Toronto Travel Guide

Discover Toronto: Canada's Dynamic Metropolis

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Things to do in Toronto

Landmarks & Monuments

Toronto's skyline is defined by architectural marvels and iconic structures that have become symbols of the city. These landmarks offer breathtaking views, historical significance, and unforgettable experiences that capture the essence of Toronto's spirit.



Must See Book Ahead

CN Tower

2-3 hours Book Ahead

Map

Standing at **553.3 meters**, the CN Tower is Toronto's most recognizable landmark and a marvel of modern engineering. Visitors can experience the **glass floor** observation deck at 342 meters, dine in the revolving *360 Restaurant*, or brave the **EdgeWalk** - a hands-free walk around the tower's exterior at 356 meters. The tower offers panoramic views stretching up to 160 kilometers on clear days, encompassing the cityscape, Lake Ontario, and even Niagara Falls. Built in 1976, it was the world's tallest free-standing structure until 2007 and remains an engineering masterpiece.



Top Pick

Casa Loma

2-3 hours No Booking Needed

Map

This magnificent **Gothic Revival castle** was built between 1911-1914 by financier Sir Henry Pellatt. Casa Loma features 98 rooms filled with elaborate wood and stone work, *medieval-style* turrets, secret passages, and an 800-foot tunnel to the stables. The castle showcases **European-style gardens**, stunning views of Toronto, and period furnishings that transport visitors to early 20th century luxury. The estate has been featured in numerous films and TV shows, including X-Men and The Pacifier. Special events include Christmas tours, mystery dinners, and historical reenactments throughout the year.



Notable

Toronto City Hall

1 hour No Booking Needed

Map

An architectural icon designed by Finnish architect **Viljo Revell** and completed in 1965, City Hall features a distinctive *curved twin-tower design* embracing a central podium. The futuristic modernist structure houses a reflecting pool in summer and becomes Nathan Phillips Square's skating rink in winter. The square hosts countless public events, festivals, and the annual **Cavalcade of Lights** holiday celebration. Inside, visitors can admire the impressive rotunda and council chambers. The building represents Toronto's post-war optimism and remains one of the city's most photographed structures.

Tips for Landmarks & Monuments

- **Book CN Tower tickets online** to skip long queues, especially during peak summer season
- Visit landmarks during *golden hour* (sunset) for spectacular photography opportunities
- Consider combination tickets that include multiple attractions for better value
- Casa Loma offers special themed events throughout the year - check the calendar before visiting

Museums & Galleries

Toronto's museum scene is world-class, offering everything from natural history and contemporary art to specialized collections. These institutions preserve culture, inspire creativity, and provide engaging experiences for visitors of all ages.



Must See

Royal Ontario Museum (ROM)

3-4 hours No Booking Needed

Map

Canada's largest museum of **world culture and natural history** houses over 6 million items spanning art, archaeology, and science. The iconic **Michael Lee-Chin Crystal** addition creates a stunning architectural contrast with the original heritage building. Highlights include an extensive *dinosaur collection*, the Bat Cave with 20+ species, Ancient Egypt galleries, and the Teck Suite of Galleries showcasing minerals and gems. The museum offers rotating special exhibitions, family programs, and Friday Night Live events. ROM's collection represents billions of years of natural history and thousands of years of human civilization.



Top Pick

Art Gallery of Ontario (AGO)

3-4 hours No Booking Needed

Map

One of North America's most distinguished art museums, the AGO features over **95,000 works** spanning from 100 CE to the present. The collection includes the world's largest assemblage of **Canadian art**, featuring the Group of Seven, Indigenous art, and contemporary Canadian artists. European masterworks include pieces by Rubens, Monet, Renoir, and Van Gogh. The stunning Frank Gehry-redesigned building (2008) features a dramatic glass and wood facade. Special exhibitions bring international masterpieces to Toronto, while the *Galleria Italia* offers breathtaking views of the city through floor-to-ceiling windows.



Top Pick Book Ahead

Ripley's Aquarium of Canada

2-3 hours Book Ahead

Map

Located at the base of the CN Tower, this impressive aquarium features over **20,000 marine animals** representing 450+ species. The centerpiece is the **Dangerous Lagoon** - a 2.9-million-liter tank with a moving walkway through an underwater tunnel where sharks, sawfish, and sea turtles glide overhead. Interactive touch tanks let visitors feel stingrays and horseshoe crabs, while the *Rainbow Reef* showcases vibrant Indo-Pacific species. Special experiences include shark cage diving, behind-the-scenes tours, and sleepovers. The aquarium combines education, conservation, and entertainment in a spectacular setting.



Notable

Aga Khan Museum

2-3 hours No Booking Needed

Map

This architectural gem showcases over 1,000 years of **Islamic art and culture** through permanent and temporary exhibitions. The striking white granite and glass building houses ceramics, textiles, paintings, manuscripts, and metalwork from Spain to China. The collection illuminates the contributions of Muslim civilizations to world heritage. Beautiful gardens designed by landscape architect Vladimir Djurovic complement the structure. The museum offers educational programs, film screenings, concerts, and lectures that foster intercultural understanding. The on-site restaurant serves contemporary Middle Eastern cuisine in an elegant setting.

Tips for Museums & Galleries

- Many museums offer **free admission** on specific evenings or days - check websites for details
- Purchase a *CityPASS* for discounted entry to multiple attractions including ROM and Casa Loma
- Visit museums on weekday mornings to avoid crowds

- ROM and AGO both have excellent cafés perfect for lunch breaks during your visit
- Download museum apps for self-guided tours and interactive content

Religious Sites

Toronto's diverse religious architecture reflects the city's multicultural heritage. From historic cathedrals to unique places of worship, these sites offer spiritual significance, architectural beauty, and peaceful contemplation.



