



WHY CANADA?

SPIRITUAL NEED

Mission trips in western Canada look a bit different than they do in Honduras or Malawi. While there aren't as many opportunities to meet physical needs (the average Canadian is wealthier than the average American), there is the chance to meet social and spiritual needs.

What Canadians need most is to know there is a God who loves them so much that He would send His Son to redeem them by grace.

Most Canadians have never heard this good news.

CONVENIENCE

International mission trips can often be intimidating. Teams typically have to navigate language barriers, cultural differences, political instability, and high costs. Canada provides a much lower barrier to entry: Western Canadians speak English (not French), dress just like people in your church (perhaps a little more warmly!), eat the same foods, listen to the same music and shop in many of the same stores. Although it is not the US, it is familiar enough to serve as a great introduction to international mission trips. And for churches that have dealt with language and cultural barriers in other areas of the world, Canada can provide a welcome opportunity to create relationships and do ministry without those difficulties.

TRANSFERABLE

Because Canada is so similar to the US, nearly all of what your team does here is directly transferable back home. We will train them how to do effective relational and event-driven evangelism in our community, and they can put those skills to work back in your part of the States!

COST EFFECTIVE

Also, because the American dollar is currently so much stronger than the Canadian dollar, a mission trip to Canada costs about 30% less when factoring in the exchange rate! (More details regarding cost can be found in the "How much will it cost" section.)

WHAT SORT OF MINISTRY WOULD WE DO?

We have scheduled ministry activities throughout the year that fit into the natural rhythms of our community and the weather of Alberta. Please visit our booking form to see what sort of ministry activities are available, and the calendar dates on which we have them scheduled.

WHERE WOULD WE STAY?

After you book your date with Connect Church your first step is to immediately reserve a location to stay. We recommend one of these locations:

The address of Connect Church is:

1001 53rd Ave NE
Calgary, AB T2E6X9

Hotels very close to our church building:

Wingate by Wyndham Calgary Airport
Comfort Inn & Suites Airport North
Wyndham Garden Calgary Airport
Best Western Plus Port O' Call Hotel
Sandman Signature Calgary Airport Hotel
Executive Residency by Best Western Calgary

All of these hotels are within 5 minutes of our building. Please read reviews before booking as we have not stayed in all of them.

AirBnB HOUSE If you have a team less than 12 this is a very ideal option for you. There are local, close by house rentals you could have for the week that would include a kitchen and multiple living rooms and space to connect with your team more than you would find in a hotel. Search for houses near Evanston. [Get a \\$45 off coupon here for first time users or new accounts: www.airbnb.ca/c/ambers7629](https://www.airbnb.ca/c/ambers7629)

Here is a list I have made of some airbnb's that might fit your needs:

<https://www.airbnb.ca/wishlists/v/1125127303?s=10>

Canadian National Baptist Mission Centre in Cochrane, AB (30 minutes from Connect Church) The mission centre has dorm style rooms with 2 sets of bunk beds and one full bed in each room with one bathroom per room. This site does overlook the mountains.

Quotes are in USD

1 person per room- \$35/night

2 people per room- \$50/night

3-4 people per room- \$70/night

5-7 people per room- \$85/night

Kitchen & chapel (large meeting space) available for extra \$50/day. **CONTACT: (403) 932-5688 x136 EMAIL: Missioncentre@cnbc.ca**

Canadian National Baptist Seminary in Cochrane, AB (30 minutes away from Connect Church) Dormitory apartments. \$75 CAD per person/per week. This is on the same property as the mission centre but have a "townhouse" vibe instead of a dorm set up.

CONTACT: Brenda Ryan 403-932-6622 x260

Ambrose University in Calgary, AB (25 minutes away from Connect Church) College dorms, 2 people per room. \$35 CAD per night *only available in the summer. Ideal for large youth groups

CONTACT: Amanda Stephenson: (403) 410-2921

Southern Alberta Institute of Technology in Calgary, AB (30 minutes away from Connect Church) College dorms. Contact for pricing and options. *only available in the summer. Ideal for large youth groups CONTACT: Toll-free:1-877-284-7248

WHAT ABOUT FOOD? OUR GROUP REALLY LIKES TO EAT!

