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FEBRUARY MARCH / 2026



Lunar New Year celebrations at YVR include lion dances and prize giveaways



During the Lunar New Year's lion dance, the lion "plucks the greens"—traditionally lettuce—and accepts the red envelope as part of a blessing ritual. Eating the lettuce and receiving the envelope symbolize gathering wealth and good fortune, while scattering the greens represents spreading prosperity to everyone present.

February 17, 2026 marks the beginning of the Year of the Horse, representing a time of energy, prosperity and forward momentum.

Throughout the month of

February, look for exciting celebrations around Vancouver International Airport (YVR), including live music, traditional Chinese lion dances, photo opportunities, limited-edition products, and the chance to win prizes.

Also, beginning in February, visit Duty Free to meet the God of Fortune and spin his wheel for exciting prizes, including YVR bucks redeemable like cash throughout the terminal.

Travellers can also participate in a themed augmented-reality treasure hunt experience through Club Avolta and win additional prizes.

Lunar New Year-inspired décor

will be featured throughout the terminal, including beautifully themed photo backdrops located pre-security near Purebread on Departures Level 3 and post-security near Duty Free and Creekside.

On February 17, join the festivities for traditional lion dances. Performances will take place at *The Spirit of Haida Gwaii: The Jade Canoe* from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m., and at the Fairmont Vancouver Airport Hotel from 11:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.

To the Sea Island community and every traveller passing through YVR, warm wishes for a prosperous Year of the Horse. ✈

TransLink brings new 24-hour service to YVR

Early morning flight? Late-night red-eye commute? Getting to and from Vancouver International Airport (YVR) just became a lot easier.

At the start of 2026, TransLink officially expanded service on the N10 NightBus, creating 24-hour, seven-day-a-week public transit

access to YVR.

The expanded service fills the gap when the Canada Line is closed overnight from approximately 1:00 a.m. to 5:00 a.m.—providing a reliable new option for those travelling during early-morning and late-night hours.

For YVR, this is a major step forward in improving accessibility. With several flights operating well outside regular transit hours, the N10 helps ensure travellers have numerous ways to access the airport at all hours of the day.

Providing service between Downtown Vancouver and Richmond City Centre, the N10

operates along Granville Street in Vancouver, and No. 3 Road in Richmond, crossing the Arthur Laing Bridge to connect directly to the airport. This TransLink route offers travellers bound for Vancouver or Richmond a convenient new way to reach their destination.

At YVR, the bus stops in the Domestic Departures area on Level 3, providing a convenient and well-lit pick-up and drop-off point close to the terminal.

The overnight service runs every 30–32 minutes, seven days a week, providing consistent, dependable connections for trav-



Photo: courtesy of TransLink.

ellers, no matter the time of day. To learn more about the N10

NightBus route, schedules, and stops, visit [TransLink.ca](https://translink.ca). ✈

WHAT'S FOR LUNCH?

Where to find the best vegan food at YVR

PAGE 3

YVR SHOPPING

Alpine Loft's curated local gifts, snacks & travel essentials

PAGE 7

AIRCRAFT

New race for supersonic flight

PAGE 9

LOYALTY PARTNERSHIP

Harbour Air teams with Aeroplan

PAGE 11

TRAVEL TALK

Ixtapa-Zihuatanejo: Mexico's coastal escape

PAGE 14

Air Canada's new Vancouver-Sapporo service bolsters YVR's role as a major Trans-Pacific hub



A tiled pedestrian street in Sapporo glows with hanging lanterns, capturing the intimate scale and atmosphere of the city's smaller commercial lanes. Photo: courtesy Air Canada.

tural ties between Canada and Japan, and providing additional travel and cargo options to both countries and beyond."

The new service expands Air Canada's international network and positions the airline as the carrier with the most non-stop destinations from the North American mainland to Japan.

Flights will operate three times weekly from December 2026 through March 2027 aboard Air Canada's Boeing 787 Dreamliner, offering Signature Class, Premium Economy, and Economy cabins.

The airline's new winter service to Sapporo complements its exist-

ing year-round routes to Tokyo-Narita and Tokyo-Haneda, as well as its summer seasonal service to Osaka-Kansai.

Air Canada includes ski bags and equipment in its standard checked baggage allowance for international flights to Hokkaido's ski regions.

Seat bookings are now available at aircanada.com, through travel agents, and via Air Canada Contact Centres. ✈

SKYTALK is walking a path of reconciliation together with our friends at Musqueam and YVR.

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on Page 5

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łiłexətəłə ct! (We are inviting you!)



Every year, Musqueam and Vancouver International Airport (YVR) co-host artist markets, bringing together Musqueam and other Indigenous artists to showcase the beauty of local Indigenous art at YVR. Travellers can shop for beadwork, jewellery, prints, clothing, leatherwork, carvings, cedar and wool-woven items, and more!

In 2026, SkyTalk readers are being given advance notice so they can plan visits to support artists from Musqueam and other Indigenous communities.

stem? (what?): Musqueam–YVR Indigenous Art Market
tətem? (when?): June 3
September 15
November 26
From 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
ni? ʔəncə? (where?): Domestic Departures Level 3

We hope to see you there.

xʷəniwən ce:p kʷθəθ nəwəyəl (Remember your teachings)

March 31 is Canada's National Indigenous Languages Day. This day recognizes past attempts to eradicate and outlaw languages spoken by First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Peoples and instead celebrates the important work being done across Canada to preserve and honour Indigenous language and culture.

The United Nations declared 2022-2032 as the International Decade of Indigenous Languages. In a recent session with Zoe Kompst, Vancouver International Airport's (YVR) Indigenous Communications and Community Liaison, she commented on the importance of Indigenous Languages Day: "As I move across the airport, I am mindful when I listen to the many languages spoken by those around me ... by

friends and families sharing a small piece of their culture with one another—they are also preserving their cultural identities."

"For me," said Zoe, "our həŋqəmiŋəm language is at the heart of who we are as Musqueam people—when I hear words and stories passed down through generations, I feel more connected to the ancestors, to my community, and to future generations who will one day hear these same words."

"Indigenous Languages Day is important to me because Musqueam only has one fluent speaker left. We have a whole team of people listening to tapes of elders, now passed, and poring over old hand-written notes in an effort to recover and preserve their words—and their teachings."

On this day, YVR honours past and present language speakers, for sharing their teachings and encouraging learners to join them as we walk forward together in this time of learning.

yə tatəl'təl' (we are learning together).

The University of British Columbia's Museum of Anthropology website hosts a Musqueam Teaching Kit, available at www2.moa.ubc.ca/musqueamteachingkit/alphabet.php. This kit includes an interactive look at the həŋqəmiŋəm alphabet. The alphabet cards can be clicked to listen to each sound.

Travellers will notice welcome signage at YVR featuring həŋqəmiŋəm, English and French. ➔

ʔəmi ce:p kʷətɬwɨləm
nem tə ʔi? taʔəlt wə ni? ʔə yvr.ca/Musqueam

Welcome to traditional Musqueam territory.
Learn more at yvr.ca/Musqueam

Bienvenue sur le territoire traditionnel Musqueam.
Pour en savoir plus, visitez yvr.ca/Musqueam

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What's for lunch? Here's where to find the best vegan food at YVR

It's common at this time of year for people to make resolutions focused on healthier eating, sustainability or simply feeling more refreshed. Travellers passing through Vancouver International Airport (YVR) will find a wide selection of vegan options is available throughout the terminal. Some of the airport's top vegan dishes include:

**Freshii—
Buddha Satay Bowl with Tofu**
Pre-security International food court

Looking for a quick, healthy lunch before security? Freshii's Buddha Satay Bowl features rice noodles, tofu, plenty of vegetables, and spicy peanut sauce. Their Sesame Crunch Burrito and Spicy Lemongrass Soup are also vegan options.

**Triple O's—
Original Impossible™ Burger**
Post-security Domestic Gate B14

Comfort food doesn't have to mean meat. "For burgers, I usually get the Triple O's Veggie Burger," said Radhika Patel, YVR's Marketing Coordinator. Order an Original Burger with an Impossible™ patty, a gluten-free bun, and no mayo to make it vegan-friendly.

