

TORONTO GUIDE



Trip planning you'll love

Money	3
Communication	4
Holidays	5
Transportation	6
Food	8
Events During The Year	9
Things to do	10
DOs and DO NOTs	11
Activities	15

Emergency Contacts

- General emergency number: 911
- Police: +1 416 808 2222
- Medical services: +1 416 392 2000
- Fire brigade: +1 416 338 9050

Essential Information

As the capital of Ontario and the most populous city in Canada, Toronto has its own personality that will remind you of cities in the USA, yet still have that unique Canadian flair. Several waves of immigration have made the city truly multicultural with all the perks – such as the tolerance and friendliness of the locals and the myriad of international restaurants. Sports fans are guaranteed to have a good time in the city – the locals are enthusiastic about sports, and the Hockey Hall of Fame proves this. However, the city also loves culture, as the Toronto International Film Festival and Royal Ontario Museum attest. Don't miss the historical sights that will remind you of the distinctive European atmosphere in the city. And when exploring tires you out, come over to the unique Toronto Music Garden to relax for a while. This free-spirited yet complex city has something to offer to everyone.

Time Zone

EST (-5), observes daylight saving time.

Contacts

Tourist Contacts

- Tourist centre: +1 416 203 2500

Currency: Canadian dollar, C\$1 = 100 cents.

You can exchange currency at the banks or the exchange kiosks which are abundant in the city and at the airport. You can also simply withdraw money from ATMs (called ABMs here) if you want to save yourself the trouble of going to a bank or exchange office. ATMs are abundant in Toronto, so you'll have no trouble finding them.

Most establishments also accept credit or debit cards (Visa and Mastercard, American Express less frequently) and traveller's cheques. However, it is best to always carry at least a small amount of cash around, since cards are not accepted absolutely everywhere. Stores also generally accept United States dollars, but the exchange rates will differ and you will receive Canadian dollars as change.

Tax Refunds

There is a 13% harmonized sales tax (HST) which applies to both goods and services. There is a sort of partial refund program running. You are eligible for a refund if not a resident of Canada and if you bought a packaged tour from a tour operator (that includes transport and accommodation). To claim the money back, you need the original receipts and forms that can be downloaded from the Canada Revenue Agency (www.cra-arc.gc.ca)

Prices

Toronto is one of the most expensive Canadian cities, but still more affordable than other major cities of the world. Taxis and alcohol in particular are more expensive than elsewhere.

- Meal, inexpensive restaurant – C\$12
- Meal for 2, mid-range restaurant, three-course – C\$55

- Big Mac combo meal – C\$8
- Bottle of water at supermarket – C\$2 (1.5 liters)
- Domestic beer (0.5 liter, draught) – C\$5.50
- Gasoline (1 liter) – C\$1.20
- Hostels (average price/night) – C\$30-40
- 4* hotel (average price/night) – C\$150-200
- Car-hire (medium-sized car/day) – C\$70

Tipping

Tipping is customary in Toronto. Generally, tip waiters, cab drivers and hairdressers around 15%. Other services, such as porters or bartenders, usually get one or two dollars for their services. However, if the service you received was awful, leave just a few small coins. Tips are left on the table when paying with cash or they can be added to the total when paying with a card.

Electricity

The standard electricity supply in Canada is 120 volt – 60 Hz. The plugs have two vertical pins. Remember to bring an adapter or converter if you need it.

Languages

The official languages in Toronto are English and French. The city also has a large community of Chinese, Italian and Portuguese speakers, so if you know one of these languages, you could also get by with them in some situations. Keep in mind that Toronto is a very diverse city, so somewhere out there, there is someone who speaks your mother language. In general, however, it will be very hard to get by without a basic grasp of English or French.

Mobile Phones

There are two major providers in Canada. Bell uses the CDMA network, but recently also introduced the GSM network. Rogers uses the GSM standard; however, the North American GSM runs on the 850/1900 MHz frequency, which is different from the rest of the world. Double-check with your provider at home to be sure which frequencies your phone can operate on.

