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Three Perfect Days in Toronto - A Journey Connected Travel Guide

# **Trip Summary**

### Day 1

CN Tower - CN Tower

Distillery Historic District - Distillery Historic District

King West - King West

### Day 2

The Islands - The Islands

Royal Ontario Museum - Royal Ontario Museum

Casa Loma - Casa Loma

Bloor Street/Yorkville - Bloor Street/Yorkville

### Day 3

Kensington Market - Kensington Market

Niagara Falls - Niagara Falls

Niagara Falls Day Tour from Toronto - Niagara Falls Day Tour from Toronto

## **Toronto City Guide**

Toronto - The City

# Top Things to Do and See in Toronto

Toronto - Do & See - Niagara Falls Day Tour from Toronto, CN Tower, Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto Zoo, Distillery Historic District, Chinatown, Hockey Hall Of Fame, Casa Loma, The Islands, Ontario Science Centre, Ripley's Aquarium of Canada, Canada's Wonderland, Dundas Square, Absolute Towers, Humber Bay Arch Bridge, Sugar Beach, St. Lawrence Market, Simcoe WaveDeck, Sherbourne Common, Brookfield Place, Allan Gardens Conservatory, BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir, Niagara Falls

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Niagara Falls Day Tour from Toronto - Niagara Falls Day Tour from Toronto

Royal Ontario Museum - Royal Ontario Museum

Toronto Zoo - Toronto Zoo

Distillery Historic District - Distillery Historic District

CN Tower - CN Tower

Chinatown - Chinatown

Hockey Hall Of Fame - Hockey Hall Of Fame

The Islands - The Islands

Casa Loma - Casa Loma

Ontario Science Centre - Ontario Science Centre

### **Toronto Dining, Bars, and Nightlife**

Toronto - Dining - Sassafraz, 360 Restaurant, Sotto Sotto, Madrina Bar & Tapas, Lee, C'est what?, Canoe, Terroni, Barque Smokehouse, Union Restaurant, Oyster Boy, Wilbur Mexicana, Khao San Road

Toronto - Bars & Nightlife - The Village Genius Pub, The Drake Hotel Lounge, Dog & Bear, Pravda Vodka Bar, WVRST, The Reservoir Lounge, Tallboys, The Rex, Horseshoe Tavern

Toronto - Cafes - Café Diplomatico, Moonbean Coffee Shop, Balzac's Coffee Roasters, Il Fornello on Danforth, Uncle Betty's Diner, Pizzeria Libretto, The Rooster Coffee House, Snakes & Lattes

# **Toronto Tourist Resources**

Toronto - Tourist Information - Toronto Pearson International Airport (YYZ), Best Time to Visit, Port of Toronto, Public Transport, Post, Pharmacy, Electricity, Telephone



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# **Toronto City Guide**



### **Toronto - The City**

Toronto is a bustling and ever-evolving multicultural hub of Canada. Home to over 2.8 million people, the city organically brings together a multitude of cultures and offers plenty in terms of art and entertainment all year round. It's the most populated city in Canada, as well as the capital of the country's province of Ontario.

The city's many districts each have their own unique flair, and some of the latest architectural creations liven up the cityscape and make for some amazing backdrop for unique photographs. Toronto's location on lake Ontario adds a refreshing breeziness to the vibe of this busy metropolis, and the abundance of green spaces and parks make Toronto a city incredibly livable. Toronto hosts a multitude of festivals throughout the year, boasts a plethora of sights to keep visitors busy for days (Canadian Niagara Falls are a stone's throw away from here, too), and boasts vibrant shopping and dining scenes.











# Top Things to Do and See in Toronto



#### Toronto - Do & See

Toronto is a vibrant city that can be enjoyed anytime of year. In the colder months, there is plenty to see and do with the city's diverse arts and entertainment offerings. The warmer seasons provide the perfect opportunity to experience Toronto's beautiful parks and beaches. The island archipelago is just a short ferry ride away and makes for a great day trip.