**Paragon Tea Room—
Oat Milk Tea Lattes**
Pre-security Domestic food court

Paragon Tea Room offers travellers a plant-based alternative to their usual morning coffee, highlighting a local brand known for its thoughtfully crafted beverages. Everyday staple: a ceremonial grade matcha latte. For something extra special: the Earl Grey affogato with their silky oat milk-based ice cream.

**Joe & the Juice—
Vegan Avocado Sandwich**
Post-security Domestic Gate C45 and Transborder Gate E88



▲ Above: Flavour-packed poké bowls are consistent lunchtime favourites at YVR



◀ Left: Triple O's plant-based Impossible Burger, dressed with fresh toppings.



Joe & The Juice Avocado Sandwich layers creamy avocado, ripe tomato, fresh spinach, and vegan pesto between crunchy, toasted bread.

Joe & the Juice's Vegan Avocado Sandwich is highly recommended, and all their sandwiches can be made gluten-free. Pair it with one of their freshly blended vegan juices or protein shakes for a satisfying, nutrient-packed meal.

**Hula Poké—
Vegan Poké Bowls**
Post-security Domestic Gate B14

A runaway favourite! Hula Poké's flavourful, veggie-packed

bowls are loved by many YVR employees. The Yuzu, Koko, Ponzu and Cali Veg bowls are all vegan-friendly.

"I eat the Koko bowl with coconut rice and tofu three times a week," said Reilly Whittaker, Internal Communications Manager at YVR.

"Hot tip: Get half tofu, half sweet potato," said Jody Armstrong, YVR's Senior Social

Impact Specialist.
Other great vegan bites:
**Globe@YVR—
Meatless Burger**
Pre-security inside the Fairmont Vancouver Airport Hotel
Pajo's—Bottomless Fries
Pre-security International Food Court
**PacificFarms Market—
To Live For baked goods**
Domestic Terminal, Gate C29 ➡

Verified Traveller Lane at Checkpoint 3 moves to Domestic North

On January 22, the Verified Traveller Lane at Checkpoint 3 was permanently relocated to the Domestic North security point at Vancouver International Airport (YVR).

This dedicated lane serves NEXUS (a joint Canada-U.S. program for low-risk travellers that offers expedited border crossings), RAIC (a Transport Canada-issued pass for individuals needing access to secure airport areas), Global Entry cardholders (an RFID-enabled ID for pre-approved, low-risk travellers), and military or police personnel. Since 2024, YVR has invested

in new equipment and upgrades across its Domestic security screening checkpoints, making them more efficient and improving the traveller experience.

As part of these upgrades to the Domestic security checkpoints, Verified travellers will now use the Domestic North checkpoint.

Checkpoint 3 is now closed to front-of-house travellers and will revert to serving only non-One-Stop-Screening (OSS) connecting passengers.

YVR's enhanced Domestic security checkpoints ensure that every journey through the airport is not only secure but also welcoming,

effortless, and uniquely reflective of the community.

Other security checkpoints—for U.S. and International departures—will undergo similar

upgrades later this year.

Signage and additional staffing will be in place throughout the terminal to ensure a smooth experience. ➡

Notable Canadian aviation firsts

- **First aircraft to fly in Canada (and the British Empire)**—The Silver Dart, flown by J.A.D. McCurdy on February 23, 1909, in Baddeck, Nova Scotia. This was the first powered, controlled flight anywhere in the Commonwealth.
- **World's first scheduled airmail flight**—On June 24, 1918, Captain Brian Peck flew the first regular airmail delivery between Montreal and Toronto—a global first for scheduled service.
- **First helicopter to fly in Canada**—The Sikorsky VS-300, demonstrated in 1943, marked

Canada's entry into rotary-wing aviation.

- **World's first jet transport aircraft with a pressurized cabin**—The Avro Jetliner (1949) was the second jet airliner to fly in the world—just 13 days after the de Havilland Comet—and the first with a pressurized cabin.
- **First aircraft to break the sound barrier in level flight in Canada**
The CF-100 Canuck reached this milestone in the early 1950s, placing Canada among the few nations to field a domestically designed, supersonic-capable aircraft. ➡

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YVR beyond the terminal: Team YVR sleeps out for youth



Since 2024, Vancouver International Airport (YVR) employees have been stepping well outside their comfort zones by taking part in the annual Covenant House Vancouver Sleep Out, raising nearly \$30,000 to help ensure vulnerable youth have a safe place to sleep.

Sleep Out asks individuals and teams to raise funds and to give up their beds for one night—sleeping outside in solidarity with young people experiencing homelessness. The experience offers a firsthand look at the realities many youths face, and a deeper understanding of the wrap-around support Covenant House Vancouver provides.

For many participants, the decision to take part is rooted in connection. As one YVR employee shared, “Hearing Covenant House’s



success stories in person during a previous volunteer opportunity made it an easy yes. I wanted to help shine some light on their work.”

The experience itself can be challenging in unexpected ways. Another participant reflected, “The hardest part is knowing I have the option to go home at any

time... and recognizing that this isn’t the case for anyone experiencing homelessness.”

This year’s Sleep Out: Champions Edition shines a spotlight on mental health, a critical and often overlooked need for young people facing trauma and uncertainty. Funds raised will

directly support Covenant House Vancouver’s mental health programming, helping young people heal and move forward.

On February 19, YVR is proud to once again join Covenant House Vancouver as the corporate match partner, contributing \$50,000 to multiply the impact of every dol-

▲ Above: Since 2024, close to 100 YVR employees have participated in the Sleep Out to support vulnerable youth.

◀ Left: A night of reflection, connection, and purpose—Team YVR joins the Covenant House Vancouver Sleep Out for young people experiencing homelessness.

lar raised. Through the Sleep Out experience, Team YVR hopes to raise awareness and help ensure young people not only have a safe place to sleep but also the chance to dream about what comes next. To learn more about Covenant House Vancouver, its programs, and ways to support youth experiencing homelessness, visit covenanthousebc.org.

WestJet’s new non-stop flight connects YVR to Central America

On December 12, the launch of WestJet’s new direct route from Vancouver International Airport (YVR) to Liberia (LIR), Costa Rica, marked a significant milestone, offering the B.C. community the only non-stop flight to Central America.

Now operating weekly on a 184-seat Boeing 737, the service makes it easier than ever for British Columbians to discover new cultures, build stronger ties with Central America, and create business opportunities.

With the addition of this route, YVR is providing non-stop service to 103 global destinations for the 2025/2026 winter season, reinforcing the airport’s strategy to provide more direct connections that enhance convenience, choice, and the overall travel experience.



Additionally, the direct connection to Costa Rica strengthens opportunities for travellers seeking a sunny winter escape, supports tourism operators, and better serves Metro Vancouver’s growing Latin American community by offering a meaningful way

to maintain personal and cultural connections abroad.

Located in the Guanacaste region, Liberia is the gateway to Costa Rica’s stunning Pacific coast beaches, lush rainforests, and iconic volcanoes.

Visitors can zip-line through



the canopy, soak in natural hot springs, or explore Rincón de la Vieja National Park’s trails and waterfalls.

Costa Rica is also celebrated for its rich biodiversity, with sea turtles, monkeys, and colourful birds steps away from some of the

world’s most beautiful beaches. WestJet’s new weekly non-stop flight from Vancouver to Liberia makes La Pura Vida—Costa Rica’s celebrated “pure life” philosophy—more accessible than ever. For details on flights, visit westjet.com.

Sea Island’s Favourite Bar & Grill is Open for Dine-in, Take-out & Delivery



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YVR invites you to Climb the Wall and help raise funds for BC Lung Foundation



On March 1, Vancouver International Airport (YVR) employees will take part in Climb the Wall 2026—a stair-climb fundraiser



at the Wall Centre in Downtown Vancouver in support of the BC Lung Foundation. The event challenges partici-

pants to climb the Wall Centre's 48-storey stairwell, raising vital funds for lung-health research, education, and programs that

support people living with lung disease across the province. The Climb the Wall 2026 stair-climb is physically demanding and

Far Left: The Wall Centre's 48-storey stairwell is the challenge ahead for Team YVR.

