

## 9 Scenic Canada Road Trips Within 2 Hours of the U.S. Border

From Rocky Mountain drives to coastal byways in Nova Scotia.

BY CALEIGH ALLEYNE, August 10, 2021



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After over a year of border restrictions, Canada is now allowing [fully vaccinated Americans to visit](#)—and a U.S. to Canada road trip is a great way to take advantage, while also avoiding the often-crowded airport experience. For travelers looking to head north of the border this summer in the privacy of their own car, these are nine scenic routes that we love, with tips on where to stay, eat, and more. The best part? Each of these Canada road trip itineraries has starting points in the U.S., so you can enjoy every bit of the drive.

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While several of the New England states border Québec, the capital city of Québec City is in the Eastern part of the province, closest to Maine. This Francophone city feels more like [Europe](#) than other areas of Canada, with narrow alleyways and cobblestone streets. Continue your road trip along the St. Lawrence River to scenic Baie-Saint Paul in Charlevoix for country walks, cheese shops, and the [Galerie d'art Iris](#).

**Where to stop:** Mark the [Montmorency Falls](#) on your map for a quick stop just outside of Québec City, on your way to Charlevoix. The magnificent falls tower 99 feet higher than Niagara Falls and adventurous travelers can explore them by cable car, a [suspended bridge](#), or zip-line.

**Where to eat:** Stop by the [Fairmont Le Château Frontenac](#) for an afternoon tea at the castle, or dine onsite at Champlain Restaurant or Sam Bistro.

**Where to stay:** [Auberge Saint-Antoine](#) in the Old Port of Quebec City is a Relais & Châteaux that has preserved relics from the archeological dig within the property. In Baie-Saint Paul, the [Hôtel & Spa Le Germain Charlevoix](#) blends a peaceful escape in a charming town with sophisticated amenities and an onsite Spa Nordique Le Germain.

### **The Southwest Nova Scotia Route: Bar Harbor, Maine to Yarmouth, Nova Scotia**

When the [CAT ferry](#) that travels between [Bar Harbor, Maine](#), and Yarmouth, Nova Scotia, resumes in spring 2022, you can get from coast to coast on this high-speed catamaran in just over three hours. RVs, pickups, SUVs, cars, tour buses, motorcycles, and bicycles are welcome aboard—making this the best way for road trippers to cross the Atlantic Ocean into Canada. Once in Nova Scotia, drive along the jaw-dropping coastline along the 101 to Halifax, and back down the 103 to the ferry in Yarmouth.

**Where to stop:** Plan to make several stops during your road trip, in the small coastal towns of Digby, Lunenburg, and Mahone Bay. After Halifax, head to [Peggy's Cove Lighthouse](#) to visit one of the most recognizable sites in Canada.

**Where to eat:** A trip to Nova Scotia isn't complete with indulging in fresh seafood. Swing by one of the stalls at [Halifax Seaport Farmer's Market](#), or grab a lobster roll along the water's edge in one of the small towns that you visit along the way.

**Where to stay:** Break up your drive by staying a night or two in downtown Halifax. For a touch of history, book your stay at the [Lord Nelson Hotel and Suites](#) by the Halifax Public Gardens. For a contemporary option, check out [Muir, Autograph Collection Hotel](#)—slated to [open in fall 2021](#).



Emerald Lake, South Klondike Highway - Getty

### **Alaska-Canadian Highway: Alaska to Haines Junction, Yukon**

The 1390-mile route along the Alaska-Canadian Highway takes you through the Pacific Northwest, from [Seattle](#) to British Columbia, and then into Alaska and the Yukon. For a shorter jaunt, take just the northern