

## 6. Canada

In 1989, Elon Musk arrived in North America, debunking the myth of his wealthy upbringing influenced by rumors around his father's emerald mine fortunes. Starting with a modest sum provided by his parents, Musk set off to explore Canada, beginning his journey with limited funds and a list of relatives he'd never met. After finding out his mother's uncle had moved from Montreal, he stayed in a youth hostel, experiencing a stark contrast from the security concerns he had in South Africa. His adventurous spirit led him to purchase a Greyhound Discovery Pass, enabling him to travel across Canada, which introduced him to a series of misadventures, including losing his suitcase and struggling with the inefficiencies of the financial system when replacing his traveler's checks.

Musk's travels took him to Saskatchewan, where he stayed with a cousin and engaged in manual labor on a farm, a humble celebration of his 18th birthday marking one of his stops. The journey continued to Vancouver, where he encountered grueling work at a lumber mill, contrasting sharply with his later ventures into technology and entrepreneurship.

Simultaneously, his mother, Maye Musk, and sister, Tosca, made the decision to relocate to Canada, initially settling in Toronto. The Musk family faced financial challenges, living frugally in a cramped apartment and managing multiple jobs to support themselves. Elon's early experiences in Canada, including his intern stint at Microsoft's Toronto office, laid a foundational understanding of hard work, solitude, and resilience.

Despite the hardships, these experiences shaped Elon Musk's perspective on life and the importance of innovation, setting the stage for his remarkable journey in the technology and space exploration industries. Throughout this period, the family dynamics and their collective struggle for a better life in a new country highlight the humble beginnings from which Musk eventually rose to become one of the most influential figures in technology.