Left: Enthusiasm and purpose drive Team YVR's commitment to raising awareness and funds for the BC Lung Foundation.

serves as a powerful reminder of how essential breathing is to everything we do. Team YVR includes members of the YVR Fire & Rescue team who will take part in the climb, while wearing full operational gear. This year, YVR participants hope to raise awareness and funds for a cause that affects thousands of British Columbians. Those interested in joining the climb, either individually or as part of a team, can find additional details at bclung.ca.

A smoother journey ahead: Security screening equipment upgrade in YVR's Domestic terminal

At Vancouver International Airport (YVR), there is always a focus on making the airport journey smoother and faster. That's why YVR is partnering with the Canadian Air Transport Security Authority (CATSA) to modernize its screening checkpoints with new CATSA Plus Computed Tomography (CT) X-ray equipment. This equipment upgrade—now complete at two of YVR's Domestic security checkpoints—allows travellers to move through screening without removing liquids, aerosols, gels, or large elec-

tronics from their carry-on bags. The new CT technology enhances both safety and efficiency, helping more passengers move seamlessly through screening while continuing to enjoy YVR's signature mix of local art and West Coast storytelling. As the first airport in Canada to adopt the new CATSA Plus equipment in September 2024, YVR is helping set a new standard for airport security. Building on this momentum, YVR will extend this technology to every checkpoint across the terminal in 2026, including

With new CATSA Plus CT X-ray scanners at YVR's Domestic terminal, screening officers can view detailed images of carry-on bag contents—meaning fewer items for passengers to unpack or repack. International and U.S. departure screenings. This upgrade reflects YVR's ongoing commitment to innovation and growth, ensuring that every journey through the airport is not only secure but also welcoming, effortless, and uniquely reflective of the community.



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YVR and Quest raise over \$46k to help B.C. residents access holiday meals

On December 10th, 2025, Vancouver International Airport (YVR) and Quest Outreach Society hosted Greetings & Giving, an event that raised funds for British Columbians to purchase fresh, nutritious meals.

YVR matched all funds raised during the event, totalling \$46,761, and helping more than 3,700 British Columbians purchase groceries over the winter holidays.

“We [were] proud to come together with our employees, partners, and travellers to help ensure families across B.C. celebrate the holiday season with dignity and comfort through food,” said Richard Beed, Vice President People & Culture at Vancouver International Airport. “By continuing to join forces with Quest, we are not only providing groceries for British Columbians at a special time of year, we are strengthening the ways we work across YVR and Sea Island to serve our community and the economy that supports it.”

Greetings & Giving supported Quest’s new Holiday Gift Card Program, which allows individuals and families to purchase groceries that best meet their cultural preferences, dietary needs, and holiday traditions, while also helping stock Quest’s non-profit markets.



Quest Outreach Society operates a unique model that sits between a food bank and a traditional grocery store, offering a dignified shopping experience for people facing financial barriers.

“We are extremely grateful to YVR for their longstanding support, which helped 10,000+ Quest clients access grocery essentials at our non-profit markets,” said Sam Hamilton, Interim Executive Director at Quest. “With food costs continuing to rise and more people relying on Quest to meet

Smiles, service, and seasonal spirit—YVR volunteers sharing warmth and generosity at the Greeting & Giving fundraising event for Quest Outreach Society.

Quest’s Holiday Gift Card Program allows individuals and families to purchase groceries that best suit their needs and holiday traditions.



their families’ needs, YVR’s commitment to tackling food insecurity with dignity and choice has never been more important or impactful.”
The event marked YVR’s 15th anniversary in bringing together the Sea Island community during the holiday season to support families across British Columbia, in partnership with Quest.
Since 2011, YVR has provided Quest Outreach with nearly \$1 million in grants, along with all funds raised and in-kind support. ➔

Fast Facts

The many sides of YVR

- Winner of Skytrax’s Best North American Airport award for 12 consecutive years, and the only airport on the continent to rank consistently in the global top 10.
- It is Canada’s second-busiest airport, serving more than 26 million passengers annually.
- It is home to a dedicated terminal for scheduled float-plane services—an airport feature shaped by B.C.’s coastal geography.
- Its International terminal table-tops are crafted from recycled chopsticks, transformed into furniture by Vancouver-based ChopValue.
- Before runway lights existed in 1938, Vancouverites helped guide planes at night. Car owners answered radio calls and lit the runway with their headlights. ➔

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F

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is it drooping?

A

Arms

can you raise both?

S

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T

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Fly without Fear: Ground Training for Stress-Free Flying

If the thought of flying makes your heart race, you’re not alone: many people can’t relax on a plane. Some can’t even board one. If you struggle with aviophobia, YVR Chapel’s “Fly Without Fear” course can help you adopt the mindset and master the techniques proven to work for thousands of fliers just like you.

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To learn more, visit www.yvrchapel.org/fly-without-fear-course
YVR Chapel is located on Level 2 (street level) in International Arrivals.
Tel: 236-454-0169

Inside Alpine Loft: Curated local gifts, snacks and travel essentials

Vancouver International Airport's (YVR) newest retail shop, Alpine Loft, opened in December 2025, offering travellers a shopping experience that celebrates local craftsmanship and sustainability while also providing travel essentials.

Andrea Stuart, General Manager for Vancouver at Hudson by Avolta explains what makes the shop special.

What guides your approach to product selection?

"Our priority is to create an authentic sense of place for travellers. We want guests to leave with something that feels uniquely Vancouver, British Columbia or Canada. To achieve this, we focus on curating items from local small and medium-sized businesses and artisans.

"For example, we feature apparel from Vancity Apparel and Ole Originals—both based in B.C.—along with candles and diffusers from Ollie & Co, tea from Paragon, glassware inspired by the mountains from MTNPK and puzzles from Villager Puzzles that double as art for the home and support Canadian female artists.

"The goal is to offer high-quality, locally inspired products that give travellers a meaningful connection to the region while fitting the convenience and time-sensitive nature of an airport shopping experience."

What have been your most popular items so far?

"We're still early in our sales journey, so customer favourites are evolving daily. One partnership I'm particularly proud of is with Dank Mart. Through them, we've introduced a selection of novelty, international and trending candies, which have been a big hit with travellers looking for something fun and unique.

"Another standout is Six Hats Supply Co. Their hats have performed really well, and what makes them special is the feel-good component—every hat purchased helps provide six people



How do you incorporate sustainability into your business model?

"Sustainability was a major focus when we designed Alpine Loft. We challenged ourselves to make as many choices as possible that reduce waste and highlight responsible materials.

"For example, our hangers and sign holders are made of wood, and we've eliminated acrylic wherever possible. Even our staff tools reflect this commitment—binders are cardboard, pens are made from cornstarch and cardboard, and our stapler and tape dispensers are bamboo. We also partnered with ChopValue—a Vancouver-based company that recycles used chopsticks into high-quality, durable wood products—to incorporate recycled elements, including bins for paper items like receipts.

"For sizing, we moved away from the typical plastic dividers and created wooden ones with hand-burned designs for a unique, eco-friendly touch. On the prod-



uct side, we're proud to feature vendors like Billy Would, who repurposes reclaimed skate decks into jewellery, belt buckles and keychains.

"These details may seem small,

but together they create a space that feels authentic, thoughtful and aligned with our sustainability goals."

From eco-conscious design details to curated Canadian



brands, Hudson Group has created a space that feels modern, meaningful and connected to Vancouver.

Alpine Loft is located after security in the International Terminal.



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Air France commemorates 50th anniversary of Concorde’s first commercial flight



With its unmistakable silhouette, the Air France Concorde defined the look of supersonic travel.
Photo: ©Collection Musée Air France.

On Wednesday, January 21, 1976, at 12:40 p.m., Air France launched its first commercial Concorde service to Dakar and Rio de Janeiro. After a swift 7 hours and 26 minutes in the air, the airline officially entered its supersonic era—an era that would span 27 years, ending in 2003. Cruising at roughly 18,288 metres, nearly twice the altitude of conventional long-haul aircraft, passengers could gaze out and see the gentle curve of the Earth along the horizon.

