



**nileGUIDE**

ALL YOU NEED TO PLAN YOUR PERFECT TRIP



bensonkua

# Yorkville Neighbourhood Art Galleries

## Toronto, 1 Day

### Table of contents:

Guide Description 2

Itinerary Overview 3

Daily Itineraries 4

Toronto Snapshot 6

# Guide Description



**AUTHOR NOTE:** If you're into art, Toronto is a great place to visit. This itinerary is dedicated to the art galleries in the upscale Yorkville neighbourhood. Toronto has a large and flourishing art scene and you could easily spend a week visiting all the different galleries in the city. This day hits the major ones within walking distance of each other in Yorkville.

# Itinerary Overview

things to do  
restaurants  
hotels  
nightlife

## Day 1 - Toronto



### Robert Mede Gallery

For the connoisseur



### Mira Godard Gallery

Three Floors of Space



### Remys Restaurant

Romantic rooftop patio



### Hollander York Gallery

Both traditional and modern art



### Gardiner Museum

One of North America's leading ceramics museums, with exhibits, tours, lectures and kid-friendly activities.



### Senses

A touch of class

**contact:**  
tel: +1 416 966 9362  
fax: +1 416 966 2608  
<http://www.mede-gallery.com/>

**location:**  
321 Davenport Rd  
Toronto ON M5R 1K5

**hours:**  
10a-5p Thu-Sat, Mon-Wed by  
appointment

## 1 Robert Mede Gallery

**DESCRIPTION:** This gallery, located in the Designers' Walk area of The Annex, specializes in internationally recognized 19th and 20th century European, Canadian and American art. It also has an impressive display of period and contemporary bronze sculptures. It houses a diverse range of artwork: from Italian oils and Haitian primitives to turn of the century Russian and the bronzes of Suzor Cote, Robert Tait McKenzie and James Earle Fraser. It's a must-see for the more refined art connoisseur, and for anyone else who wants to learn more about art. © wcities.com



Photo courtesy of Robert Mede Gallery

**contact:**  
tel: +1 416 964 8197  
fax: +1 416 964 5912  
<http://www.godardgallery.com/>

**location:**  
22 Hazelton Avenue  
Toronto ON M5R 2E2

**hours:**  
Tu-Sa 10a-5p

## 2 Mira Godard Gallery

**DESCRIPTION:** In existence since 1962, this gallery ranks as one of the largest in Canada, with three floors of exhibition space devoted to works by Canadian and international artists. The gallery prides itself on being able to satisfy the needs of both first-time buyers and experienced collectors; as well as its ability to match up prospective purchasers with just the right art work. Among the artists represented by the gallery are Paul-Emile Borduas, Alex Colville, Mary Pratt, Jean-Paul Riopelle and the estate of David Milne. © wcities.com



wcities

**contact:**  
tel: 416 968 9429  
fax: 416 968 9121

**location:**  
115 Yorkville Ave  
Toronto ON M5R 1C1

**hours:**  
11:30a-2:45a daily

## 3 Remys Restaurant

**DESCRIPTION:** Located at the epicentre of the Yorkville shopping district, this restaurant is perfect either for lunch on the 300-seat second level patio or for after-hours dining in the more formal dining room. Lunch consists of a full board of sandwiches, perogies and seafood appetizers. Dinner is a selection of chicken, veal, beef and seafood combinations. Pasta is well represented, including fettuccine with smoked chicken served in a white wine cream sauce (CAD12.75). This prime choice for daytime tourists and business folk turns into a frenzied club scene for the late night prowling of the young and the restless. © wcities.com



wcities

**contact:**

tel: +1 416 923 9275  
fax: +1 416 923 7698  
<http://www.hollanderyorkgallery.com>

