Welcome to Canada’s Downtown

As Canada’s largest city and North America’s 4th largest destination, Toronto is a vibrant hub for both leisure and business travelers. Exciting and culturally diverse, discover the best of modern Canada with big-ticket events, top attractions, delicious cuisine, breathtaking architecture, and more. You’re in for an unforgettable experience in a captivating cosmopolitan city.

Entry Requirements into Canada

Visitors must have valid travel documents to enter the country. Document requirements vary depending on which country you’re travelling from. For more information visit: cbsa.gc.ca

Note: Canada introduced a new entry requirement, known as the Electronic Travel Authorization (eTA), for visa-exempt foreign nationals travelling to Canada by air. Exceptions include U.S. citizens and travelers with a valid visa. Entry requirements for other methods of travel (land and sea) have not changed. Eligible travelers can apply online for an eTA. This entry is now mandatory, and travelers will need an eTA before they can board a flight to Canada.

Currency

Toronto offers visitors world-class products at reasonable prices. The favourable exchange rate doesn’t hurt either. The Canadian Dollar is Toronto’s currency with coins called loonies ($1) and toonies ($2) for denominations under $5. U.S. Dollars are accepted in many Toronto establishments, however you’ll receive change in Canadian funds and exchange rates differ from merchant to merchant.

You’ll find cash ATM machines all over the city, including all banks, most hotels and shopping centres. Credit cards are also accepted at all major retailers. Currency exchange is available at kiosks in the city and at the airport, and most recently the CN Tower and Ripley’s Aquarium of Canada have agreed to accept Chinese mobile payment options: WeChat Pay and Alipay.

Taxes + Tipping

The Harmonized Sales Tax (HST) is a 13% tax that is applied to most purchases of taxable supplies of goods and services in the Province of Ontario. The HST consists of a 5% federal portion and an 8% retail sales tax portion.

If you’re happy with the service you receive, a 15 to 20% tip on the pre-tax bill is a standard expression of appreciation. Note that some restaurants automatically add this gratuity when serving large groups, so be sure to check your bill. Tips are also expected for services such as haircuts, shoe shines, and taxi rides. 15 to 20% is standard for these services as well.

Easy to Access

Toronto has 2 international airports with over 1,400 daily flights from all over the world:

- Toronto Pearson International Airport (YYZ) is Canada’s primary airport with travel connections to every continent and also ranks among the top 30 world airports for passenger traffic and aircraft movement. Travel easily from Toronto Pearson to the downtown core in less than 25 minutes with the UP Express train that connects to Union Station: upexpress.com.
- Billy Bishop Toronto City Airport (YTZ) is located right in the downtown core and is served by both Air Canada and Porter Airlines, with flights to Canadian and U.S. destinations.

Languages Spoken

Canada has two official languages: English and French. In addition to these, the top 5 languages spoken in Toronto are Mandarin, Italian, Tamil, Portuguese, and Spanish. Since 50% of the city’s population was born outside of Canada, 180 languages and dialects are spoken in Toronto.
FOUR SEASON CITY

Toronto wears all seasons well. Here are the average seasonal temperatures you can expect and what to pack accordingly:

**Winter**
-15°C (5°F) to 2°C (35.6°F)

Warm parka, hat, scarf, gloves, and lined boots.

**Spring**
1°C (33.8°F) to 17°C (62.6°F)

Layer with sweaters and scarves, a light jacket, and booties.

**Summer**
20°C (68°F) to 30°C (86°F)

Light cottons, sun hats, shorts, and sunscreen.

**Autumn**
15°C (59°F) to -1°C (30.2°F)

Layer with sweaters and scarves, a light jacket, and booties.

GETTING AROUND TOWN

Explore Toronto with one of North America’s best transport systems, the Toronto Transit Commission (TTC). With subways, buses, and streetcars at every corner, getting around the city is a breeze. A single fare takes you anywhere, on a one-way trip. You can transfer between subways, streetcars and buses, and always keep your transfer as proof of payment.

**GO Transit** is Ontario’s inter-regional bus and train service. It links Toronto with its surrounding Greater Toronto Areas and beyond. Go Trains and buses mainly depart from Toronto’s Union Station at regular intervals throughout the day.

Other forms of transportation include taxis – there are a handful of taxi companies in Toronto – as well as Uber, Lyft and Bike Share Toronto. Toronto has cycling paths throughout the city that can get you where you’re going safely.

SHOPPING

Toronto is a major shopping destination. Stores along Bloor-Yorkville are filled with luxury designer items, while unique vintage finds are located in Kensington and West Queen West’s Fashion District. Home to 10 major shopping malls and designer outlets, Toronto also has international designer stores like Prada and Chanel, plus local favourites like Roots and Hudson’s Bay. And that’s just above ground. Below, in the underground PATH are 1,200 shops and restaurants. Love designer deals? Venture just outside of the city to the Toronto Premium Outlets. Your shopping choices are endless.

NIAGARA REGION

Just 90 minutes out of Toronto is the Niagara region where you’ll find where you’ll find the famous Niagara Falls. This region is also home to Niagara on the Lake’s charming towns and ample wineries.

MOBILE ROAMING + PRE-PLANNING

If you’ll be frequently using your phone during travels, you may want to consider options that’ll keep heavy costs at bay. Check with your service provider for travel packs. Toronto offers lots of free Wi-Fi in public spaces that help in reducing your data usage. Another option to consider are mobile rentals.