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Chinatown in Toronto is a must-see destination. The area is full of interesting stores, herbal remedy shops, cafes, restaurants and produce markets, all waiting to be explored. The area is also conveniently located near other notable attractions such as the Art Gallery of Ontario, Kensington Market, Bau-Xi Gallery, and Art Square Gallery, which has a cafe with an impressive menu.

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**Ripley's Aquarium of Canada** 288 Bremner Boulevard, Toronto +1 877 773 1497

A fun adventure for the whole family, Ripley's Aquarium houses thousands of sea animals and with interactive and educational exhibits, kids and adults will keep themselves busy for few hours. Don't miss out the tunnel: all kinds of marine creatures will swim by and above. The aquarium is especially known for its multitude of shark species. Daily dive shows are held every two hours.



Canada's Wonderland 9580 Jane Street, Vaughan +1 905 832 8131

This huge amusement park houses the largest variety of roller coasters in all of North America, and also contains a 20-acre water park for those who don't mind making a splash. The park promises loads of fun for the whole family, and season passes are available.



### **Dundas Square**

Toronto's central square has been compared to New York's Times Square for its abundance of colorful billboards and shining lights. Located in the very midst of downtown, it is a sight to behold both day and night. The square teems with people and enticing shops and dining venues.



**Absolute Towers** 50-60 Absolute Avenue, Mississauga

The Absolute Towers are an unmissable landmark. They liven up the cityscape with their unusual design and are one of the most original-looking residential condominiums out there. The skyscrapers twist to challenge strictly utilitarian modernist perspective on dwelling buildings.



**Humber Bay Arch Bridge** Humber Bridge, Toronto

Cross this bridge on foot or by bike and take in the views of the city as you pass. The view of the bridge itself from below also makes for a nice photograph. The bridge has been distinguished by several architecture and engineering awards, and commemorates the old aboriginal trading route once in existence here via themed carvings.



**Sugar Beach** Sugar Beach, Toronto

Sugar Beach, named after the Red Path sugar factory located in the vicinity, is indeed a sweet spot for Toronto residents during the summertime. Conveniently located in close proximity to the Financial and Entertainment Districts, the Beach makes for a perfect relaxing venue.



**St. Lawrence Market** 92 Front Street East, Toronto +1 416 392 7219

Great picnic fare can be discovered at The St. Lawrence Market, ranked by National Geographic as the world's best food market. The St. Lawrence Hall, which contains the magnificent Great Hall, continues to be Toronto's favorite site for social and business functions.



Simcoe WaveDeck Queens Quay West, Toronto

The Simcoe WaveDeck is a public space inspired by Lake Ontario's waves. It has been quite the popular waterfront hang out venue, and the WaveDeck itself makes for a great background for some memorable photos from your trip.



**Sherbourne Common** 

Sherbourne Common, Queens Quay East

Sherbourne Common is a park and public space that serves a purpose: it houses storm-water treatment facilities and makes for some great photos thanks to its unique "Light Showers" sculptures.



Brookfield Place 181 Bay Street, Toronto +1 416 777 6480

Brookfield Place is a postmodern architectural complex that is primarily an office complex, but still remains a tourist attraction due to the exhibitions and installations it frequently hosts. Come here to admire art and architecture, shop, and take some unique photographs.



Allan Gardens Conservatory 160 Gerrard Street East, Toronto

+1 416 392 7288

The Conservatory features six greenhouses and hosts multiple species of flora, such as orchids, cacti, banana and palm trees, and more. Events at the Conservatory are often marked with beautiful flower and plant arrangements.



# **BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir**

61 Claireville Drive, Toronto

+1 416 798 2277

This Hindu temple was the first of its kind in Canada. Craftsmen in India hand-carved limestone and marble and shipped parts of the temple to Toronto, where volunteering artisans from India assembled the parts and built the temple, all while living on site for 2 years. What came out is a stunning piece of Hindu temple architecture.



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# Toronto Dining, Bars, and Nightlife



### **Toronto - Dining**

You are likely to find just about every cuisine of the world in the streets of Toronto. Visit Greektown, Little India and, of course, Chinatown for a taste of the world's gastronomic delights or head to the revolving restaurant atop the CN Tower for an unforgettable dining experience with birds-eye view of the city. With a plethora of different cultures and neighborhoods, the cuisine is as diverse as the population and will suit any taste and wallet.





