The Path to Purchase: Uncovering how travelers plan and book online

Key insights: Canada

With a complex and multifaceted path to purchase, this research unpacks traveler behaviors in the path to purchase, including the main drivers and resources that influence online travel booking decisions.

The Luth Research includes Canadian traveler data from:
• 800+ survey respondents
• 10.5K-member digital data panel

Canadian travelers spend more than one month thinking about their trip (four days longer than the average) and nearly 40 days planning. Booking occurs over two months prior to going on their trip, four days shorter than the average.

Open to destination inspiration

62 percent of travelers did not have a specific destination in mind when they first started thinking about a trip.

Resources used leading up to a travel purchase

Canadian travelers are more likely than average to use hotel and destination websites during their path to purchase.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Resource</th>
<th>Usage Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>OTA</td>
<td>79%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Search engine</td>
<td>61%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social media</td>
<td>56%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Airline site</td>
<td>53%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meta travel site</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hotel site</td>
<td>41%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Destination site</td>
<td>15%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Content consumption in the 45 days before booking

- 133 pages of travel content viewed
  → versus 141 pages on average
- 287 minutes spent consuming travel content
  → versus 303 minutes on average

69% of Canadian travelers booked their trip on a desktop
→ versus 59% on average
Price and easy-to-use websites are top factors when choosing where to plan and book

57% Best prices on travel
46% Easy-to-use website
35% Positive previous experience
34% Flexible cancellation policies
34% Transparent or no hidden fees

Travelers notice advertisements later in the path to purchase

46% of travelers influenced by advertising noticed advertising when narrowing their options. ➔ versus 39% on average

Canadian travelers are likely to be loyalty program members

58% of travelers are members of a loyalty program.

↑ of those members:
• 79% feel it’s important to book with a brand where they are a loyalty member
• 50% would pay more to book with a brand where they are a loyalty member

Travelers from Canada consume a lot of travel content and spend a lot of time with it leading up to booking. Find ways to stand out among the crowd to ensure your content reaches the right audience.

Most Canadian travelers do not have a particular destination in mind or are considering multiple destinations prior to choosing where to go, highlighting the opportunity for destination inspiration in the planning and research phase.

OTAs are not only for booking

Travelers turn to OTAs as the leading resource when it comes to inspiration, planning, and research. We provide travelers around the world with everything needed throughout the path to purchase for all types of travel, which brings our partners demand.

Top reasons Canadian travelers are interested in loyalty programs

76% Price discounts
70% Gaining points or cash rewards for future travel

What they find most influential:

53% Promotions or deals
43% Beautiful images
43% Content highlighting interesting experiences

Top takeaways