By comparison, the same route flown in 1976 by other commercial aircraft took roughly 12 hours.

With a seat capacity of 100, the Concorde reached a cruising speed of Mach 2.02, or 2,173 km per hour. Its sleek, unique, and instantly recognizable silhouette featured a wingspan of 26 metres, a length of 62 metres, and a height of 11 metres.

A genuine technological showcase and masterpiece of innovation, the Concorde is a legendary aircraft that has left a lasting technological and cultural imprint. A symbol of Franco-British expertise, it remains a primary reference point for Air France’s identity—an endless source of inspiration that shapes innovation and the contemporary customer experience.

From its inaugural flight in 1976, the Concorde stood out for its excellence. The service reflected the ambitions of

the supersonic, with champagne and fresh Périgord truffle pastries by Lenôtre, a classic choice. On board, every detail counted toward delivering a luxury travel experience. The narrow cabin was an ultra-modern reminder of the golden age of prestige aviation.

Air France initially worked with French industrial designer Raymond Loewy, in charge of fitting out the first version of the supersonic jet, including the décor for the lounge at Paris-Charles de Gaulle with furniture designed by Le Corbusier, the cabin interior featuring seats in various colours, lighting, pristine, sleek tableware, and a meal tray.

In 1985, and again in 1988, Pierre Gautier-Delaye created two distinct cabin interior styles: the first featuring a livery of tulip red, blue, and beige, and the second a décor of yellow and grey shades.

In 1994, Andrée Putman gave the Concorde interior a contemporary update, bringing it into the modern era. The White Bird remained more than ever the emblem of luxury in the sky. The “goddess” of design unveiled her new interior, inspired by the idea of adding headrest covers and a carpet with a black-and-white geometric pattern. She also redesigned the meal tray to resemble a small, delicately pleated corrugated cardboard box. The result was an elegantly designed white

porcelain service with a delicate blue border, comprising a range of tableware items from appetizer dishes to a coffee set.

To celebrate the new era of supersonic travel, fashion designer Jean Patou and his artistic director, Angelo Tarlazzi, designed a uniform exclusively for Concorde flight attendants. The blouse dress, patterned with navy blue and beige stripes, displayed alternating colours to create an optical effect evocative of the airline’s logo.

In 1985, to celebrate Concorde’s tenth anniversary, Nina Ricci designed a new uniform: slate blue, navy blue, or pearl grey crepe dresses to stand out against the new aircraft décor by Pierre Gautier-Delaye. These classic dresses were enhanced by a scarf worn around the neck or as a belt.

To commemorate the 50th anniversary of Concorde’s inaugural flight, Air France has launched an anniversary collection that pays tribute to this icon of French aviation and to the pioneering vision that marked an entire era. Model aircraft, silk scarves, shawls, notebooks, and keyrings are among the exclusive items, some of which are limited editions.

Air France offers flights from Vancouver International Airport (YVR) to Paris—Charles de Gaulle Airport (CDG). For more information, visit www.airfrance.ca.



The Concorde’s cockpit was a compact, highly technical environment designed for a three-person crew: two pilots and a flight engineer. Unlike modern glass cockpits, Concorde’s flight deck was filled with hundreds of analogue dials, switches, and gauges, each essential to managing the aircraft’s complex systems—particularly the variable-geometry air intakes and the powerful Olympus 593 engines. Photo: ©Collection Musée Air France.



Concorde comfort kits were a small but memorable part of the supersonic experience—beautifully designed amenity kits that reflected the aircraft’s luxury and attention to detail. Photo: ©Collection Musée Air France.

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In 1985, Nina Ricci designed a new set of uniforms for the Air France Concorde crew—elegant crepe dresses with a signature scarf worn either around the neck or as a belt, adding a touch of Parisian chic. Photo: ©Collection Musée Air France.

We’re Here For You!

WestJet’s updated tagging procedure ensures mobility devices load onto the aircraft with their owners.

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New race for supersonic flight



Boom made aviation history with its XB-1, the first civil supersonic jet built in America, which broke the sound barrier in January 2025. Photo: courtesy Boom Supersonic.

After two decades of supersonic silence in the skies, a new generation of aerospace innovators is accelerating efforts return supersonic travel to commercial aviation.

Companies from the U.S. to Europe and Australia are pushing the limits of aerodynamics, propulsion and low-boom design as they work to build a viable passenger aircraft capable of breaking the sound barrier.

With demonstrator aircraft flying and production lines taking shape, the supersonic revival has throttled forward from futuristic ambition to a rapidly approaching reality.

The following are companies actively pursuing civilian or business-jet supersonic projects:

Boom Supersonic

Developing the Overture airliner and the XB-1 demonstrator. Boom is the most advanced and well-funded commercial program, with airline interest from commercial airlines such as United, American, and Japan Airlines.

Exosonic

A U.S. startup designing low-boom supersonic business jets and government transport concepts. Listed among leading supersonic/hypersonic innovators.

Destinus

A European company developing hydrogen-powered supersonic and hypersonic aircraft, with commercial long-range applications.

Hermeus

Focused on hybrid supersonic-hypersonic propulsion with potential commercial applications, though early-stage. Included among the top global high-speed aerospace developers.

Hypersonix Launch Systems

An Australian company that is working on reusable high-speed aircraft with potential future commercial roles.

Among all commercial supersonic developers, the company closest to completing a flyable, certifiable aircraft is Boom Supersonic, which has achieved

multiple concrete milestones that no other commercial supersonic developer has matched:

- **Successful supersonic flight of its demonstrator (XB-1):** Boom's XB-1 became the first civil supersonic jet built in the U.S. to break the sound barrier, completing a Mach 1.122 (12.2 per cent faster than the speed of sound, but less than Concorde's Mach 2.02 cruise speed) test flight in January 2025.
- **Completion of its Overture Superfactory:** In June 2024, Boom finished building the first

dedicated supersonic airliner factory in the United States, designed to produce up to 33 Overture aircraft per year.

- **Regulatory progress enabling future operations:** The U.S. reversed its 50-year ban on supersonic flight over land in 2025, removing a significant barrier for Boom's business model.

Additionally, according to recent reports, Boom is further along in hardware development, with engine components already in testing and a full-scale engine core nearing completion. ✈️

Air Transat plans new rewards program tailored to leisure travellers



Air Transat's fleet consists of Airbus aircraft. Among its aircraft, the spacious A321LR has the industry's widest single-aisle cabin and the lowest greenhouse gas emissions in its class. Photo courtesy Air Transat.

Air Transat is preparing to launch its own loyalty program in the second half of 2026, offering accessible, personalized benefits to its customers.

The loyalty program is being developed through Air Transat's strategic partnership with Desjardins Group, a major Quebec financial institution, and is powered by Visa Canada.

This loyalty program will multiply benefits for Air Transat's customers, offering personalized, accessible benefits throughout the travel journey.

"This strategic partnership with Desjardins, powered by Visa, is a fundamental pillar of our business strategy," said Xavier Szwengler, Vice President, Marketing and Distribution at Transat. "It allows us to strengthen ties with our customers while accelerating sustainable value creation for Transat and its investors. This new loyalty program will enrich the Air Transat experience, voted World's Best Leisure Airline by Skytrax seven times, through a modern, simple, and flexible approach. Alongside Desjardins and Visa, we are taking a new step toward offering even more to our loyal customers at every moment of their travel experience."

Air Transat is one of the few

major Canadian airlines without its own loyalty program. Analysts expect this move to reshape the Canadian loyalty landscape, adding a new competitor alongside Aeroplan, WestJet Rewards, and VIPorter.

"For more than 50 years, Visa Canada has proudly worked alongside Desjardins to deliver value and innovation to their members, and we're excited to be collaborating with another Canadian institution, Air Transat, in this next chapter," said Dan Iwachiw, Vice President and Head of Product at Visa Canada. "Together, we're introducing a new suite of cards designed to bring more travel opportunities, meaningful rewards, and exceptional payment experiences to Canadians. Backed by Visa's global network, cardholders will enjoy secure, seamless payments wherever life takes them."

