

13-Province Hunt Checklist: Plan Smarter

Master Hunting Checklist

Done	Icon	Checklist item	What to prepare or verify	Recommended timing
☐	☐	Choose the hunting jurisdiction	Confirm the province or territory, wildlife management unit, hunting zone, access point and public or private land rules.	6–12 months before
☐	☐	Select the target species	Confirm whether you are hunting deer, moose, elk, caribou, bear, sheep, goat, waterfowl, upland birds or small game.	6–12 months before
☐	☐	Check current season dates	Use the current annual hunting regulations, not an old blog post or previous year's guide. Seasons can vary by zone, weapon and hunter type.	Before booking
☐	☐	Confirm hunter eligibility	Check resident or non-resident status, minimum age, hunter education, firearms accreditation and any special qualifications.	3–6 months before
☐	☐	Purchase the correct license	Buy the species-specific hunting license, hunting certificate, Outdoors Card, wildlife certificate or equivalent required by the jurisdiction.	As soon as sales open
☐	☐	Apply for draws and tags	Check draw deadlines, lottery systems, special licenses, seals, e-tags, harvest authorizations and tag-transfer rules.	Before the draw deadline
☐	☐	Complete hunter education	Carry proof of hunter education, bowhunter education, firearms training or other required accreditation.	Before license purchase
☐	☐	Book a licensed outfitter or guide	Confirm the outfitter's license, exclusive concession, guide-to-hunter ratio, species authorization and references. Non-resident big-game hunters may be required to use an outfitter in some jurisdictions.	6–18 months before
☐	☐	Review the hunting package	Confirm whether the price includes lodging, meals, airport pickup, bush flights, boats, fuel, guides, licenses, trophy care and meat transportation.	Before paying deposit
☐	☐	Check firearm requirements	Verify firearm classification, ammunition limits, transport cases, airline rules, magazine restrictions and safe-storage requirements.	2–3 months before
☐	☐	Prepare border paperwork	International visitors bringing a firearm should complete the Non-Resident Firearms Declaration and declare firearms in writing at the Canadian border. Check requirements with CBSA and the RCMP before departure.	Several weeks before
☐	☐	Prepare bow or crossbow documents	Check draw-weight rules, broadhead requirements, crossbow restrictions, transport cases and archery-only season dates.	1–2 months before
☐	☐	Add federal bird permits	Waterfowl hunters need a federal Migratory Game Bird Hunting Permit and Canadian Wildlife Habitat Conservation Stamp. The permit is valid from August 1, 2026, through June 30.	Before waterfowl hunting

☐	☒	Book flights and remote transport	Confirm commercial flights, floatplane or helicopter schedules, baggage limits, fuel stops, weather delays and backup travel dates.	2–6 months before
☐	☐	Arrange travel insurance	Choose coverage for medical treatment, emergency evacuation, trip cancellation, lost baggage and remote-aircraft delays.	Before final payment
☐	☐	Prepare medical and safety supplies	Carry prescriptions, first-aid supplies, insect protection, emergency shelter, water treatment, satellite communication and personal locator equipment.	1–2 weeks before
☐	☐	Check hunting-dog requirements	Verify vaccination records, import documents, airline rules, crate requirements and provincial or territorial dog regulations. CFIA requirements apply to animals entering Canada.	Several weeks before
☐	☐	Pack weather-appropriate clothing	Prepare waterproof boots, layered clothing, rain gear, warm gloves, headwear, high-visibility clothing and spare dry clothes.	1–2 weeks before
☐	☐	Plan communication and navigation	Carry a satellite phone, GPS, paper maps, extra batteries, power banks and an emergency contact plan. Do not rely only on mobile service in remote areas.	Before departure
☐	☐	Plan meat and trophy handling	Ask who handles field dressing, meat cooling, taxidermy, skull cleaning, antler transport, hide preparation and airline shipment.	Before the hunt
☐	☐	Check CITES and export rules	Some trophies, animal parts and products require CITES permits or additional export documents. Apply early when required.	Several weeks or months before
☐	☐	Carry document copies	Keep printed and digital copies of your passport, license, tags, firearm declaration, insurance, outfitter agreement, emergency contacts and travel itinerary.	Before departure
☐	☒	Confirm the trip 72 hours before departure	Reconfirm flights, weather, pickup time, license status, camp opening, guide contact, firearm paperwork and baggage arrangements.	72 hours before

