

Catalogue of the Passes of Canada

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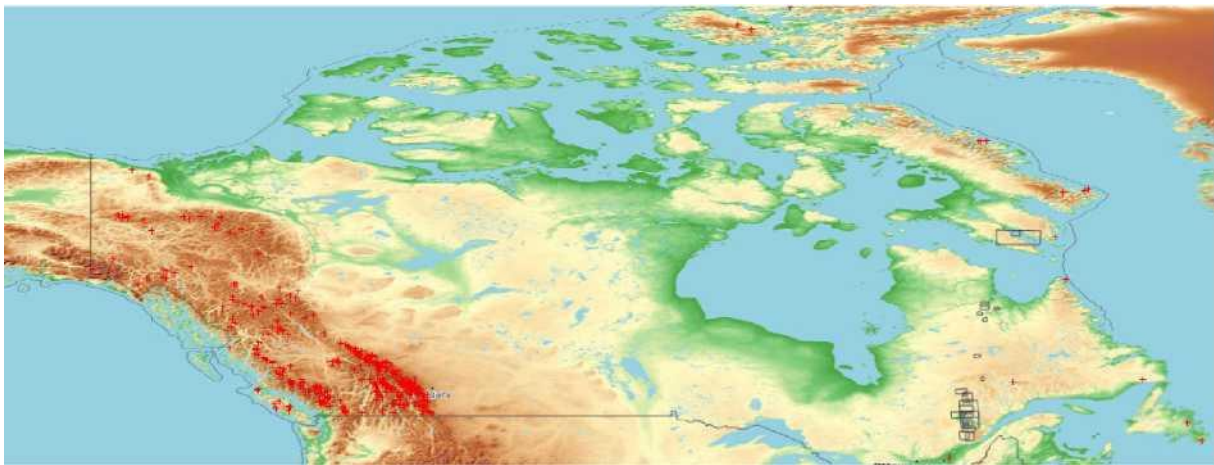
Éditions des Cent Cols

CATALOGUE OF THE PASSES OF CANADA

1. This catalogue

This catalogue is the first pass list in Canada to conform to the Cent Cols Club's Rules of the Game, with a list of more than 500 passes. The data is drawn from government sources as well as the best commercial maps available.

As can be seen from the geographical distribution, the vast majority of the passes listed are located in the Rocky Mountains and other western mountain ranges - the provinces of Alberta and British Columbia account for over 91% of the passes listed.



2. History of Canada

By all accounts, the first human occupants of Canada were Amerindians who crossed from Siberia by land bridge over 14,000 years ago. On the other hand, the indigenous peoples remained out of contact with other civilisations for a long time - with the possible exception of a few temporary Viking settlements in Newfoundland from the 11th century onwards. The first more extensive explorations by Europeans began in 1497 with the arrival of the Italian John Cabot (on behalf of the English king). Then Jacques Cartier claimed the territory around the Gulf of St Lawrence for France, and finally Sir Humphrey Gilbert founded an English colony in Newfoundland in 1583. The term "Canada" probably comes from the Iroquois word "kanata", meaning "village" or "colony".

The next 2 or 3 centuries saw a succession of wars to consolidate and extend the areas controlled by the European powers (and later the newly independent United States) and were to some extent a reflection of the struggles on the European continent. Despite this, the Confederation of Canada was founded in 1867 - initially made up of the eastern provinces of this immense country. Within the confederation, Quebec enjoyed special autonomy, including in linguistic matters. The construction of the transcontinental railway made westward exploration possible. The other provinces joined the confederation to form, in 1905, the country as it is today.

At the beginning of the 21st century, Canada is a parliamentary democracy in the context of a constitutional monarchy. The country has a population of over 38 million (38th in the world) and its GDP

ranks it 16th in the world. At national level there are two official languages - English and French - and several indigenous languages have official status in some of the provinces.

3. Geography of Canada

With almost 10 million km², Canada is the country with the second largest surface area in the world (behind Russia). If you take away the surface area of the more than 2 million lakes in this country, Canada remains the fourth largest country by land surface area.

The country stretches from latitude 41° to latitude 83°, so the climate varies from temperate to polar. No city has an average monthly temperature of more than 28°C in summer, and in winter the only cities with positive average monthly temperatures are on the British Columbia coast.