Notable

St. Lawrence Market

1-2 hours No Booking Needed

Map

While primarily a market, the area includes **St. Lawrence Hall**, a National Historic Site built in 1850 that served various civic and cultural functions. The market district represents Toronto's commercial heritage dating to 1803. The South Market’s original structure dates to 1844; the building seen today has changed substantially and has looked much the same since 1902.*Victorian-era architecture* and has been named the world's best food market by National Geographic. The Saturday Farmers’ Market returned to the redeveloped North Market building in April 2025; 1831 dates to an earlier market building on the site. This historic precinct showcases Toronto's evolution from colonial town to major city through its preserved architecture and continuing market traditions.



Optional

St. James Cathedral

45 minutes No Booking Needed

Map

This Anglican cathedral is the oldest congregation in Toronto, with roots dating to 1797. The current **Gothic Revival structure** was completed in 1874 and features Canada's tallest church spire at 92.9 meters. The interior showcases magnificent *stained glass windows*, intricate stonework, and a Casavant Frères pipe organ with over 3,000 pipes. The cathedral is renowned for its choral tradition, with services featuring the St. James Cathedral Choir. The peaceful churchyard provides an oasis in downtown Toronto. Regular concerts and cultural events make this a living heritage site open to all visitors.

Tips for Religious Sites

- Dress respectfully when visiting active places of worship
- Check service schedules if you wish to experience religious ceremonies
- Many sites offer free admission but appreciate donations
- Photography may be restricted during services - always ask permission

Neighborhoods & Districts

Toronto's neighborhoods each possess distinct character, reflecting the city's incredible diversity. From trendy entertainment districts to historic enclaves, exploring these areas reveals the authentic spirit of Toronto.



Must See

Distillery District

2-3 hours No Booking Needed

Map

This pedestrian-only village occupies the **Victorian-era Gooderham and Worts Distillery** - once the largest distillery in the British Empire. The remarkably preserved 1800s industrial architecture now houses over 40 *boutiques, galleries, restaurants, and cafés* within 13 heritage buildings. Cobblestone streets, original brick warehouses, and artistic installations create an enchanting atmosphere. The district hosts year-round festivals including the famous **Toronto Christmas Market**, art exhibitions, and live performances. Local artisans, craft breweries, and unique shopping experiences make this one of Toronto's most photogenic and culturally rich destinations.



Top Pick

Kensington Market

2-3 hours No Booking Needed

Map

This eclectic, **bohemian neighborhood** is a National Historic Site representing Toronto's multicultural mosaic. Narrow streets lined with Victorian houses host vantage clothing shops, international food markets, cafés, and quirky boutiques. The area reflects successive waves of immigration - from Jewish merchants to Portuguese, Caribbean, Latin American, and Asian communities. *Pedestrian Sundays* (monthly in summer) transform streets into car-free festivals with live music and street performers. Colorful murals, diverse street food, and independent businesses create an authentic, creative atmosphere far removed from corporate chains.



Top Pick

Queen Street West

2-4 hours No Booking Needed

Map

Toronto's **trendiest strip** stretches from University Avenue to Roncesvalles, evolving from edgy alternative scene to upscale shopping district. The area showcases *independent fashion boutiques*, contemporary art galleries, live music venues, and innovative restaurants. Street art adorns building facades, while vintage shops sit alongside designer stores. Trinity Bellwoods Park anchors the western end, serving as the neighborhood's outdoor living room. The strip reflects Toronto's creative energy, with ever-changing murals, pop-up installations, and a vibrant nightlife scene that attracts locals and visitors alike.



Notable

The Beaches

3-4 hours No Booking Needed

Map

This lakeside neighborhood combines **small-town charm** with urban amenities along Lake Ontario's shores. A 3-kilometer boardwalk connects four beaches offering swimming, volleyball, and spectacular sunrises. Queen Street East features independent shops, bookstores, cafés, and restaurants with a relaxed, community atmosphere. The area hosts summer festivals including the *Beaches International Jazz Festival*. Victorian and Edwardian homes line tree-shaded streets, while Kew Gardens and Glen Stewart Ravine provide green spaces. The neighborhood offers a peaceful escape while remaining easily accessible from downtown.

Tips for Neighborhoods & Districts

- **Explore on foot** - neighborhoods reveal their character through walking, not driving
- Visit Kensington Market and Distillery District on different days to fully appreciate each

- Many neighborhoods have *distinct personalities* at different times - Queen West transforms from day shopping to nightlife scene
- Check local event calendars for neighborhood festivals and pedestrian days
- Sample international cuisines - Toronto's neighborhoods offer authentic global dining experiences

Parks & Gardens

Toronto is one of the world's greenest cities, with an extensive park system offering natural retreats within the urban landscape. From waterfront trails to ravine systems, these spaces provide recreation, relaxation, and connection to nature.



Must See

Toronto Islands

4-6 hours No Booking Needed

Map

This **car-free archipelago** sits just 800 meters from downtown, offering 15 islands with beaches, parks, and recreational facilities across 230 hectares. *Centre Island* features Centreville Amusement Park (perfect for families), picnic areas, and bike rentals. Ward's Island and Algonquin Island host small residential communities accessible only by ferry. The islands provide spectacular **skyline views**, especially at sunset. Activities include kayaking, stand-up paddleboarding, beach volleyball, and bird watching. Gibraltar Point Lighthouse (1808) is Toronto's oldest standing structure. The ferry ride itself offers fantastic photography opportunities.



Top Pick

High Park

2-4 hours No Booking Needed

Map

Toronto's largest public park spans **161 hectares** of natural beauty in the city's west end. Designed in the English pastoral style, it features *Grenadier Pond*, extensive hiking trails, sports facilities, and playgrounds. The park is famous for its **cherry blossom** trees (gift from Japan) that bloom spectacularly each spring. A small zoo houses animals including bison, llamas, and peacocks (free admission). The park includes Colborne Lodge, a historic house museum, and the High Park Nature Centre. Summer Shakespeare performances at the outdoor amphitheater are a beloved tradition.