Founded in Montreal in 1987, Air Transat has won the prestigious Skytrax award for the World's Best Leisure Airline seven times, including the last three consecutive years (2023, 2024, 2025), for its exceptional service to holiday destinations in the Caribbean, Mexico, and Europe, solidifying its reputation as a leader in leisure travel. ✈️

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UPCOMING AVIATION EVENTS

FEBRUARY 24-25, 2026

Manitoba Aviation Conference

Holiday Inn Airport, Polo Park,
Winnipeg, Manitoba

The Manitoba Aviation Council organizes the 2025 Manitoba Aviation Conference, which has been running for more than 20 years. It brings together: General aviation, Air operators & carriers; Airports, Flight schools, Maintenance & repair organizations, Aviation service providers. It is considered a key networking and professional-development event for the Prairie region's aviation community. mbaviation.ca.

MAY 3-5, 2026

Alberta Aviation Aerospace & Defence Summit

Edmonton Convention Centre,
9797 Jasper Avenue, Edmonton, AB

This event is the Alberta Aviation & Aerospace Council's flagship event for 2026, presented under the umbrella of Alberta Aviation, Aerospace & Defence (Alberta AAD). This combined format brings together aviation operators, aerospace innovators, defence contractors, educators, and students in one integrated program. For more information, visit albertasummit.com

MAY 25-MAY 27, 2026

British Columbia Aviation Council
Spring Conference Kelowna

Eldorado Resort, Kelowna, BC

Theme: "Soaring Above Challenges—Eyes on the Horizon." Hosted at Kelowna International Airport (YLW). Multiple add-on events (local tours, receptions); Signature Dinner and Welcoming Receptions; Career Fair. Book early to avoid disappointment. High demand for hotel rooms due to the CHL Memorial Cup overlapping Kelowna. If you need assistance with anything, contact Dave Frank directly at dave@bcaviationcouncil.org.

JUNE 9-11, 2026

Canadian Business Aviation Association
Convention & Exhibition 2026

Calgary, Alberta

The convention brings together attendees from diverse roles within the business aviation sector, fostering a comprehensive exchange of industry insights, trends, and innovations. It is a premier platform for networking, collaboration, and knowledge-sharing among key decision-makers and influencers in the business aviation community. More than 700 business aviation leaders are expected to attend, along with 65+ exhibitors and 15+ aircraft on display. For more information, visit cbaa-acaa.ca.

AUGUST 7-9, 2026

Abbotsford International Air Show

Abbotsford International Airport, Abbotsford, BC

Canadian Forces Snowbirds headlining the show; World-class military and civilian aerobatic performers; Friday Twilight Show with fireworks and synchronized drone displays, 350,000+ sq. ft. of static aircraft displays, Interactive S.T.E.M. Zone (flight simulators, hands-on activities), Kids Zone with inflatables and crafts, Autograph sessions with pilots and performers, Craft beverage tents and local vendors, onsite camping and premium view options. Visit abbotsfordairshow.com.

NOVEMBER 17-19, 2026

Air Transport Association of Canada
(ATAC)

Westin Bayshore, 1601 Bayshore Drive,
Vancouver, BC

ATAC's 92nd Canadian Aviation Conference and Tradeshow is the premier national gathering, offering Canada's best networking, learning, and sales opportunities for operators, suppliers, and government stakeholders in commercial aviation and flight training. Visit atac.ca/conference-2026

Email your event information to
jstewart@westerndriver.com

Paralympian Tyler McGregor showcased in
inspiring Air Canada Milano Cortina 2026
Brand Spot campaign

With the start of the Milano Cortina 2026 Olympic Winter Games (February 6-22), followed by the Milano Cortina 2026 Paralympic Winter Games (March 6-15), Air Canada released a new brand spot featuring Team Air Canada Athlete Ambassador Tyler McGregor, captain of Canada's Para ice hockey team, as he prepares for the Games.

Entitled Tyler's Walk, the spot tells the story of McGregor's resilience following a life-changing event, highlighting the obstacles Team Canada athletes overcome in pursuit of their dreams—and the unwavering commitment of one athlete to sporting excellence.

"Hockey has always been a part of my life, and this is a reminder of the sheer grit and determination it has taken to get here," said McGregor. "It's an honour to have the chance to tell my story and shine a light on the passion and hard work that goes into wearing the maple leaf—not just during the Games, but every day."

Each journey Canada's athletes take to the Games is powered by the dedication of thousands of Air Canada employees, both on the front lines and behind the scenes,



Air Canada's #FlyTheFlag Brand Spot features Paralympian Tyler McGregor in his quest for sporting excellence. Photo: courtesy Air Canada.

who come together to support Team Canada.

Through the airline's employee-driven Going for Gold program, Air Canada's people are supporting more than 750 athletes, coaches, and delegation members on their journeys to and from Italy—so they can focus on competing.

At each Games, employees across the airline's network work side by side to coordinate athlete travel across multiple airports and teams, and to support the specialized handling of sports equipment

and mobility devices.

The effort involves more than 10,000 employees across 23 airports, working in concert to ensure smooth, seamless journeys for Team Canada.

Air Canada has served as the Official Airline of the Canadian Olympic Team since 1988 and the Canadian Paralympic Team since 2007.

For more information on Air Canada's flights from Vancouver International Airport (YVR), visit aircanada.com.

Air Inuit introduces 737-800NG Combi to serve
Nunavik communities

Air Inuit, wholly owned by the Inuit of Nunavik through Makivik Corporation, has received Transport Canada certification for its first newly re-engineered Boeing 737-800NG combi aircraft, configured to carry both passengers and freight.

The aircraft officially entered service on Air Inuit's Montréal-Kuujuaq route on January 13th, 2026.

The Boeing 737-800NG combi represents a significant advance-




Photo: Air Inuit Boeing 737 800NG combi. (CNW Group/Air Inuit)

ment in multi-role aircraft capability to address Northern realities.


Converted by Kelowna's KF Aerospace, the aircraft features a

forward cargo compartment with space for five pallets and a 90-seat passenger cabin in the aft section.



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WestJet reverses densified seating plan, following passenger feedback

WestJet is rolling back part of its recent densified cabin configuration after operational data and passenger feedback showed the new layout wasn't meeting guest expectations.

The densified design, installed on a portion of the airline's Boeing 737 fleet, reduced economy seat pitch to 28 inches—noticeably tighter than the typical 30–31 inches offered across North America.

The airline paused further reconfigurations in December and had planned to complete its evalu-

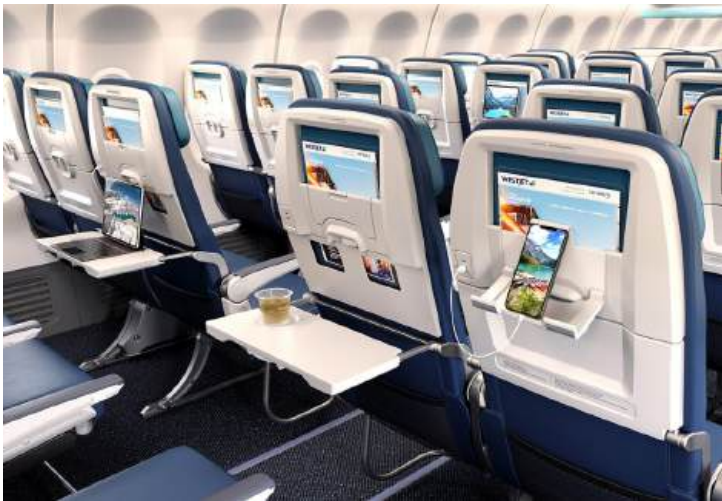
ation by mid-February. However, in response to customer concerns, WestJet accelerated its review and has now committed to restoring the previous standard seat pitch. Aircraft that had been reconfigured to 180 seats will return to 174 seats.

CEO Alexis von Hoensbroech said the airline's willingness to test new products stems from its entrepreneurial roots but emphasized the importance of responding quickly when changes do not align with guest needs.

Reversing the densification

requires engineering certification and a phased implementation process. Once certified, WestJet will begin converting all affected aircraft back to the 174-seat layout, with timelines still to be finalized.