The largest mountains are in the west of the country:

- The Canadian Rockies, which more or less follow the border between British Columbia and Alberta.
- The Coast Mountains, a British Columbia extension of the American Cordillera
- The Saint-Elie range, where the country's highest peak (Mount Logan) stands at 5959m.

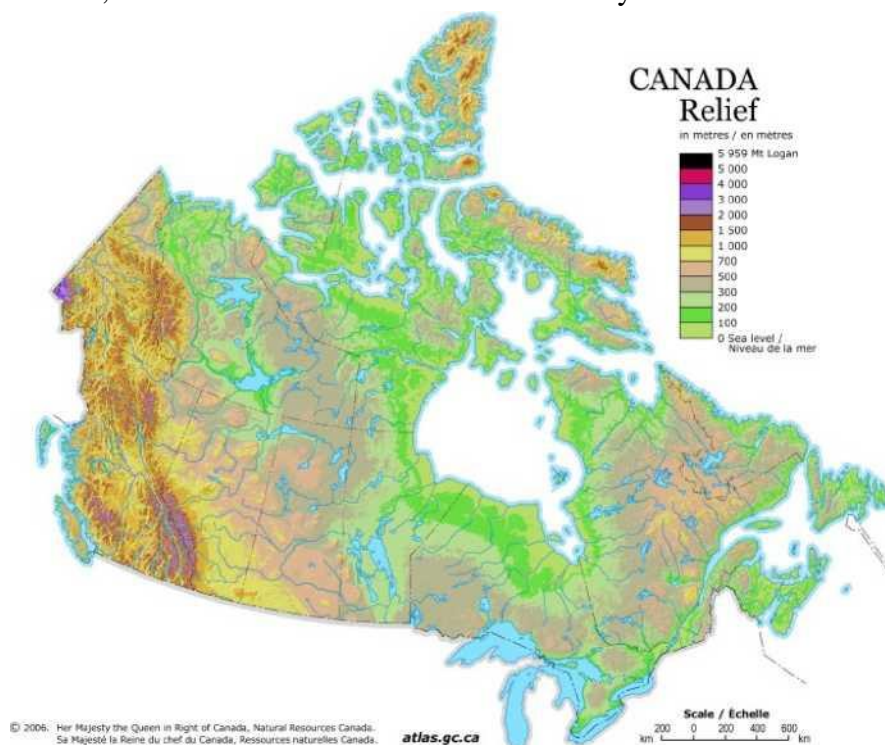
In the east, the Appalachians continue across the US border into Canada's Maritime provinces.

The country has several major rivers, notably the Mackenzie and the St Lawrence.

The country has a fairly large number of biomes:

- Tundra in the north
- Boreal forests or taiga - mainly in the north
- Hardwood forests in the east
- Coniferous forests in the west
- Grasslands in the central-southern provinces
- And even a few areas of desert!

In total, forests cover around 42% of the country's surface area.



4. Administrative Organisation

The country is sub-divided into 10 provinces and 3 territories :

Code t	Subdivision name (en)	Subdivision name (fr)	Subdivision category
CA-AB	Alberta	Alberta	Province
CA-BC	British Columbia	Colombie-Britannique	Province
CA-MB	Manitoba	Manitoba	Province
CA-NB	New Brunswick	Nouveau-Brunswick	Province
CA-NL	Newfoundland and Labrador	Terre-Neuve-et-Labrador	Province
CA-NS	Nova Scotia	Nouvelle-Écosse	Province
CA-ON	Ontario	Ontario	Province
CA-PE	Prince Edward Island	Île-du-Prince-Edouard	Province
CA-QC	Quebec	Québec	Province
CA-SK	Saskatchewan	Saskatchewan	Province
CA-NT	Northwest Territories	Territoires du Nord-Ouest	Territory
CA-NU	Nunavut	Nunavut	Territory
CA-YT	Yukon	Yukon	Territory



5. Definition of a "Col" (Pass) and the toponyms that have been retained by the Club

The Cent Cols Club Rules of the Game have been scrupulously respected in the preparation of this Catalogue:

"The passes listed in this Catalogue are those bearing this name, or any other local, regional or national equivalent, appearing (or having appeared) on cartographic or documentary sources deemed reliable by the Club. "(Rules of the Game)

"Because of the multitude of terrain configurations encountered, the minimum definition of the topographical character of a pass adopted by the Club is as follows: a privileged point of passage, imposed by the relief, situated on a watershed, and other than a summit."(Document appended to the Rules of the Game)

The descriptors and the toponyms retained in this catalogue reflect (as in other countries) their meaning in

different languages and how they are applied in a geographical context.

