

TORONTO

FALL & WINTER GUIDE 2011 – 2012



The best places to eat, sleep and play
in Toronto this fall and winter

With more than 50 million reviews and opinions, TripAdvisor makes travel
planning a snap for the 50 million travelers visiting our site each month.





INTRODUCTION

TripAdvisor, the most trusted source for where to eat, sleep and play in thousands of destinations around the world, has collected the best insider tips from its 50 million monthly visitors to produce a unique series of travel guides. In addition to the best hotels, restaurants and attractions for every type of traveler, you'll get great advice about what to pack, how to get around and where to find the best views. Be sure to check out the guides at www.tripadvisor.com.



Inside TORONTO

Toronto, believed to mean “meeting place” in Huron, has lived up to its name. Waves of immigration from Italy, Greece, China, Vietnam, Jamaica, India and Somalia, plus an influx from nearby Montreal, contributed to Toronto’s maturing from “Toronto the Good” into today’s fast-paced and cosmopolitan “Hollywood North.” Half a million Italians, the largest Portuguese population in North America, the largest Chinese population in Canada and the country’s largest gay and lesbian population all call the Toronto metropolitan area home.

The city boasts thrilling architecture, from gleaming skyscrapers to charming tree-lined boulevards, a rich and complex history and a vibrant ethnic mix. This diversity accounts for the amazing palette of flavors found in more than 7,000 restaurants and for cultural festivals such as Caribana and Caravan. Arts festivals abound, including more than a dozen film festivals, from the Toronto International Film Festival to the Sprockets International Film Festival for Children. The city’s theater scene gives London and New York a run for their money.

Toronto boasts plenty of indoor attractions to keep you warm through the winter and the immense Lake Ontario to cool down in the sweltering summer heat, making it a year-round destination.

Multicultural, clean, safe and dynamic, Toronto the Good has become Toronto the Great.

You'll find reviews for more than 520,000 hotels, 125,000 vacation rentals, 155,000 attractions and 715,000 restaurants on TripAdvisor.com. Learn from other travelers what to expect before you make your plans.



PACKING TIPS

1. “Bring a **scarf, gloves and warm clothes**” to insulate against the winter chill.—
TripAdvisor Member, Toronto
2. Pack **boots** to “keep your feet toasty” when it’s snowy or slushy.—TripAdvisor Member, Toronto
3. “Some of the best **maps** are published by MapArt. They have yellow covers and are available at most grocery stores, newsstands and gas stations for 5-10 Canadian dollars.”—
TripAdvisor Member
4. “A **woolen sweater and a down vest** to wear over it is a nice combination” for shopping or going for a walk.—TripAdvisor Member, Ontario

Top VIEWS



TORONTO'S BEST VIEWS



"Located on the 54th floor of the TD Tower, you get a magnificent view of the city's landscape" from **Canoe**. "But you also get to see the CN Tower from close proximity. The view is much better than going up to the CN Tower and seeing everything below you."—TripAdvisor Member, Ontario

**Canoe Restaurant & Bar, TD Tower,
66 Wellington St. W., 416 364 0054**

"We dined at the **CN Tower** on a very clear day, which gave us spectacular view across the city. After sunset, we got to see the city at night, all lit up—the best of both worlds."—TripAdvisor Member, Uki, Japan

CN Tower, 301 Front St. W., 416 868 6937

"The **Toronto Islands** are definitely worth a visit. Low-key but a great place to walk around, with excellent views of the city."—TripAdvisor Member, Toronto

Toronto Islands, Lake Ontario

Want more information on Toronto? TripAdvisor.com offers free weekly e-mail updates filled with new deals, reviews and articles for Toronto or any other destination you choose.