Optional

Toronto Botanical Garden

1-2 hours No Booking Needed

Map

Formerly Edwards Gardens, this **17-hectare horticultural gem** showcases themed gardens, including perennial borders, rock gardens, and a teaching garden. The site features *professionally designed landscapes* along the Wilket Creek ravine, with walking trails, ponds, and wooden bridges creating a serene atmosphere. The garden offers year-round beauty, from spring bulbs and summer blooms to fall foliage. Free admission makes it accessible to all. Educational programs, workshops, and guided tours enhance visitor experiences. The garden demonstrates sustainable practices and native plant cultivation, serving as both a peaceful retreat and environmental resource.

Tips for Parks & Gardens

- **Ferry tickets** to Toronto Islands sell out quickly in summer - arrive early or book online when available
- Bring bikes to the islands or rent on arrival for easier exploration
- High Park's cherry blossoms peak late April to early May - arrive early as crowds are massive
- Pack picnics for parks - many have beautiful spots for outdoor dining
- Check weather before park visits and bring appropriate gear for lakefront wind

Tours & Activities

Guided tours and unique experiences help visitors discover Toronto's hidden gems, learn local history, and access special areas. From food tours to adventure activities, these curated experiences add depth to your Toronto visit.



Top Pick Book Ahead

Harbour & Island Cruises

1-3 hours Book Ahead

Multiple companies offer **boat tours** of Toronto's waterfront and harbor, providing unique perspectives of the skyline, islands, and Lake Ontario. Options range from *60-minute sightseeing cruises* to sunset dinner cruises with live entertainment. Tours pass by the Toronto Islands, Billy Bishop Airport, and historic waterfront areas while narrators share city history and architectural insights. Special themed cruises include brunch cruises, jazz nights, and holiday lights tours. The waterfront perspective offers unparalleled photo opportunities and reveals Toronto's transformation from industrial port to modern metropolis.



Notable

Food Tours

3-4 hours Book Ahead

Toronto's **multicultural food scene** comes alive through guided tasting tours in neighborhoods like Kensington Market, Chinatown, Little Italy, and St. Lawrence Market. Professional guides lead groups to family-owned restaurants, ethnic bakeries, specialty food shops, and hidden gems locals love. Tours typically include *6-8 tastings* that constitute a full meal while sharing immigration stories, culinary traditions, and neighborhood history. Options include vegetarian tours, dessert crawls, and market tours. These experiences provide cultural immersion while supporting independent businesses and learning about Toronto's diverse communities.



Notable

Bike Tours

2-4 hours Book Ahead

Cycling tours offer an efficient way to cover ground while experiencing Toronto's neighborhoods, waterfront, and parks. Routes traverse the **Martin Goodman Trail** along Lake Ontario, explore the Distillery District, or wind through ravines and residential areas. *E-bike options* make tours accessible to all fitness levels. Guides share Toronto's history, architecture, and local culture while stopping at notable landmarks. Tours range from 2-4 hours and typically include bike rental, helmet, and sometimes refreshments. Night tours showcase illuminated landmarks, while specialized tours focus on street art, craft breweries, or specific neighborhoods.

Tips for Tours & Activities

- **Book tours in advance**, especially during peak summer season and weekends
- Food tours work best when you arrive hungry - they provide substantial tastings
- Wear comfortable shoes for walking tours and weather-appropriate clothing
- Tip guides 15-20% for excellent service
- Small group tours often provide more personalized experiences than large bus tours

Day Trips & Excursions

Toronto's strategic location makes it an ideal base for exploring world-famous attractions and charming destinations within easy reach. These day trips offer natural wonders, wine country, and historic sites.



Must See Book Ahead

Niagara Falls

Full day Book Ahead

Map

One of the world's most spectacular natural wonders sits just **130 kilometers from Toronto** (90-minute drive). Three waterfalls - Horseshoe Falls, American Falls, and Bridal Veil Falls - form the collective Niagara Falls, with over 3,000 tons of water flowing per second. The *Hornblower Niagara Cruises* (formerly Maid of the Mist) brings visitors to the base of the falls, while Journey Behind the Falls offers tunnels leading to observation platforms. The Niagara Parkway provides stunning views, and adjacent Clifton Hill offers entertainment. Evening illuminations and seasonal fireworks make night visits magical. Combine with Niagara-on-the-Lake for wine tasting.



Top Pick

Niagara-on-the-Lake

Full day No Booking Needed

Map

This charming 19th-century town, located where the Niagara River meets Lake Ontario, is renowned for its **well-preserved heritage architecture** and world-class wineries. The historic downtown features *Victorian and Regency-style buildings* housing boutique shops, galleries, and restaurants. The Shaw Festival (April-December) presents theatrical productions in multiple venues. The surrounding region boasts over 20 wineries offering tastings and tours, specializing in ice wine and cool-climate varietals. Fort George National Historic Site recreates War of 1812 experiences. The scenic Niagara Parkway connecting to Niagara Falls offers stunning river views.



Notable

Blue Mountain

Full day Book Ahead

Map

Located **170 kilometers north** of Toronto (2-hour drive), Blue Mountain is Ontario's premier four-season resort destination. Winter attracts skiers and snowboarders to 42 trails and terrain parks. Summer offers *mountain biking, hiking trails, zip-lining*, and the Ridge Runner Mountain Coaster. The pedestrian village features shops, restaurants, and the Scandinave Spa with outdoor thermal baths. Scenic caves nearby provide spelunking adventures. Collingwood's historic downtown offers additional dining and shopping. The area's natural beauty, especially in fall when leaves change color, makes it popular year-round.

Tips for Day Trips & Excursions

- **Rent a car** for flexibility, or book organized day tours that handle transportation
- Start early to maximize daylight and avoid crowds at popular sites like Niagara Falls
- Book winery tours and tastings in advance, especially during harvest season (September-October)
- Combine Niagara Falls with Niagara-on-the-Lake for a full experience
- Check border requirements if planning to visit the American side of Niagara Falls

Food & Dining

Real, highly-rated Restaurants in Toronto, sourced from Google Places (rating above 4★).