6. Generic terms/Descriptors recognised as qualifying a Pass in Canada

The descriptors that can designate valid cols/passes in this country are not very numerous and one of them (« Pass ») constitutes the majority of cases.

Pass	Col/Pass – normally with the sense of « passage »
Gap	A low point on a ridge
Col	Col
Break	A sharply-defined low point such as a breach or notch
Divide	A watershed point
Summit	As in the USA – the high point of a pass
Saddle	Characteristic shape of a low point on a ridge
Hole	Depression
Top	Similar to « summit » - only one case known

7. Sources used

On the <https://www.nrcan.gc.ca/home> website, the government provides the public with an impressive amount of free data on the country's natural resources.

You can find :

- Good quality 1:50000 topographic maps of the entire country. They can be downloaded with geolocation files. There are more than 15,000 in all. In the "Sources" column, these maps are called "Toporama 50k", which is one of the sites where you can download different versions of the maps. In order to display the maps of the far north of the country correctly, without too much distortion, they need to be calibrated in 'Polar Stereoscopic'.

- A database of almost 400,000 geographical names. This source is referred to in the catalogue as "NRCan".

Canadian commercial map publishers also produce a number of high-quality maps at scales of 1:20,000 to 1:100,000 of mountainous regions and the east coast:

- ITMB

- Gem Trek (these maps in particular provide a lot of useful information for tourists, such as prohibitions on access by bike)

Some of ITMB's smaller-scale maps have also revealed additional passes.

The only foreign publisher that seems to publish maps of interest for our purposes is the American National Geographic (12 additional passes). Also cited among the sources.

8. The Geographic Coordinate Systems

Canadian national maps are calibrated in NAD83. The difference, for our purposes, with WSG84 is so

small that it can be forgotten.

9. The altitudes

We took the precise altitudes of the points on the 1:50000 maps when they were available. But the contour lines on these maps are quite coarse, so we preferred to interpolate between the 10m contour lines on SRTM1.

10. Catalogue User Manual – explanation of the columns

Column Header	Description
Code	Country + Sub-Division + Initial Altitude of the Pass
Complete Name	The name exactly as it appears on the source document or the romanized version without diacritical marks
Alias	Some alternative names that have been recorded
Short name	The specific component of the name without the generic term
Altitude	Altitude of the geographical pass in meters as it is marked on the most precise source. This altitude can be corrected in later editions of the catalogue but the altitude included in the pass' code will not change. Hence one should always refer to the column "Alti" for the correct altitude.
Documents	Link towards the Cent Cols visualiser which displays the pass on various interactive maps .
Access	Road grading in free format as well as the reference of the road/path.. R Track S Footpath HS Off-Trail. This information and the difficulty classifications are constantly updated by our members
Type	Type of road/path 0 = Road, 10 = Track, 15 = Path, 20 = Path unknown or inexistant
Diff.	Difficulty 0 = tarmac on at least one side 1 = rideable 2 = easy pushing of the bike 3 = difficult pushing of the bike 35 = road without grading 40 = bike needing to be carried 50 = acrobatic 99 = not graded but not necessarily impossible to cross
Neighbouring	Neighbouring Province
WGS84 Lon D	Longitude of the pass in the decimal format of the WGS84 system (directly usable in GPS devices, Google Earth etc).
WGS84 Lat D	Latitude of the pass in the decimal format of the WGS84 system (directly usable in GPS devices, Google Earth etc).
WGS84 Lon S	Longitude of the pass in the sexagesimal format of the WGS84 system.
WGS84 Lat S	Latitude of the pass in the sexagesimal format of the WGS84 system.
WGS84 zone	UTM zone according to the WGS84 system
WGS84 UTM x	UTM abscissa of the pass ("Easting") according to the WGS84 system
WGS84 UTM y	UTM ordinates of the pass("Northing") according to the WGS84 system..
Sources	Source map or signpost for at least one of the names of the passl
Remarks	Additional information considered to be useful

Follow-up	The year in which the pass was added or modified
Date of addition	Date for additions or modifications Rejected/Valid
Last Update	Date of the last update of the pass' data

11. Authors

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Please send any comments, suggestions, corrections or proposals for new passes or additional information to :

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Lake Louise

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