Where to PLAY

TOP 10 Attractions

1. Steam Whistle Brewery, The Roundhouse, 255 Bremner Blvd., 416 362 2337
2. Toronto Island Park, Lake Ontario
3. Toronto Beach
4. Royal Ontario Museum, 100 Queen's Park Crescent, 416 586 8000
5. Hockey Hall of Fame, 30 Yonge St., 416 360 7735
6. Le Dolci Foodie Studio, Portland Street, 416 262 3400
7. CN Tower, 301 Front St. W., 416 868 6937
8. Casa Loma, 1 Austin Terrace at Spadina Ave, 416 923 1171
9. St. Lawrence Market, 92 Front St. E., 416 392 7120
10. Black Creek Pioneer Village, 1000 Murray Ross Pkwy. at Jane St., 416 736 1733

FAMILIES



Centre Island is "safe and clean and a place where kids can play safely. There are fountains and water sprayers, slides and swings, and a place to rent bikes or grab a drink and something to eat."—TripAdvisor Member, Lancashire, U.K.

Centre Island, Toronto Island Park, Lake Ontario, 416 392 1111

"Our teenage son initially said NO WAY to the crowns at **Medieval Times**, but quickly got in the spirit when he saw everyone else proudly wearing theirs. The front row seats were amazing and worth the upgrade."—TripAdvisor Member, Belleville, Ontario

**Medieval Times Dinner & Tournament
Toronto, 10 Dufferin St., Exhibition Place,
866 543 9637**

"**Black Creek Pioneer Village** is a great place to take younger kids. They can run around and explore all the various authentic pioneer buildings and speak to the interpretive guides." Parents will enjoy the pioneer beers at the historic brewery—TripAdvisor Member, Thornhill, Ontario

Black Creek Pioneer Village, 1000 Murray Ross Pkwy., 416 736 1733

Where to **PLAY**



ROMANCE

“One of the best afternoons that you could spend would be to visit the various wineries (such as **Inniskillin**) in the award-winning wine region of Niagara-On-The-Lake,” about 90 minutes by car from the city.—TripAdvisor Member, Ontario

Inniskillin, Niagara Parkway, Niagara-on-the-Lake, 905 468 2187

Walk hand in hand along **Harbourfront Centre**, “simply the best combination of urban life and nature! All the big buildings are backstage to the pedestrian pathways. The lake calms down the fast pace of Torontonians.”—TripAdvisor Member, Rosario, Argentina

Harbourfront Centre, 235 Queens Quay W., 416 973 4000

Don't pass up an opportunity to explore the **Theater District** and Toronto's diverse performing arts scene. “To complete the evening, make sure to get tickets to one of the many fine plays Toronto has to offer.”—TripAdvisor Member, Ontario

Theater District

TripAdvisor members have posted more than 8,000,000 traveler photos on the site. The good, the bad and the very candid. It's almost like being there!



BUDGET

Riverdale Farm is “a gorgeous little respite from the hurly-burly of downtown Toronto. Chickens hop the fences and make sport with the kids; the lambs and their mommies lay out in the sun.”—TripAdvisor Member, Toronto

Riverdale Farm, 201 Winchester St., 416 392 6794

“Many tourists might not visit **Allan Gardens**, but it is a little jewel in the heart of the city. Children love to smell and see the many varieties of plants and flowers and discover hidden treasures. It's also free!”—TripAdvisor Member, Toronto

Allan Gardens, 19 Horticultural Ave., 416 392 7288

“If I lived in Toronto, I would be at **St. Lawrence Market** every week. All the food stalls are good, but I especially enjoyed the peameal sandwiches on the main level. I'm sorry they don't make them in New Jersey, but perhaps we should start!”—TripAdvisor Member, New Jersey

St. Lawrence Market, 92 Front St. E., 416 392 7120



ADVENTURE

“If you're looking for something different to do, rather than being in the city, take a walk through **High Park**. There's plenty to do: You can ride your bike, walk through many trails or even go swimming.”—TripAdvisor Member, Toronto

High Park, 1873 Bloor St W.

“After the show at **Second City**, there's a free improv session that's a total hoot. I felt as if the actors were honing their skills and testing the limits by playing off the audience.”—TripAdvisor Member, California

Second City Toronto, 51 Mercer St., 416 343 0011

Run, bike, or “go for a nice, relaxing stroll along the Toronto waterfront on the **Beaches** boardwalk.” In the colder months, explore Queen Street's local boutique shops and independent coffee shops.—TripAdvisor Member, Ontario

The Beaches



EDUCATIONAL/HISTORICAL

After partial closures and a major renovation featuring architectural design by Frank Gehry, the **Art Gallery of Ontario** has reopened to the public. “I had a great visit to the AGO—the Gehry redesign is outstanding!”—TripAdvisor Member, Mobile, Ala.