Food is particularly expensive in Canada. Cooking your own meals in a large kitchen (such as the one available at the CNBC Mission Centre) can significantly reduce your costs, but it is time consuming, and requires shopping trips and team members doing meal prep and the Mission Centre is 30 minutes away from the site you will be serving in during the day. Our church building does not have a full kitchen but we do have a sink, fridge and microwave.

If you decide to eat out, fast food will run you \$15-20 per person, and a restaurant will be approximately \$25-30 per person. A large pizza is \$20.

As we mentioned earlier, these prices are in CAD, so the costs will actually be about 30% - 35% less due to the favourable exchange rate.

WHAT TRANSPORTATION OPTIONS DO WE HAVE?

Book your flight into Calgary International Airport (airport code YYC).

For ground transportation, you will need to contact one of our local rental car agencies to see what vehicles they have available. 12/15 passenger vans are difficult to find in Calgary; most teams have rented multiple minivans/SUVs for their team instead. Also, gas in Calgary is \$6-7 per gallon; don't forget to factor that into your budget.

NOTE: Public transportation is a viable option. You can make bus and train connections to get around the city, but it will take you a long time to arrive at your destination. (For example, Ambrose University is 25 minutes from our house by car, but nearly an hour and a half by train and bus!) The train station does not run to our Church building but the bus station does. (This is not the best option in winter as you still have to walk about a block) Public transportation is only useful if you are staying in the city, not at the mission centre.

The cheapest option for renting a car/van is by using the **Turo app**. It is like airbnb for cars. Be sure to book in advance as there is a screening process for first time users. We have used this app many times and had a great experience.

Here are some other car rental options you can try:

Avis Car Rental -Airport Rd NE (403) 221-1700

Budget -Airport Rd NE (403) 226-1550

Dollar Rent a Car -Airport Rd NE (403) 221-1806

Enterprise Rent-A-Car -2000 Airport Rd NE (403) 233-8021

National Car Rental -Airport Rd NE (403) 221-1690

In some cases depending on your team size it might be cheapest to split your team up in small groups and pay for Uber trips instead of renting a van & paying for gas. We have a very active Uber culture in Calgary.

HOW MUCH WILL IT COST?

To figure out your team cost you will need to know the following:

- Round trip flight per person
- Location and cost of housing per person
- Food budget per person (cooking vs. eating out)
- Transportation cost per person
- Excursion or fun day cost

Here is a **hypothetical** 15 person team from Tampa. Your costs may be more or less depending on your location, and do not include the cost of obtaining your passport if you do not yet have one.

Round trip flight (Tampa-Calgary) - \$700/person

Room (Mission Centre, including meeting space & kitchen)

- \$175/person

Food (from grocery store) \$200/person

Transportation (mini vans and gas) - \$100/person

Excursion/eating out expenses - \$150/person

Total per person: \$1325

WHAT TO EXPECT

Connect Church leadership will be working very diligently to ensure your team has an organized and meaningful missions experience. We will supply you with a daily quiet time devotional, but we encourage each team to have group devotional times to celebrate and debrief the day's events.

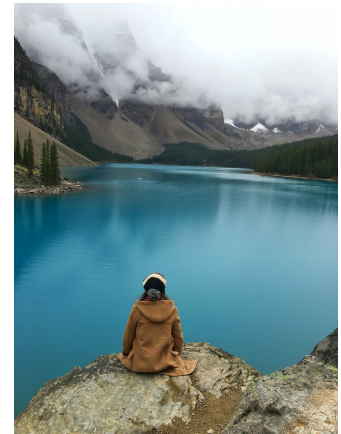
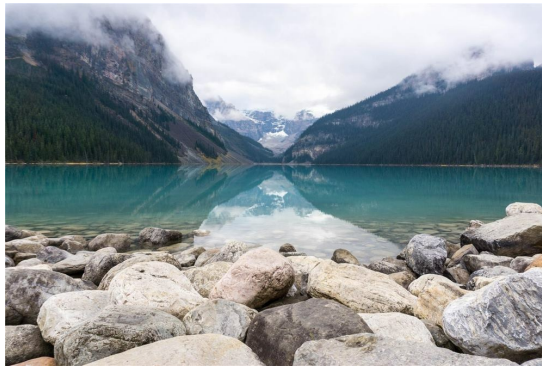
We will plan all ministry events and activities for your group to do. If there is need for help in planning, Amber will reach out to your team leader. We may also ask if you have any creative and effective ideas for the particular events we will be doing.