Black+Blue Toronto★★★★★ 4.8 (6,272)

1-2 hours

Map

Black+Blue Toronto is a highly-rated restaurant in Toronto, rated 4.8★ from 6272 reviews. Located at 130 King St W, Toronto, ON M5X 2A2, Canada.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 11:30 AM – 12:00 AM
- Tuesday: 11:30 AM – 12:00 AM
- Wednesday: 11:30 AM – 12:00 AM
- Thursday: 11:30 AM – 12:00 AM
- Friday: 11:30 AM – 12:00 AM
- Saturday: 10:30 AM – 12:00 AM
- Sunday: 10:30 AM – 12:00 AM



RASA★★★★★ 4.7 (1,451)

1-2 hours

Map

RASA is a highly-rated restaurant in Toronto, rated 4.7★ from 1451 reviews. Located at 196 Robert St, Toronto, ON M5S 2K7, Canada.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 5:00 – 9:30 PM
- Tuesday: 5:00 – 9:30 PM
- Wednesday: 5:00 – 9:30 PM
- Thursday: 5:00 – 10:00 PM
- Friday: 5:00 – 10:00 PM
- Saturday: 5:00 – 10:00 PM
- Sunday: 5:00 – 9:30 PM



Richmond Station★★★★★ 4.7 (3,744)

1-2 hours

Map

Richmond Station is a highly-rated restaurant in Toronto, rated 4.7★ from 3744 reviews. Located at 1 Richmond St W, Toronto, ON M5H 3W4, Canada.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 11:30 AM – 2:30 PM, 4:30 – 10:30 PM
- Tuesday: 11:30 AM – 2:30 PM, 4:30 – 10:30 PM
- Wednesday: 11:30 AM – 2:30 PM, 4:30 – 10:30 PM
- Thursday: 11:30 AM – 2:30 PM, 4:30 – 10:30 PM
- Friday: 11:30 AM – 2:30 PM, 4:30 – 10:30 PM
- Saturday: 4:30 – 10:30 PM
- Sunday: 4:30 – 10:30 PM



Fox on John★★★★★ 4.7 (13,270)

1-2 hours

Map

Fox on John is a highly-rated restaurant in Toronto, rated 4.7★ from 13270 reviews. Located at 106 John St #3, Toronto, ON M5V 2E1, Canada.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 9:00 AM – 2:00 AM
- Tuesday: 9:00 AM – 2:00 AM
- Wednesday: 9:00 AM – 2:00 AM
- Thursday: 9:00 AM – 4:00 AM
- Friday: 9:00 AM – 4:00 AM
- Saturday: 9:00 AM – 4:00 AM
- Sunday: 9:00 AM – 2:00 AM



Chefry's Global Kitchen & Catering★★★★★ 4.7 (1,257)

1-2 hours

Map

Chefry's Global Kitchen & Catering is a highly-rated restaurant in Toronto, rated 4.7★ from 1257 reviews. Located at 390 Richmond St W, Toronto, ON M5V 1X6, Canada.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 11:00 AM – 9:30 PM
- Tuesday: 11:00 AM – 9:30 PM
- Wednesday: 11:00 AM – 9:30 PM
- Thursday: 11:00 AM – 10:30 PM
- Friday: 11:00 AM – 10:30 PM
- Saturday: 10:30 AM – 10:30 PM
- Sunday: 10:30 AM – 9:30 PM



JOEY Eaton Centre★★★★★ 4.7 (13,678)

1-2 hours

Map

JOEY Eaton Centre is a highly-rated restaurant in Toronto, rated 4.7★ from 13678 reviews. Located at 1 Dundas St W, Toronto, ON M5G 1Z3, Canada.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 11:00 AM – 1:00 AM
- Tuesday: 11:00 AM – 1:00 AM
- Wednesday: 11:00 AM – 1:00 AM
- Thursday: 11:00 AM – 1:00 AM
- Friday: 11:00 AM – 1:00 AM
- Saturday: 11:00 AM – 1:00 AM
- Sunday: 11:00 AM – 1:00 AM



House on Parliament★★★★★ 4.7 (3,076)

1-2 hours

Map

House on Parliament is a highly-rated restaurant in Toronto, rated 4.7★ from 3076 reviews. Located at 454 Parliament St, Toronto, ON M5A 3A2, Canada.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 11:30 AM – 12:00 AM
- Tuesday: 11:30 AM – 12:00 AM
- Wednesday: 11:30 AM – 12:00 AM
- Thursday: 11:30 AM – 12:00 AM
- Friday: 11:30 AM – 1:00 AM
- Saturday: 11:00 AM – 1:00 AM
- Sunday: 11:00 AM – 12:00 AM



Earls Kitchen + Bar - Financial District (King & University)★★★★★ 4.6 (11,645)

1-2 hours

Map

Earls Kitchen + Bar - Financial District (King & University) is a highly-rated restaurant in Toronto, rated 4.6★ from 11645 reviews. Located at 150 King St W #100, Toronto, ON M5H 1J9, Canada.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 11:00 AM – 11:30 PM
- Tuesday: 11:00 AM – 2:00 AM
- Wednesday: 11:00 AM – 2:00 AM
- Thursday: 11:00 AM – 2:00 AM
- Friday: 11:00 AM – 2:00 AM
- Saturday: 11:00 AM – 2:00 AM
- Sunday: 11:00 AM – 2:00 AM



Jacobs & Co. Steakhouse★★★★★ 4.6 (2,947)

1-2 hours

Map

Jacobs & Co. Steakhouse is a highly-rated restaurant in Toronto, rated 4.6★ from 2947 reviews. Located at 81 Bay St. 4th Floor, Toronto, ON M5J 0E7, Canada.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 11:30 AM – 10:30 PM
- Tuesday: 11:30 AM – 10:30 PM
- Wednesday: 11:30 AM – 10:30 PM
- Thursday: 11:30 AM – 10:30 PM
- Friday: 11:30 AM – 10:30 PM
- Saturday: 4:30 – 10:30 PM
- Sunday: 4:30 – 9:00 PM



Giulietta★★★★★ 4.6 (1,848)

1-2 hours

Map

Giulietta is a highly-rated restaurant in Toronto, rated 4.6★ from 1848 reviews. Located at 972 College St, Toronto, ON M6H 1A5, Canada.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 5:00 – 10:00 PM
- Tuesday: 5:00 – 10:00 PM
- Wednesday: 5:00 – 10:00 PM
- Thursday: 5:00 – 10:00 PM
- Friday: 5:00 – 10:00 PM
- Saturday: 5:00 – 10:00 PM
- Sunday: 5:00 – 9:00 PM



Alo★★★★★ 4.6 (2,177)

1-2 hours

Map

Alo is a highly-rated restaurant in Toronto, rated 4.6★ from 2177 reviews. Located at 163 Spadina Ave., Toronto, ON M5V 2L6, Canada.

