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# Canada Camp Counsellor

Adventure Relaxation Culture

**Trip Name:** Canada Camp Counsellor **Trip Code:** CACC **Duration:** From 8 weeks

## Trip Highlights

- Enjoy a summer of a lifetime working as a Camp Counsellor in Canada!
- Mentor excited and enthusiastic youngsters as they make friends and have new adventures. You could lead them in anything from crafts to extreme sports.
- Gain invaluable skills in teamwork, responsibility, creativity and time management.
- Explore this fantastic country after camp ends, the options to travel are endless!

## Overview

Becoming a camp counsellor is the most challenging yet rewarding experience you'll ever have. This exciting programme gives you the chance to spend up to 8 weeks of your summer in one of Canada's beautiful locations whilst contributing your energies to the running of some of the most popular, respected and well-run activity camps in Canada.

Depending on the camp you are based at, activities you may lead can range from arts and crafts to kayaking to camping. As a camp counsellor you'll get to meet locals, gain international work experience, earn money to travel after camp and make the most of your working holiday in Canada.

Note: If you've not quite got the skills and experience for a Camp Counsellor position, then we do offer the opportunity to apply for a Counsellor in Training postion, which is unpaid however food and accommodation is included. This is a great way to gain experience to become a Camp Counsellor the following summer.

Please note this trip is not available to US citizens

## Destination Info

Canada is a combination of extraordinary landscapes, varying climates, friendly people, fascinating wildlife and of course maple syrup! Located north of the USA and south of the Arctic Pole, Canada lies in between the Atlantic

and Pacific Oceans.

**Vancouver**
Many have referred to Vancouver, British Columbia as the most beautiful city in the world. Surrounded by the Pacific Ocean and the majesty of the mountains, Vancouver truly has an awe inspiring effect on its visitors. Vancouver is also the gateway to any possible activity a traveller may want to do. From whale watching and shark fishing in the summer to heli-skiing and glacier hiking in the winter, in Vancouver you can do it all!

**Whistler**
Whistler is well known for its stunning scenery and most of all its skiing. Even if you are not travelling in the ski season, Whistler is a lovely place to visit in the warmer months boasting natural waterfalls, beautiful national parks and a range of outdoor activities from canoeing to caving.

**Ontario**
Known for its famous tourist hotspots; Toronto and Niagara Falls, you'll find this province has more to it than meets the eye when you discover its diverse environment, culture and history.

## Itinerary

You will be helping to look after the young campers, supporting them in their day-to-day lives and leading a range of adventure activities. As a camp mentor, you will find yourself being looked up to as a role model by the children who will rely on you to direct and take care of them while they are away from home, learning a new language, new skills and making friends. The positions are highly sought after and you get paid, so don’t miss out on this fantastic opportunity! Following an orientation in Vancouver you will move on to your summer camp. Placements are paid and the average wage is $10 per hour.

**Please note**: Your camp placement can be up to 8 weeks. The duration that you will be at camp can differ between 4 and 8 weeks, as it always depends on the demands of the camp, ie: how many campers they have and the dates of that particular camp.

# Canada Camp Counsellor

**Whistler and Vancouver Camps**
The camps in Whistler and Vancouver focus on sports, skills and interests that you, the counsellor, bring to camp. Past activities have included arts and crafts, football, volleyball, basketball, swimming and running.

**The Camp in London, Ontario**
This camp is focused on horseback riding and tennis – perfect for those of you who have experience in these activities. Counsellors will not lead these activities unless they are experts in these fields.

**Adventure Camp in Whistler**
This camp consists of 13-17 year old English or non-English speakers. Counsellors will be responsible for leading Extreme Sport activities such as kayaking, rock climbing, wilderness hikes and camping, mountain biking, etc. Great for outdoor enthusiasts!

Application process:

Once you have booked your place we will send you your application pack. Please ensure that you complete these and send them back to us as soon as possible so that we can start to make preparations for your trip.