Sassafraz 100 Cumberland Street, Toronto +1 416 964 2222

Sassafraz is a favorite of celebrities, particularly during the famous Toronto International Film Festival, and it is probably Toronto's best spot for people-watching. The chance to catch a glimpse of celebs is high on any given day. It serves French-inspired Canadian cuisine with dishes that range from butter-poached monkfish fillet and roasted duck breast du Normandie to yeal sweetbread medallion.



**360 Restaurant** 290 Bremner Boulevard, Toronto +1 416 362 5411

With its own wine cellar (the world's highest!) the 360 is a curious landmark located at the top of the famous CN Tower. Enjoying the seasonal menu and incredible wine selection as you dine in this revolving restaurant is complemented by the stunning views of Toronto from over 350 meters above the ground.



**Sotto Sotto** 120 Avenue Road, Toronto +1 416 962 0011

This quaint restaurant is a stone's throw away from Toronto's posh Yorkville neighborhood and brings you the romance of Italy with its Florentine decor, aged frescoes, wall-mounted stonework, and wax-dripping candelabra. The enchanting atmosphere, the authentic Italian cuisine and the wide variety of wines make it one of the city's favorites.



Madrina Bar & Tapas 2 Trinity Street, Toronto +1 416 548 8055

Chef Ramon Simarro brings classic cuisine from Barcelona to Toronto. Dishes like tortilla chips, tapas, salads or baguettes as well as other tasty Spanish delicacies are served here all day long. For lunch, steak, chicken or tuna salads are on the menu and can be accompanied by one of the drinks from the extensive list of beverages in the form of different wines or cocktails.



Lee 601 King Street West, Toronto +1 416 504 7867

Lee's style of serving food is inspired by the Spanish tapas experience, although the flavors themselves gravitate towards Asian and French. Dishes are served in small portions, which allows guests to enjoy many different flavors in one night. The atmosphere is hip and relaxed.



C'est what? 67 Front Street East, Toronto +1 416 867 9499

C'est What is Toronto's original craft beer restaurant. The place to go for local beers, music and board games. In addition, enjoy their whisky bar and tasty comfort food for breakfast, lunch or dinner. The butter chicken, burgers, ribs and fish dishes are top notch.



Canoe
66 Wellington Street West, Toronto
+1 416 364 0054

Located on the 54th floor of the TD Bank Tower, this swanky restaurant boasts stunning panoramas of the Toronto harbor and downtown core. The menu is seasonal, highlighting the rich Canadian cultural heritage. The restaurant is available for private events on Saturdays and Sundays.



**Terroni** 720 Queen Street West, Toronto +1 416 504 0320

Terroni is a popular restaurant chain in Toronto known for its authentic Italian cuisine. Located in the city's trendy Queen Street West neighborhood, Terroni offers a variety of dishes including pasta, pizza, and meats cooked on a wood-fired grill. The restaurant also boasts a well-curated wine list featuring Italian and Canadian options.



**Barque Smokehouse** 299 Roncesvalles Avenue, Toronto +1 416 532 7700

The place is well-known for its generous portions, so order to share. Try the ribs or come in for brunch — protein options abound! For the full tasting experience, try the BBQ platter (feeds four). It includes brisket, pulled pork, lamb shoulder, turkey sausages, baby back ribs and chicken thighs.



**Union Restaurant**72 Ossington Avenue, Toronto
+1 416 850 0093

Continuously recognized for the impeccable quality and taste, Union is the place to go for lunch, dinner or Sunday brunch. Be sure to include Elk Sliders, Union Salad or Sticky Ribs in your order. The French-inspired restaurant places special emphasis on cooking with fresh, organic ingredients.



Oyster Boy 872 Queen Street West, Toronto +1 416 534 3432

Oyster Boy is a seafood-centric restaurant, known for their selection of fresh oysters, as well as their wide range of other seafood dishes. The intimate and cozy atmosphere is perfect for a romantic dinner or a night out with friends. The restaurant is a great spot for a drink after work or a special occasion. Oyster Boy's commitment to sustainability is evident in their sourcing practices, with a focus on locally-sourced and sustainably-raised seafood options.



