizabeth II. She is represented in Canada by Governor General. However, head of government has the real power and nowadays prime minister is Justin Trudeau.

The federal parliament which has legislative power consists of two houses: The House of Commons with 383 members that are elected by the people every four years and the Senate with 105 members that are appointed by Governor General on the advice of the prime minister. Canada is a bilingual state (English and French languages) since 1965.

4 National Symbol

Canadian Flag has three vertical stripes, two red stripes on sides and one white stripe in the middle with big red maple leaf.

5 Economy

Canada is a developed country with 10th largest economy in the world. Less than 10 % of country is suitable for farming, but despite that Canada is very effective in agriculture and is one of the largest wheat exporters in the world. In addition it produces livestock, oats, barley, fruit, vegetables and leather. Canada is also major exporter of lumber and paper.

Country is rich on natural resources like gold, uranium, copper and other metals. Canada has vast deposits of crude oil and natural gas (most oilfields are in Alberta province). Canada has 3rd largest proven oil reserves after Venezuela and Saudi Arabia. The dominant sector of economy are services, energy industry and to some extent manufacturing, finance, agriculture and fishing. Canadian dollar is significantly influenced by commodity prices. NAFTA (North American Free Trade Agreement) helps the free trade with the USA and Mexico.

6 Interesting information and places

The capital city is Ottawa, but the biggest city is Toronto. Other big cities are Vancouver, Quebec, Edmonton and Winnipeg.

Famous Niagara Falls between Ontario and Erie lakes is popular tourist attraction. The natural parks in Canada are beautiful thanks to its unique wildlife. Especially Banff National Park in Rocky Mountains in province Alberta is beautiful. The iconic building of Toronto is CN Tower. Tourists' popular places are also Old Quebec, Old Montreal and Gros Morne National Park.

The national sports of Canada are ice hockey and lacrosse. Other popular sports are baseball and rugby.

7 Důležitá slovíčka

Fonetická výslovnost není pro lepší srozumitelnost uvedena.

border with	(bórdr wit)	mít hranici s
surrounded	(s-raundyd)	obklopený
vary	(véry)	lišit se
settler	(setlr)	osadník
explore	(iks-plór)	prozkoumat
unlike	(an-lajk)	narozdíl od
derived	(dyrajvd)	odvozeno z
allies	(élájs)	spojenci
constitution	(konstitjůšn)	ústava
legislative power	(ledžisltiv pau-wr)	zákonodárná moc
elect	(ílekt)	zvolit
bilingual	(bilingjů-l)	dvojjazyčný
agriculture	(egri-kalčr)	zemědělství
livestock	(lajv stok)	chovný dobytek
oats	(outs)	oves
barley	(bárly)	ječmen
copper	(kopr)	měď
vast	(vást)	značný
deposit	(dyposit)	ložisko
natural resources	(né-č-rl ry-sórsys)	přírodní zdroje
to some extent	(tó sam iks-tent)	do jisté míry
significantly	(signifikntly)	značně
influence	(influenc)	ovlivnit