**location:**

110 Yorkville Avenue  
Toronto ON M5R 1B9

**hours:**

M-Sa 10a-6p

**4 Hollander York Gallery**

**DESCRIPTION:** Founded in 1975 in historic Yorkville, this gallery features some of Canada's most interesting traditional and modern artists, names such as Rose-Aimee Belanger, Victoria Block, Bruno Cote and Hugh Cunningham. Its impressive choice of paintings, sculptures and limited edition prints draws visitors and customers from far and wide. Located in the heart of the city's historic Yorkville, the gallery offers a superb selection of paintings, sculptures, and limited edition prints. © wcities.com



wcities

**contact:**

tel: +1 416 586 8080  
fax: +1 416 586 8085  
<http://www.gardinermuseum.on.ca>

**location:**

111 Queen's Park  
Toronto ON M5S 2C7

**hours:**

Sat-Thurs 10am-6pm; Fri  
10am-9pm

**5 Gardiner Museum**

**OUR LOCAL EXPERT SAYS:**

Admission is half price on Fridays between 4:00 and 9:00pm, and Tuesdays are free all day for post-secondary students (with valid ID).

**DESCRIPTION:** Founded in 1984 to house what was originally a private collection, the Gardiner Museum has recently undergone a large scale renovation and expansion and is now one of North America's leading ceramics museums. In addition to the exhibits, which change regularly, the Gardiner hosts a variety of tours, lectures and events. The museum is also far more kid-friendly than you might imagine - Sundays are family days, with an assortment of activities included with the admission price, and they have an all-ages drop-in ceramics class three times a week, which is a great chance for the whole family to play with clay. © NileGuide

# liner Mu

Photo courtesy of Gardiner Museum

**contact:**

tel: 4169350400x  
[www.senses.ca](http://www.senses.ca)

**location:**

328 Wellington Street West  
Toronto ON M5V 3T4

**hours:**

Tues-Sun 6-10pm; bar and  
bistro daily 4pm-1am

**6 Senses**

**DESCRIPTION:** Located at Bloor and Yonge, this two-level space offers a downstairs high-end bakery and gourmet retail outlet as well as a second-floor 62-seat restaurant. You can dine in posh surroundings and, on the way out, buy the ingredients to make your own versions! There's a hush-hush executive boardroom tone to the place, with high back padded chairs and thick white linen on the tables. The menu offers some unusual takes on French-Mediterranean cuisine. Dishes include Leek Cannelloni stuffed with ground lamb, Spinach and Feta, and a magnificent Seafood Stew. © wcities.com



wcities

# Toronto Snapshot

## Local Info

Hailed as Canada's cosmopolitan centre, Toronto is a city steeped in the history of early pioneer settlement but pulsing with the contemporary vibe of the country's largest multicultural population.

Its status as a financial capital and central immigration destination put Toronto on the global map, but its thriving arts and culture scene — a continual cycle of niche festivals and world-class cultural events — draws patrons from all over the world. From street theatre, to opera, to food festivals and major league sports, Toronto is a place with something for culture-vultures of every taste and price range.

The city's celebration of diversity is reflected in the architecture, cuisine, and cultural activities that define it. Toronto's easy-to-navigate grid system is a composite of heritage buildings and skyscrapers, inflected with new design contributions by figures like Frank Gehry. These buildings frame the network of neighbourhoods that characterize Toronto's landscape and ensure that long, meandering walks through the city are rich in distractions. The city's public transit system also helps visitors to sojourn to every end of the city — above and below ground. Guests can explore the bustling street culture in Kensington Market and Chinatown on foot, then bus, streetcar or subway to the next hot spot and start again.

## Downtown

Architecturally speaking, Toronto is an amalgam of different styles. In the early 19th Century, it took much of its architectural inspiration from the Georgian style. By the end of the 19th Century, the city opted for the heavier, bulkier lines of Richardsonian Romanesque. At the turn of the 20th Century, the Toronto City Council opted not to put a height restriction on downtown construction as many other cities had, thus giving rise to some of the tallest buildings in the British Commonwealth, most of which are found Downtown, including the 34-story Canadian Bank of Commerce, the Rogers Centre, the Royal Bank Plaza, and the TD Centre, to name a few. Of course, these buildings have been surpassed in recent years by the silhouettes that give Toronto its unique skyline: the CN Tower, the world's highest

free-standing structure, with its rotating restaurant, gives diners a breath-taking view of the city, day or night.

The more than 7000 fine dining establishments, bars, cafes, bistros, clubs and dance halls (a large number of which can be found Downtown) suit every taste from bohemian to business.