Art Gallery of Ontario, 317 Dundas St. W., 416 979 6648

“You have to see it to believe it, but the **Royal Ontario Museum** has been designed on the outside with glass prisms that look like giant crystals. Inside, there are beautiful galleries filled with objects from around the world.”—TripAdvisor Member, Toronto

Royal Ontario Museum, 100 Queen's Park Crescent, 416 586 8000

“If the game means anything to you at all, it would be almost a crime to visit the area and not stop by the **Hockey Hall of Fame**, a wonderful tribute to a great game.”—TripAdvisor Member, Irvine, Scotland

Hockey Hall of Fame, 30 Yonge St., 416 360 7735

“You have to see it to believe it.”

Where to PLAY



RELAXATION

"My daughter and I went to **Novo Spa** and came out renewed! The atmosphere is very relaxing—everything is spotless, with nice soft music and lights. Very professional and courteous staff and a nice tea lounge."—
TripAdvisor Member, Cleveland, Ohio

Novo Spa, 66 Avenue Road, 416 926 9303

"If you're a shopaholic you may want to leave your credit cards behind, because you could do a lot of damage" at the **Eaton Centre**, "a shopper's paradise."—TripAdvisor
Member, Michigan

Eaton Centre, 220 Yonge St., 416 598 8700

"We came out renewed!"

The **Kensington Market** is "a refreshing take on street markets. What struck us at first was the airiness of the market itself — funky old houses being put to use by young people with new stores. It makes for a good visit with character and spirit."—
TripAdvisor Member, Brooklyn, N.Y.

Kensington Market and Spadina Avenue, between Dundas and College streets

SPECIAL EVENTS



Lace up your skates and glide along to the music on the **Natrel Skating Rink**, one of Canada's largest outdoor ice rinks, open from mid-November to February or March, depending on the temperature. (November – February)

Natrel Skating Rink, Harbourfront Centre, 416 973 4000, <http://www.harbourfrontcentre.com>

Bring the four-legged family members to **Winter Woofstock**, a festival that celebrates all things canine with fashion shows, talent contests and vendors galore. (November 19 – 20)

Winter Woofstock, Direct Energy Centre, 100 Princes Blvd., 416 234 9663, <http://www.winterwoofstock.com>

Arrive early to set up a spot along Bloor Street or down University Avenue to catch a glimpse of Santa Claus, thousands of costumed children, hundreds of clowns, dozens of marching bands and floats at the annual **Santa Claus Parade**. (November 20)

Santa Claus Parade, Begins at Bloor and Christie Streets, <http://www.thesantaclausparade.ca>

Night becomes day during the **Cavalcade of Lights**, when Nathan Phillips Square is illuminated by fountains of light and richly decorated Christmas trees. The event also includes a fireworks show from the top of City Hall accompanied by live music. (November 26)

Cavalcade of Lights, Nathan Phillips Square, http://www.toronto.ca/special_events/cavalcade_lights

Ring in the **New Year** at Nathan Phillips Square with fireworks, dancing and open air concerts featuring some of the best talent in Toronto and Canada. (December 31)

New Year's Eve, Nathan Phillips Square, 416 395 0490

Don't fear the cold; embrace it during **Winter City**, a combination of three festivals in one. First, the **WOW! Series** provides plentiful free outdoor concerts and performing arts at City Hall. Then the **Winter City Warm Up** series invites theatrical performers to light up Nathan Phillips Square with acrobatics and fire shows. Finally, **Winterlicious** tempts your palate with the best prix fixe menus on offer from a wide selection of the city's top restaurants. (January 27 – February 9)

Winter City, Various Venues, 416 395 0490, http://www.toronto.ca/special_events/wintercity

Seduce your senses with fine foods from steaks to stir-fries and sip on vintage wines, microbrew beers and fine whiskeys at the **Toronto Wine and Cheese Show**. Offering far more than wine and cheese, the show encompasses a wide variety of culinary and sensual delights, from the Smooth Jazz Wine Garden to the Dairy Farmers Cheese Tasting. (March 16 – 18)