If you'd like to stay in touch while visiting Toronto, you might consider renting a phone at the airport or getting yourself a local SIM card for much better rates.

The international access code for Canada is +1, the area codes for Toronto are 416 and 647.

Internet

Toronto is a well-connected city. Most hotels and hostels offer their own Wi-Fi connection for

guests; always check if it's paid or not. The public library (www.torontopubliclibrary.ca) offers free internet access to the general public. Alternatively, you can visit an internet café or just sit down at one of the restaurants or cafés and take advantage of their free Wi-Fi.

Wireless Toronto provides free internet access at Wi-Fi hotspots. Just search for the [wirelesstoronto](http://wirelesstoronto.ca) network name. See their website (wirelesstoronto.ca) for hotspot locations; most of them are found downtown.

Internet Resources

- Official tourist website (www.seetorontonow.com)
- Tourism on the official website of the city (www.toronto.ca)
- Official tourist website of the Ontario province (www.ontariotravel.net)
- Wikipedia (en.wikipedia.org)
- Calendar of events on the official tourist website (www.seetorontonow.com)

- **New Year's Day** – January 1
- **Family Day** – third Monday in February
- **Good Friday**
- **Easter Monday**
- **Victoria Day** – Monday before May 25
- **Canada Day** – July 1
- **Labour Day** – first Monday in September
- **Thanksgiving Day** – second Monday in October
- **Christmas Day** – December 25
- **Boxing Day** – December 26

Opening Hours

The shops are generally open from around 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. on weekdays. On Saturdays, the opening times are longer – from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Only the bigger shops open on Sundays from 12 p.m. to 5 p.m. The malls and other large shops stay open until 9 p.m. Banks are open from 8 or 9 a.m. to 4 or 5 p.m. on weekdays, but some might even open on Saturday. Smaller shops and banks close on public holidays.

Museums and other sights are generally open from 10 a.m. to around 5 p.m. However, on some days, museums might stay open longer (until 9 p.m.) or not open at all. Always check the museum's website, since the opening times are specific for each one. Museums in general also close on public holidays.

Public Transportation

The public transport in Toronto is operated by the Toronto Transit Commission (www3.ttc.ca) You can get around by subway, streetcar or bus. One ride costs C\$3.00; there is also a day pass available for C\$10.75 and a weekly pass for C\$38.50. You can get these tickets in the subway, at vending machines or at selected resellers (maps.google.com)

You can freely transfer between the subway, streetcars and the bus, but make sure to ask for a transfer ticket.

Subway – the best way of getting around the city, no doubt. There are three lines in total and one RT line that cover the basic points of interest in the city. It runs around every three minutes during rush hours, when the streetcars and buses can get stuck in traffic jams.

Streetcars – with 11 routes in total, Toronto is served by one of the largest streetcar networks in North America. An efficient mean of transport, even though the streetcars can get stuck in traffic during rush hours. Be careful when getting off the streetcars, since there might be cars driving by just outside the door.

Bus – more than 140 routes serve different areas of the city. The night buses are especially useful, since the regular transport shuts down at around 1 a.m. and the buses take its place until around 6 a.m. The fares are the same as for the rest of the public transport network.

Taxis

There are plenty of taxis in the city, but travelling this way can get expensive. Taxis are best used

for longer distances in Toronto. The fares are metered and regulated by the city, with the pick-up fare being C\$4.45 and an additional C\$0.25 for each 155 meters. There are a number of taxi companies; you can either hail a taxi or call one.

- Beck Taxi (www.becktaxi.com) +1 416 751 5555
- Crown Taxi (www.crowntaxi.com) +1 416 240 0000

Regional Transportation

Toronto is served by two airports – Toronto Pearson International Airport (the international airport) and Billy Bishop Toronto City Airport (the regional airport).