The downtown area of the city also houses a number of stadiums and arenas where some of Canada's top-of-the-line professional sports teams—the Maple Leafs, the Raptors, the Blue Jays and the Argos—play. And race car fanatics will have no trouble picking up the roar of Molson Indy engines come summer.

Running into Downtown is Yonge Street, the longest thoroughfare in the world and the main north-south route. After all, Toronto is the biggest city in Canada and the fifth largest in North America. It is located on the northern shore of Lake Ontario and laid out in a rectangular grid, the city stretches for more than 100 square kilometers (38.5 square miles). Toronto is an important center of international commerce, and in the heart of Downtown houses the Toronto Stock Exchange, second only in North America to the New York Stock Exchange.

## The Entertainment District

Overlapping Downtown, the entertainment districts is home to numerous world-class museums, art galleries, theaters, dance companies, festivals and parades that add creativity and culture to an already vibrant city. Any of these could serve to define Toronto. While the city may once have had a reputation as Toronto The Good, a nondescript place which shut down and rolled up the sidewalks at sundown, nothing could be further from the truth today. The city is alive with some of the best theaters, museums and galleries anywhere. For example, Toronto is the third largest center of English-speaking theater productions in the world (next to London and New York), with more than 200 professional theater companies and 10,000 performances a year.

One of the oldest theater spaces in the city, the Royal Alexandra dates back to the early 20th Century. Saved from demolition by bargain store king and impresario "Honest" Ed Mirvish, the theater was renovated

at great expense and brought back to its original splendor, and is now home to some of Broadway and the West End's finest productions from Phantom of the Opera to Cats. The Royal Ontario Museum and the Art Gallery of Ontario present spectacular exhibits for the entire family, while the National Ballet is a world-class dance troupe.

There's even a thriving film industry in the city. Often called "Hollywood North," Toronto is sought after for its diversity, locations, excellent production centers and local talent. The Toronto International Film Festival, which takes place annually in September, draws countless filmgoers.

But what the city is really all about is the people. And it shouldn't surprise anyone that the name "Toronto" comes from a Huron word meaning "Meeting Place." That's exactly what it is: a multicultural meeting place for more than 4.5 million, home to people of more than 70 different nationalities speaking some 100 languages.

## Chinatown

That multi-ethnic gathering has given the city an exciting and awesome energy. It has also created a place of wonderful neighborhoods, each with its defining character and local color. With a plethora of different cultures and neighborhoods bumping into one another like pieces of tectonic plates, the cuisine is as diverse as the population—and matching any taste and affordability, from the unlimited expense account to those counting their pennies. In fact, while there are plenty of upscale haute-cuisine restaurants where price is of no concern, some of the best food Toronto has to offer is tucked away in the small eateries of the city's original Chinatown. Here you will find Chinese, Vietnamese, Malaysian, Thai, Indonesian and Japanese dishes to satisfy both the timid and the adventurous. You can also spend a day shopping at the Dragon City Shopping Mall at Dundas and along Spadina Avenue where East meets West.

## West Suburbs

Aside from the Air Canada Centre and the Rogers Centre housing the city's pro sports teams, Toronto is also known for its Woodbine horse track, the largest racing property in North America and home to the Queen's Plate thoroughbred race held each

## Toronto Snapshot continued

August. This racetrack is located in the West Suburbs, an area not often visited by tourists, but charming nonetheless.

While there is so much to see and do, to experience and taste, it's the residents of Toronto who give the city its special cachet. More often than not, people are glad to stop and give you directions. And don't be surprised if they tarry and chat a while, recommending places to go or filling you in on pieces of their city's history. This is what Toronto is all about. Not just a vast, sprawling metropolis. Not just a collection of concrete and cars. But a meeting place. The Hurons gave them the name. They try to do it proud.

© NileGuide

### History

If you think that Toronto, like so many other North American cities, is a relatively young center, think again. More than 8000 years ago, this spot on the northern shores of Lake Ontario was home to prehistoric humans hunting the dense woods for bears and elk. They were followed by a rich and diverse Iroquois culture spread across nearly 200 villages in the Toronto area alone.

British and French fur traders and explorers arriving in the late 16th century changed the power balance in the region. At first, Toronto was interesting for them only as the end of the canoe route from Quebec City. Etienne Brulé, the first European known to visit the canoe "carrying place" the Hurons called Toronto, had no idea he was standing on the site of Canada's largest city-to-be.