Opening Hours

- Monday: Closed
- Tuesday: 5:00 PM – 12:00 AM
- Wednesday: 5:00 PM – 12:00 AM
- Thursday: 5:00 PM – 12:00 AM
- Friday: 5:00 PM – 12:00 AM
- Saturday: 5:00 PM – 12:00 AM
- Sunday: Closed



Aloette Restaurant★★★★★ 4.5 (2,053)

1-2 hours

Map

Aloette Restaurant is a highly-rated restaurant in Toronto, rated 4.5★ from 2053 reviews. Located at 163 Spadina Ave. 1st Floor, Toronto, ON M5V 2A5, Canada.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 5:00 – 10:00 PM
- Tuesday: 5:00 – 10:00 PM
- Wednesday: 5:00 – 10:00 PM
- Thursday: 5:00 – 10:00 PM
- Friday: 11:30 AM – 10:30 PM
- Saturday: 11:30 AM – 10:30 PM
- Sunday: 11:30 AM – 10:00 PM



GEORGE Restaurant★★★★★ 4.5 (1,311)

1-2 hours

Map

GEORGE Restaurant is a highly-rated restaurant in Toronto, rated 4.5★ from 1311 reviews. Located at 111C Queen St E, Toronto, ON M5C 1S2, Canada.

Opening Hours

- Monday: Closed
- Tuesday: 5:30 – 10:30 PM
- Wednesday: 12:00 – 2:00 PM, 5:30 – 10:30 PM
- Thursday: 12:00 – 2:00 PM, 5:30 – 10:30 PM
- Friday: 12:00 – 2:00 PM, 5:30 – 10:30 PM
- Saturday: 5:30 – 10:30 PM
- Sunday: Closed



Canoe★★★★☆ 4.4 (3,860)

1-2 hours

Map

Canoe is a highly-rated restaurant in Toronto, rated 4.4★ from 3860 reviews. Located at 66 Wellington St W 54th floor, Toronto, ON M5K 1E9, Canada.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 11:30 AM – 11:30 PM
- Tuesday: 11:30 AM – 11:30 PM
- Wednesday: 11:30 AM – 11:30 PM
- Thursday: 11:30 AM – 11:30 PM
- Friday: 11:30 AM – 11:30 PM
- Saturday: Closed
- Sunday: 11:30 AM – 2:00 PM, 5:00 – 9:30 PM



KŌST★★★★☆ 4.4 (6,073)

1-2 hours

Map

KŌST is a highly-rated restaurant in Toronto, rated 4.4★ from 6073 reviews. Located at 80 Blue Jays Way 44th Floor, Toronto, ON M5V 2G3, Canada.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 7:30 AM – 10:00 PM
- Tuesday: 7:30 AM – 10:00 PM
- Wednesday: 7:30 AM – 10:00 PM
- Thursday: 7:30 AM – 10:00 PM
- Friday: 7:30 AM – 11:00 PM
- Saturday: 7:30 AM – 11:00 PM
- Sunday: 7:30 AM – 10:00 PM

Practical Information

Seasonal Guide to Toronto

Summer (June-August): Peak tourist season with warm temperatures (20-27°C/68-81°F). Perfect for outdoor festivals, Toronto Islands, beaches, and patio dining. Expect crowds at major attractions and higher accommodation prices. *Pros*: Best weather, numerous festivals, outdoor activities. *Cons*: Crowded, expensive, humid.

Fall (September-November): Ideal visiting time with comfortable temperatures (10-20°C/50-68°F), fewer crowds, and spectacular fall foliage. September offers festival season continuation with pleasant weather. October showcases autumn colors in parks and ravines. *Highly recommended* for first-time visitors.

Winter (December-February): Cold temperatures (-5 to -1°C/23-30°F) with occasional snowstorms. Holiday season (December) features markets, ice skating, and festive lights. January-February offers lowest prices and authentic local experience. Underground PATH system connects downtown buildings. *Pros*: Winter festivals, lower prices, magical holiday atmosphere. *Cons*: Cold weather, shorter daylight hours.

Spring (March-May): Variable weather (5-18°C/41-64°F) with gradual warming. Late April-early May brings cherry blossoms to High Park. Shoulder season offers moderate prices and emerging outdoor activities. *Pros*: Spring blooms, moderate temperatures, fewer tourists. *Cons*: Unpredictable weather, some rain.

Best Overall: September-October for weather, crowds, and fall colors. **Budget**: January-March (excluding holidays). **Festivals**: June-September.

Getting Around Toronto

Toronto Transit Commission (TTC): Comprehensive public transit system including subway (4 lines), streetcars, and buses. *Single fare*: $3.35 CAD (cash/credit); Day Pass: $13.50 CAD (unlimited travel). PRESTO card (reloadable smart card) offers discounted fares and works across GTA transit systems. Subway operates 6am-2am weekdays, reduced weekend hours. TTC Website

UP Express: Direct train service connecting Pearson International Airport to Union Station downtown in 25 minutes. Trains every 15 minutes. Adult fare: $12.35 CAD with PRESTO, $13.00 cash. Clean, comfortable, and reliable - *recommended* for airport transfers.

