



Consular Services

Advice for Canadians In the Southeastern U.S.

To make the most of your stay in Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, or Tennessee, and to prevent problems before they occur, we encourage you to follow these recommendations.

Consulate General of Canada in Atlanta



- **Check our United States Travel Report at www.travel.gc.ca/travelreports** for the latest safe-travel information.
- **A Certificate of Canadian Citizenship is not a travel document.** A Canadian passport is the only reliable and universally accepted travel and identification document available to Canadians for the purpose of international travel. Canadian citizens returning to Canada who present other documents, such as a Certificate of Canadian Citizenship, birth certificate, provincial driver's license, or foreign passport, instead of a Canadian passport, may face delays or be denied boarding by transport companies.
- **Protect your passport.** A Canadian passport is a valuable document that should be kept in a safe place at all times. If you are outside Canada, you must report the loss or theft of your passport to the nearest Canadian government office abroad and to the local police. **The Consulate General of Canada in Atlanta can offer you emergency passport services** under certain circumstances.
- **Obtain all required visas or permits** if you will be marrying, studying, residing, or working in the U.S. For more information on documentation requirements, please refer to the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services website at www.uscis.gov.
- **A maximum admission period of six months** is the norm for Canadian retirees wintering in the U.S. The length of time you are allowed to visit is decided by U.S. officials when you enter the country. Be careful not to overstay your allotted time, as it may lead to complications.
- **Be aware that if you break U.S. laws, you are subject to the local judicial system.** The U.S. Zero Tolerance Policy imposes severe penalties for the possession of even a small amount of an illegal drug, and many Canadians get into serious trouble for buying, selling, using, or transporting drugs in the U.S.

- **The hurricane season in the Southeastern U.S. extends from June to late November**, when flooding and heavy rain can occur. There may be disruptions in transport, utilities, emergency and medical care, and food, fuel, and water supplies. Visit the National Hurricane Center website at www.nhc.noaa.gov for information. Check with your travel agent or tour operator to confirm your travel plans prior to departure.
- **Invest in the best travel insurance you can afford** to avoid the high cost of trip cancellation, hospitalization, medical evacuation, or another emergency. A single accident or medical evacuation could result in years of debt for you or your family if you are unprepared. Your provincial or territorial health insurance is almost certainly not adequate abroad. It is essential to obtain supplementary travel insurance before leaving Canada.
- **Sign up for the Registration of Canadians Abroad service at www.travel.gc.ca/register**, so we can contact and assist you in an emergency abroad, such as a natural disaster or civil unrest, or inform you of a family emergency at home.
- **Join Connect2Canada**, a virtual network for Canadians and friends of Canada in the United States. Connect2Canada is a way to exchange news and ideas and find out what is happening in the U.S. related to Canada. You can sign up to the network at www.connect2canada.com.

In an emergency in Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, or Tennessee, contact us at:
Consulate General of Canada
 1175 Peachtree Street N.E., 100 Colony Square,
 Suite 1700, Atlanta, GA 30361
Tel.: 404-532-2000
Emergency toll-free to Ottawa (24 hours):
 1-888-949-9993
E-mail: atnta-cs@international.gc.ca
Web: www.atlanta.gc.ca