In 1751, the French erected Fort Rouillé where Toronto stands today, thus making the city's earliest European roots French rather than British. Destroyed only eight years later in the Seven Years' War, the fort lay burnt until hundreds of British loyalists, fleeing the newly formed United States following the War of Independence, populated the Lake Ontario area.

John Graves Simcoe, the first Lieutenant-Governor of Upper Canada (now Ontario), set up a strategically well-positioned but swampy garrison town of 12 cottages on the lakeshore around the former French post and, in 1793, the town was named Fort York in honor of the Duke of York. Fort York (now an open-air museum) was soon

made the capital of Upper Canada, and later of Ontario.

Ironically, Simcoe's family decided to leave "Muddy York" in 1796, thinking that the stagnating settlement didn't have much of a future. Nevertheless, by 1800, the rectangular grid-iron that still defines Toronto was laid out, largely ignoring the deep ravines, hills and small rivers that shaped the landscape.

The 700 inhabitants of York came under American occupation for a few days during the British-American War of 1812. But the Americans quickly retreated when the war started to go badly for them. In 1834, it took another influential politician to switch the city's name back to Toronto. However, it wasn't all clear sailing for William Lyon Mackenzie, the first mayor of the 9000-population city under its new (old) name. In 1837, the fiery Scot was forced to flee to the United States after leading a failed rebellion to achieve political reform against the so-called "Family Compact," a group of British nobles who ran the city at their discretion without any checks or balances. The group was finally brought down thanks to public outcry, and Mackenzie returned to Canada 12 years later following a pardon.

Looking at a map of Toronto in the late 19th Century, you can see an urban area reflecting its puritanical roots in the conservative layout. It also lived up to its nickname of "The Big Smoke" with a New World version of industrial London: a busy, polluting harbor, factory chimneys spewing untreated soot into the air, coal-black railways chugging away and the obligatory slums as well as mansions, Victorian colleges and churches. The nickname took on a tragic significance in 1904 when a fire destroyed more than 100 buildings in the downtown core. Fifty years earlier, nature had actually helped create a part of Toronto: The Islands, a 15-minute ferry ride from the downtown Harbourfront, were formed by a heavy storm cutting off a spit of land from the mainland.

Toronto lost 10,000 lives when many of its British immigrant inhabitants volunteered to fight in World War I. Then came the Great Depression of the 1930s, bringing hunger, homelessness and an unemployment rate over 30 percent. World War II again meant Canadian men trooping off to fight in Europe, but also British children fleeing the

bombings and European refugees coming to Canada, with many settling in Toronto.

Post-war Toronto, even though it claimed close to one million inhabitants, was nothing like the city of today: no skyscrapers, no large Chinese, Portuguese, Greek or Italian communities, no extensive subway system, no bars and closed and curtained shops on Sundays. The new council of Metro Toronto, joining the city and its suburbs in 1953, initiated an unparalleled construction boom in the 1960s.

Torontonians are proud of their superlatives and sometimes see life as an extension of the "Guinness Book of World Records," an attitude that helps puff up the city's collective chest but also lends some credence to its reputation for egocentricity (as in the long-standing joke in the newspaper headline, "Toronto Unscathed in World-Wide Nuclear Holocaust!"). The city lays claim to the tallest free-standing structure in the world (the CN Tower at 553 meters or 1814 feet), the first fully-retractable roofed stadium (Rogers Centre), the longest street (Yonge Street, more than 1,900 km), Canada's biggest museum (Royal Ontario Museum) and university (University of Toronto), the biggest castle in North America (Casa Loma), North America's second largest public transit system (the TTC), and an 11-kilometer (7-mile) maze of underground malls.

Peter Ustinov once called modern-day Toronto a "New York run by the Swiss." Now that New York seems itself to be run by the Swiss, that label might no longer be appropriate. Nevertheless, the city prides itself on its clean and safe streets and large, open green spaces. More importantly, it is the cultural and financial center of the country, an economic powerhouse with a budget bigger than that of the province of Saskatchewan, and home within a 160-km area to a full one-third of all Canadians.