Bike Share Toronto: Over 7,000 bikes at 680+ stations across the city. Perfect for exploring waterfront and neighborhoods. Day pass: $7 CAD (unlimited 30-minute trips). Annual membership available for longer stays. Download app for station locations.

Taxis & Ride-Sharing: Uber and Lyft operate throughout Toronto. Standard taxis available via phone or street hail. Typical downtown fare: $15-25 CAD. Convenient for late-night travel when transit is limited.

PATH System: Underground pedestrian network connecting 30 kilometers of shopping, services, and transit in downtown core. Essential during winter months. Free to use but can be confusing - grab a map or use smartphone navigation.

GO Transit: Regional rail and bus network connecting Toronto with surrounding cities. Useful for day trips to Niagara, Hamilton, or other GTA destinations. Trains run from Union Station.

Tip: Get a PRESTO card on arrival - saves money and time. Available at subway stations, Shoppers Drug Mart, and online.

✈ Airport Transfer

Toronto Pearson International Airport (YYZ) to city center:

- **UP Express Train:** Direct to Union Station downtown in 25 minutes, CAD 12.35 one-way with Presto card
- **Airport Express Bus:** Route 900 to Kipling subway station in about 20 minutes, CAD 3.35 with TTC fare
- **Taxi:** Flat rate around CAD 60-70 to downtown, roughly 30-45 minutes depending on traffic
- **Private Transfer:** Pre-booked car service to downtown hotels in about 30 minutes, typically CAD 80-100

Shopping in Toronto

What to Buy: Canadian souvenirs (maple syrup, ice wine, smoked salmon), Indigenous art and crafts, locally designed fashion, vintage clothing, international foods, hockey memorabilia, Canadian books and music.

Major Shopping Districts

Eaton Centre: Downtown's massive mall with 230+ stores including Hudson's Bay (Canada's iconic department store), international brands, and food court. Connected to PATH system. Open 10am-9pm daily.

Yorkville: Upscale neighborhood featuring *luxury boutiques, designer stores* (Chanel, Hermès, Prada), art galleries, and high-end dining. Mink Mile along Bloor Street rivals Rodeo Drive. Window shopping alone is entertainment.

Queen Street West: Independent boutiques, vintage shops, streetwear, local designers, and unique finds. Extends from University to Roncesvalles with character changing along the route. Best for one-of-a-kind items.

Kensington Market: Vintage clothing, quirky boutiques, international groceries, fresh produce, and artisan goods. Cash preferred at many vendors. Perfect for bohemian style and unique gifts.

St. Lawrence Market: Named world's best food market. The South Market is open Tuesday through Sunday and closed Monday; check current hours before visiting. North Market (Saturdays) hosts farmers' market. Antique market on Sundays. *Peameal bacon sandwich* at Carousel Bakery is legendary.

Distillery District: Artisan shops, galleries, jewelry, home décor, and crafts in historic setting. Higher-end boutiques with unique Canadian-made products. Open daily.

Shopping Tips

- Sales tax (HST) is 13% - added at checkout, not included in displayed prices
- **Bargaining**: Not customary except at flea markets and some Kensington Market vendors
- Many stores offer *tourist tax refunds* on purchases over $200 - ask about GST/HST rebate programs
- Store hours: Typically 10am-9pm weekdays, shorter on Sundays
- Credit cards widely accepted; some small vendors prefer cash

Annual Events & Festivals

Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF) - September: One of world's most prestigious film festivals. Celebrity sightings, premieres, and public screenings throughout downtown. Book tickets early. TIFF Website

Pride Toronto - June: One of largest LGBTQ+ celebrations globally. Week-long events culminate in massive parade down Yonge Street. Church-Wellesley Village becomes epicenter of festivities. Vibrant, inclusive, and unforgettable.

Caribana (Toronto Caribbean Carnival) - Late July/Early August: North America's largest Caribbean festival featuring spectacular costumes, mas bands, steel pan music, and street parade. Showcases Caribbean culture with food, music, and dance. *Incredible energy* and color.

Canadian National Exhibition (CNE/The Ex) - Mid-August to Labour Day: Historic fair since 1879 featuring midway rides, concerts, agricultural exhibits, food vendors, and air shows. Waterfront location. Classic summer tradition with over 1.5 million visitors annually.

In 2026, Nuit Blanche runs Oct. 3–4, from 7 p.m. to 7 a.m: All-night contemporary art festival (sunset to sunrise). Free art installations, performances, and exhibitions across entire city. Hundreds of thousands participate in this unique cultural event. Dress warmly.

Toronto Christmas Market - November-December: European-style holiday market in Distillery District. Festive lights, artisan vendors, seasonal foods, and entertainment. *Magical atmosphere* in historic setting. Advance tickets recommended for peak times.

Winterlicious & Summerlicious - January/February and July: Restaurant festival offering prix-fixe menus at Toronto's best restaurants at discounted prices. Opportunity to try high-end dining affordably. Reservations essential.

National Holidays (Government & Many Businesses Closed)

- New Year's Day - January 1
- Family Day - Third Monday in February
- Good Friday - March/April (variable)
- Victoria Day - Monday before May 25
- Canada Day - July 1 (major celebrations nationwide)
- Civic Holiday - First Monday in August
- Labour Day - First Monday in September
- Thanksgiving - Second Monday in October
- Christmas Day - December 25
- Boxing Day - December 26

Sample Day Itineraries

Day 1: Toronto Icons & Downtown

Morning (9am-12pm): Start at *St. Lawrence Market* for breakfast (peameal bacon sandwich). Explore market vendors. Walk to nearby *Distillery District* (15 minutes), wander cobblestone streets, browse galleries and shops.

Afternoon (12pm-5pm): Lunch in Distillery District. Take streetcar/Uber to *CN Tower* (pre-booked tickets). Spend 1.5-2 hours enjoying views, glass floor, SkyPod. Walk to nearby *Ripley's Aquarium* for 2 hours of marine exploration.

Evening (5pm-9pm): Dinner in Entertainment District or Harbourfront. Evening stroll along waterfront. Optional: Catch sunset from Toronto Islands (if ferry schedules permit) or waterfront.

