

Canada among Lonely Planet's top-10 countries to visit in 2009

Canwest News Service

Thursday, September 25, 2008

Tourists can forget the notion of Canada as the dull, polite and freezing neighbour to the colourful United States.

Lonely Planet - the Australian travel guide publisher popular with young travellers worldwide - has listed Canada among its top 10 countries to visit in 2009, alongside such far-flung locales as Kyrgyzstan, Algeria, and Greenland.

In the soon-to-be-released Lonely Planet's Best in Travel: 2009, Canada is singled out as "a land of action, with an insane amount of terrain to play on" whose "oil and natural gas reserves are helping the economy to kick ass."

The Calgary Stampede, surfing in Tofino, B.C., the Montreal International Jazz Festival, and the Ford World Men's Curling Championships are all listed as particularly outstanding activities.

Elyse Mailhot, a spokeswoman for the Canada Tourism Commission, says she's pleased with Canada's inclusion in the top 10. "We're totally gratified to be included in such a prestigious travel book," she said.

The commission, which is responsible for marketing Canada as a destination for tourists, had previously painted Canada in a more serene, natural light, replete with cooing loons and placid lakes.

But the government agency has rebranded Canada internationally to focus more on the "explorer" side of Canada - one that is "hip and active," said Mailhot.

In 2007, the tourism industry in Canada made up about two per cent of the nation's GDP, or about \$28.6 billion a year, and employed more than 650,000 people, according to the commission.



CREDIT: Bonny Makarewicz/Vancouver Sun

In the soon-to-be-released Lonely Planet's Best in Travel: 2009, Canada is singled out as 'a land of action, with an insane amount of terrain to play on' whose 'oil and natural gas reserves are helping the economy to kick ass.'

© Canwest News Service 2008

CLOSE WINDOW

Copyright © 2008 CanWest Interactive, a division of [CanWest MediaWorks Publications, Inc.](#) All rights reserved.
CanWest Interactive, a division of [CanWest MediaWorks Publications, Inc.](#) All rights reserved.