The over 50 percent non-white population is shifting the city's ethnic neighborhoods around; old Victorian areas, once rundown or abandoned, are being gentrified; the skyline glitters from afar with bank towers and shopping skyscrapers like the 65-story Scotia Plaza; and urban development is about to radically change the lakeshore. Outdoor festivals, patios, a new openness

## Toronto Snapshot continued

and willingness to have fun and to partake in public life—this is the Toronto of today.

©

### Hotel Insights

Toronto's accommodation options stretch from the airport to the waterfront and cater, very often, to the busy professionals and culture-seekers that make Toronto Canada's biggest arts and business hub. The airport area is packed with hotel rooms waiting to embrace weary, red-eyed travellers — and they are available at a variety of price points. The Carlingview Airport Inn is noted for its high quality service and reasonable rates, while staple names like the Sheraton Gateway and the Park Plaza Toronto Airport attract visitors looking to settle in for a good sleep immediately upon arrival.

### Downtown

While Toronto's hotel listings are packed with big names like the Park Hyatt, Sutton Place, the Four Seasons and the city's iconic Fairmont Royal York, the well-known chains that define the airport spread throughout Toronto's downtown core. Many of which have room deals (often for under \$150 per night), which makes staying at the centre of the city a more viable option.

Toronto has a slew of Marriott's and Holiday Inns to meet travellers' needs across the city and, though the boutique options on Queen West aren't cheap, venues like The Gladstone and The Drake hotels (which dub as nightlife hot spots) put visitors in the centre of this neighbourhood's famous arts and after hours scene.

### Off The Beaten Path

Many of Toronto's oldest neighbourhoods — like the Annex and the Old Cabbagetown district — offer visitors a cozy, often kind-of quirky alternative to the hotel options that thread through the downtown and line the highway from airport to city centre. Toronto's historic Victorian homes double as B&Bs and allow guests to settle right into the heart (and tree-lined streets) of their chosen neighbourhood. While the prices, meal options and amenities range, Toronto's B&Bs are often an economically-savvy choice. Spots like the Ambassador Inn, the Annex Garden B&B, the Palmerston Inn and the Baldwin Village Inn are perfectly placed for those looking to explore the city

while also enjoying a reprieve from the pace of the downtown.

While Toronto's hostels are less plentiful than its high end and mid-range hotels, travellers looking to channel their tourism dollars into things other than accommodation are not without alternatives. Global Village Backpackers and Canadiana Backpackers Inn in Toronto's downtown, and College Hostel in Kensington Market, are ideal spots to stash your stuff before heading out into the city scene — day and night.

© NileGuide

### Restaurants Insights

The Greater Toronto Area boasts a list of dining establishments estimated to be 7000 long. Representing the gamut of global cuisine, visitors to the city are not only spoiled for choice — they are guaranteed to find foods that fit any niche taste, dietary requirement or budget bracket they bear. Many of the city's cultural communities become the heartland of particular cuisine — think Little Italy, Chinatown, Koreatown, Little India, the Danforth for Greek food, or Roncesvalles for Polish goods. Nonetheless, fabulous food of every sort is available throughout the city: enjoy stumbling across hidden gems, or check out the following for a list of top spots to indulge in.

#### Little Italy

Little Italy, which stretches east to west along College Street is a Toronto nightlife destination. It's also a fabulous neighbourhood to start your evening: enjoy a plate of pasta or a pizza and fuel yourself for the dancing options to follow. Classic Italian food abounds, but fusion foods have entered the menus of spots like Kalendar and Utopia Cafe, making the food choices in Little Italy more eclectic than the neighbourhood's name might suggest. Check out classics like Giovanna Trattoria, and Trattoria Giancarlo or head to Bar Italia for the balance it strikes between restaurant and bar culture. Couples looking for ambiance should try Veni Vidi Vici — the perfect spot to curl up with a date, some appetizers and a great bottle of wine by the window.

#### Chinatown

Toronto's Chinatown is a central market destination for the city's Chinese population and locals looking for truly stunning deals on everything from food, to electronics to shoes. While the neighbourhood's streets are literally lined with fresh and dried food markets, gift shops and hordes of people carrying shopping bags, prepared cuisine and dine-in options abound. Enjoy the all-day dim sum options and awesome happy hour deals at Bright Pearl Seafood, or join the line up for Pho Hung — unanimously recognized as serving the best pho in the neighbourhood.