Day 2: Culture & Neighborhoods

Morning (10am-1pm): Visit *Royal Ontario Museum* (arrive at opening). Focus on dinosaurs, Ancient Egypt, or Bat Cave. Allow 2-3 hours. Coffee break at ROM cafe.

Afternoon (1pm-5pm): Lunch on Bloor Street. Walk south to *Kensington Market* (20 minutes or quick streetcar). Explore vintage shops, international groceries, street art. Continue to nearby *Chinatown* for browsing and snacks.

Evening (5pm-9pm): Walk or streetcar to *Queen Street West*. Explore boutiques, galleries, Trinity Bellwoods Park. Dinner at trendy restaurant. Optional: Live music venue or cocktail bar.

Day 3: Islands & Waterfront

Morning (9am-12pm): Ferry to *Toronto Islands* from Jack Layton Ferry Terminal (arrive early). Rent bikes. Cycle to Ward's Island and Hanlan's Point for skyline photography.

Afternoon (12pm-5pm): Beach time or picnic lunch on Centre Island. Visit Centreville if traveling with kids. More cycling or walking trails. Return via ferry mid-afternoon.

Evening (5pm-9pm): Explore *Harbourfront Centre* - galleries, shops, waterfront promenade. Sunset harbor cruise (pre-booked). Dinner at waterfront restaurant with patio.

Day 4: Art, History & Castle

Morning (10am-1pm): Visit *Art Gallery of Ontario* at opening. Explore Canadian collection, Group of Seven, European masters. Allow 2-3 hours.

Afternoon (1pm-6pm): Lunch in Chinatown or Kensington Market nearby. Uber/taxi to *Casa Loma*. Explore castle, gardens, tunnels (2-3 hours). Stop by gift shop.

Evening (6pm-9pm): Explore nearby *Yorkville* neighborhood. Window shop luxury boutiques. Dinner at upscale restaurant. Evening stroll through village.

Day 5: Day Trip Options

Option A - Niagara Falls: Depart Toronto 8am (tour bus or rental car). Arrive Niagara 10am. *Hornblower Cruise*, Journey Behind Falls, lunch with view. Visit Niagara-on-the-Lake afternoon (wineries, historic town). Return Toronto by 8pm.

Option B - Local Exploration: Morning at *High Park* (hiking, Grenadier Pond, zoo). Afternoon in *The Beaches* neighborhood (boardwalk, Queen Street East shops). Dinner at beachfront restaurant. Sunset on beach.

Option C - Markets & Food: Food tour in *Kensington Market* or Chinatown (pre-booked, 10am-1pm). Afternoon at *Aga Khan Museum*. Evening in *Little Italy* (College Street) - dinner, gelato, café culture.

Itinerary Tips: Book major attractions online in advance. Use PRESTO card for seamless transit. Build in flexibility for weather changes. Allow buffer time between activities. Peak season requires more advance planning. Winter itineraries should emphasize indoor attractions with PATH connections.

Best Photography & Instagram Locations

Toronto Islands - Multiple Spots

Best skyline view: Centre Island looking toward downtown. *Golden hour* (sunrise/sunset) provides magical lighting. Ferry ride itself offers excellent skyline shots. Time: Sunset 1 hour before closing. Tip: Wide-angle lens captures full skyline.

Distillery District

Cobblestone streets, Victorian industrial architecture, colorful murals, vintage signage. **Trinity Street** with string lights (evening). Romantic, textured backgrounds. Time: Early morning (empty streets) or evening (lit streets). Avoid midday harsh shadows.

Graffiti Alley (Rush Lane)

Ever-changing street art between Spadina and Portland on Queen West. *Vibrant murals*, urban backdrops, colorful walls. Popular with fashion/portrait photographers. Time: Midday for bright colors. Weekday mornings less crowded. Near trendy cafes.

Nathan Phillips Square

City Hall's distinctive curved towers, reflecting pool (summer), skating rink (winter), Toronto sign. **3D Toronto sign** perfect for tourist photos. Time: Evening for lit sign and buildings. Winter for skating rink shots. Summer for reflecting pool reflections.

St. Lawrence Market - Front Facade

Historic market building, Victorian architecture, bustling atmosphere. Interior vendors create colorful, authentic scenes. Time: Saturday morning for farmers' market energy. Natural light through skylights midday.

Casa Loma - Multiple Angles

Gothic Revival castle exterior, turrets, gardens. Interior staircase, library, conservatory. Gardens offer castle backdrop. Time: Morning light on east facade. Gardens best in summer (blooming). Interior anytime (controlled lighting).

The Beaches Boardwalk

Wooden boardwalk, Lake Ontario, beach scenes, sunrise views. **Sunrise photography**: One of Toronto's best sunrise locations. Colorful lifeguard stations. Time: 30 minutes before sunrise. Summer for beach activity shots.

Harbourfront at Sunset

Marina boats, CN Tower silhouette, waterfront promenade, golden hour over water. Time: 45 minutes before sunset. Clouds enhance colorful skies. Summer evening concerts add activity.

Kensington Market

Colorful house facades, vintage shops, street art, eclectic storefronts, multicultural atmosphere. *Augusta Avenue* particularly photogenic. Time: Afternoon for vibrant colors. Pedestrian Sundays for street life without cars.

Scarborough Bluffs

Dramatic 90-meter limestone cliffs overlooking Lake Ontario. **Natural wonder** within city limits. Time: Golden hour for warm cliff colors. Clear days for turquoise water contrast. Caution: Stay away from cliff edges.

Photography Tips: Golden hour (hour after sunrise/before sunset) provides best natural lighting. Cloudy days reduce harsh shadows. Winter offers unique snow scenes and fewer tourists. Always respect private property and ask permission for portraits. Tripods may be restricted at some attractions. Drone photography requires permits in most areas.

Electricity & Adapters

Voltage: 120V (same as United States)

Frequency: 60 Hz

Plug Types: Type A (two flat parallel pins) and Type B (two flat parallel pins plus round grounding pin) - *North American standard*

Do You Need an Adapter?