Toronto Wine and Cheese Show, International Centre, 6900 Airport Road, Mississauga, 905 842 6591, <http://www.towineandcheese.com>

Discover boundary-breaking film, video, new media and installation art at the **Images Festival**, featuring cutting-edge works from artists from across the globe. In addition to screenings, the festival features panels, Q&A discussions, galas, parties and much more. (April 12 - 21)

Images Festival, Various venues, 416 971 8405, <http://www.imagesfestival.com>

What's the **TOUR** How to Get Around



Airport Express runs to several downtown hotels. "Many hotels are also just a short walk from one of the stops."—TripAdvisor Member

Have exact fares ready, "**Toronto Transit Commission (TTC)** drivers do not make change." Save on transit costs with \$10.00 **day passes** from the TTC.—TripAdvisor Member

You can get a free '**Ride Guide**' at collectors' booths at subway stations.—TripAdvisor Member

Avoid winter winds by using Toronto's "**underground system of corridors** connecting hotels, shopping and financial buildings."—TripAdvisor Member



WHERE to eat

Want more information on Toronto? TripAdvisor.com offers free weekly e-mail updates filled with new deals, reviews and articles for Toronto or any other destination you choose.



FAMILIES

East Side Mario's is a "lovely Italian restaurant with far too much food! The best Italian I've had outside of Italy and at a handy location downtown."—TripAdvisor Member, Belfast, Northern Ireland

East Side Mario's, 151 Front St. W.
416 360 1917

"The best Italian outside of Italy."

Sunset Grill has the "best breakfast in downtown Toronto. Very quick, great quality and excellent service. Great kids' menu, too. My 7-year-old loved it!"—TripAdvisor Member, Fredericton, New Brunswick

Sunset Grill, 1 Richmond St. W.,
416 861 0514

"If 'family friendly' conjures up images of cold pizza and screaming children, then **Jawny Bakers** will be a welcome relief. There are plenty of things to keep the kids busy and even a toy chest to pick from at the end of the meal, but what really sets the place apart is the food: it far exceeded my expectations in terms of quantity and quality."—TripAdvisor Member, Toronto

Jawny Bakers, 804 O'Connor Drive,
416 285 1165



WHERE to eat



ROMANCE

"**Auberge du Pommier** is a lovely oasis housed in a converted 19th-century farmhouse. Inside, it's like a whole other world. Stone walls, a fireplace, terrific service and classic French cuisine among the best in the city."—TripAdvisor Member, Toronto

Auberge du Pommier, 4150 Yonge St., 416 222 2220

"I'd highly recommend **Canoe** for a special evening out, a romantic anniversary. A fantastic view of the city at night. I had to stop myself from licking the plates clean, it was all so good. It's expensive, but if you have to ask the price, then it's not for you."—TripAdvisor Member, Toronto

Canoe Restaurant & Bar, TD Tower, 66 Wellington St. W., 416 364 0054

"If budget is no concern, I would recommend a window table at **Scaramouche**. Great food in a beautiful setting with spectacular service."—TripAdvisor Member, Toronto

Scaramouche, One Benvenuto Place, 416 961 8011

"I had to stop myself from licking the plates"



BUDGET

"Easy on the wallet," **The Patrician Grill** "is a family-run diner that aims to please."—TripAdvisor Member, Toronto

The Patrician Grill, 219 King St. E., 416 366 4841

Pizzeria Libretto is a "cheap lunch spot" that has "the best pizza crust in Toronto! \$15 gets you a small prix fixe menu that includes a salad, a whole pizza, and a dessert. It's the sweetest deal in the city!"—TripAdvisor Member, Toronto

Pizzeria Libretto, 221 Ossington Ave., 416 532 8000

The lunch buffet at **Little India** "is excellent. It's got all the usual goodies, such as chicken tandoori, and the veggie and rice dishes are also extensive. The dessert selection is the best I've seen on any Indian buffet."—TripAdvisor Member, Detroit, Mich.