#### The Annex

Hot spots in this student stronghold bring good food to the masses — always at a reasonable price. Check out back-alley hole in the wall The Green Room for brie and avocado sandwiches, affordable beer and solid pad thai. Locals head to New Generation for high quality sushi and to By the Way Cafe for affordable bistro fare with a Mediterranean bent. Vegetarians should head to Annapurna and Fresh on Bloor to enjoy the best, healthiest veg food in the neighbourhood.

#### Downtown

While Toronto's downtown proper is full of commercial activity and busy professionals, expanded definitions of the neighbourhood suggest that it stretches from the waterfront to Bloor Street — at least between Bay and Jarvis streets.

This neighbourhood is packed with lunch spots that cater to the business luncheon crowd, as well as those just looking to grab a sandwich during the midday rush. Le Commensal is a fabulous pick for healthy, delicious vegetarian food and Acqua is an excellent choice for both high end lunches and pre-theatre dinners.

For visitors planning their trip — and meals — around major league events, the downtown core is full of bars and cafes that cater to patrons of Toronto's biggest and best sporting venues. Check out the Hard Rock Café while you're inside the Rogers Centre or check out the Hoops Sports Bar & Grill near Maple Leaf Gardens. Wayne Gretzky's offers hockey fans excellent food and the potential to see the icon himself.

Check out high end options like 360 Degrees at the CN Tower and Canoe for incredible views of the city while you

## Toronto Snapshot continued

indulge in some of Toronto's very best local cuisine.

© NileGuide

### Nightlife Insights

Toronto's devotion to entertaining its large population extends to its nightlife scene. The city is packed with awesome events every night of the week, and Toronto's notoriously good food and drink is on constant offer. While the Queen West strip caters to a particularly indie art crowd, the Annex takes good care of students (or travellers) looking to imbibe on a budget. For the style conscious, the Entertainment District's high end night clubs are a necessary adventure — and those looking for the best dancing in the city should check out the scene in the Church and Wellesley neighbourhood. Sports fans leaving the Rogers Centre after a late game will find plenty of pub food and beer on tap in the downtown core, and theatre-goers will find pre and post-performance entertainment with total ease.

### Bars and Nightclubs

Toronto's bar and club scene is as large and diverse as nearly every other part of the city. From loud and impossibly impersonal, to intimate and loungy, the social fancy of any group or individual can find fulfillment. Relax with friends in a martini bar like *Insomnia*, catch live music at a pub like the *Free Times Cafe*, or hit up some of the multi-storey, multi-genre clubs like the *Big Bop*. Or try it all. Truly: great bars are to be found in every neighbourhood. Nevertheless, a night out in Toronto's Entertainment District or Little Italy or Church and Wellesley neighbourhoods guarantees you a spot in the heart of some of the most lively nightlife areas in the city.

### Live Music

Toronto is a major stop on both indie and popular concert circuits, which means that its live music calendar is packed at all times. A number of small venues, like the *Horseshoe Tavern*, are (unofficially) recognized as musical institutions, having hosted now-icons prior to (and during) their rockabilly, then rock, then punk heydays. The *Horseshoe*, like *Lee's Palace* and the *Rivoli*, remains an excellent spot to catch the next round of up-and-comers in Canada's indie rock scene. The acoustically exquisite *Massey Hall*

and major venues like the *Rogers Centre* and the *Air Canada Centre* attract major headliners, making Toronto Canada's primary option for catching popular, globe-trotting acts. Classical music buffs are not left out: turn to *Roy Thomson Hall* or the *Canadian Opera Company* for an excellent starting point in your exploration of the city's highly developed classical music scene.

### Outdoors

Each summer, Toronto's outdoor hot spots like *Nathan Phillips Square* and the *Harbourfront Centre* swell with the bodies of locals and visitors alike — all looking to indulge in the food, craft, musical entertainment and general cultural intrigue that define these spaces for the season. Free concerts and a constantly changing series of festivals pack the *Harbourfront's* summertime line-up: these events attract patrons from far and wide and ensure that the lakeshore is a thriving spot from sunrise to sunset.