While seat pitch is being restored, WestJet continues to evaluate other elements of the new cabin design. Broader investments—including refreshed interiors, upgraded amenities, and modernized styling—remain part of the airline's long-term plan to enhance the overall guest experience.



Following customer feedback, WestJet Boeing 737 aircraft that have been reconfigured with 180 seats will be returned to a 174-seat layout. Photo: courtesy WestJet.

Summit unifies three trusted brokerage brands under one name

Summit Customs Brokers, headquartered at Vancouver International Airport (YVR), has unified three long-standing, respected brands—Preferred Service Customs Brokers, Alliance Border Services, and ISL Customs Brokers—under a single, consolidated identity, Summit International Trade Services Inc.

The new branding unifies decades of expertise, regional insight, and client-focused service into one cohesive organization. By integrating operations, technology, and service teams, Summit strengthens its ability to deliver seamless, efficient, and comprehensive customs brokerage solutions across Canada and

the United States.

“Our unified brand reflects our commitment to consistency, reliability, and excellence across every aspect of international trade services,” said Gary Eng, General Manager, Sales, BC Region and Aviation Industry.

The consolidation enhances Summit's capacity in several key areas:

- Expanded national reach through integrated service locations
- Improved operational efficiency with shared systems and processes
- Stronger client support from a unified team of experienced

customs professionals

- Broader service offerings spanning customs brokerage, trade consulting, and cross-border compliance

With five offices across British Columbia and customs clearance services for Alberta and the Yukon, Summit's dedicated team supports businesses of all sizes. With a strong focus on accuracy, compliance, and client service, Summit helps organizations navigate the complexities of cross-border trade with confidence.

Summit is part of the Manitoulin Group of Companies. More information is available at summitcustomsbrokers.com.



The Summit head office at 5455 Airport Road South, updated with refreshed branding and signage.

Harbour Air teams with Aeroplan in new loyalty partnership

Harbour Air has partnered with Aeroplan to give travellers a new way to earn Aeroplan points on eligible Harbour Air fares.

The partnership marks Aeroplan's first major expansion into seaplane travel, linking the program's global reach with Harbour Air's extensive network of up to 200 daily flights across 15 destinations in coastal British Columbia and the Pacific Northwest.

“Harbour Air is proud to be part of everyday life for so many people across Vancouver and coastal British Columbia,” said Chris Fordyce, Chief Commercial Officer, Harbour Air. “Now, every Harbour Air customer can earn Aeroplan points, and coming in 2026, Aeroplan Members will be able to

use their points to explore more of B.C. with Harbour Air. It's a natural fit that brings our communities a little closer together. This development is valuable to customers as our network includes up to 200 daily flights across 15 destinations.”

Once the integration of the Aeroplan-Harbour Air points program begins, Aeroplan members will be able to redeem points for Harbour Air flights, expanding reward options for both leisure and commuter travellers.

“We're thrilled to welcome Harbour Air to the Aeroplan family,” said Scott O'Leary, Vice President, Loyalty & Product, Air Canada. “As a quintessential part of Pacific Northwest travel, Harbour Air's iconic seaplane service opens up a

whole new category of experiences for Aeroplan Members. With this partnership, the same program that takes you across the globe can connect you seamlessly to downtowns, islands, and coastal communities across the West Coast.”

Harbour Air's own loyalty program, the Harbour Air Club, continues to operate alongside Aeroplan, offering tiered perks such as waived baggage fees, priority service, scenic tour vouchers, and companion flight benefits.

The Aeroplan partnership gives frequent flyers the option to earn both Harbour Air Club Credits and Aeroplan points, depending on the fare and program.

For more information, visit harbourair.com.



Harbour Air operates the largest all-seaplane fleet in North America, built almost entirely around classic, Canadian-designed de Havilland aircraft. Photo: SkyTalk.



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Halfway to 100: Porter Airlines welcomes 50th E195-E2 aircraft



The Embraer E19-E2 is the most environmentally friendly single-aisle aircraft family in the world, measured by reduced noise and lower CO₂ emissions. Photo: courtesy Porter Airlines.

Canadian premium economy carrier Porter Airlines has taken delivery of its 50th Embraer E195-E2 aircraft, marking a significant milestone since receiving its first E2 jet in December 2022.

The E195-E2 has enabled Porter's network expansion across Canada, the U.S., and now the Caribbean, Mexico and Central America.

Porter has firm orders for 75 aircraft, with purchase rights for an additional 25, potentially bringing its fleet up to 100 E2 jets.

The airline's strategy includes extending its elevated economy experience into southern vacation sunshine markets and launching 13 new routes to five popular destinations this season—Cancun,

Puerto Vallarta, Nassau, Grand Cayman, and Liberia (Costa Rica).

With the addition of the 50th E2, Porter is continuing to explore opportunities to increase capacity across its network.

"Since Porter's founding in 2006, we have consistently focused on raising the bar for our passengers by proving that economy flying can and should be pleasurable for everyone," said Michael Deluce, President & CEO of Porter Airlines. "The E2's introduction into our fleet is allowing us to turbocharge these efforts as the fastest growing airline in North America over the last three years. The aircraft offers an incredible passenger experience and supports our promise as being the

Mr Porter is a stylish anthropomorphic raccoon used as a brand mascot for Porter Airlines. Image: courtesy Porter Airlines.

only airline in the region with no middle seats for any passenger on any flight. Our story is continuing as we reset the competitive landscape."

The E195-E2 is the largest and most advanced member of Embraer's E-Jets E2 family. It delivers up to 29 per cent lower fuel burn than first-generation E-Jets, a range of 3,000 nautical miles (5,556 kilometres), enabling nonstop operations across North America, Mexico, and the Caribbean.



Designed for high-frequency routes, the E195-E2 offers the quietest cabin in its class, 4th-generation fly-by-wire avionics, and a modern passenger environment with onboard Wi-Fi, seatback power, and no middle seats.

Porter supplements the aircraft's capabilities with a category-leading in-flight offering. The

airline's award-winning passenger experience is available to everyone onboard, complimentary, including wine and beer served in glassware, premium snacks, and streaming-quality Wi-Fi.

For information on Porter's direct flights from Vancouver International Airport (YVR, visit porter.com.

Canada's new Search-and-Rescue workhorse: CC-295 Kingfisher



On January 21, 2026, Canadian Forces Base 14 Wing Greenwood in Nova Scotia welcomed its first CC-295 Kingfisher fixed-wing search-and-rescue (SAR) aircraft to the East Coast, advancing the Royal Canadian Air Force's (RCAF) long-awaited modernization of its SAR capability.

In 2016, the Canadian

Government signed a contract to purchase 16 CC-195 Kingfisher aircraft to replace six CC-115 Buffalo and 10 CC-130H Hercules (SAR-configured) aircraft, which could no longer effectively perform modern search-and-rescue tasks across Canada's vast and challenging geography.

The delivery of the first CC-295

was marked in September 2020, when the RCAF announced its arrival at CFB 19 Wing Comox in British Columbia, where it remained for aircrew training and operational testing.

Its first operational rescue in Canada to assist a downed pilot occurred in the mountains of north-eastern BC near Mount Kinney in May 2025, three weeks after entering service, proving that the new SAR platform could operate in rugged, remote Canadian terrain.

Key Capabilities:

- Advanced sensors capable of detecting people or objects more than 40 km away, even in low-light conditions.
- Modern avionics and mission systems designed specifically for SAR operations across Canada's challenging terrain and weather.

- Multi-role flexibility, inherited from the Airbus C295 platform, which globally performs transport, medevac, maritime patrol, and intelligence missions.
- Technical Specs:**
- Length: 24.45 m
 - Wingspan: 26.70 m
 - Height: 8.6 m
 - Max gross weight: 23,200 kgs
 - Max speed: 468 km/h
 - Range: 4,500 km

RCAF Operating Locations

- Comox, B.C. (active)
- Greenwood, N.S. (active)
- Trenton, Ont. (future)
- Winnipeg, Man. (future)

As the CC-295 Kingfisher enters service across Canada's four search-and-rescue regions, the aircraft signals a generational shift in how the RCAF will respond to emergencies in some of the world's most challenging terrain.

