

SNOWBIRD SEASON SIMPLIFIED: YOUR STEP-BY-STEP TIMELINE FOR U.S. STAYS



1. PRE-DEPARTURE (CANADA)

Prepare for your U.S. snowbird adventure:

- Make sure your Canadian passport is valid for your entire trip.
- Gather proof of Canadian residence (home ownership, lease, utility bills).
- Plan your return or onward travel.
- Bring evidence of sufficient funds and U.S. accommodation details.

2. ENTRY TO THE U.S.

At the border:

- Explain your purpose (tourism, wintering, visiting family) and know your destination's address.
- State your intended length of stay (up to 6 months is typical).
- Show ties to Canada if asked.
- The CBP officer decides your stay length. Check your entry stamp or I-94 record.

3. DURING STAY IN THE U.S.

Enjoy your visit, within the rules:

- **Allowed:** Tourism, recreation, visiting friends/family, short courses, medical treatment.
- **Not allowed:** Employment, work, running a U.S. business, remote work for a U.S. company.
- **New for 2025:** If staying over 30 days, register with USCIS (unless you have an I-94 or NEXUS). File form G-325R.

4. APPROACHING END OF AUTHORIZED STAY

As your stay nears its end:

- Leave the U.S. before your authorized date.
- Or, apply for an extension (Form I-539) at least 45 days before expiration.
- Overstaying, even by one day, can lead to bans and future travel issues.

5. RE-ENTRY TO THE U.S.

Returning for another visit:

- Leaving early and coming back for a short stay may be possible.
- Frequent or back-to-back long stays may raise questions at the border.

6. COMMON PITFALLS

Avoid these mistakes:

- Overestimating your rights as a Canadian visitor.
- Ignoring the new 30-day registration rule.
- Arriving at the border without documentation.
- Carrying prohibited items (cannabis, firearms, etc.).
- Misunderstanding "temporary intent."
- Overstaying your authorized period.

7. QUICK REFERENCE TIMELINE

Your snowbird journey at a glance:

Canada → U.S. Entry (Border Interview) → U.S. Stay (up to 6 months) → Extension Option or Departure → Canada → Possible Re-Entry (with caution)

8. RESOURCES & HELP

For more information:

- Visit official guides: CBP, USCIS, IRS, Snowbird Advisor.
- Contact Berardi Immigration Law for legal immigration advice.

Berardi Immigration Law is a trusted leader in U.S. and Canadian immigration services, known for our personalized approach and deep expertise. Our team makes complex immigration processes simple, stress-free, and successful so you can focus on enjoying your snowbird lifestyle. Partner with us for clear guidance, responsive support, and peace of mind every step of the way!



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