© NileGuide

### Things to Do Insights

Toronto's well-plotted grid system makes navigating the city an easy task and, when the weather is good, long treks are a pretty pleasurable way to see the sights. Toronto's downtown core is a concentration of attractions, shops, bars and eateries — all of which offer pedestrians ample distraction from the process of putting one foot ahead of the other.

#### Festivals and Outdoor Options:

Start out by the waterfront and enjoy the slate of open-air concerts, food fairs and festivals that run from spring to fall at the *Harbourfront Centre*. During the more inclement months, the centre's theatres, art galleries, lecture and workshop spaces, and concert venues keep visitors well-occupied indoors. The *Toronto Fringe Festival* brings the *Annex* alive each July with independent theatre performances across eight small venues in the neighbourhood. *Dream in High Park* performs Shakespearean works all summer in an outdoor, in-ground auditorium in *High Park*: it's the perfect spot for an evening picnic with friends or a date. Music lovers should head east to the *Beaches* in late July for the *International Jazz Festival* — an event that typically draws more than

half a million visitors in the course of its run each July. *Caribana* and the *Pride Toronto Festival* are two other major summer events that inject high energy crowds into Toronto's downtown. Families looking for an adrenaline rush should check out *Paramount Canada's Wonderland* and *Ontario Place*.

### Theatres:

Toronto's theatre scene spreads throughout the city. The downtown core is packed with big name venues like the *Royal Alexandra Theatre*, *Roy Thomson Hall*, the *Canadian Opera Company* and the *Hummingbird Centre*. This is the neighbourhood to catch off-broadway productions, world class opera and the work of the *National Ballet of Canada*. Smaller productions companies sprinkled throughout Toronto's beautiful *Distillery District* and the *Annex* sustain the alternative edge in Canadian performance culture. Check out *Buddies in Bad Times*, *Theatre Passe Muraille*, *Tarragon Theatre* and the *Factory Theatre* for some of the most provocative, inspiring work Toronto has to offer.

### Museums & Galleries

The *Royal Ontario Museum (ROM)* is Canada's largest World Culture and Natural History museum — with plenty of kid-friendly exhibitions to occupy entire families. Head to the *Art Gallery of Ontario (AGO)* to check out one of the city's most extensive, intellectually sophisticated artistic spaces. The *Bata Shoe Museum*, the *Power Plant gallery* and the *Ontario Science Centre* are other hot arts and culture destinations. For sports fans roaming the downtown, the *Hockey Hall of Fame* is a must see — between games.

#### Major Landmarks:

A first trip to Toronto isn't complete without a pit stop at the city's major attractions like the *CN Tower*, *Casa Loma*, the *Flatiron Building*. The architecturally inclined will enjoy the diversity of Toronto's downtown buildings: historic *Massey Hall*, the *Old City Hall*, *St. James Cathedral* and *Union Station* gently enhance the distinctly contemporary aesthetic of structures like the *CIBC Building*, the *Toronto Dominion Centre* and the *New City Hall*. While a number of these new buildings do double duty, acting as an economic centre as well as the site of some of the finest food in Toronto, the singular

## Toronto Snapshot continued

function of spaces like Massey Hall lend these historic venues particular charm.

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### Travel Tips

#### Getting There:

##### By Air:

Lester B. Pearson International Airport is just 27 kilometers (17 miles) northwest of Downtown Toronto.

Toronto Pearson International Airport (YYZ) +1 416 776 3000 <http://www.gtaa.com>

The airport houses some of the following airlines:

Air Canada (+1 800 776 3000/ <http://www.aircanada.ca/>) Air France (+1 800 871 1366/ <http://www.airfrance.com/>) American Airlines (+1 800 433 7300/ <http://www.aa.com/>) Continental (+1 800 525 0280/ <http://www.continental.com/>) Delta (+1 800 221 1212/ <http://www.delta.com/>) Northwest (+1 800 225 2525/ <http://www.nwa.com/>) Southwest (+1 800 435 9792/ <http://www.southwest.com/>) United (+1 800 241 6522/ <http://www.ual.com/>) US Airways (+1 800 428 4322/ <http://www.usairways.com/>) Zoom Airlines (+1 866 359 9666/ <http://www.flyzoom.ca/>)