Electronic Travel Authorization now mandatory for UK entry

As of January 2026, Canadian citizens travelling to or transiting through the United Kingdom must obtain a UK Electronic Travel Authorization (ETA).

This mandatory digital pre-travel clearance applies to all visa-exempt visitors and has been required for Canadians since January 8, 2025.

Key Details for Canadians

- Requirement: Mandatory for tourism, visiting family or friends, business trips, and short-term study
- Cost: £16 (approximately C\$30) per applicant
- Validity—valid for two years and allows multiple entries, provided the passport used for the application remains valid
- Processing Time: Most applications are approved within minutes, but travellers are advised to apply at least three business days before departure.

How to Apply

- Fastest: UK ETA app
- Online: Official UK government website (GOV.UK)

What You Need

- A valid passport
- An email address
- A credit/debit card or Apple Pay/Google Pay

Important Exemptions & Notes

- Dual Citizens: Canadians who also hold British or Irish citizenship do not need an ETA, but must travel using their British or Irish passport.



- Transit: An ETA is required if you pass through UK border control, such as when changing airports or leaving the airport during a layover.
- Not a Visa: An ETA authorizes travel to the UK but does not guarantee entry. Border officers make the final decision upon arrival.

Beware of Scams

Apply only through the official UK ETA app or the UK government website (gov.uk/eta) to avoid fraudulent third-party sites charging unnecessary fees.

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Seair partners with veritree on B.C. coastal restoration initiative

Seair Seaplanes has launched a new sustainability partnership with veritree, a Vancouver-based environmental technology platform that supports verified nature-restoration projects. Their collaboration focuses on kelp-forest restoration, often called seaforestation, along British Columbia's coastline.

Kelp forests are among the most productive ecosystems on the planet, providing:

- Habitat for fish, shellfish, and marine mammals
- Improving water quality
- Reducing coastal erosion
- Absorbing carbon and supporting climate resilience

The decline of kelp in many B.C. regions has made restoration a priority for scientists and coastal communities.

Coastal Kelp, veritree's seaforestation partner, collaborates closely with knowledge holders in the shishálh Nation on the Sunshine

Coast of B.C., recognizing that Indigenous leadership is essential to effective ocean restoration and long-term marine stewardship. Coastal Kelp is dedicated to uniting resources to protect and restore marine ecosystems. By prioritizing Indigenous partnerships, it honours traditional knowledge and works collaboratively to restore ecological balance.

Their commitment extends beyond conservation. Coastal Kelp also fosters economic opportunities through sustainable aquaculture, ensuring that healthier oceans benefit both the environment and coastal communities. Together, veritree and Coastal Kelp are advancing a shared vision: a thriving future for marine ecosystems and the people who depend on them.

Through the Seair-veritree initiative, a small environmental fee is added to each Seair ticket—matched dollar-for-dollar



Seair offers 32 scheduled daily routes between Vancouver International Airport's (YVR) South Terminal Seaplane Base and destinations in the Gulf Islands, Nanaimo, and downtown Vancouver, BC. Photo: courtesy Seair.

by Seair—to fund seaforestation projects that help restore critical marine habitats.

Seair also provides aerial access and logistical support to remote sites, helping veritree monitor ecosystem recovery.

The Seair-veritree partnership aims to regenerate B.C.'s kelp forests and strengthen coastal ecosystems, while giving Seair passengers a measurable, transparent way to contribute to environmental restoration.

Travellers can follow the initiative's impact through Seair's online Impact Hub, which tracks verified progress towards restoration and environmental outcomes.

For more information on Seair's flights, visit seairseaplanes.com ✈️

City of Richmond introduces new online Affordable Housing Hub for residents

The City of Richmond has launched a new Affordable Housing Hub, an online tool designed to improve access to affordable housing information and make it easier for residents to explore housing options throughout the city.

"Access to safe and affordable housing is essential to a healthy and inclusive city," said Mayor Malcolm Brodie. "The Affordable Housing Hub brings critical information together in one place, making it easier for residents to understand their options and take the next step toward finding a home that meets their needs."

The Affordable Housing Hub provides information on non-market rental, low-end market rental and co-operative housing in one easy-to-use platform. Individuals, families, seniors, newcomers and service providers can navigate affordable housing

options more efficiently and with greater clarity.

Through interactive digital maps, users can explore affordable housing locations and find contact information to inquire about associated vacancies and application requirements. Application details for BC Housing, Metro Vancouver and other partner operator sites are also available—helping users better understand where and how to apply.

Users will be able to use customizable search tools to filter results by rental category, bedroom type, accessibility features, and neighbourhood to find options that best meet their specific needs.

By centralizing affordable housing information in one accessible platform, the Affordable Housing Hub supports greater transparency, awareness and access to housing opportunities for residents at



Photo: courtesy City of Richmond.

all stages of life.

The City of Richmond will provide updates on future Hub enhancements through social media and its quarterly Housing e-News. For more information or to explore the Affordable Housing Hub, visit richmond.ca/FindHousing. ✈️

Outstanding urban design projects sought for City of Richmond's 2026 Lulu Awards

The City of Richmond is now accepting submissions for the 2026 Lulu Awards, its urban design awards program that celebrates excellence in buildings and public spaces across the City.

Submissions are open until Tuesday, March 31, 2026, with award recipients announced in the fall.

Held every four years, the Lulu Awards recognize visionary thinking and innovative design that enhance neighbourhoods, support community life and reflect the City's high standards of urban design.

This year's awards program accepts submissions in the Buildings and Open Space categories as follows:

Buildings:

- Residential (single-family, coach house or duplex, includ-

ing innovative renovations)

- Residential (townhouse)
- Residential and Mixed-use (mid-rise)
- Residential and Mixed-use (high-rise)
- Commercial
- Industrial
- Public and Institutional Buildings

Open Space:

- Public and Institutional Open Space
- Landscape Innovation
- Ecological Design and Innovation
- Universal Design and Innovation

Private and public sector projects are eligible for an urban design award if they were approved and completed within the five years preceding 2026.

A project owner, a project

team member or a member of the public may make submissions.

All entries must be received by 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 31, 2026, and must meet the City's submission requirements.

For more information on The Lulu Awards for urban design, including eligibility criteria, submission requirements and entry forms, please visit richmond.ca/LuluAwards. ✈️



Photo: courtesy City of Richmond.

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Ixtapa-Zihuatanejo: A sun-soaked Pacific getaway

As winter settles in and temperatures dip across the north, Ixtapa-Zihuatanejo emerges as a serene alternative to Mexico's larger resort corridors. With direct flights from Vancouver International Airport (YVR) into Zihuatanejo International Airport (ZIH), the region offers travellers two distinct worlds in one sun-soaked destination to explore.

February to May is one of the best times to visit, with temperatures in the high 20s to low 30s Celsius and virtually no rain. The sea stays warm and calm—perfect for kayaking, paddleboarding, or simply relaxing on the sand—making this stretch of the year prime beach season.

Additionally, after the peak holiday in mid-January, hotel rates, flights and package prices begin to soften, encouraging travellers to enjoy premium weather without premium pricing.

Once there, Ixtapa delivers palm-fringed beaches, a polished marina and modern resort

Set high above the Pacific on Mexico's sun-drenched Costa Grande, Cala de Mar Resort & Spa Ixtapa offers travellers a front-row seat to the region's most beautiful season. Photo: courtesy Cala de Mar Resort & Spa Ixtapa.

comforts, while neighbouring Zihuatanejo charms with its artisan markets, cobblestone streets, and open-air seafood restaurants. Together, they create a blend of upscale resort amenities and authentic coastal-town charm.

A short drive south leads to Barra de Potosi, a fishing village south of Zihuatanejo, known for its mangrove estuaries and exceptional birdwatching. To the north lies Troncones, a relaxed surf town dotted with beachside cafés and yoga studios. Between them stretch miles of uncrowded beaches, hiking trails, and scenic lookout points.

Take a stroll along Zihuatanejo's



lively waterfront promenade, explore the Museo Arqueológico de la Costa Grande, or take a water taxi to Playa Las Gatas, a calm, reef-protected beach ideal for swimming and snorkelling.

