

United States → Canada

Crossing the Border (2026 Update)

When in Calais, Maine you may want to venture over the international border to Canada!

Calais, Maine and St. Stephen, New Brunswick have a longtime friendship and work closely together on events and projects. Their shared **International Festival** takes place during the second week of August, and even the fire departments respond in tandem when needed.

The **St. Croix River** marks the international boundary, forming a natural border between **Calais, Maine** and **St. Stephen, New Brunswick**. **U.S. Route 1** parallels the river and is accessed from St. Stephen by three cross-border bridges. The map below illustrates these crossings.



- International Avenue Bridge, often called 'The Third Bridge'
- Ferry Point International Bridge
- Milltown International Bridge

1. Basic Entry Requirements (U.S. citizens)

- No visa required for tourism or short visits (up to ~6 months)
- You must meet standard entry conditions (purpose of trip, ties to U.S., etc.)

2. ID & Documents (most important)

If you are crossing by **LAND** (driving):

You can use one of the following:

- Valid U.S. passport (recommended)
- Passport card

- Enhanced driver's license (EDL) (if issued by your state)
- NEXUS card (trusted traveler program)

While alternatives exist, Canada still states you should generally carry a valid passport to avoid issues.

If you are flying:

- Passport book is required (passport card/EDL will NOT work for flights)

3. Traveling with children

- Children need ID (passport recommended)
- If traveling without both parents, you may need a consent letter from the other parent(s)

4. What border agents may ask for

Be prepared (especially at smaller crossings like Calais crossings):

- Where you're going and why
- How long you'll stay
- Where you're staying (hotel, friend, etc.)
- Proof of funds (rare, but possible)

5. Reasons you could be denied entry

Even with proper ID, you may be refused if:

- You have certain criminal convictions (including DUIs)
- You cannot prove your trip is temporary
- You give incomplete or false information

6. COVID / health rules (2026)

- No vaccination, testing, or quarantine requirements
 - Pandemic-era restrictions have been removed
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7. ArriveCAN app (status in 2026)

- NOT required anymore
- Optional only for faster airport declarations (not useful for driving)

8. How long you can stay

- Typically up to 6 months (180 days) per visit

Quick checklist (for driving from Maine)

Bring:

- Passport (or passport card / EDL)
 - Basic travel info (where you're going, how long)
 - Any child documents (if applicable)
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Practical tips (from current rules)

- A passport is still the safest choice even for land crossings
 - Keep answers simple and consistent with your plans
 - Declare anything you're bringing across (food, alcohol, goods)
 - Expect routine questioning—it's normal
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Additional Resources

There are lots of rules concerning what you can bring across the U.S. / Canadian border and they change constantly. If you have further questions you should call either:

- **The Canadian Border Information Service (CBIS)** at **800-461-9999** from within Canada or **204-983-3500** or **506-636-5064** from outside the country.
- For U.S. information, call the **CBP INFO Center** at **(703) 526-4200** or **(877) CBP-5511**.

For more information please contact this helpful site at: <http://www.ezbordercrossing.com>