Little India, 255 Queen St. W., 416 205 9836



HEALTH-CONSCIOUS

Check out the "traditional Jewish Sunday brunch buffet at **The Free Times Cafe**. There's no meat on offer, but with latkes and blintzes and salmon galore, you won't go home hungry."—TripAdvisor Member, Edmonton, Alberta

The Free Times Café, 320 College St., 416 967 1078

"I had the pleasure of finding the **Lady Marmalade** cafe, and it was fantastic! I particularly liked the tomato and black bean soup. The service and ambiance was great, and the '60s decor really adds to the place."—TripAdvisor Member, Perth, Australia

Lady Marmalade, 898 Queen St. E., 647 351 7645

"The flavors explode in your mouth" at the **Live Food Bar**. "The desserts are insane and all refined-sugar-free. Great atmosphere and, hands down, the best vegan food of anywhere I've tried."—TripAdvisor Member, Toronto

Live Food Bar, 264 Dupont St., 416 515 2002

"...a true sushi master at work"



HIDDEN GEMS

"My boyfriend and I were looking for something to eat when we came across **Swish By Han**. We ordered the Jap Chae, spicy pork bun and the Table Top BBQ rib eye. I cannot express how amazing the food was. Best Korean food I've had in a very long time!"—TripAdvisor Member, Toronto

Swish By Han, 38 Wellington St. E., 647 343 0268

"Watch a true sushi master at work" at **Sushi Kaji**. Serving the "freshest sushi and sashimi," it's "an amazing way to conclude a wonderful weekend in the Toronto area."—TripAdvisor Member, Ontario

Sushi Kaji, 860 The Queensway, Etobicoke, 416 252 2166

In the heart of charming Cabbagetown, the **House on Parliament** is "a really cozy place with great staff who charm the pants off of you with their humor. It's a great neighborhood pub, particularly in the summer, when the patio is open and the beer is cold."—TripAdvisor Member, Toronto

House on Parliament, 454 Parliament St., 416 925 4074

Where to STAY



FAMILIES

Residence Inn Downtown is a “perfect hotel! All I can say is ‘Stay Here!’ It’s really worth it. The heated pool is also great. It’s close to public transport, and the entertainment district is just a stone’s throw away!”—TripAdvisor Member, Macau, China

Residence Inn Downtown, 255 Wellington St. W., 416 581 1800

“I stayed at the **Cambridge** with my wife and two young children and it was perfect for families. The suite had plenty of space for us and all our gear. The location, only a few blocks from the Eaton Centre, was ideal.”—TripAdvisor Member, Hamilton, Bermuda

Cambridge Suites Hotel, 15 Richmond St. E., 416 368 1990

Residence Inn Toronto Airport is “perfect with kids. We were travelling with my 18-month-old son, and the room was spacious enough that he could walk around.”—TripAdvisor Member, Montreal, Quebec

Residence Inn Toronto Airport, 17 Reading Court, 416 798 2900

“All I can say is ‘Stay Here!’”

Have questions about Toronto? Get insider advice from local experts in our forums. The majority of questions are answered within 24 hours.

ROMANCE

A Seaton Dream is “a real dream of a B&B! The room was quiet, clean and made us feel like we were the only guests ever to have stayed here. The Jacuzzi is a real treat after a hard day’s sightseeing.”—TripAdvisor Member, Cornwall, U.K.

A Seaton Dream, 243 Seaton St., 416 929 3363

“Stylish, yet cozy,” **Hotel Le Germain** boasts Frette linen, “amazing” rainfall showers and “friendly, courteous” staff. “You may never want to leave the room.”—TripAdvisor Member, Portsmouth, England

Hotel Le Germain Toronto, 30 Mercer St., 416 345 9500

“**The Old Mill Inn** is an oasis. The area is so peaceful and quiet, you barely know the city is so close. The room was so charming, and all of the staff were very nice and accommodating.”—TripAdvisor Member, Churchville, Ontario

The Old Mill Inn & Spa, 21 Old Mill Road, 416 236 2641

“You may never want to leave the room.”

BUDGET

“**Banting House** is amazing! Excellent location that’s close to major attractions and public transit. Great breakfast, very friendly staff and guests. And most importantly: great rates.”—TripAdvisor Member, Chicago, Ill.