1. Complete application forms and send them back to Real Gap as soon as possible

2. Apply for your visa (visa applications open around mid-January)

3. Our team in Canada will contact you via Skype for a pre-screening interview (an informal chat about you and what you are looking to gain from your time in Canada). These normally take place in February/March time

4. Real Gap will contact you when a potential placement has been found for you to arrange a convenient interview time (interviews generally take place in April)

5. You will be informed when you have been accepted for a position and an offer letter will be sent through

6. You can then go ahead and book your flights

## Accommodation

Your first night in Vancouver will be included (hostel dorm room). Any nights between then and arriving at the camp are not included in the programme fee. During camp you will live with the campers,accommodated in a dorm room. Accommodation and meals are provided as part of your job contract, the cost of which will be deducted from your salary.

## Programme Services and Facilities

### Internet

Internet access varies from campus to campus. The Vancouver and Ontario camps are located at universities so they will have access to the Internet. At the Whistler campus there is Internet access at the Whistler Adult School campus (which is close to the summer camp location but not in the same building) from Monday to Friday from 9am to 4:40pm excluding holidays. You will be able to use the Internet when you are not on duty.

### Telephone

In the cities and resort areas, like the ones you will be working in, you will be able to get a signal on your mobile phone. You might want to consider purchasing a Canadian SIM card and letting friends and family know the number. You can also get your hands on an international phone card (like a Real Gap one!) and use a public payphone, which you will find on most streets.

The phone code for Canada is +1. To call the UK from Canada simply dial 011 44, drop the zero and dial the number. For example, to call Real Gap from Canada dial 011 44 1892 516 164.To place an outgoing direct dialled international call, dial 011 44 for the UK, 011 49 for Germany, followed by the telephone number. For example to call Real Gap Experience dial 011 44 1892 516164 / 011 49 69 222226 475.

### Laundry

Laundry facilities will be available onsite at each camp.

### Money

This depends on what you think you want to spend your money on! You will need enough money to get you by until your first paycheck, so you will need to consider any activities you may want to do. For your reference here are the most common banks available: Royal Bank, Scotiabank, TD Canada Trust and North Shore Credit Union, Bank of Montreal and CIBC. Before travelling you can research the different types of accounts and see if your account in the UK has a "sister" bank in Canada.

**Please note:** If you are based at an alternative camp to Whistler, Vancouver or Ontario all information above may vary.

## Meals

Meals are provided for you at camp. You will have meals with the campers in the dining area.

## What's Included

- Camp Counsellor job offer
- Orientation on arrival
- Walking Tour of Vancouver
- Processing of Social Insurance Number
- Mail holding service
- One night hostel stay in Vancouver
- Accommodation and meals provided as part of the job offer
- Full support and assistance from your co-ordinator throughout your time in Canada
- Buddy list of other participants before you go
- 24 hour support number and contact for emergencies

## What's Not Included

- Flights, inc internal flights
- Travel Insurance
- Visa
- Police background check (approx. £35)
- Transfer from Vancouver to the camp

## Is This Trip For You?

To become a camp counsellor you need to be energetic, lively and ready for a challenging and rewarding summer!

**You must have previous experience working with children and/or previous summer camp experience.** Certifications in sports like canoeing, kayaking, archery, swimming, rock climbing and a driver's license are also considered assets to have. Basic First Aid is also required, although you do not need to have this at time of application. You can register and take a first aid course once you have a job offer.

Note: If you've not quite got the skills and experience for a Camp Counsellor position, then we do offer the opportunity to apply for a Counsellor in Training postion, which is unpaid however food and accommodation is included. This is a great way to gain experience to become a Camp Counsellor the following summer.

## What to Pack

Please note that this kit list is intended to help you plan what you may need to take with you and therefore, you may not need all of the listed items on your travels nor is it exhaustive.

