

## Frequently Asked Questions – US Travellers

### BORDER CROSSING & PASSPORT

- Do American Citizens need a passport to visit Ontario's Southwest?
  - Yes. A Passport (or a Passport Card or Enhanced Driver's License if coming by land) is required for crossing the border into Canada unless you are age 15 or younger. Please visit the [government website](#) for any further details.
- Do U.S citizens visiting Canada need a passport book or will a passport card be sufficient?
  - Yes you may use passport cards for all land travel. Passport cards are applied for and issued in your home country. Please visit the [government website](#) for any further details.
- Do children need passports? I have read in several places that they only need a birth certificate?
  - That is correct. Children under 16 only require a birth certificate if coming by land (by air everyone is required to have a passport). They may use a copied version of a birth certificate but it must be a notarized to be accepted. Please visit the [government website](#) for any further details
- I am a current visitor visiting the USA. I do have a Visa for the USA. Can this also be used to enter Canada?
  - No. You must apply for a separate Visa to enter Canada. You may get information on ETA's or Visitor Visas to enter Canada on the [Government of Canada website](#).

### WEATHER & CLIMATE

- What will the weather be like when I visit Ontario's Southwest?
  - Take a look at the Government of Canada's [weather forecast page](#).
- How cold does winter get in southwest Ontario?
  - Winter in southwestern Ontario, on average, can range from a low of -15 Celsius to a high of 5 Celsius.

### ACCOMODATIONS

- Are reservations required in advance or can I just drive up and get a hotel?
  - Reservations are always recommended in advance. Especially, on weekends, all major holidays and in the summer months. If do not wish to make reservations in advance your choices may be limited in what would be available.
- Where can I stay overnight when traveling to the region?
  - Ontario's Southwest has many places to stay. For a list of some B&Bs, cottages, campgrounds, and hotels & inns, please check out our [Where to Stay](#) page.

## OTHER

- Can I use my American cell phone when I come to Canada?
  - There are a few places very close to the border where you will be able to pick up American cell phone towers but beware as you will be bounced from tower to tower in this area. For the most part you will need to contact your service provider and add an international plan on for the length of your stay. This can easily be done online or through your provider's app on your smart phone. If you do not set up an international plan please be sure to turn off roaming features for both phone and data as the roaming costs will be quite high.
- Can I use US currency in Canada, and what are the currency & exchange rates?
  - Few places accept US currency. However, if you go to your local bank or currency exchange you can get Canadian currency for your trip. To check the current currency conversion rate, please visit the [Bank of Canada's website](#).
- What is VQA?
  - When you see VQA Ontario on a bottle, it means the wine is made from 100% Ontario-grown grapes, which have been approved through a strict quality-assurance program. VQA stands for Vintners Quality Alliance. VQA Ontario is an independent authority that establishes and monitors the province's "appellation of origin" system. VQA Ontario also sets the standards for the wine that's made here. When you see VQA Ontario and an appellation name on a bottle of wine, you can be sure that what's inside has passed through a strict quality-assurance and label-integrity program, and is made entirely from grapes grown in Ontario.
- What is the legal drinking age in Ontario, Canada?
  - The legal drinking age in Ontario is 19 years old. For more information, visit the [Royal Canadian Mounted Police's website](#).
- Are there any Blue Flag beaches in Ontario's Southwest?
  - Yes. Please check out our list of Blue Flag beaches and [Beach Cheat Sheets](#).