We ask that you **do not** wear group t-shirts during your times of ministry with Connect. The reason is purely strategic - We are using our community events to build awareness for Connect Church. If a group wears a shirt advertising their

home congregation (e.g. First Baptist Church), people quickly get confused as to who is hosting the event. Feel free to wear your group shirts on travel or mountain days! We will give your team a free Connect Church shirt to wear or as a souvenir.

Amber will contact your group leader to go over your week's schedule in detail before you arrive. We will need every group to come with a flexible mindset. Things can change depending on the weather and we have learned through the years that God is working in each and every unexpected thing.

FREE DAYS



Your team will work hard during the time they are here. As a part of your trip, we want you to experience God's grandeur in the Canadian Rockies!

Spring/Winter activities:

In Calgary: Tubing & Ice Skating or Skiing at the COP (olympic park) Visit the Calgary Tower with a glass floor. This is close by.

In Canmore: Tourist shopping & dining in the mountains, if you have good boots you can take the "easy" route up the Grassi Lakes Trail for great views and a short hike (1 hour away)

In Banff: Take the gondola up to sulphur mountain for great pics, soak in the hot springs, tourist shopping & dining, visit lake Minnewanka for great views and a chance to see wildlife. Hike Johnson Canyon to see a frozen waterfall if you have good boots. (1.5 hours away)

In Lake Louise: See the Fairmont Hotel and the man made ice castle & ice skate on a frozen lake. Hike to the tea house at the top of a mountain from Lake Louise to the hidden lake Agnes. This takes 5 hours total and you need snowshoes.

Ski at the one of the best Canadian Rockies ski resorts.

(2 hours away)

In Drumheller: Visit the Royal Terrell Museum (Dinosaurs) & see the hoodoos.

(1.5 hours away)

Summer/Fall activities:

In Calgary: Float down the Bow River that goes right through downtown on a raft. Learn how to fly fish in the Bow. Visit the Calgary Tower with a glass floor. Visit the Canadian Olympic Park that has downhill karting, zipline, mountain biking, bobsleigh and skating arenas. (winsport.ca) This is close by.

In Canmore: Tourist shopping & dining in the mountains, Hike Grassi Lakes Trail for great views of a waterfall, & two turquoise lakes. For a more challenging hike you can go up Ha Ling Peak to summit a whole mountain!

(1 hour away)

In Banff: Take the gondola up to sulphur mountain for great pics, soak in the hot springs, tourist shopping & dining, visit lake Minnewanka for great views and a chance to see wildlife and a boat ride. Hike Johnson Canyon to see a waterfall. (This hike is easy) (1.5 hours away)

In Lake Louise: See the Fairmont Hotel and one of our famous turquoise lakes. Visit Moraine Lake to visit the most photographed lake in North America. Hike to the tea house at the top of a mountain from Lake Louise to the hidden lake Agnes. This takes about 4-5 hours total.

(2 hours away)

In Drumheller: Visit the Royal Terrell Museum (Dinosaurs) & see the hoodoos. (1.5 hours away)

We hope this packet has answered many of your questions about planning a mission trip to Canada. Please contact Amber to reserve your team's spot asap!

CONTACT INFO

If you have any further questions please contact Amber Sweaza at:

amber@connectcalgary.ca
or 403-803-2259

www.FollowUsNorth.com