NEWS LESSON

Why Some Canadians Are Skipping US Holidays



BEFORE YOU READ

1 Warm up

Talk about these questions with a partner.

1. Would a political disagreement change where you went on holiday?
2. How much do you think about a country's reputation before visiting?
3. Would you rather return to a favourite place or try somewhere new?

2 Key words

These words are in the article. Write the letter of the meaning (A to H) in each box.

1	**border**	☐	A	being free from danger
2	**escape**	☐	B	to get away from something you do not like
3	**destinations**	☐	C	changed by what other people say or do
4	**influenced**	☐	D	a person you do not know
5	**stranger**	☐	E	the line between two countries
6	**customers**	☐	F	very bad or important
7	**safety**	☐	G	people who buy things from a shop or business
8	**serious**	☐	H	places that people travel to

3 Read

Read the article and underline the key words from task 2. The paragraphs are numbered.

Driving south to shop or spending the winter in a warmer place used to be simple. Now some Canadians are choosing Mexico instead.

1 For many Canadians, taking a holiday in the United States has always been simple. They can drive across the border to shop, visit friends or spend a few days in another city. Some older Canadians also travel south in winter to escape the cold. For years, nobody thought twice about it.

2 But during 2025 and 2026, fewer Canadians made these journeys. The reasons varied. Relations between the two countries had become more difficult because of political arguments and trade disputes, and some travellers said they no longer felt welcome. Others did not want to spend their money in the United States while the arguments continued, so they cut back on trips south.

3 This created problems for American businesses. Hotels, restaurants and shops in areas that usually rely on Canadian visitors began to feel the effects. In September 2026, reports described tourist organisations offering discounts and special deals to bring Canadian customers back. A quiet season is a serious worry for a small business that depends on a few busy months.

4 Not every Canadian made the same decision. Some people carried on travelling south for work, family or holidays. Others picked destinations such as Mexico, or stayed in Canada and explored their own country instead. Money matters too. The exchange rate, prices and worries about personal safety can all put travellers off before politics is even mentioned.

5 The disagreement raises a question about whether tourists should be influenced by politicians. A hotel worker in an American city has nothing to do with a government decision, but that worker can still lose income when international visitors stay away. The people who pay first are often the ones with the least power.

6 Travel is usually described as a way of bringing people from different cultures together. A friendly conversation with a stranger can change the way you see a whole country. Yet a holiday can also become a way of showing disagreement, because customers choose where their money goes.

7 So is a cancelled holiday a useful protest, or does it mainly hurt ordinary people who depend on tourism? Canadians are making up their minds one trip at a time, and in the long run their choices may say as much about the two countries as any official statement.

Sources: Associated Press. Picture: AI illustration.

4 True, false or not given

Circle **T** (true), **F** (false) or **NG** (the article does not say).

1. Every Canadian stopped travelling to the United States. T F NG
2. Some Canadians travel south in winter to escape the cold. T F NG
3. Canadian visits have begun to rise again. T F NG
4. Reports in September 2026 described discounts aimed at Canadians. T F NG
5. A hotel worker in an American city makes government decisions. T F NG

5 Vocabulary

Complete the sentences with words from the box. Two words are not needed.

currency	discounts	disputes	explored	income	journeys	protest

1. A hotel can lose _____ when fewer visitors arrive.
2. Trade _____ between countries can make life harder for ordinary people.
3. Shops often offer _____ in the quiet season to attract customers.
4. Last summer, some families _____ their own country instead of going abroad.
5. Some people see a cancelled holiday as a quiet _____ against a government.

6 Verb forms

Write the correct form of the verb in brackets.

1. Last year, many Canadians _____ to Mexico instead. (FLY)
2. Tourist offices _____ special deals last September. (OFFER)
3. She _____ the border and bought a new coat. (CROSS)
4. Some people _____ their money in Canada instead. (SPEND)
5. Travel _____ people from different cultures together. (BRING)

7 Language focus: linking words

Complete the sentences with words from the box. Two words are not needed. Linking words join ideas. Use because for a reason, so for a result, but for a difference, while for two things at once and or for a choice.

because **but** **or** **so** **unless** **until** **while**

1. Many Canadians cut back on trips _____ they did not want to spend money in the United States.
2. The rooms stayed empty all winter, _____ the owner had to close the hotel for a month.
3. _____ some families drove south, others flew to Mexico.
4. You can drive across the border _____ fly to a warmer place.
5. I wanted to visit the lake, _____ the tickets were too expensive.

SPEAK

8 Talk about it

Discuss in pairs or small groups. Give reasons for your answers.

1. Can choosing where to travel be an effective way to make a point?
2. Who feels the effect when visitors stay away?
3. What would persuade you to return to a destination you had stopped visiting?

9 Role-play: winning back a regular guest

Work in pairs. Read your card, then have the conversation. Swap roles and do it again.

Student A · the hotel manager

You run a hotel in an American border town. Your Canadian guests have stopped coming. Phone a regular guest. Offer a deal and ask what would bring them back.

Student B · the Canadian guest

You stayed at this hotel every winter. This year you went to Mexico. Explain why, listen to the offer, then decide if you will go back.

Useful phrases

We've missed you at the hotel.
I'd like to offer you a special price.
It's not only about the price, to be honest.
We're thinking about trying somewhere new.
What would make you change your mind?
I'll think about it and let you know.

Afterwards, tell the class: did the guest agree to return, and what finally decided it?

ANSWER KEY

2 Key words

1 E · 2 B · 3 H · 4 C · 5 D · 6 G · 7 A · 8 F

4 True, false or not given

1 F · 2 T · 3 NG · 4 T · 5 F

5 Vocabulary

1 income · 2 disputes · 3 discounts · 4 explored · 5 protest

6 Verb forms

1 flew · 2 offered · 3 crossed · 4 spent · 5 brings

7 Language focus

1 because · 2 so · 3 While · 4 or · 5 but

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