### Personal Admin

- Documents
- Passport
- Driving Licence
- Visa paperwork
- First Aid Certificate
- Job Contract
- NHS card or a National Insurance card or proof of entitlement to your National Health Service
- Insurance Policy document or card
- Credit Card, for emergencies and booking internal flights

### General

- Journal or diary
- Towel
- Toiletries
- Alarm Clock
- Torch
- Hand wash for clothes
- Books/games for entertainment
- Camera
- Ipod/CD walkman/speakers/headphones

### Clothing

- Comfortable clothing
- Sturdy but comfortable footwear
- Casual clothes
- Swimming costume
- Something smart
- Something warm

### Medical Kit

- Medication
- First Aid Kit
- Mosquito Repellent (to contain at least 50% DEET)

## Minimum Age

Minimum age 18 and maximum age 30 due to working holiday visa restrictions.

## Flights

It is very important that you do not book your flights until you have a confirmed job at a camp and your visa application has been successful.

Once your camp position has been confirmed at your camp and you have received your visa, then you can go ahead and book your flights. Your flight to Canada should arrive into Vancouver for your programme start date (which is the day before your orientation). Your return flight should be arranged for after your job contract ends unless you wish to stay longer in Canada independently.

To book your flights, please contact your travel advisor who will do their best to get you the best deal on the day.

Please provide them with your full name as it is stated in your passport. Before you make the call please make sure you have your required departure dates, return dates and other details you may require.

It is important that once you have booked your flights you add these details to your Online account, or alternatively you can contact us with your departure date, the flight number and arrival time at your destination.

## FAQs

1. **Do I have to be a student for this programme?**
   No, you do not have to be a student for this programme, however you must be eligible for a work visa for Canada to participate. If you are a UK citizen you must be aged between 18 and 30 to be eligible for a visa. The number of general work visas for Canada are very limited each year so you should apply as early as possible. Please check visas are available before booking the programme.

2. **How much experience do I need?**
   Most camps prefer experience volunteering with children i.e soccer school coach or previous experience working at a summer camp. Inexperienced applicants should apply early as there is the option to go for the Counsellor in Training (CIT) position which is unpaid but includes food and accommodation.

3. **How do I get from the orientation in Vancouver to the camp?**
   You will need to make your own way to the camp from Vancouver. The team there will assist you with booking further transport if you need it. Please note that this cost is not included.

4. **Is the job guaranteed?**
   No. You must be successful at the interview to gain the position.

5. **When is the best time to apply?**
   As soon as possible! Interviews take place from January to March so make sure you apply before then! Application deadline (for complete applications, not bookings) will me mid-March.

6. **Is food and accommodation included?**
   Nearly all camps will provide food and accommodation which is deducted from your wages if you are a camp counsellor or included if you are a counsellor in training.

7. **Do I have to stay the full duration at camp?**
   Yes, you must be able to commit to the full length of the camp which can be up to 8 weeks.

## DBS

This trip requires a Police Check to be carried out - please contact us for further information on how to do this.

## Support & Advice

Your safety is paramount which is why all our programs have been visited and assessments have been conducted to ensure any major risks have been minimized.

You will be assigned a personal travel advisor who will co-ordinate your program with you. Feel free to contact them at any time before you go, or when you are on your travels. They will provide you with competent assistance and help with any questions or advice you may need during your stay.

In addition, you will have access to a 24 hour emergency contact number so you can contact one of our staff at any time should you need to. In addition our overseas partners and coordinators are on hand in-country to assist you.

## Financial Security

We know that the last thing you want to worry about when you're planning your trip of a lifetime is whether your money is in safe hands. As a leading global gap year provider it's our job to make sure your finances are secure, so when you book with us you can be confident that we do just that.

Real Gap Experience is part of TUI Travel Plc, one of the largest travel organisations in the world, and these days in the travel industry, large means secure.

## Insurance

Whether you're traveling for two weeks or two years, trekking the Amazon in Ecuador or on safari in Africa, insurance is an essential part of your adventure and will help you enjoy your travels, secure in the knowledge that you have the protection you need. In fact, everyone traveling with us must have adequate cover before their trip begins.

Of course you are free to buy insurance from any provider, however at Real Gap Experience, we have partnered with World Nomads to offer policies that have been specifically designed to meet the needs of global travel. If you think you're already covered by an existing policy, such as those offered by credit card providers, check the policy wording very carefully to ensure it covers you for your Real Gap Experience.

