

So You Want To Be Canadian? Unlocking the Secrets of the Great White North

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So, You Want to Be Canadian: All About the Most Fascinating People in the World and the Magical Place

They Call Home by Kerry Colburn

★★★★☆ 4.3 out of 5

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Welcome, curious souls, to the enigmatic and enchanting land of Canada! Are you ready to embark on a literary adventure that will unravel the mysteries and reveal the hidden charms of this vast and captivating nation? If the thought of maple syrup, hockey, and poutine fills you with an inexplicable yearning, then you've come to the right place.

In this comprehensive guide, 'So You Want to Be Canadian', we'll guide you through the labyrinthine maze of Canadian culture, traditions, and lifestyle. From the nuances of 'eh?' to the art of winter survival, you'll learn

everything you need to know to assimilate seamlessly into the fabric of this vibrant and welcoming society.

Chapter 1: Understanding Canadian Values and Beliefs

At the heart of Canadian identity lies a set of core values that shape the way Canadians think, act, and interact with the world. These values include:

- **Politeness and Respect:** Canadians are renowned for their politeness and respect towards others, often going out of their way to be courteous and considerate.
- **Tolerance and Inclusivity:** Canada is a multicultural society that embraces diversity and welcomes people from all backgrounds, fostering a sense of belonging and acceptance.
- **Humility and Modesty:** Canadians tend to be humble and modest about their accomplishments, avoiding excessive self-promotion or bragging.
- **Environmentalism:** Canadians take pride in protecting their natural environment and actively support sustainable practices.
- **Social Justice:** Canadians believe in social justice and work towards creating a more equitable and fair society for all.

Chapter 2: Navigating Canadian Social Customs

To truly embrace the Canadian experience, it's essential to understand the social customs and etiquette that govern everyday life:

- **The Art of Small Talk:** Canadians are masters of small talk, using it to break the ice, make connections, and build relationships.
- **Using 'Eh?':** This ubiquitous interjection is a subtle but powerful way to express agreement, surprise, or uncertainty.
- **Tipping Etiquette:** Tipping is customary in Canada, with a standard of 15-20% for services like dining and taxi rides.
- **Apologizing Profusely:** Canadians apologize profusely, even for minor inconveniences, as a way of showing politeness and avoiding confrontation.
- **Hockey Obsession:** Hockey is deeply ingrained in Canadian culture, and attending a hockey game is a quintessential experience.

Chapter 3: Deciphering Canadian Slang and Expressions

Canadian slang and expressions are a colorful tapestry of linguistic curiosities:

- **Double-Double:** A coffee with two servings of cream and two servings of sugar, a beloved Canadian breakfast essential.
- **Loonie and Toonie:** The one-dollar and two-dollar coins, respectively, named after the images of a loon and a polar bear.
- **BC Bud:** A slang term for high-quality marijuana, originating from British Columbia.
- **Mickey:** A 375ml bottle of alcohol, popular for its convenience and affordability.

- **Zed:** The Canadian pronunciation of the letter 'Z', distinct from the American 'Zee'.

Chapter 4: Embracing Canadian Traditions and Celebrations

Canada is a nation steeped in traditions and celebrations that reflect its rich history and cultural diversity:

- **Canada Day:** July 1st is a national holiday celebrating Canada's independence, marked by parades, fireworks, and festivities.
- **Thanksgiving:** A time to gather with loved ones and give thanks, often celebrated with a traditional turkey dinner.
- **Winterlude:** A month-long festival in Ottawa featuring ice sculptures, skating rinks, and winter activities.
- **Poutine:** A Canadian culinary icon consisting of fries topped with gravy and cheese curds.
- **Maple Syrup:** Canada produces over 70% of the world's maple syrup, making it a national treasure and a staple ingredient in many dishes.

Chapter 5: Exploring Canadian Arts and Culture

Canada boasts a vibrant arts and culture scene that showcases the nation's creativity and diversity:

- **Literature:** Canada has produced renowned authors like Margaret Atwood, Alice Munro, and Mordecai Richler, whose works explore Canadian identity and themes.
- **Music:** Canadian musicians have made significant contributions to various genres, including folk, rock, pop, and electronic music.

- **Film and Television:** Canadian films and TV shows often focus on Canadian experiences and perspectives, gaining international recognition.
- **Visual Arts:** Canadian artists have created iconic works of painting, sculpture, photography, and installation art.
- **Performing Arts:** Canada has a thriving performing arts scene with renowned ballet, theater, and opera companies.

Chapter 6: Discovering Canadian Nature and Geography

Canada's vast and breathtaking natural landscapes are a defining feature of its identity:

- **Rocky Mountains:** A majestic mountain range stretching across western Canada, offering stunning hiking, skiing, and wildlife viewing opportunities.
- **Great Lakes:** A series of five interconnected lakes on the Canada-US border, home to a wealth of aquatic life and coastal cities.
- **Niagara Falls:** One of the most powerful waterfalls in the world, a breathtaking natural wonder that attracts millions of visitors annually.
- **Northern Lights:** The Aurora Borealis is a celestial spectacle visible in the northern regions of Canada, creating ethereal displays of dancing lights.
- **Wildlife:** Canada is home to an abundance of wildlife, including moose, bears, wolves, and whales.

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As you embark on your journey to embrace all things Canadian, remember that becoming truly Canadian is not merely about adopting a set of customs or mastering the local slang. It's about understanding the values that underpin this nation, respecting its traditions, and appreciating its unique identity. 'So You Want to Be Canadian' empowers you with the knowledge and insights you need to navigate this extraordinary country with confidence and enthusiasm.

So, whether you're considering making Canada your new home or simply curious about the enigmatic allure of the Great White North, this comprehensive guide will serve as your indispensable companion. Embrace the Canadian spirit, discover the hidden gems, and unlock the secrets that make Canada such an captivating and unforgettable land.



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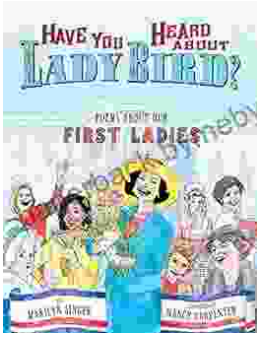
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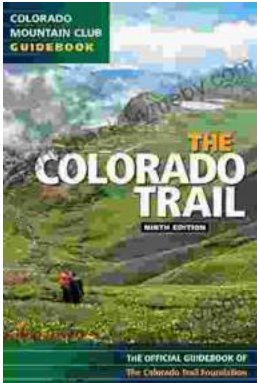
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