Wilbur Mexicana 552 King Street West, Toronto +1 416 792 1878

Delicious and affordable Mexican food made with fresh ingredients is what this casual eatery is well-known for. Order the Cali Burrito or any of the other goodies off the menu and enjoy! A variety of options are available for vegetarians.



**Khao San Road** 11 Charlotte Street, Toronto +1 647 352 5773

A unison of frequent visitors' praising remarks serves as testament to the restaurant being worth spending your evening at. Passionate and skilled chef prepares food with authentic flavors from Thailand. This location is an obligatory stop for Thai food lovers.



### **Toronto - Bars & Nightlife**

The night in Toronto begins early at one of the Downtown's watering holes — in the Old Town, Entertainment or Financial districts. Little Italy and Annex areas are also known for their late-night party spirit, and Toronto's gay nightlife mostly centers around Church and Wellesley. Bars and pubs abound in these areas, and those looking to continue their night out in one of the city's many dance floors must turn up at one of the Entertainment district's clubs after 11 pm.





The Village Genius Pub 126 McCaul Street, Toronto +1 416 597 1175

A visit to this lively and warm pub will give you the opportunity to see your name inscribed on the "Idiot's Hall of Fame". This place is also known for having dozens of beers on tap, a great selection of imported bottles at very good prices, and serving German and Belgian pub grub.



The Drake Hotel Lounge 1150 Queen Street West, Toronto +1 416 531 5042

A favorite of artists and indie musicians, this bohemian infused hotel lounge is located in Toronto's artsy design neighborhood and is frequented by fashionistas and creative types. The drink menu offers vintage cocktails with a twist. Recipe sources include drink menus from the Algonquin Hotel in New York circa 1920s.



**Dog & Bear** 1100 Queen Street West, Toronto +1 647 352 8601

Best described as a traditional English pub, a sports-friendly, neighborhood watering hole with a cozy atmosphere. The pub is equipped with nine big TVs broadcasting big games. As the night progresses, the venue becomes increasingly louder and livelier.



**Pravda Vodka Bar** 44 Wellington Street East, Toronto +1 416 366 0303

Packed with Soviet memorabilia, this themed bar will surely make for some entertaining examination of its many treasures. Don't miss the vodka sampling in the vodka cooler but before that fill your stomach with some Russian delights such as pierogis (filled dumplings), caviars and Russian flatbread.



WVRST 609 King Street West, Toronto +1 416 703 7775

The beer-hall style seating in this Fashion District bar promises rowdy beer-drinking nights. Luckily, there is plenty to choose from: both local microbreweries and old European ones are represented. The selection of sausages to go along is just as varied.



**The Reservoir Lounge** 52 Wellington Street East, Toronto +1 416 955 0887

Various music genres like jazz, blues, funk, R&B, pop and folk sound from the stage and entertain the crowd every time the lounge opens its doors. Have a great night in this retro-style ambience with cocktails, mixed drinks or something to eat.



**Tallboys** 838 Bloor Street West, Toronto +1 416 535 7486

At Tallboys' craft house you can have all different kinds of beers. Try lager, porter, pale ale, cider or dark brews. Or, sample different taste profiles like sour or bitter. Whatever your preference, you will find something to match it. Burgers, salads or sandwiches are served to still one's hunger.



**The Rex** 194 Queen West, Toronto +1 416 598 2475

The Rex has been a staple of Queen Street for decades, and every night of the week sees live acts on stage to-date. A great place for a drink and some jazz, funk or rock tunes. Whatever is on schedule that night will entertain and all but guarantee a fun night out.



Horseshoe Tavern 370 Queen Street West, Toronto +1 416 598 4226

If you are looking for live music, craft beers or ales from the tap, this tavern is the place to go. With more than 60 years of history, the Horseshoe Tavern knows how to host a party with good music, drinks and vibes. Check the schedule on the taverns' website for their daily acts and ticket purchases.



