



**COMING UP**

**March 6:** 10 things to do in Phoenix  
**March 13:** Off-season deals in Europe



Paul Zizka

The cabins at Lake O'Hara Lodge offer sweeping views of the lake and the mountains in Yoho National Park in Canada's Rocky Mountains.

**NORTH AMERICA**

## Get off the grid in Canada

Dollar will go further north of border

By SUZANNE MORPHET  
 Special Contributor

With the value of the Canadian "loonie" at near-historic lows — \$1 Canadian is around 0.71 U.S. dollars — it couldn't be a better time to head north and lap up some luxurious experiences at prices that are suddenly a lot more affordable. Here are six fabulous destinations north of the border, plus a tip for getting more bang for your buck with Canadian tour operators worldwide.

Guests come to **Nimmo Bay Wilderness Resort** in British Columbia for soft adventure in the middle of the spectacular wilderness known as the Great Bear Rainforest. Fly by helicopter to a remote alpine lake for an afternoon of fishing, or hike up to a spectacular waterfall.

The resort, with just nine cabins, is open from May through October. Hiking, kayaking and boating are available throughout the season. Grizzly bear viewing begins July 25 and goes until the end of October. Rates for their Wilderness and Wildlife Adventure are \$1,675 per person/per day in Canadian dollars. If you're lucky enough to be paying in U.S. dollars, it will only set you back about \$1,200 per person/per day. [nimmobay.com](http://nimmobay.com).

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Jerry Grajewski

Polar bear sightings are common on tours with Churchill Wild, which has three lodges on Hudson Bay in northern Manitoba.



Jim Byers/Special Contributor

The Lee clan building in Vancouver is a place for any Lee descendants to mingle. It features a beautiful shrine upstairs.

## In Vancouver, Chinatown holds a special place

By JIM BYERS  
 Special Contributor

VANCOUVER, British Columbia — Judy Lam Maxwell is leading me on a tour of Chinatown in her hometown. The topic turns to Chinese immigration to Canada and the political scene 150 years ago.

Maxwell shows me a photo of a Scottish Presbyterian minister who thundered against Chinese immigrants and sought to slap punitive head taxes on folks arriving from China.

"He was my great-grandfather," Maxwell tells me with

the trace of a smile. "That's just the way things were in those days."

Today, Maxwell runs Historical Chinatown Tours and takes visitors to the Chinatown that at least one of her relatives didn't want to see: a thriving and vibrant neighborhood on the edge of downtown that attracts a ton of outside interest.

We start our tour at the very curious Jack Chow Insurance Building on West Pender Street. The road was widened many years ago, and the Chow family was left with a tiny, narrow building that stretches

parallel to the road. Today it's a wonderful office structure that's only a few feet wide in parts. They've installed what company president Rod Chow calls "the world's narrowest broom closet" and even a narrow toaster that takes up less counter space.

You'll find the sidewalk in front of the store is partly made of thick glass, which is illuminated in various colors to suit the time of year, including candy cane red and white or green at Christmas.

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