Amtrak (www.amtrak.com) and VIA Rail (www.viarail.ca) both serve the city and run from and to Union Station. While Amtrak runs to the USA, VIA Rail can get you to different cities around Canada. The Niagara GO Train (www.niagaragotrain.com) runs a train to the falls on summer weekends.

The Toronto Coach Terminal is also served by intercity buses. Several companies, including Greyhound (www.greyhound.ca) serve the terminal and run regular lines to both Canadian cities and the USA. Unfortunately, the terminal can be really hard to navigate, so ask for help if this is your first time travelling from here.

Driving

- Speed limits in cities – 50 km/h (31 mph)
- Outside the cities – 80 km/h (50 mph)
- Interstates – 100 km/h (62 mph)
- Blood alcohol limit – 0.08 BAC
- Drive on the right.
- Passengers over 16 must always wear a seatbelt in the front and back seat. Passengers under 16 must wear a seatbelt or sit in a child re-

straint seat. Children must sit in a special seat until they are over 8 years old, weigh over 36 kg or are over 145 cm tall.

- Talking or texting on your mobile phone while driving is illegal – use a hands-free device.
- You must yield to a bus if it signals that it is merging into the traffic from a bus stop.
- If driving next to a streetcar, you must always stop when its doors open and the passengers get off unless there is a traffic island separating you and the streetcar.

Fortunately, Toronto streets are laid out in an easy-to-understand grid pattern which makes navigation much easier. Remember that parking opportunities, especially in the city center, are scarce and the main roads can and will get congested with traffic during rush hours. Also keep in mind that the driving conditions might change drastically in winter. As long as you don't plan on venturing beyond the city limits, you don't really need a car to move around.

To rent a car, you need to be at least 21 years of age, have a valid driving license and a major credit or debit card.

Walkability

Often rated as one of the best walkable cities in Canada, Toronto has a lot to offer in terms of exploring on foot. The neighborhoods near downtown, such as Chinatown, are especially fun to explore. The parks and greenery also offer refuge to weary travellers and add to the atmosphere of the city.

Do not forget about the PATH (www.seetorontonow.com) – several kilometres of underground walkways lined with shops and the best way of getting around the city on foot when the weather gets bad.

The city of Toronto gives a lot of thought to the issue of accessibility. Public buildings and attractions are generally accessible, although you might always want to double-check. As for public transport, all of the buses and over half of the subway stops are now accessible.

- Taste a Canadian bacon sandwich at St. Lawrence Market.
- Stop by at one of the bakeries for delicious croissants.
- The Ontario region is famous for its berry produce – try to taste some while they're in season.
- Perhaps the best maple syrup is produced in the region.
- Visit one of the ethnic restaurants that serve food with their own unique twist. Portuguese cuisine is a big hit in Toronto.

Toronto's ice wines are famous for their exquisite taste – just stop by at any of the wineries in town. Don't forget about ice ciders, too. Beer lovers shouldn't worry – there are plenty of breweries around the city. You can also try one of the Canadian whiskys.

Legal Age

The drinking age in Toronto, as in the rest of Ontario, is 19 years. Last call is at 2 a.m. Smoking is forbidden in restaurants and bars.

January

- Winterlicious (www.toronto.ca) – a series of culinary events
- Lunar New Year Celebrations

March

- Toronto Fashion Week (worldmastercardfashionweek.com)

April

- Hot Docs Canadian International Documentary Festival (www.hotdocs.ca)

May

- Scotiabank Photography Festival (scotiabankcontactphoto.com) – the world's largest photography event
- Door Open Toronto (www.toronto.ca) – significant buildings open their doors to visitors

June

- Luminato (www.luminato.com) – festival of all arts disciplines
- NXNE: North by Northeast (nxne.com) – concerts and music-related movies
- Mississauga Waterfront Festival (www.themwf.com) – a family weekend at Port Credit Memorial Park
- TD Toronto Jazz Festival (torontojazz.com)
- Toronto Pride (www.pridetoronto.com) – one of the largest in the world