### **Toronto - Cafes**

From the exotic fruits and delicacies of Chinatown to the European-style Kensington Market, the colorful streets of Little India and the authentic restaurants of Little Italy and Greektown, cafes to your liking can be found in any of Toronto's multicultural corners.









**Café Diplomatico** 594 College Street, Toronto +1 416 534 4637

This laid back, unpretentious spot smack in the middle of Little Italy on the College West strip has become an institution for coffee lovers and is often used as a set for film makers. In the afternoon, the tables fill with local folk pouring intensely over movie reviews, writing, or chatting amicably while sipping long double espressos or lattes from pint-sized glasses.



**Moonbean Coffee Shop** 30 St. Andrews Street, Toronto +1 866 595 0327

It's very rarely quiet at this quaint spot in Kensington market, one of the few shops where you can enjoy some 50 different varieties of organic, freshly roasted and fair trade coffee. Head there on a Saturday or Sunday afternoon, and don't forget to order the popular "nana" bread (banana bread)!



Balzac's Coffee Roasters
1 Trinity Street, Toronto
+1 416 207 1709

This popular coffee house is nestled in the old Pump House of the historic Distillery District and is probably the closest you'll get to a European coffee house in Toronto. The dark wood and raw stone interior lends a Paris café ambiance to this hidden-in-epic-proportions gem. Stylized posters in the Toulouse-Lautrec and Cheret realm grace the walls, while a huge chandelier hangs from the ceiling.



**II Fornello on Danforth** 576 Danforth Avenue, Toronto +1 416 466 2931

Il Fornello serves authentic wood oven-baked Neapolitan-style pizzas along with other Italian food options, such as pasta and seafood dishes to be enjoyed in a bright, modern setting with a spacious patio.



Uncle Betty's Diner 2590 Yonge Street, Toronto +1 416 483 2590

With its grilled cheese sandwiches and sloppy Joe's, Uncle Betty's Diner is the ultimate blast from the past that will remind many visitors of their childhood favorites. The diner serves all-day breakfast, lunch, and dinner, as well as signature homemade doughnuts.



**Pizzeria Libretto** 221 Ossington Avenue, Toronto +1 416 532 8000

Toronto's favorite pizza joint cherishes its well-deserved popularity among locals—their wood-fired Neapolitan-style pizzas are all of the highest quality and bring the place plenty of repeat customers. The drink list is extensive, and a good value fixed-price lunch is served on weekdays.



**The Rooster Coffee House** 479 Broadview Avenue, Toronto +1 647 530 4779

Coffee and food options are aplenty at this cozy cafe with a view over Riverdale Park. Many plugs to charge your electronic devices and password-free WiFi are a nice touch to complete the café experience.



Snakes & Lattes 600 Bloor Street West, Toronto +1 647 342 9229

Snakes & Lattes is a spot that offers a fun pass time to go with your snack and coffee — shelves filled with board and card games adorn the walls, and cafe guests are welcome to choose from the variety. Get here early to secure a spot, as the café tends to fill up quickly.

### **Toronto Tourist Resources**



#### **Toronto - Tourist Information**





Toronto Pearson International Airport (YYZ)

6301 Silver Dart Drive, Mississauga

Toronto is one of the most accessible cities in North America, nearby cities include Buffalo, Detroit, Chicago and New York.

The Lester B. Pearson International Airport (YYZ) is located in the northwest corner of metropolitan Toronto 16 miles (25 km) west of central Toronto and serves more than 35 international carriers. It is the main Toronto airport for handling commercial and business flights. Allow 40-60 minutes to/from the heart of downtown, depending on time of travel.

Toronto Transit Commission (TTC) provides express bus and subway service to the city centre of Toronto. This is least expensive method of getting to and from downtown Toronto. You will find the stations in terminal 1, ground level, second curb, column R4 and terminal 3, arrivals level, third curb, column C12.

MiWay, the local bus service within the City of Mississauga is located in terminal 1, ground Level, second curb, column S4.

GO Bus and GO Train service transport their passengers to the city centre of Toronto and surrounding suburbs. (Terminal 1, ground level, second curb, column Q2-Q4).

