

# Manitoba

## Heart of The Prairies



Manitoba is believed to be derived from the Cree word 'manitowapow' and Ojibway word 'manito bau', both meaning 'straight of the spirit'.

### Population



A culturally diverse population of 1,184,600 includes the largest French speaking population in Western Canada, the largest Métis community in Canada and the largest population of Icelandic descent outside of the homeland. Manitoba is home to a significant population of Ukrainian and Mennonite heritage as well as First Nations groups indigenous to Manitoba, including Ojibway, Cree, Oji-Cree, Dakota and Dene. The median age of the population is 38 years. The percentage of Manitoba residents aged 15 years or older is 80%



### Geography



With geography as diverse as its people, Manitoba's landscape is a memorable contrast of lush boreal forest, rocky outcrops, pristine lakes, powdered sand beaches, tundra, where the most vibrant northern lights can be seen, and even a desert area featuring 30 m sand dunes. Twice the size of England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland combined, Manitoba is Canada's sixth largest province by land area. Often called 'Land of 100,000 Lakes', Manitoba is home to Lake Winnipeg, which is the fourth largest lake in Canada and the tenth largest freshwater lake in the world.

### Climate



Manitoba's four distinct seasons offer a climate for all activities. One of Canada's sunniest cities, Winnipeg, sees about 340 more hours of bright sunshine per year than either Toronto or Montreal and enjoys some of the longest summer days in the country.

Average Summer Temp: 23° C/74° F (south) and 12° C/5° F (north-Churchill)  
Average Winter Temp: -18° C/6.8° F (south) and -27° C/-16.6° F (north-Churchill)

### Nature and Wildlife



Manitoba is home to two National Parks (Riding Mountain and Wapusk) and 52 provincial parks. The largest urban park is Assiniboine Park and Forest in Winnipeg. Principal lakes include Lake Winnipeg, Manitoba and Winnipegosis. Northern wildlife includes: Polar bear, arctic fox, arctic wolf, arctic hare, Beluga whales and seals  
Southern wildlife includes: Black bears, woodland caribou, bison, coyote, timber wolf, wolverines and lynx.  
Over 400 bird species and 28 fish species can be found in Manitoba skies and water.

### Economy



Manitoba is one of the most diversified provincial economies in Canada - it is not dependent on any single industry or commodity. Major industries include manufacturing, financial services, agriculture, hydro-electricity, and natural resources (mining, primary wood product industry and commercial fishing).  
Manitoba food specialties include smoked goldeye fish, wild rice, honey, sunflower seeds, and golden caviar (roe of Whitefish).  
The provincial sales tax is 7%.