**Canada**

**When to travel** The weather patterns across Canada are relatively similar, despite the country’s size; with defined seasons of winter, spring, summer and autumn. Coastal regions are usually more moderate than the inner areas, and mountain ranges attract higher rainfall and snow in some areas than others - it is cold everywhere in winter and typically warm in most locations in summer (June to September). September marks the start of autumn, with spectacular foliage lasting into October. Springtime starts in late April through to early June and is a delightful time of year to visit as the snow melts to reveal the country’s vivid colours.

Whether on land, in the sea or in the sky, Canada is home to some of the most fascinating, remarkable and, at times, elusive wildlife in the whole world. Moose, elk and deer can all be found roaming freely in the forests and often pose for great photo opportunities. However take care if you’re searching for wolves or the famous members of the bear family found in Canada – black and grizzly. The most fearsome bear found in Manitoba is the polar bear, which can only be observed from a purpose built safety buggy. Off land the giant orca and the magnificent humpback whale grace the waters around Vancouver Island, and the planet’s largest animal – the blue whale – is a sight to behold if you are lucky enough, reaching up to 27 metres in length they can weigh as much as 30 elephants! If your eyes can be drawn away from the stunning scenery, look up to the skies and you could see any of Canada’s 426 bird species including the bald eagle, great blue heron, falcon and goose.

The Canadian Rockies are a nature lover’s idea of heaven and an adventurer’s playground. From hiking to skiing, ice climbing to white water rafting, the Rockies has every kind of terrain and climate, depending on the time of year. Visit the quaint resort of Banff and settle here while you head for the slopes, or use it as a base to head up to the equally impressive Lake Louise or Jasper. Don’t forget to keep your eyes peeled for moose, bears, bald eagles and more as you take in the amazing views of rugged mountains and soaring skies.

Ontario is Canada’s most populous province and even has two capitals; Ottawa, the federal capital and Toronto, the provincial capital. Home to five National Parks, Ontario also borders four of the five Great Lakes of North America and, of course, has its own immense and famous water feature – Niagara Falls. The impressive Toronto skyline boasts one of the world’s tallest freestanding structures – the CN Tower, so whether you’re looking for bright city lights or unspoilt natural landscapes, Ontario has it all.

Canada’s most westerly province is a territory of stunning landscapes and diverse attractions. There’s skiing, golfing, hiking and wildlife watching, unspoilt wilderness and sophisticated city galleries, museums and festivals abound. At the heart of British Columbia lies Vancouver, with its vibrant, laid-back Downtown area, while Vancouver Island is home to the capital city Victoria with amazing beaches, forests, beautiful valleys and a warm welcome. If it’s winter sports you are looking for then look no further than Whistler where skiing, snowboarding and snowmobiling can all be found.