Union Pearson Express takes only 25 minutes from Toronto Pearson International Airport to Union Station in the heart of downtown Toronto. The trains are leaving every 15 minutes and run between 5:30 am and 1 am. Tickets can be bought at the ticket vending machines at airport, customer service counter in terminal 1 (arrival level) and onboard on the train.

If you choose to take a taxi, make sure to take a licensed Toronto Pearson taxi or limo. Only authorized taxi company are allowed to pick passengers from Toronto Pearson. Taxi pick-up locations: terminal 1, arrival level and terminal 3, arrivals level.

At the airport there are several car rentals such as Avis, Budget, Dollar/Thrifty, Enterprise, Hertz and National/Alamo. They are on Level 1 of the Terminal 1 and Terminal 3 parking garages.



## **Best Time to Visit**

Toronto is a year-round destination and offers something for everyone. Summer (June–August) is the most popular season and this is when schools are on break and many families have holiday. Summer is the warmest time of the year and this is also when the city is getting more crowded and the accommodation rates are rising. During June many popular festivals are organized, and this is also when most festivals kick off.

If you like cold weather and outdoor activities, then November to March is good months to travel to Toronto. During these months the hotel rates are also lower. January is the peak of Toronto's long winter season and one of the coldest months of the year.

Spring between April and May is claimed to be the best time to visit Toronto. The weather is chillier but still it is comfortable to do some sightseeing. Make sure to have extra layer of clothing when the sun drops down — it can get cold. During these months there are no crowds and the room rates are reasonable.



Port of Toronto
Port of Toronto, 8 Unwin Avenue

The International Marine Passenger Terminal is an exciting destination for cruise ship travelers, with a convenient location just a short drive from downtown Toronto. The port allows passengers to spend several days in the city, taking advantage of its many attractions, restaurants and accommodations.

The port was originally built for the Spirit of Ontario I, a fast ferry service between Toronto and Rochester, New York, but has since become a hub for Great Lakes cruise ships. In the summer months, tourists from the US and Europe often use the terminal as a port of call between May and October.



### **Public Transport**

The Toronto Transit Commission (TTC) is the quick, convenient and safe way to get around Toronto. The subway system is linked with buses and streetcars to get you around Toronto on one fare, provided it's a one way trip with no stopovers. You can "ride the rocket" (as the TTC aptly describes itself) weekdays and Saturdays from about 6 am until 1:30 am and on Sundays from about 9 am to 1:30 am.

Get a transfer when you pay and you can make a free connection as long as you complete your journey within one hour. Weekly and monthly passes are also available at subway stations.

Buses and streetcars are frequent and can get you from any subway stop to your final destination. Both are equipped with route and destination information signs. Schedule information is posted at most major route intersections. There's a late night service called the Blue Night Network. Buses and streetcars run on most major routes (transit stops are marked with a reflective blue band) every morning from about 1:30 am to 5:00 am Service is provided every 30 minutes or less.

Toronto is also served by the VIA Rail System, the network that provides all rail service throughout Canada (with connections to the Amtrak system through Niagara Falls, New York). Union Station is the name of the train station. It is located on Front Street, between Bay and University (across the street from the Royal York Hotel). The station is right on the subway line.



Post 100 King Street West, Toronto

Stamps are available from Canada Post outlets or post offices across the city. Most post offices are open from 9 am to 7 pm.



**Pharmacy**Shoppers Drug Mart, 465 Yonge Street
+1 416 408 4000

Pharma Plus Drug Mart and Shoppers Mart are two of Toronto's main chains for medication. There's often one in every neighborhood that is open 24 hours.

If you're in need of emergency medical care, call 911. Concierges at hotel desks can also recommend doctors.



### **Electricity**

Canada uses 110-volt electricity, 60 cycle electric power, same as the USA. Unless your appliance is dual voltage, you need to use a "converter" or a "transformer". Power outlets are designed for use with a two prong and some accept a 3 prong (with ground) plug.



Country Code: +1

Area code: +1 (416) and (647). For the Greater Toronto Area: (905)