For a touch of nightlife, Ixtapa's

coastal boulevard offers restaurants and lounges that combine ocean views with live music and fresh seafood.

For many travellers, the combination of ideal weather, smaller crowds, and competitive pricing

makes Ixtapa-Zihuatanejo one of Mexico's most rewarding coastal getaways at this time of year.

Air Canada and WestJet operate non-stop winter service from YVR to ZIH, with schedules varying by month.



Air Canada Vacations offers up to \$1,000 on Caribbean getaways in 2026

Canadian travellers planning a Caribbean all-inclusive vaca-

tion in 2026 can take advantage of an exclusive Instant Savings

offer of up to CAD \$1,000 at select Sandals and Beaches Resorts, including two Canadian favourites in Jamaica—Sandals Ochi and Beaches Negril.

For a limited time, all new Air Canada Vacations bookings—air-inclusive packages of six nights or longer—made by February 15, 2026, for travel through the end of 2026, will receive exclusive instant savings at four featured Sandals and Beaches Resorts in Jamaica and beyond.

The offer applies to all room categories with no blackout dates:

Sandals Royal Curaçao

- Save CAD \$1,000 for Club Sandals / Butler bookings
- Save CAD \$700 for Luxury bookings
- Travel dates: Now through December 31, 2026

Sandals Ochi (Jamaica)

- Save CAD \$900 for Club Sandals / Butler bookings
- Save CAD \$700 for Luxury bookings
- Travel dates: Now through December 31, 2026

Beaches Negril (Jamaica)

- Save CAD \$1,000 for Concierge / Butler bookings
- Save CAD \$850 for Luxury bookings
- Travel dates: May 1–31, 2026; August 1–October 31, 2026

Beaches Turks and Caicos

- Save CAD \$900 for Concierge / Butler bookings
- Save CAD \$700 for Luxury bookings
- Travel dates: Now through December 31, 2026

“This new Instant Savings offer with Air Canada Vacations is perfect for those clients who like to plan their vacations ahead at the start of a new year or for those looking for a lastminute escape from a Canadian winter,” said Maureen BarnesSmith, Vice President, Sales & Marketing Canada, Unique Vacations Canada Inc. “There's no better time than right now to plan a trip back to Jamaica and experience our home island's undeniable warmth—both literally and figuratively—and save some money while doing so.”

For more details on these and other Air Canada Vacations, visit vacations.aircanada.com.



Beaches Negril, Jamaica. Photo courtesy Air Canada Vacations.



Sandals Ochi, Jamaica. Photo courtesy Air Canada Vacations.



Beaches Turks & Caicos. Photo courtesy Air Canada Vacations.



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Send your answer:

joanbelgrave@hotmail.com

Draw will be made from all correct entries received by March 31, 2026.

The winner's name will be published in the April/May 2026 edition of SkyTalk and at skytalkonline.com

LAST EDITION'S WINNER:



Mei Tsang
Answer:
Airbus A321

The Airbus A321 is the largest of the Airbus narrow-body (single-aisle) fleet. The aircraft has a retractable tricycle landing gear and is powered by two wing-mounted turbofan engines.



Network

Connect the Flight Paths

1		2		3	
4					
5					

HOW TO PLAY

Introducing Network, similar to crossword puzzle, you will use the provided clues to figure out the airport codes across and down the grid. For example, a clue might be: “What is the second busiest airport in the United States?” The Answer would be LAX, for Los Angeles International Airport

DOWN

- 1 “Mamma ___!” This U.S. airport isn’t missing in action, there’s nonstop service from YVR on Air Canada weekly.
- 2 British grandmother, informally. The main international airport of Fiji.
- 3 This is the largest airport in Europe, plus the opening scene of Love Actually also takes place here

ACROSS

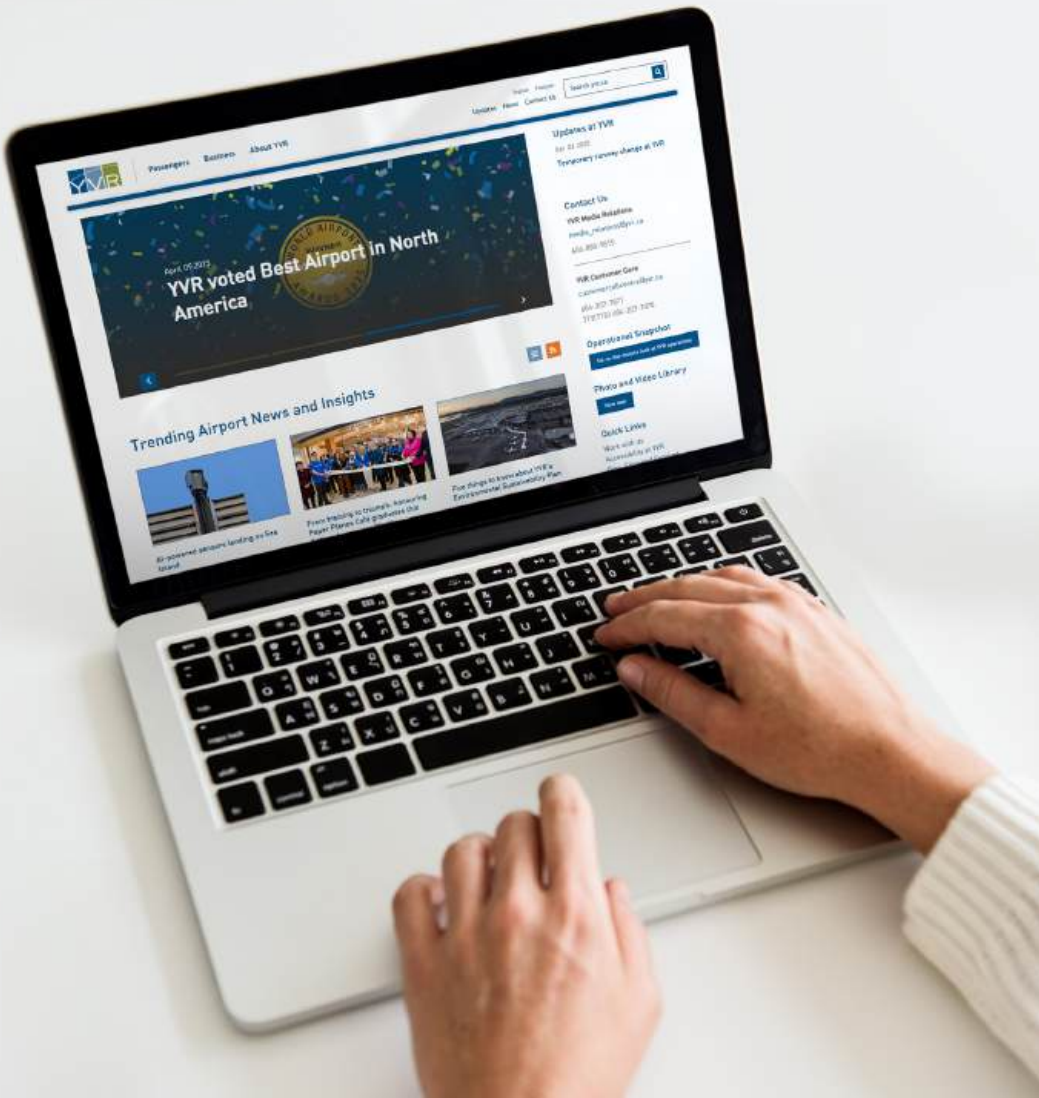
- 1 Airport in the vibrant capital of the Philippines with direct service from YVR with Air Canada launched in 2025.
- 4 Texas airport named after former president, George H.W. Bush.
- 5 This airport serves the Belgian city known as the Diamond Capital of the World.

ANSWER KEY

- | | | | |
|--------|---|---|--|
| Across | 1. Ninoy Aquino International Airport (MNL) | 4. George Bush Intercontinental Airport (IAH) | 5. Antwerp International Airport (ANR) |
| Down | 1. Miami International Airport (MIA) | 2. Nadi International Airport (NAN) | 3. London Heathrow Airport (LHR) |

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