For more information on travel insurance please contact us to speak to one of our travel advisors.

## Money Matters

The unit of currency in Canada is the Canadian dollar (CAD, symbol $) with notes in denominations of CAD 5, 10, 20, 50 and 100. Coins come in denominations of 1, 5, 10, 25 Cents (¢) and the $1 (loonie) and $2 (toonie or twoonie) coin.

Many terminals such as airports, bus, train and ferry stations have ATMs where you will be able to withdraw cash. Most are linked to international networks, the most common being Cirrus, Plus, Star and Maestro and the machines all dispense Canadian dollars.

Meal, Inexpensive Restaurant 12.14 $

Domestic Beer (0.5 litre draught) 4.52 $
Coke/Pepsi (0.33 litre bottle) 1.64 $
Water (0.33 litre bottle) 1.42 $

(Prices quoted in CAD Dollars)

## Passports and Visas

You should ensure that you have a full passport that is valid for 6 months beyond the intended length of stay. It is your responsibility to have the correct personal documents and to obtain your own visa, if one is necessary, in accordance with the regulations of the country you are to visit. The information provided below is to help you with that process. We are not responsible for the actions of local immigration and customs officials, whether at points of entry or otherwise, and any subsequent effects.

For stays of up to 6 months, the following nationals DO NOT require a visa: holders of British passport endorsed British Citizen, British National Overseas Citizen & British Overseas Territories Citizen, nationals of Andorra, Antigua & Barbuda, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Barbados, Belgium, Botswana, Brunei Darussalam, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Rep, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Hong Kong (S.A.R. passport holders only), Iceland, Ireland Rep, Italy, Japan, Korea (South), Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania*, Luxembourg, Malta, Mexico, Monaco, Namibia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Papua New Guinea, Poland*, Portugal, St. Kitts & Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent & Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Spain, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, United States, Vatican City & permanent residents of United States holding Permanent resident or Resident Alien Card (Form I-551).
* must have an e-passport.

Visitors must depart Canada within 6 months from the date of arrival unless otherwise indicated upon arrival.

**If you are doing a working programme in Canada**
You will need a working holiday visa to take part in this programme - it is your responsibility to obtain your own visa. Please check visa availability before booking. For information on visas and how to apply please visit the website of your local Canadian Embassy.

The working holiday visa is available to anyone age 18-30 from one of the following countries: UK, Australia, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Finland, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Korea, Netherlands, New Zealand or Sweden. Please check that there are still Open Work Authorisation visas available before applying to the programme for the current year.

For the most up to date information on passports and visa requirements please visit:
http://canada.embassyhomepage.com/

## Cultural Considerations

Canadians are similar to Europeans and Americans in terms of what does and doesn't offend them, but it is always best to be polite and respectful of the culture of the country that you are visiting. Canada is a multi–racial/multi–faith/multi-cultural nation, so it is difficult to pinpoint a particular Canadian culture, though it is perhaps the

French region of the country that has a more pronounced set of customs and traditions. Here are a few ways to make sure that you don't offend your hosts:

- The Canadian people are extremely polite and expect similar behaviour from visitors.
- Be aware of personal space when you are conversing with Canadians, don't get in too close!
- Canadians can be offended by being told that they are practically the same country as the USA – it most certainly isn't!
- Do not assume that all French speakers are Quebecois.
- It is polite to take a gift with you if you are visiting someone's house.
- It is considered a sign of respect to try and speak French in Quebec province – so give it a go!

### Tipping

If you do choose to eat out during your time in Canada please keep in mind local customs. Generally for lunches out a 10%-15% tip is customary and for dinners a 15%-20% tip is customary.

## Vaccinations & Health

Travel health can often be something people forget about before going away, but a little preparation and knowledge can go a long way to help you stay fit and healthy while abroad. The risks to your health whilst travelling will vary depending on your general health and the type of activities you are going to be partaking in and the length of your stay.

Since we are not medically qualified, it is recommended that you consult with your Doctor or a recognised Travel Medical Advisory Service who will assess your particular health risks before recommending vaccines and/or anti-malarial tablets and advising you on what precautions you should take.

