

Manitoba

Fast Facts:

- **Motto:** "Glorious and free"
- **Population:** 1,380,935
- **Geographic size:** 647,797km²
- **Capital city:** Winnipeg
- **Largest city:** Winnipeg
- **Provincial animal:** Plains bison
- **Provincial flower:** Prairie crocus
- **Provincial tree:** White spruce



Location:

Manitoba is one of three prairie provinces located in central Canada. The province borders Saskatchewan to the west, Ontario to the east, Nunavut to the north and the United States of America to the south.

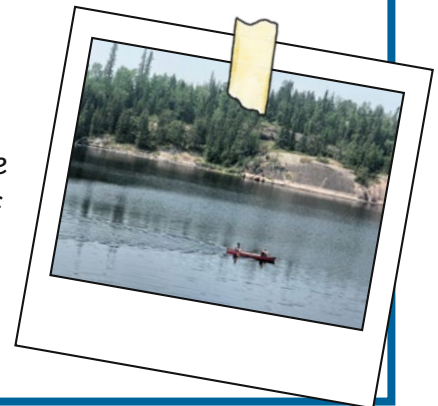
Flag:

Manitoba's flag was officially adopted in 1966. It's design is a variation of the Red Ensign, with the Union Jack in the top left, but features the provincial shield in the centre. The shield combines St. George's cross which reflects the province's British heritage and a bison, an animal that once roamed freely in the region.



Geography:

Manitoba's geography can be divided into several distinct regions. There is the Canadian Shield and the Canadian Arctic tundra to the north, and prairie grasslands, rivers and lakes in the south. Most of Manitoba's population lives in the south, where the land is flat but fertile. Lake Winnipeg is Manitoba's largest lake and is Canada's sixth-largest freshwater lake.



Indigenous people:

Manitoba is located on the traditional territories of the Cree, Dakota, Dene, Ojibway and Oji-Cree First Nations, as well as the Métis nation. Today, about one in seven Indigenous people in Canada live in Manitoba. Roughly 59.5% identify as First Nations, 40% as Métis, and 0.5% as Inuit. Winnipeg has the largest Indigenous population of any Canadian city.

Did you know?

- Two different subspecies of bison can be found in Manitoba. They are the wood bison and the plains bison. Wood bison tend to be larger in size, are darker in colour, and have more pronounced shoulder humps on their back.
- Manitoba has over 100 000 lakes which together cover nearly 16% of the province's area.
- Winnipeg is among the top five coldest cities in the world. The coldest temperature ever recorded in the city was -47.8°C in December, 1879.
- Gimli Manitoba has the largest Icelandic community outside of Iceland. Icelandic settlers first began moving to the area in 1875.
- Churchill Manitoba is known as the "Polar Bear Capital of the World," and every fall, tourists flock to this northern town to try and catch a glimpse.



Check for Understanding

1. What is the provincial tree of Manitoba?
2. What are the two subspecies of bison found in Manitoba?
3. What is unique about Gimli Manitoba?
4. How many lakes does Manitoba have?
5. What city in Manitoba is known as the “Polar Bear Capital of the World”?