July

- Summerlicious (www.toronto.ca) – food festival done by the local restaurants
- Toronto Outdoor Art Exhibition (torontooutdoorart.org)
- Scotiabank Caribbean Carnival Toronto (torontocaribbeancarnival.com)

August

- Rogers Festival (www.stanfest.com) – folk festival
- Pilaros Taste of the Danforth (www.tasteofthedanforth.com) – a Greek cultural festival

- Canadian National Exhibiton (www.theex.com) – goods and innovative products on display
- Scotiabank BuskerFest (www.torontobuskerfest.com) – street performance festival

September

- Tim Horton's Southside Shuffle (www.southsideshuffle.com) – blues festival
- Toronto International Film Festival (tiff.net)
- Canada's Walk of Fame Festival (www.cwofest.ca) – features Canada's most famous performers
- Scotiabank Nuit Blanche (www.scotiabanknuitblanche.ca) – night-time street festival

October

- Art Toronto (www.tiafair.com) – The Toronto International Art Fair
- Toronto Fashion Week (worldmastercardfashionweek.com)

November

- Royal Agricultural Winter Fair (royalfair.org)
- Santa Claus Parade (www.thesantaclausparade.ca)
- Cavalcade of Lights (www.toronto.ca) – lighting of Toronto's Christmas tree

December

- Toronto Christmas Market (torontochristmasmarket.com)

Free Things To Do

- St. Lawrence Market has a lot of atmosphere going on and the food here is delicious.
- Distillery District is a terrific showcase of Victorian architecture.
- Kensington Market is another atmospheric neighborhood.
- Look out for the days when museums are free of charge.
- The Toronto Harbourfront Centre offers all sorts of cultural events free of charge.
- Step out and visit the Riverdale Farm.
- Allan Gardens Conservatory makes for a great refuge from the busy city.
- Stop by the Beaches area and relax near Lake Ontario.
- Don Valley is one of the best places for a hike.

Shopping

Art lovers can definitely get their share of souvenir-shopping in the city – there are dozens of small shops with unique artworks you can take home. For foodies, a bottle of the local maple syrup or ice wine might do the trick. The University of Toronto gift shop has some great gifts and so do the gift shops of the local sports teams.

- DO visit the St. Lawrence Market and taste the street food there.
- DO remember that fall and spring are the best times to visit Toronto.
- DO see one of the local sports teams play if you're a sports fan.
- DO NOT rent a car unless you plan to visit Niagara Falls.
- DO NOT smoke anywhere in restaurants or public buildings.
- DO NOT miss the local wines and ciders.

Safety

Toronto is a very safe city, even in the evening, since there are plenty of people around. Late at night you should avoid some neighborhoods where crimes could occur, but as long as you stay aware of your surroundings, you'll be able to avoid unpleasant situations. All in all, use common sense and all should be fine.