13-Jurisdiction Quick Check

Province or territory	Important items to confirm
☐ British Columbia	Non-resident hunting license, species license, region and season, Limited Entry Hunting requirements, guide outfitter arrangements and firearm declaration. BC provides specific instructions for non-resident hunters and imported firearms.
☐ Alberta	AlbertaRELM account, wildlife management unit, special license or draw, species tag, hunter education and APOS outfitter requirements. Alberta publishes annual hunting regulations and manages licenses through AlbertaRELM.
☐ Saskatchewan	HAL account, license issuer, big-game draw, species license, hunting zone, mandatory harvest reporting and outfitter arrangements. Saskatchewan licenses and draws are managed through the HAL system.
☐ Manitoba	Manitoba eLicensing account, species license, game tag, hunting area, non-resident requirements, baiting rules and licensed guide or lodge arrangements.

☐ Ontario	Outdoors Card, hunter accreditation, species license, license summary, tags, wildlife management unit and non-resident bear or moose outfitter requirements. Ontario requires the relevant license and tags for the species being hunted.
☐ Quebec	Hunting license, species certificate, hunting zone, weapon-specific season, outfitter package and My Hunting and Fishing Account requirements. Québec licenses can be purchased online or through authorized sales outlets.
☐ New Brunswick	Non-resident license, species allocation, moose or bear rules, guide exemption requirements, hunting zone and outfitter authorization. New Brunswick publishes separate information for outfitters, guides and non-resident hunting.
☐ Nova Scotia	Hunting license, deer management zone, season dates, firearm or archery rules, landowner permission and local guide or outfitter availability. Deer regulations can vary between Nova Scotia's management zones.
☐ Prince Edward Island	Hunting license, guide or outfitter registration, land access, waterfowl permit, deer and small-game seasons, and the current government vendor list. PEI's hunting vendor list was updated for the 2026–2027 season.
☐ Newfoundland and Labrador	Big-game license, draw or allocation, species tag, hunting zone, aircraft or boat access, camp arrangements and licensed outfitter details. The Newfoundland and Labrador Outfitters Association represents more than 125 outfitting businesses.
☐ Yukon	Yukon hunting license, species seal, concession location, registered outfitter, aircraft or horseback access and mountain-safety plan. Registered Yukon outfitters operate within exclusive concession areas.
☒ Northwest Territories	Hunting license, wildlife management area, species authorization, aircraft or helicopter access and licensed outfitter. Non-residents require an outfitter for NWT big-game hunting.
☐ Nunavut	Hunting license, species tag, community or regional quota, Inuit guide arrangements, aircraft or boat access and licensed outfitter. Visitors must use licensed outfitters for sport hunting in Nunavut.



Final Departure Check

Use this final symbol-based check before leaving home:

- ☐ Passport and identification packed.
- 📄 Hunting license, tags and permits printed or saved offline.
- 🔫 Firearm declaration and airline approval completed.
- 🧑🏠 Hunter education and firearms documents available.
- 🕒 Outfitter, guide and airport-transfer contacts saved.
- 🏥 Insurance and emergency evacuation details confirmed.
- 📶 Satellite phone or emergency communicator tested.
- 🧥 Boots, rain gear, warm layers and spare clothing packed.
- 📦 Meat, hide, antler and trophy-shipping plan confirmed.
- ✅ Family or emergency contact has the complete itinerary.

