Hiring a Car in Canada: What You Need to Know

Heading to Canada for maple syrup, mountain passes or moose-spotting? Hiring a car here is your passport to wide-open roads and wild adventures. To help you roll like a local, here are some handy tips—plus the need-to-knows if you're hiring through our trusted partner, **Hertz**.

Right on Red (Yes, really)

Yes, you *can* usually turn right on a red light after stopping—unless a sign says otherwise. In Quebec's Montreal Island, it's a hard no.

Automatic & Petrol-Powered

Most Canadian hire cars are **automatic** and run on **petrol (gasoline)**. Manuals are rare, and diesel cars are pretty much unicorns.

Kilometres, Not Miles

Canada is firmly metric. Speed limits and distances are in **km/h and km**, so plan accordingly when estimating travel time.

Stop Signs

At 4-way stops, everyone comes to a halt. First to stop, first to go. If you arrive at the same time, yield to the right. No staring contest required.

Cross border travel

Driving into the USA? If you're returning to a Canada location this is fine. Vehicles are not permitted to travel into Alaska, the Yukon, the Northwest Territories, Nunavut, or Mexico.

Drivers Age

The minimum drivers age across Canada is 20 (but Quebec is 18). If you're under 25, a young driver's fee applies. Some car classes are off-limits for young renters, including electric vehicles.

Insurance Options

All rentals include Loss Damage Waiver plus liability cover up to CAD 1,000,000.
Optional add-ons:

- Deductible waiver
- Premium emergency roadside service

Fuel policy

Collect it full, return it full. Unless your package includes 1 tank of fuel.

Unlimited mileage

Every Hertz Canada rental comes with unlimited mileage, so whether it's Banff to Jasper or Halifax to Peggy's Cove, you're good to go.

Deposits & Payments

At pick-up, authorisation will be added to any estimated charges payable locally plus CAD 350. The credit card will need to be in the lead driver's name. Debit cards issued outside Canada (Visa, Mastercard or Discover) are accepted. Canadian-issued debit cards are not.

Other Canadian quirks

Flashing green lights in some provinces mean you have the right of way to turn left.

Wildlife warnings are serious: moose and deer can (and do) wander across highways.

From poutine pit-stops to epic mountain passes—your Canadian road trip starts here.
Happy travels from Virgin Atlantic

Disclaimer: Information, pricing and terms are valid as of October 2026 and subject to change.