- **North America (USA, Mexico)**: No adapter needed - same plug types
- **Europe, UK, Australia, Asia, Africa**: Yes - bring adapter and possibly voltage converter
- **South America**: Varies by country - check your specific devices

Voltage Converters

Most modern electronics (phones, laptops, cameras) are **dual voltage** (110-240V) and only need plug adapter. Check device label/charger. Older appliances (hair dryers, straighteners) may need voltage converter to prevent damage. Hotels often provide hair dryers.

Where to Buy

Available at airport shops, convenience stores (Shoppers Drug Mart, Rexall), electronics stores (Best Buy), and hotel gift shops. Prices: $5-20 CAD for basic adapters.

Tip: Buy adapter before arriving to charge devices immediately. USB charging stations available in most hotels, cafes, and public spaces.

Must-Try Foods & Dining Tips

Iconic Toronto Foods

Peameal Bacon Sandwich: Toronto's signature dish - *Canadian back bacon* rolled in cornmeal, grilled, served on kaiser roll. Best at Carousel Bakery (St. Lawrence Market). Quintessential Toronto experience.

Poutine: Canadian classic - french fries topped with cheese curds and gravy. Variations everywhere from traditional to gourmet (pulled pork, lobster). Try Smoke's Poutinerie or upscale versions at restaurants.

Butter Tarts: Sweet pastry with butter, sugar, egg filling. Optional raisins or pecans. Quintessentially Canadian dessert. Find at bakeries throughout city.

BeaverTails: Fried dough pastry shaped like beaver tail, topped with cinnamon sugar, Nutella, or other toppings. Available at Harbourfront and various locations.

Montreal-Style Smoked Meat: While from Montreal, excellent versions available in Toronto. *Caplansky's Delicatessen* serves outstanding sandwiches.

International Cuisine

Toronto's strength is multicultural dining - authentic cuisine from 200+ ethnicities:

- **Chinese**: Dim sum in Chinatown or Markham. Try Rol San or Crown Princess
- **Italian**: Little Italy (College Street) - pasta, pizza, espresso
- **Korean**: Koreatown (Bloor & Christie) - BBQ, bibimbap, fried chicken
- **Indian**: Gerrard Street East (Little India) - curries, tandoori, street food
- **Portuguese**: Dundas West - grilled chicken, seafood, custard tarts
- **Caribbean**: Roti, jerk chicken, patties - numerous locations
- **Middle Eastern**: Shawarma, falafel, kebabs - throughout downtown
- **Ethiopian**: Bloor West - injera, wat (stews), vegetarian options

Dining Neighborhoods

King West: Upscale restaurants, celebrity chef venues, trendy cocktail bars

Ossington Strip: Hip dining scene, creative menus, craft cocktails

Danforth (Greektown): Greek restaurants, souvlaki, seafood, baklava

Queen Street East: Diverse options, brunch spots, international fusion

Dining Tips

- **Tipping**: 15-20% standard (pre-tax). 18% for good service, 20% for excellent
- **Tax**: 13% HST added to bill (not included in menu prices)
- **Reservations**: Recommended for popular restaurants, essential for weekends
- **Brunch culture**: Weekend brunch extremely popular - expect waits at trendy spots
- **Patio season**: Summer dining on patios highly valued - book ahead
- **Food halls**: Assembly Chef's Hall, The Food District - multiple vendors, one location
- **BYOB**: Some restaurants allow bringing wine (corkage fee typically $15-25)
- **Dietary restrictions**: Vegetarian, vegan, gluten-free widely available. Always inform servers of allergies

Food Markets: St. Lawrence Market (world's best), Kensington Market (international), Evergreen Brick Works (organic farmers' market)

Tourist Passes

Toronto CityPASS

Pre-paid ticket booklet providing admission to **5 top attractions** saves up to 38% on regular admission. Includes: CN Tower, Ripley's Aquarium, Royal Ontario Museum, Casa Loma, Choose three of the ROM, City Cruises Toronto, Casa Loma, Toronto Zoo and AGO. The Ontario Science Centre’s former building closed to visitors in June 2024. Valid for *9 consecutive days* from first use. Skip-the-line privileges at some attractions. For Mar. 1, 2026–Feb. 28, 2027, CityPASS costs $134.96 CAD plus tax for adults and $99.96 CAD plus tax for children aged 4–12. **Best value** if visiting most included attractions. Available online or at participating attractions.

www.citypass.com

Toronto Attractions Pass

Flexible digital pass offering access to **25+ attractions** with choice of 1, 2, 3, or 5-day passes. Include CN Tower, boat cruises, bike tours, museums, and more. Scan phone at each attraction - no physical tickets. Savings increase with more activities. *All-inclusive* option allows unlimited attractions. Choose between consecutive days or total attractions. Digital guidebook included. Ideal for packed itineraries wanting variety.

www.attractionspass.com

PRESTO Card

Reloadable **smart card for public transit** (TTC, GO Transit, UP Express). Offers discounted fares versus cash/credit: $3.30 vs $3.35 per ride. Works on subway, streetcar, bus throughout Toronto and GTA. Two-hour transfer window for unlimited rides. Available at subway stations, Shoppers Drug Mart, online. $6 card fee plus initial load ($10 minimum). *Essential for frequent transit users*. Card can be reloaded at machines or online. Tap on/off at card readers.

www.prestocard.ca

Bike Share Toronto Day Pass

Bike Share Toronto lists 10,000+ bikes and 1,000+ stations. The Day Pass is $15 for unlimited 90-minute classic-bike rides in 24 hours; extra fees apply to longer rides. E-bikes cost extra. Perfect for waterfront cycling, neighborhood exploration, point-to-point travel. Download app to locate stations and check bike availability. *Casual, flexible transportation* alternative. Helmets not provided - bring your own. Credit card required for rental. 3-Day Pass ($15) and monthly options available.

bikesharetoronto.com