##### Rental Car Companies:

Avis (+1 800 831 2847/ <http://www.avis.com/>) Budget (+1 800 527 0700/ <http://www.budget.com/>) Dollar (+1 800 4000/ <http://www.dollar.com/>) Enterprise (+1 800 325 8007/ <http://www.enterprise.com/>) Hertz (+1 800 654 3131/ <http://www.hertz.com/>) National (+1 800 227 7368/ <http://www.nationalcar.com/>) Thrifty (+1 800 367 2277/ <http://www.thrifty.com/>)

Another attractive ground transportation option is Zipcar, which operates in certain cities in Canada and the United States. This new breed of rental car allows you to rent on an hourly basis rather than a daily basis. Be sure to register online before your trip. Zipcar (+1 866 404 7227/ <http://www.zipcar.com/>)

##### Airport Shuttles:

Airlink Airport Service (+1 519 756 1944/ +1 877 405 8278) Air York Inc. (+1 888 795 2777/ +1 905 953 9980) Airways Transit (Hamilton Division) (+1 905 689 4460/ <http://www.airwaystransit.com/>) Coach Canada (<http://www.coachcanada.com/> +1 800 461 7661)

Pacific Western Airport Express This is a 24-hour service. Destinations include the downtown bus terminal as well as several major downtown hotels. Connecting service to other downtown locations is also available for an additional fee. For more information call +1 905 564 6333 or +1 800 387 6787 or visit their web site <http://www.torontoairportexpress.com/>.

##### By Train:

Amtrak services Toronto daily (+1 800 872 7245/ <http://www.amtrak.com/>)

##### By Bus:

Greyhound services Toronto from Nationwide locations (+1 800 231 2222/ +1 416 594 1010/ <http://www.greyhound.ca/>)

##### By Car:

Toronto can be accessed by Routes 8, 25, 400, and 401.

##### Getting Around:

The Westbound GO Bus takes passengers to central stops in Bramalea and Brampton. The Eastbound GO Bus takes passengers to north Toronto including the Yorkdale and York Mills subway stations. For more information call +1 416 869 3200 or +1 888 GET ON GO (438 6646) or visit their web site at [www.gotransit.com](http://www.gotransit.com).

Mississauga Transit One-way cash adult fare is CAD2.75. For more information, contact Mississauga Transit Information Line at +1 905 615 4636 or visit their web site at <http://www.city.mississauga.on.ca/transit/>.

Toronto Transit Commission (TTC) runs seven days a week. For more information call +1 416 393 4636 or visit their web site <http://www.ttc.ca/>.

Taxi companies providing service to the Toronto area include:

Royal Taxi (+1 416 777 9222/ <http://www.royaltaxi.ca/>)

Able Atlantic Taxi (+1 416 298 1111)

Beck Taxi (+1 416 751 5555/ <http://www.becktaxi.com/>)

Diamond Taxi (+1 416 366 6868)

Vamos a Canada (+1 905 326 2880/ <http://www.vamosacanada.com/>) offers services, information, and authorizations for transferring employees, students, immigrants, or visitors to Canada. Such authorizations include employment and student authorizations, visitors visa, permanent resident cards, passports, and much more.

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### Fun Facts

**Toronto Province:** Ontario **Country:** Canada

#### Toronto By The Numbers:

Population: 2,500,000 (city); 5,555,000 (metropolitan) Average Winter Temperature: -6°C/ 21°F Average Summer Temperature: 21°C/ 70°F Most Precipitation: 762 mm/ 30 in Elevation: 173 m/ 567 ft Number of Parks: 1500

#### Quick Facts:

Electricity: 110 volts, 50Hz, standard two pin plugs Time Zone: GMT-5 (GMT-4 daylight saving time); Eastern Standard Time (EST) Country Dialing Code: 1 Area Code: 416 & 647

#### Did You Know?

Toronto is a vibrant city, and in many ways as American as some of its neighbors to the south, mainly in Michigan. Along with Michigan, Toronto has a thriving automobile and auto parts industry, allowing for a lot of exchange between American car manufacturers across the border.

The laws of Toronto, Canada are based on British law and the English parliamentary government.

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