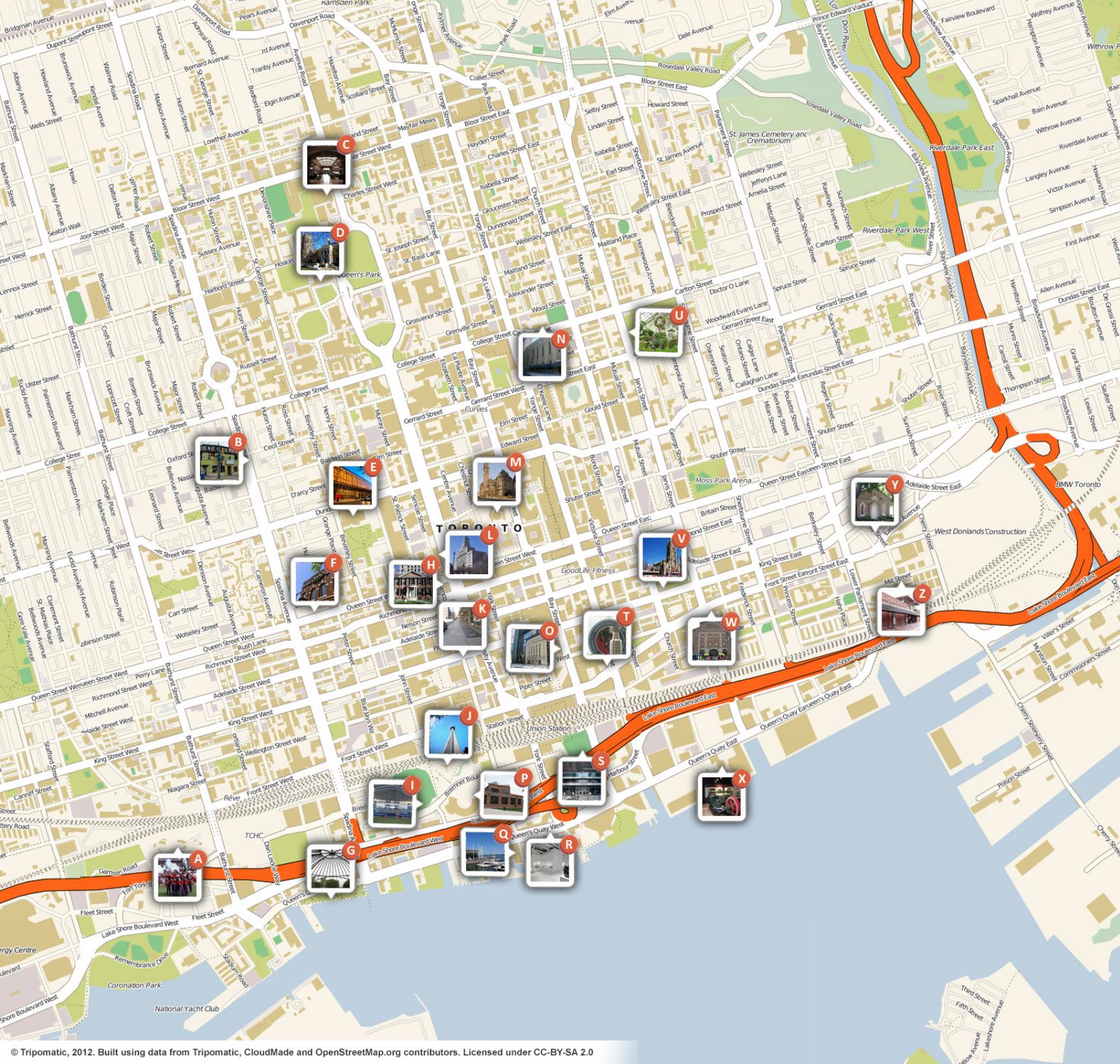
Beggars and the homeless are an issue in the city. Most of the time these people are harmless and a simple "no" will suffice if you do not want to give them money. However, they can sometimes get aggressive – your best bet is to move away quickly if that happens.

In winter, the Toronto area is often hit by severe storms. Avoid unnecessary driving in this weather. The snow-covered sidewalks can be a challenge for pedestrians, too.

The tap water in Toronto is safe to drink.

Must See Things in Toronto A-Z

- A** Fort York
- B** Grossman's Tavern
- C** Royal Ontario Museum
- D** Hart House
- E** Art Gallery of Ontario
- F** Rivoli
- G** Music Garden
- H** Campbell House
- I** Rogers Centre
- J** CN Tower
- K** Canada's Walk of Fame
- L** Canada Life Building
- M** Old City Hall
- N** Maple Leaf Gardens
- O** Design Exchange
- P** Steam Whistle Brewery
- Q** Harbourfront Centre
- R** Museum of Inuit Art
- S** Air Canada Centre
- T** Hockey Hall of Fame
- U** Allan Gardens Conservatory
- V** St James Cathedral
- W** St Lawrence Market & Hall
- X** Redpath Sugar Museum
- Y** Enoch Turner Schoolhouse
- Z** Young Centre for Performing Arts



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Fort York

A system of fortification built by British colonizers of Canada. Since 1923 it is the National Historic Site of Canada.