Banting House Inn, 73 Homewood Ave., 416 924 1458

“I felt at home during the week I stayed at **213 Carlton**. The service provided is outstanding for a B&B. Some far more expensive hotels could learn from them how to make a guest happy.”—TripAdvisor Member, Switzerland

213 Carlton Toronto Townhouse, 213 Carlton St., 416 323 8898

The **Massey College Student Residence** is “basic, affordable accommodation in heart of Toronto. I was in the Burwash building, a lovely old building overlooking a nice courtyard.”—TripAdvisor Member, Melbourne, Australia

Massey Student College Residence, 4 Devonshire Place, 416 946 7843

“...elegance from top to bottom.”

LUXURY

Intercontinental Yorkville is “first class. The furniture was lovely and new; the bed, extremely comfortable; the sheets, special. I felt at home. The service is excellent, professional, helpful but not overbearing. The people at InterContinental know their job.”—TripAdvisor Member, Paris, France

Hotel Intercontinental Yorkville, 220 Bloor St. W., 416 960 5200

“What I love about the **SoHo** is that it is a smallish hotel; because of that there was much more personalized attention. The rooms were larger than I would expect, and the bathrooms were amazing.”—TripAdvisor Member

SoHo Metropolitan, 318 Wellington St. W., 416 599 8800

Park Hyatt is “elegance from top to bottom. The rooms are lovely, the bathrooms are incredible and the Yorkville location makes this an unbeatable experience. And just to top it off, the service is excellent, as well.”—TripAdvisor Member, Shanghai, China

Park Hyatt Toronto, 4 Avenue Road, 416 925 1234

Where to **STAY**



HIDDEN GEMS

“A wonderful place to stay, located on a quiet residential street in a fantastic, central location. The tasty breakfasts really make **Les Amis**. I shared the table with an eclectic and interesting bunch, including yoga teachers, philosophy professors and theater buffs.”—TripAdvisor Member, London, England

Les Amis Vegetarian Bed & Breakfast, 31 Granby St., 416 591 0635

“If you’re looking for a place that has tons of character, the **Gladstone** is it. It’s a bit off the beaten path, and the area is still a bit rough in spots, but well worth the trip.”—TripAdvisor Member

The Gladstone Hotel, 1214 Queen St. W., 416 531 4635

The trendy yet unpretentious **Drake Hotel** is “young, buzzy, hip and full of cool—very attractive—people. I stayed in a Crash Pad, and while it is compact, it’s also designed with a lot of thought and style! A really cool room.”—TripAdvisor Member, London, England

Drake Hotel, 1150 Queen Street W., 416 531 5042

“...young, buzzy, hip and full of cool people.”

About **TRIPADVISOR**

TripAdvisor is the largest travel community in the world with 50 million monthly visitors and featuring more than 50 million reviews and opinions of 675,000 hotels and attractions. TripAdvisor.com is the most trusted source for travel recommendations about where to go, where to stay and how to play for 93,000 destinations around the world. TripAdvisor.com also provides easy access to the major online travel sites to make booking your next vacation, your best vacation, easier than ever.



Edited/compiled by Aefa Mulholland, Michelle Schwartz and Kris Horton

This brochure and its contents are copyright © 2011, TripAdvisor, Inc., all rights reserved. TRIPADVISOR, the owl logo and all other marks displayed herein are registered and/or common law trademarks of TripAdvisor and/or third parties. Representations made in this brochure are current as of its publication date. This brochure contains reviews, comments, photographs and other content regarding destinations, accommodations, airlines and other travel products and services submitted by users of tripadvisor.com. Reviews and ratings represent the opinions of such users. TripAdvisor does not sponsor or endorse any user content and therefore is not liable for any statements, representations or other information contained in such user content.

Further, reference to any products, services, processes or other information of any third party does not constitute or imply endorsement, sponsorship or recommendation of or affiliation with, such third party by TripAdvisor. Such third parties are owned and operated by independent retailers or service providers, and TripAdvisor cannot ensure that you will be satisfied with their products, services, business practices or provided information. TripAdvisor recommends that you pursue any and all investigation you feel necessary or appropriate before transacting with any third party.