## Safety

As in most countries there are people who try to take advantage of tourists. The following advice is intended to help you stay safe:

- Always keep your personal items such as passport, money and camera with you and in a safe place. You can buy mini padlocks to prevent people from going into your bag without your permission.
- Don't carry excess amounts of cash
- Wherever possible, walk around in groups, especially after dark, and avoid taking short cuts
- When you are out do not leave your drinks unattended, as there have been reports of drinks being spiked

### ATM Theft

It is very likely that you will need to withdraw cash at some point during your travels. Please be cautious when withdrawing money from an ATM and ensure that you are vigilant of other people near the ATM, especially those that offer unsolicited assistance if you card is detained. It has been recognised that individuals are operating unlawful withdrawals by placing 'traps' in ATMs whereby personal bank cards are being detained, causing the victim to believe their card transaction has not been completed, and leaving their bank card in the ATM which is then later retrieved by the thief.

If your card is confiscated or you are concerned that your card has been tampered with, please report immediately to the bank or cancel your card.

## Language Guide

One quarter of the Canadian population are French speaking, with a fair number of them speaking very little English. Although the residents of the French speaking parts have their own slang and accents etc, they will still understand you if you can speak European French.

## Food & Drink

You will find all your normal fast food options, as well as a good range of ethnic dishes if that's your cup of tea. However, for those seeking proper Canadian fare, you can try a staple of game and fish. You will find a lot of European influences in the cooking, but pork is a popular ingredient of the Quebec region, along with all the French style dishes. Fish is something to try all over Canada, varieties varying between regions and you can even bite into a Caribou steak in the Artic regions.

You cannot leave Canada without having local maple syrup - drench something in it, drizzle some on a snowball

with a stick to make an icepop or buy some in the airport to take home to your mum!

## Public Holidays

To view a list of the public holidays for Canada, please see the link below:

www.timeanddate.com/holidays/canada/

## Weather

The sheer size of Canada means that its climate varies dramatically. For a better understanding of the weather, we have divided the country into five different areas:

Canadian Prairies - Summers here tend to be short and warm with showers. Winters can get very cold with freezing winds.

Eastern Canada - Conditions tend to change from day to day with rain and cloud never far away throughout the year. Summers here vary and are generally bright, although sea fogs are common. Winters can be cold with snow and few hours of sunshine a day.

Northern Canada – Home to extreme winter weather conditions! Snow covers this land for most of the year. Its summer is very short and accompanied by cold winds, frost and snow.

Southern Canada – The place to be! Southern Canada plays host to the sunniest and warmest summers in Canada, though summer storms can bring cold and wet conditions. Temperatures drop dramatically in the winter and the lakes freeze in December through to March (if you're lucky though, there may even be mild spells in the middle of winter).

Western Canada - Coastal areas tend to have sunny summers and mild winters. Coastal mountainous areas can be wet with rain and snow. Inland areas tend to be protected from the worst weather and are generally drier though can drop down to freezing during winter.

## Time

Canada uses six primary time zones. From east to west they are Newfoundland Time (GMT -3.5 hours), Atlantic Time (-4 hours), Eastern Time (-5 hours), Central Time (-6 hours), Mountain Time (-7 hours), and Pacific Time (-8 hours).

Daylight Saving Time begins at 2am local time on the first Sunday in April. On the last Sunday in October areas on Daylight Saving Time fall back to Standard Time at 2am.

## Electricity

Electricity in Canada uses 120 Volts at 60 Hertz. Outlets in Canada generally accept 1 type of plug:

Flat blade plug

## Trip Note Disclaimer

The information contained in this trip note has been compiled with great care and is provided in good faith. Any itinerary featured is correct at time of release. However, our itineraries may change as make improvements that result from travellers' comments, our own research or from time to time as a result of reommended travel advice.

You can rest assured that it is always our goal to provide you with the most rewarding trip and experience ever!

## Our Details

If you have any questions about this trip please do not hesitate to contact us and we'll be happy to answer them.

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