250 Fort York Boulevard, M5V 3K9, Toronto, ON, Canada
 GPS: N43.63893, W79.40330

Phone:
 +1416 392 6907



Grossman's Tavern

This popular 1940s music tavern emanates great atmosphere, you can enjoy your beer while listening to live blues or alternative rock music.

379 Spadina Ave, M5T 2G3, Toronto, ON, Canada
 GPS: N43.65595, W79.39899

Phone:
 +1416 977 7000



Royal Ontario Museum

This museum with very extravagant architecture focuses on cultural and natural history. It contains over six million items.

100 Queen's Park, M5S 2C6, Toronto, ON, Canada
 GPS: N43.66774, W79.39417

Phone:
 +1416 586 8000



Hart House

An all-purpose gallery where you can enjoy jazz concerts, art exhibitions or movie projections.

7 Hart House Circle, M5S 3H3, Toronto, ON, Canada
 GPS: N43.66369, W79.39469

Phone:
 +1416 978 2452





Art Gallery of Ontario

A gallery offering over 80,000 works. It is the world's largest collection of Canadian art on 45,000 square metres of physical space.

317 Dundas Street West, M5T 1G4, Toronto, ON, Canada
GPS: N43.65351, W79.39272

Phone:

+1416 979 6648



Rivoli

A popular restaurant and night club. Stand-up comedies, indie and alternative rock concerts and hip-hop nights take place here.

334 Queen Street West, M5V 2A4, Toronto, ON, Canada
GPS: N43.64924, W79.39479

Phone:

+1416 596 1908



Toronto Music Garden

This unique park is a reflection in landscape of Bach's Suite No. 1 in G Major for unaccompanied cello.

475 Queen's Quay West, Toronto, ON, Canada
GPS: N43.63701, W79.39352

Phone:

+1416 973 4000



Campbell House

A historic house built in the Georgian architecture, that is the oldest remaining house from the original site of the Town of York.

160 Queen St W, M5H 3H3, Toronto, ON, Canada
GPS: N43.65079, W79.38723

Phone:

+1416 597 0227



Rogers Centre

A large sport stadium which is home to the Toronto Blue Jays and the Toronto Argonauts. Its unique roof can be completely closed or opened.

One Blue Jays Way, M5V 1J1, Toronto, ON, Canada
GPS: N43.64070, W79.38820

Phone:

+1416 341 1000



CN Tower

With its 553 metres, it was once the highest building in the world. One of the modern Seven Wonders of the World. Visit the public observatory.

301 Front Street West, M5V 2T6, Toronto, ON, Canada
GPS: N43.64260, W79.38712

Phone:

+1416 868 6937



Canada's Walk of Fame

A walk of fame that commemorates the achievements and accomplishments of successful Canadians. It consists of maple leaf shaped stars.

corner of King & Simcoe Streets, M5J 2H5, Toronto, ON, Canada
GPS: N43.64733, W79.38608



Canada Life Building

This is a historic office building, built in 1931 in the Beaux-Arts. The dominant of this building is a weather beacon on the top of it.

330 University Avenue, M5X 1B8, Toronto, ON, Canada
GPS: N43.65173, W79.38743

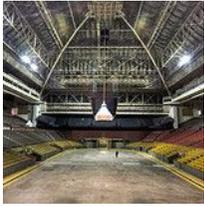


Old City Hall Toronto

A former city hall and unique piece of architecture designed by famous architect E. J. Lennox.

100 Queen Street West, M5H 2N3, Toronto, ON, Canada
GPS: N43.65349, W79.38412





Maple Leaf Gardens

One of the world's best known ice hockey arenas. It is the former home arena of famous Toronto Maple Leaves ice hockey club.

60 Carlton Street, M5B 1L1, Toronto, ON, Canada
GPS: N43.66216, W79.38018



Design Exchange Toronto

A design museum located in the historic Toronto Stock Exchange building. It is focused mainly on Canadian art.

234 Bay Street, M5K1B2, Toronto, ON, Canada
GPS: N43.64787, W79.38021

Phone:
+1416 363 6121



Steam Whistle Brewery

Brewery specialized on European-style lager. You can take a tour thru the brewery to find out how this beer is made.

255 Bremner Boulevard, M5V 3M9, Toronto, ON, Canada
GPS: N43.64118, W79.38517



Harbourfront Centre

This cultural centre offers wide range of activities for education and entertainment. It is focused on skating, food, literature etc.

235 Queens Quay West, M5J 2G8, Toronto, ON, Canada
GPS: N43.63880, W79.38311

Phone:
+1416 973 4000



Museum of Inuit Art

This museum is devoted exclusively to the Inuit art and culture. You can admire sculptures, ceramics, prints and wall hangings.

207 Queen's Quay West, M5J 1A7, Toronto, ON, Canada
GPS: N43.63983, W79.38100

Phone:
+1416 640 1571



Air Canada Centre

A multipurpose sport arena, which is home of Toronto Maple Leafs Hockey Club, Toronto Raptors Basketball Club and Toronto Rock Lacrosse Team.

50 Bay St., Suite 500, M5J 2L2, Toronto, ON, Canada
GPS: N43.64368, W79.37909

Phone:
+1416 815 5982



Hockey Hall of Fame

Sacred place for all ice hockey fans. It is the greatest ice hockey museum in the world. You can admire everything connected with ice hockey here.

30 Yonge Street, M5E 1X8, Toronto, ON, Canada
GPS: N43.64691, W79.37717

Phone:
+1416 360 7765



Allan Gardens Conservatory

A beautiful botanical garden with 6 greenhouses offering wide range of various plants and flowers to admire.

19 Horticultural Ave, M5A 2P2, Toronto, ON, Canada
GPS: N43.66204, W79.37472

Phone:
+1416 392 7288





St James Cathedral

The church built in 1853 is standing in the beautiful garden and is the home to the oldest congregation in the city.

65 Church Street, M5C 2E9, Toronto, ON, Canada

GPS: N43.65031, W79.37387

Phone:

+1416 364 7865



St Lawrence Market & Hall

Huge farmers market offering fresh food. Close to the market is also St Lawrence Market Gallery and St Lawrence Hall.

95 Front St E, M5E 1C3, Toronto, ON, Canada

GPS: N43.64921, W79.37121

Phone:

+1416 392 7120



Redpath Sugar Museum

A museum of Redpath Sugar Refinery displays how the sugar was made in the past and how is made now. Intriguing!

95 Queens Quay E, M5E 1A3, Toronto, ON, Canada

GPS: N43.64250, W79.37087

Phone:

+1416 933 8341



Enoch Turner Schoolhouse

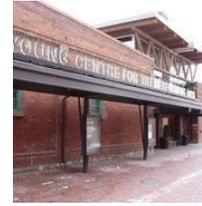
A historic one-room classroom, showing way of life of our ancestors. It was Toronto's first free school for poor children.

106 Trinity Street, M5A 1L3, Toronto, ON, Canada

GPS: N43.65288, W79.36136

Phone:

+1416 863 0010



Young Centre for Performing Arts

This centre with four performance spaces is a great place for young artists. Soul Pepper Theatre Company and Moonhorse Dance Theatre reside here.

55 Mill Street, M5A 3C4, Toronto, ON, Canada

GPS: N43.65065, W79.35982

Phone:

+1416 866 8666



